

Sydney's medical mosaic: telling our stories

Forthcoming events

- Spring Back to Sydney 2008 – this has now become an annual event. For those who graduated in years ending in 8, it will be held on Saturday, 8 November – see http://www.usyd.edu.au/alumni/activities/reunions/spring_07/index.shtml.
- New Alumni Centre on City Road – this exciting new facility for all University of Sydney alumni will be formally opened in late March 2009 and bookings for events after that will be possible soon.
- Medical Heritage Trail – this walk through places of medical and public health interest on the main University campus and at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital is being planned by Lise Mellor in the Faculty of Medicine, with many ideas and assistance from Yvonne Cossart (1959) and other colleagues. The opening ceremony will be announced soon.
- Planned reunions and their organisers are noted in Radius. If your graduating year has not had any reunions, please let me know and we will try to contact your year representatives.

Personal and professional stories

- Medical dynasties – the days of large sibships completing their medical degree at the University of Sydney have generally passed due to smaller family size, reduced numbers compared to past eras, and the more stringent selection procedures. Nevertheless, we have families with 3 or perhaps 4 generations who have graduated in medicine. In the early 1900s, 6 sibling Flynns were among our medical alumni. In the same era, the 4 sons and only daughter of Arthur Ashworth Aspinall, the first principal of Scots College, were all medical graduates from our University, as was one of his grand-daughters. Tell us about your family!
- Artists and art patrons, doctors' orchestra, wine growers, politicians – I already have many notes about alumni who have taken career paths that differ from most of us, or who combine their careers with other interests and passions, and will include more details in the next e-Newsletter.

Passions, hobbies and lives beyond medical practice

Mark Spigelman (1965) was a consulting surgeon in Sydney for more than 25 years. He gained a BSc in Archaeological Science from the Institute of Archaeology at University College London. He is now a visiting professor in London and at the Hadassah Medical School in Israel, specialising in palaeomicrobiology and studying ancient human remains from mummies and archaeological sites. See article in The Australian (16 July 2008) or simply Google his name!

Professor Michael Taussig (also 1965!), described as 'a distinguished anthropologist and cultural theorist' and a professor in the Department of Anthropology at Columbia University in New York, does fieldwork in Colombia, Putumayo, and Venezuela. He is a

prolific author on 'issues of slavery, hunger, commercialization of agriculture, Marxist economic theory, popular culture, folk healing, colonialisms, theories of ritual, cultural productions of terror, the state and public secrecy, museums and memory, and poor communities in Colombia'! Again, for more information, go to Google.

Autobiographies, biographies, memoirs, and reminiscences

Bradford D. 'The gunners' doctor. Vietnam letters', Random House Australia, 2007. (David Bradford graduated in 1965).

Clark G. 'Sounds from silence: the bionic ear story', Allen & Unwin, 2000. (Graeme Clark graduated in 1958, then M.Surgery in 1969, PhD Med in 1970, and MD in 1989).

Hamlin C (with John Little). 'The hospital by the river: a story of hope', Pan Macmillan Australia, 2001. (Catherine Hamlin AC graduated in 1946).

Huxtable C. 'From the Somme to Singapore. A medical officer in two World Wars', Kangaroo Press, 1987 and 1995. (Charles Huxtable graduated in 1915).

Maddox K. 'Schlink of Prince Alfred: a biography of Sir Herbert Schlink', Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, 1978. (Herbert Schlink graduated in 1907; Kempson Maddox graduated in 1924 and gained his MD in 1931).

Moran HM. 'Viewless winds: being the recollections and digressions of an Australian surgeon', Peter Davies, London, 1939. (Herbert Michael Moran, known as Paddy, graduated in 1907 and gained his M.Surgery in 1929).

Moran HM. 'Beyond the hill lies China: scenes from a medical life in Australia', Peter Davies, London, and Dymock's Book Arcade Ltd., Sydney, 1945.

Moran HM. 'In my fashion: an autobiography of the last 10 years', Peter Davies, London, and Dymock's Book Arcade Ltd., Sydney, 1946.

Nicks R. 'The dance of life', Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, 1996. (Rowan Nicks initially graduated from the University of Otago and was awarded an honorary MD by the University of Sydney in 1985).

Purchas J, Benjamin BNP, Hepburn SF (editors). 'The University of Sydney Faculty of Medicine 1956 Graduates Jubilee Book'. Printed by Pirion Pty Ltd, Fyshwick, 2005.

Richards R. 'A doctor's war', HarperCollins, Sydney, 2005. (Charles Rowland Bromley Richards – known as Rowley – graduated in 1939).

Stening MJL. 'The class of 1935 at war', The Naval Historical Society of Australia Inc., 2001. (Malcolm Stening graduated in 1936 and gained his MD in 1944).

Wheelhouse F, Smithford KS. 'Dart: scientist and man of grit', Transpareon Press, Sydney, 2001. (Raymond Dart graduated in 1917 and gained his MD in 1927).

'University of Sydney Faculty of Medicine 1967 Medical Graduates 40 year reunion', Abacus Management Pty Limited, Pymble NSW, 2007.

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Several examples of personal reminiscences and reviews of their professional work are:

Lance JW (editor). 'Mind, movement and migraine: a 25-year review: Department of Neurology, The Prince Henry and Prince of Wales Hospitals, Sydney. 1962-1987', The University of New South Wales. (Jim Lance AO, CBE graduated in 1950 and gained his MD in 1955).

Little M. 'Utopia as wilderness: medicine in the latter half of the twentieth century'. In: Jobling L, Runcie C (editors), 'Matters of the mind: poems essays and interviews in honour of Leonie Kramer', University of Sydney, 2001. (Miles Little graduated in 1959, then gained his M.Surgery in 1969 and his MD in 1977).

Tributes, obituaries and death notices (year of graduation or higher degree in brackets)

Since last year, we have included on the alumni website obituaries of our alumni, academics and other doctors who may be known to many colleagues that were published in the Sydney Morning Herald or written by colleagues.

The **tributes** include: Denis Halmagyi (MD, 1962); Clair Isbister (1939); Mark Shanahan (1955); Frank Mills (1933); Emeritus Professor Tom Stapleton (MD, 1995); Ralph Reader (1940); Coll Fisher (1962); Roland (Rag) Holmes (1941); Babette Stephens (1946); and Emeritus Professor Gerald Milton (M.Surgery, 1989; MD 1993).

Vale to other medical friends and colleagues. Death notices of medical alumni in the Sydney Morning Herald this year include (most recent first): Roger Vanderfield AO, OBE (1952); Leslie Clarence (1952); David (Francis) White (1952); Col Jennings (1951); John Noel Walker (1943); John Huxtable (1958); Gordon Kerridge AM (1943); Bert Bencsik (1957); David Lennox Hobson (1943); Bruce Hunter (1948); John Timothy St Leger Moss (1945); Neil Gallagher AM (1957); Susi Phillips (1953); Ian Harper (1961); Margaret Linnell Cleghorn (1939); Peter Larbalestier (1945); Pat Waters (1942); Carl Jackson (2007); Eric Jenkins (1953); George Michell (1951); Helen Akeroyd (1950); Robert William (Bill) Jefferis (1952); Roger Edwards (1941); John Banfield (1948); David Hammond (1953); Peter Keneally (1967); John McLeod (1953); John Patrick O'Neill (1948); Robin Hunter (1966)

Pat Bale-Hirst (University of Melbourne, 1955), married to Eddie Hirst (1945), was well known to many colleagues for her work as Head of Histopathology at the Children's Hospital at Westmead.

Please send me details of other published obituaries in medical journals or other newspapers and the names of other colleagues who have died recently and have not been mentioned above.

Did you know these colleagues? RSVP

The families of two alumni have requested any information that former colleagues can provide to them about the lives of their relatives in student years and shortly after graduation. Stanley Turtle Anderson graduated in 1961 and was in practice as a cardiologist in Melbourne. He died earlier this year. I thank Margaret Burgess and others in her year who tried to find out more about him for his family.

Peter William Mitchell graduated in 1967 and died in the 1970s.

If you can assist in any way, please contact me by email initially at pallancaster@gmail.com.

Books on the history of the Faculty of Medicine

Young JA, Sefton AJ, Webb N (editors). 'Centenary book of the University Faculty of Medicine', Sydney University Press, 1984.

Sefton AJ, Cheng N, Thong IG (editors). 'The Centenary Book of the Sydney University Medical Society', Hale & Iremonger, 1992.

Sefton AJ, Cossart Y, Freckelton L. '150 years of the Faculty of Medicine', Sydney University Press, 2006.

Mellor L. '150 years, 150 firsts: the people of the Faculty of Medicine', Sydney University Press, 2006.

Hospital histories

Boughton CR. 'A Coast chronicle: the history of the Prince Henry Hospital 1881-1981: centenary issue'. Printed by Knudsen Printing Pty. Ltd., Waterloo, NSW, 1981. (Clem Boughton graduated in 1950 and gained the DTMH in 1963).

Curby P. 'Visitors sixpence: Manly Hospital: the first 100 years', Manly Hospital and Community Health Services, Manly, NSW, 1996.

Hamilton DG. 'Hand in hand: the story of the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, Sydney', John Ferguson, Sydney, 1979. (Don Hamilton graduated in 1936).

Miller D (editor). 'The development of surgery in an Australian hospital: 1857-1975: St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney', P.G. Medical Books, Singapore, 1977. (Sir Douglas Miller graduated in 1924 and was awarded an honorary MD in 1979).

Sherington G (with assistance from Dr. Roger Vanderfield). 'The Royal North Shore Hospital 1888-1988: a century of caring', Horwitz Grahame, 1988. (Roger Vanderfield graduated in 1952).

Regional medical histories

While many general local histories continue to be written about all regions of New South Wales, there is frequently little information about medical practitioners and the health and medical services. I will include some examples of doctors and medical services mentioned in regional histories in future e-Newsletters. Please let me know about other publications similar to those below for Canberra and Queanbeyan and for the Bowral region.

Proust AJ (editor). 'History of medicine in Canberra and Queanbeyan and their hospitals', Brolga Press, Gundaroo, 1994. (Anthony Proust graduated in 1948).

Smith W. 'Blessed are they. The story of the Bowral & District Hospital, Bowral, N.S.W. 1889-1989', Watson & Co. Print, Kiama.

Other recent books published by our alumni

Collins IS. 'Spartianus', Ian S Collins, East Gosford NSW, 2007.

I warmly thank friends and colleagues who have told me about their activities, have informed me about relevant publications, or have offered to assist by building networks to tell the stories of Sydney's medical mosaic!

Paul Lancaster
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University of Sydney

30 September 2008