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"Listen to your patient, he is telling you the diagnosis"
Sir William Osler

The Osler Legacy and Poynter Lecture
1 October 2020

Registration and payment is via Eventbrite by the 25th September
Historians who come from a clinical background are occasionally challenged with comments that they overemphasise the “lives of great men” in their study of the history of medicine. The implication is that they eschew the principles of historiography especially when studying the great advances in medicine and overemphasise the importance of the pioneers at the expense of the science or the philosophy involved. The resulting research is then at risk of being criticised for being narrow, lacking in critical balance and hagiographic, all features considered to be anathema in academic writing.

The counter argument is that to ignore the lives of the great men and women in medicine leads to the risk of losing some of the context in which these pioneers made their advances. After all, we are taught that context is an all-important element of historiography.

It should also be considered that some pioneers in the history of medicine have made such a significant and lasting personal contribution that it would be foolish to ignore them as individuals whilst studying their achievements. Sir William Osler is one such individual.

As with all things there is a balance to be struck but this healthy discussion will go on!

The centenary of the death of Sir William Osler provides the opportunity to reflect on the legacy of one of the “great men” in the history of medicine. For this purpose, the BSHM and the Osler Club of London have joined forces to organise a symposium on the 1st October titled

Sir William Osler 1849-1919: The Relevance of his Legacy Today

Sir William made a remarkable contribution to the clinical, educational, moral and ethical principles involved in the art and practice of medicine. He also founded the History of Medicine Section at the Royal Society of Medicine, one of the founding societies of the BSHM. In organising the Osler Legacy meeting, the two societies bring together an educationalist, an historian, a medical writer and a medical ethicist to help us evaluate the relevance of Sir William’s legacy in today’s world.

The Osler Legacy meeting will be followed by the 19th biennial Poynter Lecture (organised by the BSHM) to be delivered by Dr John Ward, a noted Oslerian and past President of the BSHM and the Osler Club of London. The title of the Poynter Lecture will be:

“The Great Republic of Medicine Knows and has Known no National Boundaries” – Sir William Osler, the Great Medical Internationalist.

It was intended that this event would take place in London but current circumstances have dictated that it will be streamed online and virtual. This allows for a larger audience and for international participation. Registration for this unique and popular event is provided in the flyer.

Mike Collins, BSHM President
I am currently proceeding into the final year of my undergraduate history degree at UCL. Upon finishing, I would also like to apply to study graduate medicine so that I could practise as a medical doctor.

Throughout my education, history was always my favourite subject, and in particular medical history. This interest began in high school when learning about ‘medicine through time’ as a topic. Even now, at university, I love reading about medical journals and old pamphlets for home remedies of illnesses. I particularly love the Renaissance era, when medicine began to develop rapidly and there were drastic advancements in medical theory and practice.

Welcome to our newest team member

Lian McCall, having proven her commitment on International Women’s Day at the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries, joins the BSHM as Social Media CO-Editor.

I am committed to the goal of making the long and interesting history of medicine accessible to anyone interested in learning about it, and I am excited to start my new role as a social media editor!

The Association is home to the Anaesthesia Heritage Centre, which tells the remarkable story of anaesthesia, from its first public demonstration in 1846 to the founding of anaesthesia as we know it today. Formed in 1953 from the private collection of A. Charles King’s historic anaesthetic apparatus, the heritage team now care for over 13,000 items across the museum, library and archive collections. The collections are a unique resource for both curious visitors and specialist researchers.
BSHM on the frontline

At the start of August, BSHM Blog-Editor Flora Malein, began her A&E attachment. She continues to work tirelessly on the BSHM Blog page.

"We are always looking for new contributors on history of medicine topics from our members.

Over the past few months we have published several pandemic-related posts including: a post about the plague village of Eyam by current resident Dr William Parker; a history of the origin of the term 'herd immunity' by Dr Ed Wawrzynczak; and an example of how historical lockdowns helped to 'flatten the curve' in American cities during the 1918 influenza pandemic.

If you have an idea for a contribution, or would like advice on writing a blog, you can contact me at blogeditor@bshm.org.uk"

Flora Malein  
BSHM Blog-Editor

BSHM and Social Media

Laura has continued her role as social media editor with admiral dedication.

"Our BSHM Twitter and Facebook accounts are now over four years old. Since then we have tweeted 547 times and posted on our Facebook account 178 times. We have 951 followers on Twitter, and 1363 followers on our Facebook account."

Laura Robson-Mainwaring  
BSHM Joint-Social Media Editor
Special Interest Database

The officers of the BSHM would like to develop a database of members’ areas of expertise in medical history. This will enable the officers to respond to writers, journalists, programme makers and post graduate students seeking assistance in answering a specific question or help in interpreting defined areas within the history of medicine. The list would be kept by the BSHM and contact with the enquirer only undertaken once the BSHM member has had a chance to consider the enquiry and indicated they wish to be involved. The recent meeting of the Officers and Representative committee have supported this initiative. It might be that affiliate societies feel they can direct their members to being included or individuals may want to volunteer. Those wishing to be involved should contact the BSHM at admin@bshm.org.uk indicating contact details and specialist field.

Promoting events

Contact with affiliates has resulted in a number of events being posted on the Events Calendar on the website. We are keen to post more events from our affiliates on the website. Please email affiliatesliaison@bshm.org.uk with details of meetings.

Affiliated societies and individual members may contribute to the newsletter by contacting the President or Hon. Secretary with their suggestions.

The BSHM Officers and Representatives Committee (ORC) Meeting and AGM will be held virtually on 22 September 2020.

Book Reviews

The BSHM Book Reviews include regular reviews of recent history of medicine books. See the latest book review by William Parker.
New York to Beirut

With the recent growing interest in history of infectious diseases, I came across American physician and historian J. Woodrow Savacool, and his article on "Philadelphia and the White Plague". He also revealed in an account of the history of the Jefferson Medical College (1835 to 1845), a remarkable story of Al-Hakim Cornelius Van Alen Van Dyck (1818 – 1895), a New York born physician of Dutch descent who following graduation in 1839, joined the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions as a medical missionary and was sent to Beirut, a key accessible port and centre of Western commercial and missionary activities at the time. His early career was interwined with the Syrian Protestant College (later known as the American University in Beirut), and he became renowned for his learning of Arabic, and subsequent contribution in a translation of the Bible. At one point, despite being offered a professorship in the United States, he returned to Beirut stating “I have left my heart in Syria and thither I must return.”

In 1882, he resigned due to a ‘Darwin issue’ and subsequently joined the Saint George Hospital, which in 1885 conveyed in its annual report, its admiration for his tireless efforts.

Founded in 1878, the Saint George Hospital began as two rooms in the house of Panoyot Fakhoury. It grew to a 275 bed facility in 1966, and later stayed open despite the conflicts and terror in Lebanon of the mid-1970s.

In 2020, on the 125th anniversary of the year of death of Van Dyck, the hospital met with the strain of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Despite previous tragedies, no one could have predicted the devastating explosion in the Port of Beirut on 4 August of this year, which damaged the hospital so severely that along with other hospitals in the city, it shut down totally.

Anjna Harrar, Hon. Sec. BSHM

Walking in the footsteps of others - 275 years of Northampton Hospital Child Healthcare

'A video has recently been uploaded onto the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health You Tube Channel.

It has also been very favourably reviewed in the June/July 2020 issue of Medical History.

'The Little Professors', more than 30 children all members of the Northampton Hospital Archive Club have a most wonderful story to tell. They will take you on a fascinating journey - more than 275 years of Northampton Hospital Child Health Care. Come along and see for yourselves. Funded by Tesco Bags of Help Scheme, Waitrose Community Fund and Northamptonshire Health Charity. Written, produced and directed by Professor Andrew N Williams (British Society for the History of Paediatrics and Child Health)
Cinchona bark was used by the Quechua people of Peru and Bolivia to prevent shivering in cold weather. Spanish Jesuit missionaries brought the bark to Europe and by the 16th century used it to treat the severe shivering (rigors) associated with malaria. Quickly it became apparent the bark not only treated rigors but also the underlying disease.

The active ingredient, quinine, was isolated 200 years ago this year by French pharmacists Pierre-Joseph Pelletier (1788-1842) and Joseph Caventou (1795-1877). Isolation of quinine as a single compound meant it could be formulated into stronger and purer forms. Most quinine is still obtained from Cinchona using a process not dissimilar to Pelletier and Caventou’s. Having saved countless lives, quinine remains in clinical use and also formed the basis for other synthetic compounds, including hydroxychloroquine. Both quinine and hydroxychloroquine have of course been in the news recently with potential relevance to Covid-19.

The Faculty of History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy and Friends of the Archives at the Society of Apothecaries were hoping to hold a one-day symposium on Medical Botany in May of this year, including a celebration of quinine. This has now been rescheduled for May 6th 2021, but in the meantime please consider raising a glass of your favourite quinine-based drink to toast this most remarkable compound in celebration of its bicentenary.

Will Parker,
Cardiology trainee/researcher, University of Sheffield, Society of Apothecaries, The Osler Club of London, BSHM

Royal College of Psychiatrists (History of Psychiatry)

Witness Seminar

With the Royal College of Psychiatrists’ 50th anniversary in 2021, it felt pertinent to be examining the period leading up to its foundation. In October 2019, the College hosted its first witness seminar, focusing on psychiatric hospitals in the UK in the 1960s. The full transcript, annotated and illustrated, is available here.
I am not Herodotus nor am I any kind of philosopher, simply a retired otolaryngologist become historian. Why do so many of us in medicine become interested in history? During this time of COVID-19 that question has been in my mind and I wondered if the answer lies in our upbringing as medical students.

I find in my well used copy of *The Principles and Practice of Medicine* (editor Sir Stanley Davidson) the following: ‘in clinical diagnosis it is impossible to exaggerate the importance of the history, which frequently requires much patience and skill to elicit accurately.’ This would perforce include the history of the presenting complaint, the past medical history, the family history and a social history. The great physician, Sir William Osler, said, "Listen to your patient, he is telling you the diagnosis", emphasising the importance of the history.

Now, as historians our “history taking” is not at the bedside or in the consulting room but in dusty archives, libraries, old newspapers and increasingly online. Just as the writer quoted above stressed the importance of patience and skill so as historians these qualities are critical to our study of the past and the conclusions we make. In medicine there is satisfaction when a diagnosis is made; for the historian there is the joy in discovering material which lead to a “diagnosis” and a contribution to scholarship.

The stories our patients tell us can be dramatic: some years ago, I was consulted by an elderly man with deafness and I asked him about a history of noise exposure, finding that he had been a pilot in the RFC (later the RAF) during WW1 and in 1914 had flown across the channel to St Omer in France to support the British Expeditionary Force. He told of the excitement of crossing the Channel to go to war, but sadly the squadron leader crashed on the beach at Dunkirk. He drowned when it proved impossible to extricate him from the wreckage—thereafter it became mandatory for planes of that era to carry axes and metal cutting equipment. If we listen to our patients, we hear fascinating stories and perhaps that is why medicine leads us to become historians.
What can a freelance pharmacy historian and museum curator deliver without access to museum stores and lecture theatres? At the start of lockdown, I was juggling a number of paid projects: the culmination of 5 years’ work on a book for the centenary of Cardiff University’s School of Pharmacy; the development of an exhibition for the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) exploring the broad historical role of women in general practice; my normal diet of stand-alone lectures.

Alongside I had my usual busy voluntary roles as President of the Faculty of the History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy at the Society of Apothecaries, and as Conference Organiser and Social Media Officer for the British Society for the History of Pharmacy (BSHP).

Throwing home school, Zoom meetings and purely online access to historical sources into the mix has certainly presented challenges. However, I was luckily at design proof stage for my book which I could complete remotely. Without access to the RCGP stores and with Dr Sharon Messenger, the RCGP archivist, furloughed, I’ve been confined to background reading – hurray for Internet Archive! All my lectures were initially cancelled, but are now re-emerging on Zoom.

I seemed to spend the first fortnight of lockdown unravelling the imminent BSHP conference. I then increased my activity on the BSHP Twitter and Facebook accounts, with initiatives such as #MuseumsUnlocked to highlight pharmacy collections. Meanwhile at the Faculty, Maria Ferran and our Course Directors moved swiftly to deliver as much programming online as possible, vital for the final diploma course days for history and philosophy. Our Fellows’ streams were quick to grasp the potential of Zoom seminars, and I switched to chairing meetings, interviews and even the AGM online.

With the summer holidays and its freedom from home school strictures now over, our nine year old daughter and I both have our fingers crossed that the return to school is a permanent fixture!

Briony Hudson
President, Faculty of the History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy, Society of Apothecaries
Conference Organiser/Social Media Officer, BSHP
Whenever I stumble across anything ‘new’ in medical history, two things strike me; there is little in current human experience which hasn’t occurred before, and, in general, we are a lot better off than previous generations were, in the similar circumstance. Even when things are bad, they are not as bad as they used to be.

On 26th January this year, a memorial evensong for Sir William Osler was held in Christ Church, his old college. The same hymns were read in the same venue as his funeral a century before. The sermon, however, was up to date, and strangely prescient.

I was unaware of the serious nature of coronavirus of COVID-19 then, and definitely had no inkling of the social disruption the disease would cause in the coming months. In his sermon the Dean enumerated some of Sir William’s achievements, and emphasised his compassion for his patients; contrasting that with some uncaring treatment of those suffering from diseases in the past.

He included the Church in this critique, and cited the Liturgy for those newly diagnosed with leprosy in the 13th century.

The Mass of Separation spells out the full extent of social exclusion expected from the outcast. “I forbid you to ever enter a church,...a market or assembly of people. I forbid you to leave your house unless dressed in recognizable garb. I forbid you to touch anything you buy, or barter for, until it becomes your own. I forbid you to enter any tavern...”

Sound familiar? There were many other restrictions...recent lockdown rules are a breeze by comparison, and no NHS either.

Graham Kyle, President, The Osler Club of London

THE OSLER CLUB OF LONDON

Founded 1928

The Club was founded in the late 1920s by six young doctors led by Alfred White Franklin and Walter Bett. They had trained at Oxbridge and London and wanted to pursue the clinical, historical, moral and ethical principles that contributed to the performance of a “good doctor”. They chose Sir William Osler, who had died a decade earlier, as the embodiment of their intentions and the Club was named after him with the permission of Lady Osler.
Identifying a Skeleton

This year marks the 175th anniversary of the departure of the ill fated Franklin Expedition, which set off to find the North West passage. The assistant surgeon on HMS Erebus was Harry Goodsir, who had left his job as Curator of Surgeons’ Hall Museum in Edinburgh to join this great adventure. An avid naturalist since boyhood, he had worked as a doctor in his native Fife, but his passion was marine biology. Before departure from Kent the expedition officers had Daguerreotypes taken, images which in Harry’s case would provide valuable identification in the 21st century.

repatriated, identified as those of a Lt Le Vesconte and buried under the Franklin memorial at the Royal Naval College at Greenwich. In 2009 the relocation of the Franklin memorial allowed a re-examination of the skeleton with some surprising results.

Simon Mays and co-workers found that the ratios of oxygen and strontium isotopes in dental enamel were inconsistent with a childhood in Devon where Le Vesonte had been raised. A precisely placed gold tooth filling, relatively rare in the 1840s, led them to suspect that the remains might be those of Goodsir, a family friend of the dentist John Nasmyth, who had an international reputation for such dental work. A rare dental malocclusion (Angle class 2 division 2) also pointed to Goodsir. Most dramatically a facial reconstruction showed an “excellence of fit” with Goodsir’s face on the pre-departure Daguerreotype.

See also Mays et al

The loss of the expedition triggered a succession of voyages to find them, many stimulated by the large reward offered by the government. It was given to John Rae, an Orcadian doctor/explorer whose discovery of Franklin relics included Goodsir’s mess spoon. A near complete skeleton discovered on King Edward Island in 1869 had fragments of clothing attached suggesting it was that of a Franklin officer. The remains were

Iain MacIntyre,
Past President BSHM.
Member SSHM
Evacuated at the beginning of the Second World War she was so worried about keeping the library running and the *British Dental Journal* up to standard that she insisted on returning to London and promptly fell off a library ladder, seriously injuring herself. However, tenacious as ever she returned to work, whiling away the bombing raids by translating Pierre Fauchard’s, *Le Chirurgien Dentiste*. She wrote to folklorist Bernard Townend that when an incendiary bomb hit the BDA roof she and the staff quietly got to work, “tearing up carpets, mopping squeegeeing and baling”.

A later raid even “cracked the pillars in the library and shook down some of the books burst open some of the cupboards and shot the contents on to the floor”. In reading her correspondence I discovered that she climbed Ben Nevis in a storm, asked a ouija board, “are there any inhabitants on Mars” and once sent her little sister into a chemist’s shop to ask for “elbow grease”!

Her friend, Winifred Hunt wrote “Hers was a truly remarkable personality, combining greatness and integrity with an almost child-like humility.”

I like to think that although not currently in the physical library we are carrying on her legacy by continuing to run services from our homes and laptops and still researching current dental practices and issues as well as those of the past.

**Helen Nield**
British Dental Association Head of Library and Knowledge Services, The Lindsay Society

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**Dr Lilian Lindsay**

*CBE, LLD, MDS, FDS, HDD, FSA – Dentist, librarian, Historian*

This year the British Dental Association (BDA) Library is celebrating its centenary and marking 60 years since the death of its first librarian, and first female UK-qualified dentist, “dearest Lil” as her husband called her.

This remarkable woman had a passion for history and spent much of her time in the library researching into dentistry’s past, writing pencilled notes endlessly in tiny notebooks, becoming President of the Royal Society of Medicine’s History of Medicine section in 1950. In 1933 she showed what an engaging speaker she was by singing and dancing the snatches of songs she quoted when delivering the CE Wallis lecture, *The Sun, the toothdrawer and the saint.*

In evening dress in the early 1950s.

In the library at Russell Square in 1930

Images credited to the BDA Museum Collection
Sheffield Aesculapian Society

The society was founded in 1972 by Dr. Ronald Church, Consultant Dermatologist, which initially was limited to twenty members although today they number twice that. Meetings are twice a year with a dinner and a lecture given by either a member or an invited speaker. There used to be a visit once a year to a place of medical historical interest either in this country or abroad but this has declined in recent years. The society, under its presidents who hold office for two years, has preserved medical artefacts from the former Sheffield Royal Infirmary and Royal Hospital and its two previous medical schools, the oldest item dating back to 1793.

Twelve years ago, when president, I instituted a Society Newsletter which is published twice a year with papers reflecting member’s historical interests. This has been so successful growing from just a few pages to thirty or more that it has now become the Society’s Journal with articles recording research, lectures, activities and advertising future events. Our next issue for instance will commemorate the bicentenary of the birth of Florence Nightingale a member of the Shore family who were bankers and merchants in Sheffield. Her father William Shore inherited a fortune from a distant relative, Peter Nightingale, on condition he changed his name to Nightingale. This will be accompanied by an article on an archive of letters in Derbyshire Record Office written by Florence to Dr Christopher Dunn who was the local poor law medical officer dealing with the charitable care of her estate families.

A major activity of the Society in recent years has been the display of historical exhibitions. Containing artefacts from our collection, they are placed in public areas of the Sheffield’s Royal Hallamshire and Northern General Hospitals, to give visitors an insight into our medical history. As a result local history groups have asked members to give talks to their meetings. Another area, in which I have a particular interest, is in exhibitions in the medical school where we present specific histories on such topics as Vaccination, Roman medicine, Pharmacy, Florence Nightingale, and Ophthalmology to inform our medical students of the contributions of our medical predecessors.
In 2014, we organised a centenary exhibition called ‘Sheffield Cares for the Wounded’ in the medical school to commemorate the role of Sheffield doctors in the Great War. We were fortunate in attracting funding for this from Sheffield Charitable Trusts, the University Alumni Association and the Heritage Lottery Fund from which was bought our main display cabinet illustrated above.

So what is the future for Sheffield’s Aesculapian Society? Next year will be a busy one for the society as we will be hosting the British Society for the History of Medicine Biennial Congress in which there will be an exhibition illustrating the effects of Sheffield’s industries on the city’s health over the years. In 2028, it will be Sheffield University Medical School’s bicentenary which we should celebrate with the publication of its history, the last one being in 1928. As editor of the Aesculapian Society Journal I feel a responsibility to write it but being long retired, will I be around then?

Derek R. Cullen
Consultant Physician Emeritus,
Sheffield Aesculapian Society
When I retired three years ago, as Professor of the History of Modern Medical Sciences in the University of London, I had several plans. Top of the list was to visit friends and family in the States and Russia. Then to travel in the former Soviet Union, eastern Europe and central Asia; indulge in museum and gallery visits; attend a wider range of medical history and science meetings than possible within the constraints of project-focused research; and generally enjoy my liberation.

What was not on my agenda was to attend committees, or be responsible for organising seminars. Since I was a PhD student, I had been heavily involved in both activities, and as a medical research scientist who then became a medical historian, often took on a large number of such commitments in several fields. In addition to organising the usual range of departmental, faculty and learned society meetings and conferences, I personally planned (and published) almost 80 Witness Seminars.

Thus in June 2019 when invited to join the Council of the RSM’s History of Medicine Society (HoMS), as President-elect, my response was a resounding ‘Nyet’. However, as readers of this newsletter know, the then president of the RSM’s HoMS, now the Honorary Secretary of the BSHM, is a very persuasive, and persistent, woman.

A few weeks later I found myself in a meeting agreeing to organise the HoMS programme for 2020-21.

Considering themes and identifying suitable speakers were not great problems, and I twisted a few arms (and in return had mine twisted to deliver talks – the usual quid pro quo of seminar-organising) to put together a draft programme that focussed on the history of the biomedical sciences, broadly defined.

In March 2020 everything changed. All RSM meetings were cancelled, and for some time it was unclear when, or even if, HoMS meetings would resume. I considered that an immediate priority was to honour the obligations already entered into. There were several lectures, including the 19/20 Presidential address and the prestigious Bynum lecture that now had to be incorporated into the 20/21 programme.

I ‘disinvited’ some speakers already approached, and ‘mixed and matched’ what I could of the two programmes. The resultant line-up may lack a clear thematic coherence, but it does sparkle with variety, and the promise of several exciting evenings, either completely online or as digital/face-to-face hybrids.
Themes as diverse as the history of clinical neurology; vomiting; urological surgery; and, most pertinent today, pandemics are included, as are survival medicine in extreme conditions, and the influence of prominent medical practitioners like Lord Lister and William Gull. The full list is [HERE](#) and the availability of webinars (the first meeting) and live streaming (all other meetings) will, I hope, encourage those members of the BSHM for whom an evening lecture in London is a major endeavour, to attend. I certainly look forward to ‘seeing’ you there.

Professor Tilli Tansey  
*President, History of Medicine Society*

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**Norah Schuster Prize**

Norah Schuster prize in honour of the first female president of the Association of Clinical Pathologists (1950).

Open to pre-clinical, clinical medical and dental students. See [guidance](#)
1st October 2020 Virtual Online Meeting

Sir William Osler 1849-1919: The Relevance of his Legacy Today

16.00 UK time

Speakers

Prof Dame Jane Dacre  
Professor of Medical Education

Dr Hilary Morris  
Medical Historian and Educator

Dr James Le Fanu  
Writer/former General Practitioner

Dr Daniel Sokol  
Barrister/Medical Ethicist.

The jointly organised Osler Legacy meeting will provide the opportunity to mark the contribution and legacy of Sir William Osler in the year of the centenary of his death.

Followed at 18.00 UK time by the

19th Poynter Lecture

Dr John WK Ward  
MB ChB FRCPEdin FRCGP D(Obst)RCOG DFFP

"The great Republic of Medicine knows and has known no national boundaries" - William Osler, the great medical internationalist

The Poynter Lecture is given every two years in memory of Noël Poynter, Director of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine from 1964 to 1973, and past president of the BSHM.

Registration and payment is via Eventbrite by the 25th September

Cost per person: £10 per registrant

Password protected entry details will be emailed to registrants nearer the event

Enquiries

Osler Club members: richard.osborn@cheerful.com

BSHM members: BSHM Admin

www.osler.org.uk  
www.bshm.org.uk

TO BOOK
The John Blair Trust

The Trust is a registered charity established in 1995 by the British Society for the History of Medicine and the Scottish Society of the History of Medicine.

John Blair had been President of both Societies and had played a major role in organising meetings whose financial success led to the formation of the Trust.

The Trustees invite applications from undergraduates in medicine and allied sciences throughout the UK, for grants-in-aid, up to £150, to enable them to pursue their studies in the history of medicine. Such applications might include funding for necessary photocopying, research fees and any other incidental or enabling expenses.

ISHM Congress 2021

The International Society for the History of Medicine (ISHM)
23rd to 27th August 2021

The ISHM Congress in Riga has been postponed until late August 2021. Latvia has long-standing traditions in researching the history of medicine and a substantial medical community dedicated to the history of the profession.

A new topic “Pandemics in the history of medicine“ will be added. Full details on website: ISHM 2021 Event
The 2021 Congress will take place in Sheffield, renowned for over 600 years for its silverware and cutlery industry and for steel-making that featured at the heart of the city’s heavy industry particularly during the industrial revolution and into the 19th and 20th century.

This prestigious biennial event will provide a forum to explore the history of healthcare in industry and the related social and cultural impact on people's lives. Other key themes of the Congress will include the contribution of medical engineering, pandemics and historical perspectives in nursing.

We very much look forward to welcoming you to Sheffield and to the Congress in 2021.

Abstract submissions on these and general topics will be welcomed. Submission dates to be announced.