



The University of Sydney

Alumni

MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

e-Newsletter # 7 – July 2009

1. History of Medicine Symposium – 11-12 September 2009

This Symposium on the History of Medicine will be held in the University on 11-12 September during History week (it is not starting on Thursday 10 September, as previously advertised). The Symposium is being organised by the Medical Alumni Association, Yvonne Cossart, who for many years arranged and taught courses in medical history to our students, and Lise Mellor who supervises the Faculty's Online Museum and Archive. We are also grateful for support and suggestions from Claire Hooker in Medical Humanities, the RACP Library, and others in the University.

The program includes:

Friday, 11 September

9.30-11am:

- Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir, *Governor Lachlan Macquarie*
- Jack Carmody, *'Sydney's early colonial medicine'*

11am-12.30pm

- Sydney Nade, *Training of surgeons in the 18th century*
- Jack Harris, *'Nicholson, Sydney and surgery - under the knife: then and now'*, comparing surgical treatment in the mid-19th century (when Sir Charles Nicholson was University's Provost) and the present

On Friday afternoon (11 September), speakers from several disciplines in the University will talk about plague epidemics in history and in art, culminating in talks on Sydney's plague epidemic in 1900.

1.30-3pm

- Louise Marshall, *Plague saints: the source of their protective power*
- Yvonne Cossart, *Plague doctors: putting changing ideas into practice*
- Stephen Corbett, *Ashburton Thompson: the right man in the right place:*
- Peter Paisley, *The plague Commission*

3-3.30pm Afternoon tea in Rare Books, Fisher Library

3.30-5pm

- Robert Clancy, *Plague, politics and nationalism in Sydney, 1900*
- Peter Reeves, *Molecular insight into the behaviour of plague*
- Chris Dickman, *Rats: plague's most misunderstood victims*
- Peter Curson, *Plague and biological warfare: lessons to be learned*

Evening: Reception and *Pepys plague*

Saturday, 12 September

Early morning (~ 7.30am)

Stephen Corbett, who will take us on 'The Plague Walk – Dawes Point to Darling Harbour', which complements 'Plague: rats in the realm', the current exhibition in the Anderson Stuart Common Room.

9.30am–12.30pm and 1.30pm-3pm

- Julia Horne, University Historian, on sources within the University and elsewhere for researching the University's history
- Lise Mellor on *Sydney Medical School's Online Museum and Archive*
- Other speakers include *History of anaesthetics at RPAH* (Barry Baker), *Paediatrics in Sydney* (Bruce Storey), *Thomas Fiaschi and family* (Jock Murray), *Some Ideas about Research Topics Arising from My Work on the History of Public Health in Australia* (Milton Lewis), *Medical bookplates of Sydney alumni* (Mark Ferson), and *Early Sydney medical graduates* (Paul Lancaster).

These sessions will include opportunities for medical alumni, postgraduate students and others to inform us on work in progress on themes linked specifically to Sydney Medical School's history, its alumni from all eras, its teaching hospitals, and regional medical services and hospitals beyond Sydney that have been influenced by our medical graduates.

Please inform interested colleagues about this two-day History of Medicine Symposium, especially those who do not receive MAA e-Newsletters!

Venue: New Law School, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney

Registration: \$90 (+GST) for two days, or \$45 (+GST) for either Friday or Saturday – includes drinks on arrival, morning and afternoon teas, and light lunches. Please contact Diana Lovegrove (d.lovegrove@usyd.edu.au), tel. 02 9114 1163, for more information.

There may be some more minor changes to the program. The final program will be available in the next MAA e-Newsletter in mid-August.

We anticipate that this will be the first of many regular meetings for those interested in the history of Sydney Medical School, its alumni, their biographies and their achievements.

2. Victor Coppleson Continuing Medical Education Seminars

The program for the next few months is:

Tuesday, 18 August: ‘Migrant and cultural issues in cancer care’, Professor Phyllis Butow, and **‘Genes and athletic performance’**, Professor Kathryn North

Tuesday, 15 September: Associate Professor Tessa Ho, Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching)

Tuesday, 13 October: ‘Writing for the media’, Professor Stephen Leeder

Tuesday, 17 November: Professor Michael Field.

Venue: Lecture Theatre 24, New Law School, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney, at 6.00-7.30pm, preceded by refreshments outside the Lecture Theatre 24 at 5.30pm.

Parking: Since the opening of parking for the New Law School Building, congestion in the evening has eased somewhat. Parking is available under the New Law School Building (turn left at the first lane after entering the University from Parramatta Road).

Please confirm your attendance by contacting Jacqueline Wells, Office of Postgraduate Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine, tel. (02) 9351 4551; fax (02) 9351 6646; email j.wells@usyd.edu.au

3. Sydney Medical School

In an email to Faculty members on 25 June, Bruce Robinson, Dean, sent the following edited message:

‘I am pleased to let you know that, at its meeting on 15th June 2009, the Senate of the University resolved to authorise the Vice-Chancellor to agree to the Faculty of Medicine adopting the name Sydney Medical School as an operational, on the condition that it carry the University’s coat of arms to ensure a University of Sydney identity.

As you may be aware, the University will be introducing a new University of Sydney coat of arms and logo in January 2010. At that time there will be a major design change which will affect all Faculties and Schools, so in the interim, we are endeavouring to keep the changes to a minimum.’

4. Careers Forum (13 August 2009)

We warmly thank the 20 or so alumni who have volunteered to meet with Graduate Medical Program and other students keen to discuss their future career possibilities. The Careers Forum will be held on 13 August. While we need the help of alumni from all disciplines, we would especially like to hear from general practitioners and those working in public health.

Please contact Diana Lovegrove (d.lovegrove@usyd.edu.au) for further information and let her know if you can assist our students at this important event.

5. Alumni news

5.1 Medical alumni in Melbourne

Gordon Whyte (1967) has suggested that he and other Sydney alumni living in Melbourne would be interested in setting up an alumni group there. Gordon is now Professor and Head of the School of Rural Health at Monash University. He is also exploring the development of the Western and Islamic medical traditions and their relationship in the high medieval period.

Gordon trained at St George, Prince Henry and Prince of Wales Hospitals, then at Hammersmith. He specialised as a physician and in laboratory haematology. After working in haematology and oncology in New Zealand, he became Director of the Victorian Blood Transfusion Service in 1988 'at an exciting time of challenge and change'. Gordon's wife, Kerry Roberts (Whyte) graduated from the University of Sydney in 1969 and specialised in radiology.

Tracey Beck, Director of the University's Alumni Relations Office, has informed me that the University now has an annual alumni event in Melbourne. The Vice-Chancellor, Dr Michael Spence, will visit Melbourne later this year for this event.

Please contact Gordon (Gordon.Whyte@med.monash.edu.au) if you are interested in discussing his proposal for a Melbourne medical alumni group.

5.2 Alumni in the Singapore region

Bruce Robinson, Dean of the Sydney Medical School, has requested assistance from alumni in the Singapore region:

'In 2009, as in previous years, we are arranging joint interviews for applicants seeking admission to the Medical Program and the Bachelor of Dentistry program. Sydney Medical School would like you to invite you to participate in our interview selection process for future medical and dentistry students.

Should you reside in Singapore or in the nearby region, we would be delighted if you could participate in our selection process this year. The Multiple Mini-Interview (MMI) will be conducted on 4 September 2009 at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore. An interviewer training program will be conducted at NTU on 4 September from 9:00 to 10:30.'

Please contact Lily Lee for more information: lilyl@med.usyd.edu.au ; tel. 61-2-9351-7495.

5.3 Medical alumni in North America

Trish Harrison (1975) and **Rhonda Soricelli (1972)** have made a major effort to contact our alumni in the United States and Canada and invite them to the SUGUNA meeting of all Sydney alumni in Los Angeles on 20-23 August. We are delighted that about 20 medical alumni will be there. Please contact Trish (trish1010@aol.com) for any other information or go to the SUGUNA website: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/alumni/networks/suguna/>

5.4 Plaque for David Rutledge (1888) in the Southern Highlands

Linda Emery, a historian working in the Southern Highlands of NSW, has requested assistance from medical alumni in placing a small plaque on the unmarked grave of David Rutledge, who graduated in 1888.

‘Among my interests has been the early settlement of Sutton Forest and the church and cemetery of All Saints in the village. I act as honorary historian for the parish of Sutton Forest. One of the early rectors of the church, Dr David Rutledge, is buried in an unmarked grave in the churchyard. He was quite a remarkable man. As one of the first cohort of graduates from Sydney University medical school, it seemed sad that his grave has no marker or memorial. Later this year, the anniversary service of All Saints is to be attended by the Governor of NSW and at this time, it is hoped that she will unveil a small plaque on Dr Rutledge’s grave.’

Linda has provided a brief biography of David Rutledge and the text of the plaque, which has just been ordered at a cost of \$300. She has requested assistance from medical alumni in contributing to the cost of the plaque.

Please contact Diana Lovegrove (d.lovegrove@usyd.edu.au) or Paul Lancaster (pallancaster@gmail.com) if you would like to have more information or to make a contribution.

6. Seminars, lectures and activities linked to Sydney Medical School

6.1 Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Reunion Week (3-7 August)

The RPAH Medical Officers Association is holding the 75th Annual Clinical / Reunion Week in the Kerry Packer Education Centre.

For more information about the program, call Roger Garsia (1978) on 9515 6893 or page him on 9515 6111.

6.2 Medical Humanities Nights (6-8pm)

Monday, 21 September: Film night with Dr Claire Hooker and Dr Michael Robertson: *The Hospital*

Monday, 26 October: Demonstration and Walk: *The labyrinth: medicine and spirituality*, Prof Michael Stevens

Monday, 16 November: Special Lecture: Prof John Rasko, *Did regenerative medicine begin with the myth of Prometheus?*

Please meet at 6 pm at the Medical Foundation Building K25, cnr Missenden and Parramatta Roads, Camperdown, where there will be coffee, tea, biscuits and wine. You will need to get buzzed in to CVELiM. Call Claire on 0430 116 117 if you need directions. For further information about future seminars, or to be placed on the email list for their newsletter, please contact: Claire Hooker at claireh@med.usyd.edu.au.

6.3 Menzies Centre for Health Policy

The Michael Ward Symposium on ‘Resilience and Health’. Wednesday, 12 August (from 5.30pm)

The **Menzies Centre for Health Policy** and **Australia 21** invite you to attend a symposium to honour Michael Ward, a Founding Director of Australia 21 and a Board Member and Associate of the Menzies Centre for Health Policy. Michael’s personal resilience in the face of enormous health adversity has been an inspiration to his many friends and colleagues.

This symposium will explore the factors which contribute to the resilience and health of individuals, communities, populations and the systems which serve them.

- How does resilience work in a complex system?
- What role does early development play in long term outcomes?
- Can empathy, care and nurture influence health and education outcomes?
- Can health policy promote more resilient health?

Guest speakers:

Dr Brian Walker, Chair of the (International) Resilience Alliance, and Director, Australia 21; **Ms Teresa Burgess**, Manager, Australia 21 Project on Resilience in Early Childcare Systems; **Emeritus Professor Bob Douglas AO**, Board Chair, Australia 21 and Leader of A21 Project on Resilience of Health and Education Systems; **Professor Stephen Leeder AO**, Director, Menzies Centre for Health Policy; with Reflections from **Michael Ward**. **Moderator: Ms Geraldine Doogue AO.**

Time: 5.30pm (refreshments will be available from 5pm and at the conclusion of the seminar)

Venue: Eastern Avenue Lecture Theatre, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney (Map reference K5 on http://www.facilities.usyd.edu.au/maps/docs/guide_campdarl_a4map.pdf)

RSVP: Email mchp@med.usyd.edu.au by Wednesday, 5 August

Donations: A trust account has been established for Michael’s children. Information on how you can contribute will be available at the symposium.

Emerging Health Policy Research Conference: The Menzies Centre for Health Policy is holding its 4th annual Emerging Health Policy Research Conference on

Wednesday, 19 August at the University of Sydney. The conference will showcase the work in progress of current doctoral and early career research workers. Abstracts are currently being called from research workers from all areas of health policy - including international health, health systems, history of public health, indigenous health, health economics and health promotion. More information is available at <http://www.ahpi.health.usyd.edu.au/events/upcoming.php>

Contact Diana Freeman on 9351 2818 for further information.

6.4 Medical Society

The annual Lambie Dew Oration will be given by Dr Rowan Gillies in the Great Hall on Tuesday, 8 September at 7pm, followed by refreshments.

Dr Gillies is currently completing surgical training in Sydney, NSW in the speciality of plastic surgery. He was previously the youngest ever International President of Mediciens Sans Frontieres and worked in the field in Sudan, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Liberia and many other places of conflict. We look forward to Dr Gillies sharing his experiences of humanitarian work and warmly invite alumni to attend this prestigious event. If you would like further information please email Ineke Wever, MedSoc President iwev6767@uni.sydney.edu.au.

The Medical Society is also keenly seeking the views of alumni on the review process for sponsorship.

‘MedSoc has created an Ethical Guidelines for Sponsorship Sub-Committee (EGSSC) to investigate the issue of pharmaceutical sponsorship of our academic and social events. The considered approach to this controversial issue is as follows:

- A submissions period of 3 months will allow any current students, alumni, Faculty staff members and relevant parties to make a submission on the issue of pharmaceutical sponsorship of MedSoc. This period ends on 10 September. Submissions can be made by email to egssc.submissions@gmail.com
- A review period where the EGSSC will consider the submissions received and write a recommendation, summarising these submissions.
- The written recommendation will then be circulated to the entire cohort of current medical students and an electronic vote will be taken on the issue.

MedSoc would like to invite any alumni who would like to contribute to make a submission into this review process. If you would like to know more about the process, please email the Co-Chairs, Steve Bartnik and Kaveh Darabian egssc.general@gmail.com or contact Ineke Wever, MedSoc President iwev6767@uni.sydney.edu.au.

7. Other University of Sydney alumni events in 2009

- **Spring Back to Sydney annual alumni reunion at the University of Sydney: Saturday, 19 September 2009.** Spring Back to Sydney is now open to ALL alumni, irrespective of graduating year.

- **Great Hall 150th Anniversary, 25-27 September 2009:** this is a preliminary notice that a spectacular *Son et Lumière* will be held in the Great Hall to celebrate the 150th anniversary.
- **Sydney Ideas.** Talks, forums and lectures - the University of Sydney hosts a diverse range of forums, talks and lectures throughout the year. Many of these are free and open to the public:
http://www.usyd.edu.au/sydney_ideas/lectures/public/index.php

8. History of health and medicine

8.1 Faculty of Medicine Online Museum and Archive

Everyone will enjoy this fascinating new overview of the Faculty's history. It will bring back many memories of people, places, and experiences from student days to the present! Some features of the site: historical overview of the Faculty; biographies of Faculty staff, alumni and benefactors; lists of graduates since 1856; digitised publications, including Senior Year Books from 1922 to 1975; examination papers from 1880s to 1950s; virtual tours of buildings; virtual exhibitions; artefacts online; Medical Heritage Trail; and a photo gallery.

http://www.medfac.usyd.edu.au/museum/mwmuseum/index.php/Faculty_of_Medicine_Online_Museum_and_Archive

If you are interested in submitting an article, biography or photographs and documents of historical interest you can contact Dr Lise Mellor on 9114 1164 or lisem@med.usyd.edu.au.

8.2 RACP Library Lecture Series

On Monday, 7 September Dr Bruce Storey will examine 'The history of paediatrics in Sydney'. On Monday 23 November, there will be a lecture on 'Wine and health' by Dr Phil Norrie.

All Monday lectures are held at the Education Centre, Level 8, 52 Phillip Street, Sydney, at 6.30pm. Entry is \$10 and wine and cheese accompany discussion afterwards. Bookings are essential on (02) 9256 5413 or racplib@racp.edu.au

9. 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. These were initially published in the Sydney Morning Herald or other newspapers, or written by colleagues or family members. Please inform us of any other alumni who died recently.

The **tributes** in recent months include: James Morrison Ellis (1944); Sir William Dudley Refshauge AC (Hon MD, 1988); Christopher John O'Brien (1976); Brian Eric Frecker (1944); Graham Douglas (Doug) Tracy AO (1948); Max Emory Lake OAM

(1946); Padraic Grattan-Smith (1944); Reginald Bowman (1951); William Joseph Quilty (1959); Emeritus Professor Ralph Beattie Blacket, AO (1941); Kevin Francis Hamilton Hume (1942); David Skeffington Johnson (1968); and Ella Spencer Donovan (1936) (see <http://www.alumni.med.usyd.edu.au/news/tributes.php>).

Obituaries: David Norrie Fleming Leake (OAM, 1932). *Med J Aust* 2008; 189: 228.

Vale to other medical friends and colleagues. Death notices of medical alumni in the Sydney Morning Herald or elsewhere in recent months include (most recent first): Leonard Reuben Rail (1939); Clive Frazer Allardyce (1959); Craig Angus (Bill) Horn (DDR, 1949); Joyce Ingram Russell (1944); David Bruce Lynton Williams AM (1978); Neville Albert Hinds (1951); Jayantilal (Jay) Govind (MM, Pain, 2000); David Hersch Rosenman (1946); Alwynne Dorothy Brake (1954); Brian Eric Frecker (1944); Judith Anne Empson (1962); Ian Jeffrey Isaacs (1968); Elizabeth Lloyd (1956); Anthony Carroll (1956); Eileen Collins (1977); Minna Golomb (1954); Bruce RM Emmerson (1952); Kurt Singer (1958); Philip Blake Humphris (1952); Robert Hart (1955); Stephanie Jean Sweeny (nee Liddell) (1962); Robin (Rob) Frederick George Arnheim (1941); Judith Elderton (nee Murray-Jones) (1947); John Brock Westphalen (1950); John Neophyton (1964); Susanne Korten (1955); Kevin Maxwell Fuller (1956); Andre Haski (1962); William Horace Wolfenden (1951); and Geoffrey Watkins Burgess (1954).

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.

10. Reunions

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 representatives from your year.

11. Keeping in touch

We would like to have more content from our alumni on the Medical Alumni Association website: <http://www.alumni.med.usyd.edu.au/>. Please let me have your ideas!

Update your contact details on the University's website: http://www.usyd.edu.au/alumni/in_touch/index.shtml or send an email to: alumniadmin@vcc.usyd.edu.au and Diana Lovegrove, Alumni Relations and Events Manager, Faculty of Medicine (d.lovegrove@usyd.edu.au); tel. (02) 9114 1163.

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30 July 2009