

2007

Baylor History of Medicine Society Schedule 2007-2008

Baylor History of Medicine Society

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.library.tmc.edu/homl>



Part of the [Medicine and Health Sciences Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Citation Information: Baylor History of Medicine Society, "Baylor History of Medicine Society Schedule 2007-2008" (2007).

DigitalCommons@TMC, John P. McGovern Historical Collections and Research Center, *Houston History of Medicine Lectures*. Paper 3.

<https://digitalcommons.library.tmc.edu/homl/3>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the John P. McGovern Historical Collections and Research Center at DigitalCommons@TMC. It has been accepted for inclusion in Houston History of Medicine Lectures by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@TMC. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@library.tmc.edu.

Baylor History of Medicine Society Schedule
September, 2007 to May, 2008
All meetings 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.

September 11, 2007 in Cullen Auditorium

Robert E. Greenspan, M.D.

Author of “Medicine: Perspectives in History and Art”

Book signing following presentation.

"Medicine: Perspectives in History and Art"

This is an overview of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and quack medicine as told by physicians, patients, nurses, writers, poets, artists, and many others through their quotes, letters, and art. You are invited to an interactive tour that will allow you to "meet" historical figures including Hippocrates, Shakespeare, Mark Twain, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Leonardo da Vinci, Sir William Osler, and many others in order to give you a chance to understand what medicine was like from the beginning of recorded history. The great discoveries and controversies, as well as the blunders, deceptions, and tragedies are best appreciated in the words and illustrations of those who were there at the time.

October 9, 2007 in Cullen Auditorium

Annual David Mumford Speaker

Bryant Boutwell, Dr.P.H.

John P. McGovern, M.D. Professor of Oslerian Medicine

University of Texas Medical School, Houston

“Eight Practical Lessons from Osler That Will Better Your Life”

More than a century and a half after his birth, Sir William Osler (1849-1919) remains a role model for excellence in patient-centered care and professionalism. While many remember him for his famous text, *The Principles and Practice of Medicine*; others remember him for his many nonscientific books and articles that continue to inspire a new generation on the practical and practiced art of living. He lived a life that exemplified how to manage time, influence others, and accomplish great things. In an era long before Stephen Covey and other contemporary prophets of time management, Osler was teaching all who would listen how to prioritize and make the most of each day. This talk explores eight practical lessons from Osler that will better your life. From time management to Osler’s approach to building a legacy, those who attend this presentation will see that while much has changed in medicine since Osler’s day, his outlook and practical advice remain timeless.

November 13, 2007 in Cullen Auditorium
Ed Fann, M.D.

“History of the American Mental Hospital: From networking to not working & back”

American psychiatry had its origins in mental hospitals. From early on they provided compassionate staffs, safe surroundings, and good results. From the late nineteenth through the twentieth centuries, diminishing public funding, ineffective treatments, and the migration of most psychiatrists to private outpatient practices left mental patients in squalid, overcrowded institutions with cruelly indifferent care amounting to little more than incarceration. A half century after the introduction of psychotropic medications, society’s “cure” for these malfunctions is revealing itself to be worse than the diseased system it tried to replace. These sad events will be discussed in some detail.

January 8, 2008 in Cullen Auditorium
Student Essay Contest Winners

1st place: Matt Luedke

"Ambiguities and Amputations: Methods, mishaps, and the surgical quest to cure breast cancer"

A symbol of femininity and fertility, an organ for nourishment of the innocent and arousal of the passionate, the woman’s breast lies exposed, proverbially and often literally, for all the world to see. Thus, carcinoma of the breast has been a unique opponent for surgeons: unique in its accessibility, resectability, and in its social and psychological consequences. More so than in any other realm of surgical oncology, treatment of breast carcinomas demands aesthetic sensitivity. I will focus this discussion on the evolution of surgical and medicinal techniques that permitted physicians to perform efficacious and aesthetically conscious interventions.

2nd place: Ryan Rochat

“An Automated, Algorithmic, Retrospective Analysis of the Growing Influence of Statistics in Medicine”

The 20th century has shown an explosion in medical research and advancement. A record of these accomplishments can be traced through the millions of abstracts and papers on PubMed. In this paper I propose an automated algorithm to quantify the influence that specific fields have had on medical research in the past 40 years. By analyzing hundreds of thousands of abstracts published in PubMed, I am able to demonstrate the undeniable impact that many topics have had on medical research. For the purposes of this proposal I specifically address the impact statistics has made on medical literature.

February 12, 2008 in Cullen Auditorium
Annual John P. McGovern Lecture and Banquet

Charles S. Bryan, M.D.
Director, Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities at the University of South Carolina
Executive Director, American Osler Society

Noon presentation: (with book signing of The Quotable Osler)

“What’s Special about William Osler?”

Ask a layperson to identify Sir William Osler (1849-1919) and you’ll probably get a blank stare—unless he or she happens to be an expert at crossword puzzles, in which case the response will be “a Canadian physician.” Ask a medical student the same question and, if you’re lucky, you’ll get a response such as “the father of internal medicine.” In both cases, the answers are correct, but only in part. Osler was indeed a Canadian by birth and education, but it was in the United States that he made his mark as his era’s best-known generalist physician, and it was in Great Britain that he spent his last 14 years and was knighted. Osler was indeed present at an 1885 meeting that led to the first organization of American internists, but by no means did he “invent” the discipline. Some persons allege that the attention given Osler by successive generations of “Oslerians”—such as four biographies, nearly 1,900 articles in the secondary literature, numerous orations, and “Osler societies” that meet regularly—amounts to little more than hagiography. What made Osler special in his own day were his mastery of clinical medicine as exemplified by his 1892 textbook, *The Principles and Practice of Medicine*; his initiation of a medical clinic along German lines at The Johns Hopkins Hospital; his popularization of bedside teaching; and—perhaps most important—his reconciliation of the perceived tension between the emerging scientific medicine and the old humanities. What makes Osler special today are the eloquence of his writings, which are often aphoristic; his exemplification of the twin pillars of medicine, competence and caring; and his lessons in personal effectiveness. This presentation will focus especially on (1) Osler’s enduring lessons on how to manage our time and our priorities; and (2) Osler’s concept of *aequanimitas*, which is best understood not as “cool detachment” but rather as the Stoic ideal of *metriopatheia*—experiencing and expressing emotions that are appropriate for the circumstances.

Evening banquet presentation: (with book signing of “For Goodness Sake: The Seven Basic Virtues”)

“The Virtuous Physician: Lessons from Medical Biography”

Although all medical schools in the United States now have curricula in medical ethics, the goals and effectiveness of these curricula remain controversial. What are we trying to accomplish? Some authorities suggest that principal goal should be the promotion of ethical sophistication. Others suggest that theoretical understanding of ethical principles contributes little to day-to-day medical practice, and two studies suggest that medical students' ability to reason in "ethical" terms actually regresses during the clinical years. Other authorities suggest that the principle goal should be the promotion of virtuous behavior, but—to echo a frequent question in classical Greek philosophy—can virtue be taught? This presentation takes inspiration from the opening words to the first nine editions of *Harrisons' Principles of Internal Medicine*, first published in 1950:

No greater opportunity, responsibility, or obligation can fall to the lot of a human being than to become a physician. In the care of the suffering he needs technical skill, scientific knowledge, and human understanding. He who uses these with courage, with humility, and with wisdom will provide a unique service for his fellow man, and will build *an enduring edifice of character* within himself. The physician should ask of his destiny no more than this; he should be content with no less" (*emphasis added*).

What do we mean by character? Can character be taught, and does it suffice for happiness? Character will be defined, in brief, as acting virtuously on a consistent basis. Elaborating on the premise given by the original editors of *Harrison's Principles of Medicine*, an argument will be made that we build character story by story as, on an almost daily basis, we make small and large decisions in circumstances fraught with conflicting obligations and moral ambiguities. I will propose a four-quadrant model for ethical reflection, consisting of (1) the clinical facts; (2) the applicable virtues; (3) the applicable values and principles; and (4) the actions taken. Seven biographical examples will be used to illustrate current understandings and applicability of the seven classic virtues of antiquity: the four cardinal virtues (wisdom, justice, temperance, and courage), and the three theological virtues (faith, hope, and love).

March 5, 2008 in Onstead Auditorium
Betsy Parish (with book signing)

“Legacy: 50 Years of Loving Care – The History of Texas Children’s Hospital, 1954-2004.

Legacy is a narrative history of the first 50 years of Texas Children’s Hospital. Gleaned from hundreds of personal interviews, oral histories, and archival documents, the individual reflections serve to illustrate the unique story of how an ambitious community endeavor to build a children’s hospital took root and blossomed into one of the largest, free-standing pediatric hospitals in the United States. *Legacy* is a salute to this accomplishment and to the courage, commitment, and compassion of the many dedicated individuals who contributed their time, their expertise, and their passion to the health and loving care of children and their families.

April 2, 2008 in Onstead Auditorium
John B. Boles, Ph.D. (With Book Signing)
Professor of History, Rice University

"The Education of a University President: Edgar Odell Lovett of Rice University."

William Marsh Rice chartered the Rice Institute in 1891, but the charter was frustratingly vague about his intentions. No doubt the six trustees were glad that he instructed that nothing was to be done until his death. Then, after his murder in 1900, and the probating of his will, the trustees discovered what a significant fortune he had left. This made their task incredibly important.

After an elaborate search for a president of the institute, they choose a young Princeton mathematician, Lovett, to direct the new institute. What in his background recommended him? Why was he almost uniquely qualified? How did he construct a vision of the new university that even today shapes its development? Lovett had remarkable breadth of preparation, charisma, and the ability to plan for the long term and yet administer details with precision.

Rice University is as it is today largely as a result of Lovett's early leadership.

May 7, 2008 in Onstead Auditorium
David Bybee, M.D.

"Artists and Illness: The Effect of Illness on an Artist's Work."

This presentation will show slides of artistic depiction of illness, of medical practice both realistic and in caricature, of the effect of illness on several artist's work and of magazine art in advertisements and illustrating articles of medical interest.