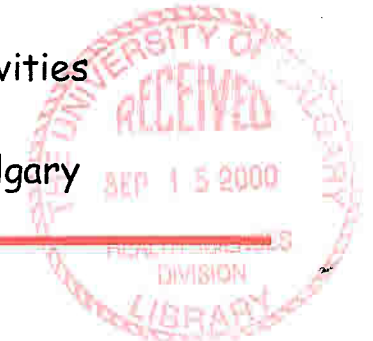




# Cheiron Newsletter

of the  
History of Medicine Activities  
of the Physicians and  
Medical Students of Calgary

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## 1999 to 2000 season

### CHOMS Meetings

The **17th meeting** of the Calgary History of Medicine Society was held at the University Club on Thursday October 21st 1999.

The speaker for the evening was Dr Roger Maltby and his topic was "**Sherlock Holmes and Anaesthesia**". After a brief review of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's medical career Dr Maltby discussed the various anaesthetic, analgesic and sedative agents in common use at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century and presented excerpts from the various Sherlock Holmes stories in which these agents were used.



Dr Roger Maltby

The meeting which was enjoyed by all was attended by the following members and guests: Martin Austin, Peter and Diana Cruse, Noel and Lil Hershfield, Cam and Norma Hill, Connie Hill, David Hogan, David Lewis, David McDonald, Malcolm MacDonald, Roger Maltby, Greg and Brenda McKinnon, Tait and Jean McPhedran, Ian and Anne Mitchell, Bob and Joan Pow, Chris Prusinkiewicz, Barry Rewcastle, Tom Ringrose, Julius Szekrenyes, Reg and Pat Tanner, Keith and Jane Todd, and Jack and Ann Wootliffe

The **18th meeting** of the Calgary History of Medicine Society was held at the University Club on Thursday 25th November 1999.

On this occasion the speaker was the Society's Vice-President Dr Julius Szekrenyes and his topic was "**Akhenhatem - a diagnosis made.**"



Dr Julius Szekrenyes

Julius, who is also the Society's Egyptologist placed the life of Akenhatem in context with the history of the pharaohs and then proceeded by a careful description of the known physical characteristics of Akenhatem to make the diagnosis of Marfan's syndrome. It was agreed that, although the waiting period for the diagnosis was somewhat excessive even by today's standards, the diagnosis was probably correct and that Akenhatem should join the list of famous people with this syndrome.

Members and guests present for this delightful evening were: Martin Austin, Alan Cox, Peter and Diana Cruse, John and Pauly Dawson, Robert and Irene Gordon, Roy and Betty Hamilton, Art Hanslip, Connie Hill, Ernie and Edna Johnson, Lloyd and Tracy Maybaum, David and Bonnie McDonald, Tait

and Jean McPhedran, Ian and Anne Mitchell, Barry Rewcastle, Tom Ringrose, Julius and Ginette Szekrenyes, Reg Tanner, Jane and Keith Todd, John and Naomi Tyberg and William Walker,

The **19th meeting** of the Calgary History of Medicine Society was held at the University Club on Thursday 20th January 2000.



Dr William Whitelaw

The speaker was Dr William Whitelaw who spoke on **"The Sleep of the Great."** Dr Whitelaw described the various sleep disorders which have become identified in recent years and then called on his exhaustive knowledge of Shakespeare to demonstrate to the entire satisfaction and great delight of the audience that sleep apnea was a well-known and well described condition in Shakespeare's time. The following members and guests were present: Martin Austin, Alan and Hilda Cox, Peter and Diana Cruse, Pauly Dawson, Robert Gordon, Noel and Lil Hershfield, Connie Hill, Ernie and Edna Johnson, Charles McCulloch, David McDonald, Malcolm and Nancy McDonald, Tait and Jean McPhedran, George Miller, Bob and Joan Pow, Barry Rewcastle, Julius and Ginette Szekrenyes, Reg and Pat Tanner, Keith and Jane Todd, John and Naomi Tyberg and William Whitelaw.

The **20th meeting** of the Calgary History of Medicine Society was held at the University Club on Thursday 24th February.

The speaker was the Society's Treasurer Dr David Hogan and his topic was "Osler goes West". Sir William Osler is usually associated with Eastern Canada, the north eastern part of the United States and England. But Osler did make one extended trip to western Canada in August of 1886. Dr Hogan reviewed some of the history of the Osler family and then provided details of the visit which was on the newly completed Canadian Pacific Railway and some

of its "feeder" lines. The party, which included Dr Osler's brother Edmund Boyd Osler, travelled in the private rail car of the General Superintendent of the Western Region of the CPR. One of the more unusual consequences of Dr Osler's visit was that he reported, to the Canadian Medical and Surgical Journal, an unusual occurrence where two days before Dr Osler's visit, a woman had given birth in the toilet of a railway carriage (in those days a hole in the floor) and the child had fallen onto the railway tracks. Apart from some bruises on the baby, mother and child did well. As Dr Hogan pointed out it was fortunate that Dr Osler had obtained affidavits from witnesses to this event as many found the story difficult to believe. Apart from this unusual event the trip west seemed to make little impression on either Osler or the medical community of the Northwest Territories and Osler never visited the region again. As Dr Hogan pointed out perhaps the west was a little too rustic for such an urban and urbane physician.



Dr David Hogan  
(a "History of Medicine Class" photo)

The following members and guests were present for this fascinating evening of Osler reflections were: Peter and Diana Cruse, Hugh and Dorothy Gallie, Robert and Irene Gordon, Connie Hill, David Hogan, David and Kit Lewis, David McDonald, Malcolm and Nancy MacDonald, George and Marilyn Miller, Ian and Anne Mitchell, Bob and Joan Pow, Barry Rewcastle, Tom Ringrose, Julius and Ginette Szekrenyes, Keith and Jane Todd, John and Naomi Tyberg, and Jack and Ann Wootliffe.

As the 20th meeting marked the end of the term of office of the Executive Committee members a Nominating Committee chaired by Dr Peter Cruse proposed the Executive Committee members be re-appointed for another two year term. This motion was carried *nemini contradicente*.

Your Executive Committee members are:

President - Dr Keith Todd

Vice-President - Dr Julius Szekrenyes

Secretary - Dr Tom Ringrose

Treasurer - Dr David Hogan

Members-at-large - Dr Greg McKinnon

Dr William Whitelaw

Past President - Dr Peter Cruse

### The 2000 - 2001 Season of CHOMS

Speakers and topics for the next season are:

October 12th - Dr Clarence Guenter on "All the World's a Stage".

November 16th - Dr Mike Beriault on "Dr John Rae"

January 18th - Dr Bob Lee on "High Altitude and the Human Body: Past and Present - Perspectives of a mountaineering neurologist."

February 15th - Dr Greg McKinnon - topic TBA

and present plans call for all the meetings to be held at the University Club. Members for the 2000 -2001 season will be sent 'Notices of Meetings' which will bear a date by which you are asked to RSVP. **It is essential that we know, at least a week before the dinner exactly how many members will be attending.**

### Activities of the Faculty of Medicine Class of 2002

The course opened with an overview presented by the course Chairman Dr William Whitelaw seen here approaching the podium to start the festivities.



Then Steve Loken, Sharen Kim and Kirsten Johnson repeated their History of Medicine Days presentations from March 1999 to show the class what was expected of them.

The Class of 2002 presented on a variety of topics, some of which were more relevant to the history of medicine than others.

Daniel Heng (preceptor Dr David Hogan) gave a presentation "Medical Westernization in China and the Peking Union Medical College" in which he de-

scribed the establishment of the Peking Union Medical College by the Rockefeller Foundation. This College was to become known as the Johns Hopkins of China and it became the largest foreign philanthropic commitment of the Foundation. The PUMC was active in research with faculty authoring 300 publications between 1919 and 1925. It produced graduates that pioneered China's public health movement and modern midwifery programs. Perhaps most importantly, the College allowed the dissemination of Western knowledge to such a great extent that it makes it incomparable to other colleges: its Western-dominated faculty was slowly replaced with Chinese and many graduates involved themselves in teaching Western medicine to other Chinese.



Daniel Heng

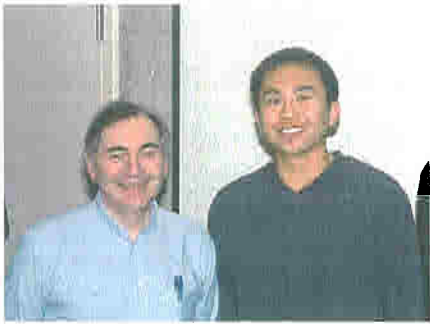
Michael Eng with "*Hercules: a metaphor for illness*" shared a session with Jose Nazareno: "*Biblical and Talmudic Medicine: The Life and Times of a Rophe*".



Michael Eng with preceptor Dr Rorstad

In "*Hercules: a metaphor for illness*" Michael Eng discussed the literature on the madness of Hercules and the change from assuming madness and seizures to be divine intervention to the recognition that mental disorders had a natural rather than a supernatural cause.

Jose Nazareno in his presentation on *Biblical and Talmudic Medicine* described the life of a physician of 2000 BCE, a *rophe*, and reviewed his training and position in society as well as the style of his practice and the treatments available for him to use.



Jose Nazareno with preceptor Dr Roth

Renaissance medicine was represented by Jim Capstick on *“The Barber-Surgeons of London 1540 - 1745”*



Jim Capstick with preceptor Dr Todd  
(no - Jim is not standing on a box!)

Jim Capstick covered the development of Barber-Surgeons as a guild, their recognition in legislation by Henry VIII as “Masters of Governors of the Mystery and Communality of the Barbers and Surgeons of London” and the advances and tensions which lead to division of this association of the barbers and surgeons in 1745

Justyna Sarna presented on *“Contraception in the Ancient Times”*



Dr Szekrenyes (preceptor) and Justyna Sarna

Justyna Sarna reviewed the contraceptive practices of the Egyptians which mostly consisted of vaginal suppositories but did, about 1300 BC, include drink-

ing oil, celery and sweet beer, perhaps the first oral contraceptive but more likely an abortifacient. She then reviewed the practices of the ancient Greeks which also relied heavily on suppositories with occasional addition of callisthenics. It appears that contraception in ancient times was largely the responsibility of the woman.

Raymund Yong presented on *“The Ethics of Aids research in the developing world and the transformation of science in modern medicine”*. He reported on the results of AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) Study 076 which resulted in the use of AZT being declared the standard of care for all HIV-positive pregnant women. A number of U.S. government-funded studies were initiated in developing African and Asian nations to find a more cost-effective antiretroviral regimen than the one in the ACTG study. In the vast majority of these studies, not all the enrolled HIV-positive pregnant women would receive antiretroviral prophylaxis for maternal-infant transmission of HIV. Indeed, some women would not receive any active treatment at all, despite the well-established ethical guideline that placebos shall not be administered in a randomized clinical trial when there is an existing, effective treatment available. Raymund discussed the complexity of this issue and debated the need to perhaps rethink the ethical and scientific problems of AIDS research in developing countries.



Raymund Yong, Dr Lukowiak, and Marilyn Zeeman

Marilyn Zeeman’s topic was the *“Evolution of the Western Attitude towards Death: from the Middle Ages to the Present”*

Marilyn reviewed some of the important changes which have occurred in Western society over the past five or so centuries, and gave some reasons as to why death has evolved from an event that used to be celebrated to one that is feared.



Tony Truong

*“Advanced Preventive Medicine in the Bible”* was the subject of Tony Truong’s presentation (preceptor Dr Corenblum) in which he reminded the audience that the Biblical laws recorded by Moses played a vital role in the prevention of disease. Although never regarded as a medical text, approximately 1/3 of the laws outlined in the Bible have some relevance to health and hygiene. Tony reviewed some of these rules and protocols in the light of modern knowledge of hygiene.

Mohammad I. Zia gave a presentation on *“William Harvey (1578-1657): the Discovery of the Circulation of the Blood”*



M. Zia with preceptors Susan McMahon and Dr John Tyberg

Mohammad reviewed the experimental work of William Harvey which led to a precise knowledge of how the heart, blood, and circulatory processes operate, without which a systematic understanding of how living things work would not have been possible.

Sarah Wong chose to present *“The Human Cost of Building the Panama Canal”* and she described the great medical advances made during its construction and their vital role in its completion. The risks facing the workers were mainly yellow fever and malaria.



Preceptor Dr Tom Ringrose and Sarah Wong

Sarah went on to discuss the mosquito eradication program under the leadership of Colonel William C. Gorgas, which was responsible for saving many lives and allowed the completion of the canal. Nevertheless, because of extensive health problems, the cost was measured not only in francs and dollars but also in thousands of unnecessary deaths.

Janice Yang’s talk was on *“The Cause: The story of the Indomitable first Canadian woman doctor Emily Stowe (1831 - 1903)”*



Janice Yang and preceptor Arty Coppes

Emily Stowe pioneered the struggle for woman's equality in Canada as the first woman school principal (1852) and physician (1867) and Janice described the problems faced by Emily Stowe in getting medical training and a licence to practice. Emily Stowe was one of Canada's leading suffragists. She founded one of the earliest female suffrage groups, The Toronto Women's Literary Club which was later called the Toronto Women's Suffrage Club. She helped found the Women's Medical College in Toronto in 1883 and died in 1903, fourteen years before women got the vote in Canada.

*“Metaphors that Heal: Magic, moon and military metaphors of Illness”* was the subject chosen by Mony Singh.



Dr Whitelaw (preceptor) and Mony Singh

Mony contrasted the views of Sontag in "Illness as a Metaphor" in which Sontag argued against the use of metaphors in illness with those of Monette who claimed metaphors can empower patients and their caregivers rather than alienate them.



Calvino Cheng and preceptor Dr Lampard

Calvino Cheng enjoyed the previous year so much that he returned to give another presentation, this time on the history of the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research.



Danielle Huggard-Nelson and preceptor Dr Maltby "Virginia Apgar and the Apgar Scores" was the subject of Danielle Huggard-Nelson's presentation which covered the development of the Apgar score in 1949 by anaesthesiologist Virginia Apgar. Dr. Apgar felt that if the mother could be observed for nine months the newborn could be given at least one minute of assessment. Today the Apgar Score is used worldwide to assess the condition of the newborn following the birth process. Danielle reminded us that although it is for the Apgar scores that Dr Apgar is best remembered she later became the Di-

ector of the National Foundation's Congenital Defects Division (formerly the March of Dimes) where she promoted public awareness and research on birth defects.



R. R. Padua and Yvonne Ying

With his preceptor Dr David Lewis, Raymond Ronald Padua presented "Exorcising Schizophrenia", a review of the old view of schizophrenia as a possession and its treatment by exorcism.

And Yvonne Ying (preceptor Dr Fritzler) presented on "The History of Silicone Breast Implants" reviewing both the medical implications of implants and the industry both legal and medical these have spawned.

There were other events and presentations but these occurred on Thursday evenings and your reporter does not do Thursdays! Apologies to those missed.

The course ended with the **9th Annual History of Medicine Days** held in the Libin Theatre on March 17th and 18th. In addition to the Calgary students there were students from Dalhousie, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Queen's, University of Saskatchewan, and the University of Western Ontario. Papers were presented on a wide variety of topics, again some were more relevant to the History of Medicine than others but the opportunity to present at a national meeting was enjoyed by all the students and the audience certainly found the experience worth while. There were a number of awards presented and the panel of eminent judges reported great difficulty in choosing the winners. There was ample opportunity for students and faculty to share stories at the main social events which were a reception at the Wainwright Hotel in Heritage Park and a dinner at the University Club. The students rounded off the conference with a day of R & R in Banff.