



Bringing compassion to healthcare

# AMS Hannah Chairs in the History of Medicine

*In 1972, Dr. Jason Hannah first wrote about bringing the then five Ontario medical faculties together to prioritize History of Medicine in education to ensure that “medical students would be influenced in their future careers by their profession’s past”. Forty years later, the Hannah Chairs have advanced the History of Medicine across Canada.*

## Ontario Hannah Chairs

AMS Hannah Chairs in the history of medicine were originally established through a series of annual grants to Ontario’s five faculties of medicine: University of Western Ontario in 1974, Queen’s University in 1975, University of Toronto in 1976, and McMaster University and the University of Ottawa in 1977.

Subsequently, between 1999 and 2003, AMS created permanent endowments (matched by host universities) for these five chairs, in the hope of creating enduring cultures of teaching and research in the history of medicine and healthcare.

AMS also funded and operated the Hannah Institute for the History of Medicine. It was established in the mid 70’s, and was responsible for overseeing the Chair’s activities and to administer AMS history of medicine research grants and awards. Thirty years later with the endowment of the Hannah chairs the major raison d’etre of the Institute came to a conclusion and its activities were absorbed by the overall administration of AMS.



Dr. Jason A. Hannah, a consulting neuropathologist in the Ontario Department of Health, founded AMS in the depression years as the first magnetic program plan for medical and hospital care. With the advent of government schemes in the 1960s, AMS turned its efforts toward Canadian medical history.

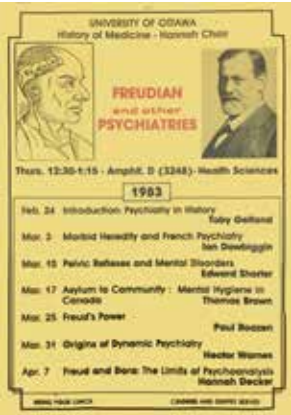
## Affiliate Chairs

AMS has also sought opportunities to expand its commitment to the history of medicine across Canada. The Alberta Medical Foundation/Hannah Professorship in the History of Medicine and Health Care at the University of Calgary was created as a result of a long-term partnership between AMS and the University of Calgary. With contributions from AMS, the University and the Alberta Medical Foundation in the early 1990s, this professorship evolved to an endowed position in the history of medicine and health care in 2008.

In 1995, AMS also pledged towards the previously known Cotton Chair in the History of Medicine established at McGill University, Montreal in 1971. This led to the creation of the permanent Cotton-Hannah Professorship and Chair.

## Ontario’s Sixth Chair

In 2015, AMS announced the creation of the Hannah Chair in the History of Aboriginal Health that will be located at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine.



## The Hannah Chairs

### University of Western Ontario

**Hannah Chair in the History of Medicine:** Dr. Shelley McKellar  
**Previous Chair:** Dr. Paul Potter (1974-2012)

Professor Shelley McKellar was appointed to the Hannah Chair in 2012 and her teaching is directly related to her research interests. She studies the history of medicine and disease, with a special interest in the history of medical technology, instruments and devices, the history of surgery and medical biography. Already the author of two monographs she is presently completing a manuscript on the history of the development and use of artificial hearts from the 1950s to present day.

Along with teaching medical students in the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry and non-medical students in the Faculty of Social Science, McKellar offers courses in disease and material culture in the Department of History. She also curates the university's Medical Artifact Collection.



Shelley McKellar

### Queen's University

**Hannah Chair in the History of Medicine:**

Dr. Jacalyn Mary "Jackie" Duffin

**Previous Chair:** Dr. Ruth Hodgkinson (1974-1979);

Dr. S.E.D. Shortt (1979-1984)

In 1988, hematologist and historian Jacalyn Duffin was appointed to the Queen's Hannah Chair, a former President of both the American Association for the History of Medicine and the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine. She is the author or editor of eight books including the popular textbook for medical students titled *History of Medicine a Scandalously Short Introduction* (U Toronto Press), and holds many awards for research, writing, teaching and service.

Programs offered by Duffin include a historical course of study for medical students, elective courses, a faculty seminar, undergraduate and graduate courses, graduate counselling, bibliographic assistance and guest lectures by visiting scholars. Jackie also supports local initiatives such as the Museum of Health Care and the Kingston Historical Society.



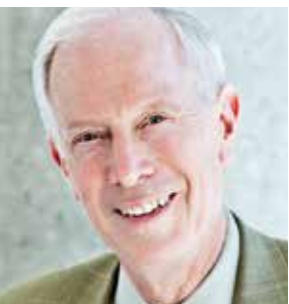
Jackie Duffin

### University of Toronto

**Hannah Chair in the History of Medicine:** Dr. Edward Shorter

**Previous Chairs:** Dr. Pauline Mazumdar (1977-1987)

In 1991, Edward Shorter was appointed the Jason A. Hannah Professor of the History of Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine. With numerous publications to his credit, Shorter is internationally recognized as a pre-eminent historian of psychiatry.



Edward Shorter

In 2013 he documented the rise of the Faculty of Medicine at U of T in his monograph *Partnership for Excellence: Medicine at the University of Toronto and Academic Hospitals* (University of Toronto Press). In addition to his many research initiatives in medicine and health-care, Ned is widely sought after as a lecturer, guest speaker and expert in his field.

Edward (Ned) works with undergraduate and graduate students in the Department of History's History of Medicine Program, as well as guiding, together with administrator Susan Belanger, the online "Living History" archive of the Faculty of Medicine. He also offers electives in Undergraduate Medical Education and the Department of Psychiatry in the Faculty of Medicine.

## McMaster University

**Hannah Chair in the History of Medicine:** Dr. Ellen Amster

**Previous Chairs:** Dr. Chuck Roland (1977-1999);

Dr. David Wright (1999-2011)

2014 saw the appointment of a new Hannah Chair at McMaster, Ellen Amster, associate professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics and the Department of History. Her research interests include French and Islamic medicine, global public health, and midwifery. She has been a simultaneous translator for an ORBIS ocular surgery mission in Morocco, a researcher at the Institut National d'Hygiène du Maroc, and has created a global health field study program in Morocco from her 2013 book, *Medicine and the Saints: Science, Islam, and the Colonial Encounter in Morocco, 1877-1956* (Austin: University of Texas Press).

At McMaster, Ellen provides a regular lecture/rounds series in the history of medicine, supports all students in the Faculty of Health Sciences, but guides MD student electives and research projects, works with the MD curriculum committee, and teaches Professional Competencies to MD students. Ellen is currently developing a digital history of medicine web portal, which will encourage student research projects, engage the community, and bring together programs related to medical humanities at McMaster.

## University of Ottawa

**Hannah Chair and Program in History of Medicine:** Search underway

**Previous Chair:** Dr. Toby Gelfand (1977-2012)

The Program in History of Medicine sees itself playing a mediating role between various constituencies: medical students and health science students (see Department of History, Faculty of Arts), undergraduate and graduate students, post-doctoral and resident house staff, practicing physicians, and the general public. Learning via lectures, seminars, Grand Rounds and is facilitated by local and external speakers.

The University of Ottawa is currently repositioning the role of the Hannah Chair within the institution and, once redefined, will look to fill this important University position.



Ellen Amster

## Northern Ontario School of Medicine

**Hannah Chair in the History of Aboriginal Health:** Search underway

## University of Calgary

**Alberta Medical Foundation/Hannah Professorship in the History of Medicine and Health Care:** Dr. Frank Stahnisch

**Previous Professors:** Dr. Peter Cruse (1995-1998);  
Dr. William Whitlaw (1999-2008)

In 2008, Frank Stahnisch, who trained as a medical doctor as well as in the history of medicine and the philosophy of science, was appointed the Professorship at the University of Calgary.

His expertise lies in a number of areas, such as the history and philosophy of laboratory-based research in Western medicine, the long history and theory of the nerve and brain sciences, as well as the history of public mental health and psychiatry. Stahnisch has presented his work at national and international conferences and is widely published on the history of experimental biomedicine and the neurosciences. His most recent monograph is *Medicine, Life and Function - Experimental Strategies and Medical Modernity at the Intersection of Pathology and Physiology* (2012).

Frank works with students in the Department of History, Faculty of Arts and the Department of Community Health Sciences, Cumming School of Medicine, which offer a graduate program in the History of Medicine and Health Care. One of his greatest forums is the internationally recognized, annual History of Medicine Days Conference, which sees over 300 students from across Canada present abstracts and posters on the History of Medicine and Health Care.

## McGill University

**Cotton-Hannah Chair in the History of Medicine:** Dr. George Weisz

**Previous Chair:** Dr. Donald Bates (1995-2001)

In 2002, Professor George Weisz began his tenure as the Cotton-Hannah-Chair. He replaced Professor Don Bates who was Cotton Chair in the History of Medicine from 1971 to 1995 and Cotton-Hannah Chair from 1995 to 2001. Professor Weisz has organized and presented papers in many workshops, seminars and panel discussions around the world on subjects ranging from medical specialization to spas and mineral waters. He has published extensively on medical ethics, holistic trends in modern biomedicine and the history of medicine in France. His most recent effort in 2014 was *Chronic Disease in the Twentieth Century: A History* (Johns Hopkins University Press).

George works with graduate and undergraduate students in the Faculties of History and Medicine, providing seminars, facilitating group discussions and presenting lectures in the history of medicine. He also contributes to the broader research efforts of the university with a particular focus on Global Health.



Frank Stahnisch



George Weisz