

Medical History

Newsletter

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE INC

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Responding to members' feedback, your Executive is reviewing all aspects of how the Society operates. Most of the day-to-day administration has been managed via a paper-based system since its inception. By and large, this has met the Society's needs but we know that some modest changes are necessary, such as updating the membership database software. We know also that some members will welcome options for payment of memberships online and that others consider a social media presence to be valuable. All of these elements are under consideration.

One change soon to be implemented follows a Council resolution made in July 2017. From 2018, members may elect to have the quarterly *Medical History Newsletter* electronically delivered, in lieu of a paper copy by postal mail. Members who prefer a printed newsletter mailed to them may continue with that option. We'll be canvassing members about your preferred method of receipt of the newsletter shortly. Recent newsletters are available on the ANZSHM website, under the Publications tab.

Members may have noticed the new look of the Calendar of Events, transformed via a different software format. Compiler of the calendar, ANZSHM's Honorary Secretary, Dr Charmaine Robson, welcomes notification about any medical history-related events, talks, and exhibitions, whenever they are and whatever the location. Charmaine can be contacted at anzshm@anzshm.org.au.

The Society's new website, created and managed by webmaster Associate Professor Paul Sendziuk, was launched in July 2017. Relatively speaking, it's a simple platform without bells and whistles, developed using freely available software. It has modest costs associated with it – paying for the domain name, use of a server and avoiding advertisements. Pleasingly, the International Society for the History of Medicine finds the website to be 'very user-friendly' with 'straight-forward navigation'. But we'd like to hear what you think, so that we can incorporate your ideas into an ongoing review of the website. For those

who haven't had a look yet, please do and give us your impressions. Your feedback is welcome at anzshm@anzshm.org.au.

A great cause for celebration is the twentieth volume of *Health and History*, appearing in 2018. Sustaining a journal of high standing that is growing in reach and influence requires a substantial commitment, for which we thank the editors: the indefatigable Associate Professor Han Pols, Professor Cathy Coleborne and Dr Peter Hobbins, along with the team of book review and museum and media editors, the editorial board, and the numerous reviewers. A special project, initiated by Hans Pols, will mark this milestone of twenty volumes. Stand by for *Health and History's* new cover.

As this year draws to a close, I thank all involved in the ANZSHM and the extended community of medical history. It takes lots of contributions to make the ANZSHM a viable and lively organisation. Your support through membership of the Society is essential. Particular thanks to those who contribute behind the scenes, ANZSHM councillors and executive. Best wishes for an enjoyable holiday season, and here's to a productive year of medical history in 2018.

Madonna Grehan
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ALL ABOUT OURSELVES

Members of the ANZSHM describe their life, work and interests

In secondary school, my stars seemed to be aligning for a career either in aeronautical engineering or medicine: nevertheless, my father ensured that Latin and classical Greek were included with the sciences.

These studies incorporated 'ancient history', and I recall dismembering copies of the *National Geographic* magazine, from my GP father's waiting room, to provide colour photographs for 'projects'; such was my exposure to 'history', at secondary school level.

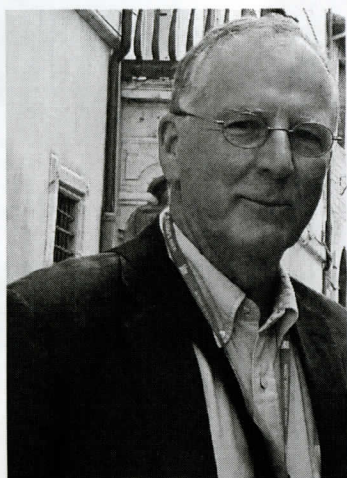
Matriculating, I chose medicine and at the University of Melbourne attended Professor Kenneth Russell's voluntary lectures on the history of medicine: they provided a fascinating and most interesting facet of my medical studies.

Postgraduate, I elected to pursue surgical studies and a productive year was spent in the Anatomy Department of the Melbourne Medical School: my proximity to Professor Kenneth Russell led to the development of a firm friendship between us, continuing until his death.

I also followed the then-customary 'surgical' route to England: having passed the Fellowship examination for the Royal College of Surgeons in England, fortunately, I learnt of the existence of the History of Medicine course at the Society of Apothecaries.

This proved a fascinating experience over the course of 1977 and 1978, leading to my gaining, by examination, the Diploma in the History of Medicine from the Society.

Prior to my time in the UK, I had been involved in microsurgical research studies with Mr Bernard O'Brien at St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne and, on my return to Melbourne in 1979, he arranged an interview with Sir Douglas Miller, then Chairman of the Archives Committee of the Royal



Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS). The interview was most pleasant and resulted in my appointment to that committee as Secretary, until, for a variety of reasons, I resigned, almost 20 years later.

Another important friendship for me, with Dr Frank Forster, flourished at that time: we worked closely together in various activities for the Medical History Society of Victoria (MHSV), including the development of this publication!

I had become very friendly with Dr Geoff Kenny during 1973, working in the Anatomy Department, an association which bore fruit in the early 1980s: another person with whom I worked closely was Professor Harold Attwood. We were all members of the Medical History Unit of the University of Melbourne and were all keenly involved in the development of a national medical history group.

Over the years I have presented numerous papers in the field of medical history, at meetings of both the RACS and the MHSV: using two screens and double 'carousel' slide projection, it seemed as if technology could go no further!

Leaving Melbourne 30 years ago, to take up an appointment in the Latrobe Valley, in Victoria's Gippsland, meant I had to devote my attention to a very busy surgical practice with less time for historical pursuits. Nevertheless, my medical library continued to grow along with my collection of historical papers: two of the MHSV's 'country' scientific weekend meetings have been hosted here, in Moe, over this time.

These days, various associations continue: at the RACS as Speciality Editor in Surgical History for the *ANZJS*, as an ANZSHM Council member and speaking at the biennial meeting of the British Society for the History of Medicine in Edinburgh.

The Cowlshaw Symposium, at the RACS, commenced in 1996: I had the honour to present the very first paper, appropriately, on Professor Kenneth Russell, detailing his major role in the acquisition of the Cowlshaw Collection of Historical Books for the RACS Library.

One of my principal current activities is postgraduate teaching at Monash University's Medical School, where one does one's best, to plant 'seeds' of medical history and develop future medical historians!

Medical history has been, and continues to be, a truly wonderful pursuit for me.

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MEMBERS' NEWS

Welcome!

Patricia Brasier (VIC)
Toby Raeburn (NSW)
Richard Trembath (VUC)
Elinor Wrobel (NSW)

ISHM NOTES

The annual conference of the Chinese Society of the History of Medicine and the 9th meeting of the ISHM (as opposed to a congress), was held in Beijing in September 2017 and was well attended, well organised and stimulating. There were some 200 registrants, mostly from China and a mixture of medical people and historians. Many were quite young. Professor Daqing Zhang was the convenor and many students from his Centre for the History of Medicine, Peking University were drafted in to help.

A strong theme of the conference was a renewed interest in Chinese Traditional Medicine (TCM). I think there had been a national directive to this effect; some aspects are still widely practiced, especially in the rural areas, and it is possibly seen as a counter-balance to the modernity that is sweeping China. There is a consensus that TCM has a place in the management of chronic diseases and mental illness.

One consequence of the renewed interest has been an explosion of research, both scientific and historical. For example, it is recognised that music was an important part of TCM but little is known of the notes, rhythms and applications for its use. As well as oral histories, there is much sifting of ancient texts for answers. There were several papers to this effect at the conference.

One of the optional outings organised by the secretariat was a conducted tour of the Peking Union Medical College hospital, one of the teaching hospitals of the Peking University Medical Faculty. We went first to the old hospital buildings that have been preserved. The institution began as a London Missionary Society hospital, received Rockefeller funds and had patronage from the Dowager Queen. Some of these buildings now form part of the Centre for the History of Medicine.

We were then taken to one of the large modern buildings that dwarf the original ones and form the teaching hospital complex. Three floors have been made over to a medical history museum. In the foyer is a scale model of the hospital detailing the developmental history of the buildings. The museum was large, well set out and with modern display technologies. Panels covered TCM, the introduction of Western medicine through the

missions, the training of doctors and nurses on the Long March, bare-foot doctors, the spread of modern medicine, and the applications of public health. Disasters such as the Cultural Revolution received little attention. It was somewhat celebratory but for the most part there were grounds for being so.

It was a splendid conference in a city that is amazing, if overwhelming in its scale and contrasts.

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ARMISTICE CRUISE

Wild Earth Travel are organising 'The Armistice on WWI's eastern fronts: a voyage through the Aegean aboard the MS Panorama II from Thessalonika to Athens from 11-20 October 1918' to commemorate the end of the First World War.

The trip will remember the survivors, particularly the doctors and nurses who returned to Australia and New Zealand where, as military historian Chris Pugsley put it, people did not have 'any real understanding of what they had been through. Nor could they tell them – it was an age when gentlemen did not tell women of lice, flies and dysentery, and of men dying in agony'.

For a detailed itinerary and information on costs go to <https://www.wildearth-travel.com/trip/armistice-wwis-eastern-fronts/>.

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Contributions to the Newsletter are always welcome. The next deadline for copy is 15 February 2018. Copy should be sent to the editor, Derek A Dow at d.dow@auckland.ac.nz.

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AMPI NEWS

Colonial Doctors at War: medical veterans of 19th century conflicts

'War is the only proper school for a surgeon' (Hippocrates)

By the nineteenth century, the dissecting room and the operating theatre had become more important than war as a school for the surgeon, but war continued to provide useful experience in some areas of surgery and medicine. There were many opportunities for doctors to serve in the armed forces of an Empire that was frequently engaged in conflict. Inevitably, some of those who came out to Australia in colonial days had seen active service in one or more theatres of war.

Among them were doctors who had served in the Napoleonic wars, including the Peninsular War (Spain 1807-14) and the Battle of Waterloo (Belgium 1815). One veteran of the Peninsular War, surgeon James Du Moulin, arrived in NSW with his regiment in 1834, and died at Sydney in 1839 leaving a wife and 13 children. Several medical veterans of Waterloo settled in NSW, including two who arrived in the 1820s, and William Newton, an assistant surgeon, who arrived in 1831.



*James Du Moulin
(1777-1939)*

The convict ships coming out to the colonies carried naval surgeons, some of whom had combat experience. Among those arriving in the 1820s and 1830s were four veterans of the 1816 Bombardment of Algiers. This was a nineteenth-century version of 'shock and awe', during which the attacking British warships fired 50,000 rounds

in four hours, levelling the massive port defences, and securing the release of a thousand Christian slaves from Islamic captivity.

However the involvement of British forces in wars during the first half of the nineteenth century extended far beyond Europe and the Mediterranean, into the distant corners of the Empire: there were conflicts in places as remote as Afghanistan, India, China, South Africa, and New Zealand.

A number of medical veterans of these hostilities found their way to the Australian colonies. Henry Hadley, for example, a career army officer, served as a young assistant surgeon in the First Afghan War (1840-1) before being posted to New South Wales and then Tasmania, where he spent ten years. He later saw action in the Crimean War (1853-6) and the Indian Mutiny (1857-8).

Over thirty colonial surgeons are known to have served in the Crimean War. One of the most distinguished was William Richard Grylls, the son of a clergyman who emigrated from England in 1838 when William was eight. At the age of nineteen, he was sent to 'home' to study medicine. Enlisting in the army, he served in the Crimea at Alma, Inkerman, Tchernaya, and the siege of Sebastopol (1854-6). He then joined the Indian Army, and served during the Mutiny.

Colonial veterans of other foreign wars included doctors like James Barlas, a volunteer with a Bengal regiment in China, who later practised in Victoria and South Australia before his death in Geelong in 1871 aged 58. Most of the medical veterans in the Australian colonies died before reaching their 70s. A notable exception was Surgeon Major Hinton, a veteran of several wars in India, who came out to Victoria in 1869 and eventually died in South Australia in 1916 at the remarkable age of 103.

In the 1840s and again in the 1860s a number of British military surgeons went with their regiments to support the New Zealand colonists in the Maori Wars. There was also at least one Australian civilian surgeon who saw active service in New Zealand. He was Haynes Gibbes Alleyne, originally from Barbados. He had trained in Edinburgh, and immigrated to New South Wales in 1839. He served in New Zealand between 1846 and 1848, before returning to settle in Sydney.

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Some 19th century NZ doctors with army connections

Unlike Australia, which had a half-century start over its neighbouring colony, New Zealand was not home to any Napoleonic or Peninsular Wars doctors. There were, however, three medics whose fathers had taken part in these conflicts, two of them in a medical capacity. The first was John Bacot, son of an army surgeon of the same name. Bacot junior spent almost a decade in New Zealand as staff-surgeon to the New Zealand Fencibles, whose members populated the pensioner settlements of Onehunga, Otahuhu, Panmure, and Howick near Auckland.

The other two in this cohort were less fortunate. William Henry Bent's father was badly wounded at San Muñoz in Portugal in 1813 while serving in the Royal Horse Artillery. Two of his sons became doctors; John was an army surgeon-general and William was a Royal Navy assistant surgeon from 1840. Twelve years later he drowned off the Porirua Bar north of Wellington, after he and six ship-mates attempted to row ashore 'in a humane and gallant attempt to render medical assistance to a bed-ridden settler of that place'.

Dr Gavin Hilson attended the wounded after the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, and later that year began practice in Jedburgh. Like Colonel Bent, two of his sons became doctors, one serving with the Army Medical Department during the Indian Mutiny. His eldest son, Dr Peter Hilson, settled in Christchurch in late 1858 and died four years later, aged just 29, of delirium tremens, after being hospitalised and placed in a strait jacket for his own protection.

As happened in Australia, many of New Zealand's mid-century doctors cut their teeth during conflicts in the Crimea, India or China.

Three of their number carried lifetime injuries as a result of this, a fact alluded to in newspaper reports of their lives and deaths. Charles Mottley MRCS, run over by a troop of Native Horse while treating the wounded during the Indian Mutiny, died in 1885 after almost half a century in New Zealand; the Christchurch *Star* reported that his injuries would have killed him, 'had he not possessed an iron constitution'. Charles Tennent had the misfortune to receive gunshot wounds to his elbow (India) and both legs (China) before settling in New Zealand in 1876. When he died in 1889 Tennent was accorded a military funeral. The third, John Wood, had his jaw shattered by a gunshot wound when Sepoys from his own regiment mutinied in 1857. After a lengthy convalescence and some years back in England, Wood settled in New Zealand and combined farming with a role in the Auckland Militia. He died, apparently of 'old age', in 1888.

Even those with no visible injuries had their service acknowledged throughout their lives. Alexander Groves Duff, son of the Church of Scotland's inaugural missionary to India, arrived in New Zealand in 1871 and swiftly made his mark with a public lecture on the 'Siege of Delhi', under the auspices of the local Literary Society and Mechanics' Institute. Advertising the event, the *West Coast Times* stated: 'The lecturer's knowledge of the details of the Indian mutiny is a sufficient guarantee that a vivid picture will be given of the thrilling scenes of that memorable siege. The terms of admission have been made so reasonable that all classes will have the opportunity of giving their attendance.' Duff retained this high profile until his death in 1909.

The most durable of this group was Dr Joseph Giles who arrived in New Zealand in 1859 and assumed various roles as a colonial administrator. Giles remained in the country until his death was reported in *The Times* on 31 December 1930, as one of 29 Crimea veterans to die during the year and as one who had worked with Nightingale at Scutari. It was a far cry from the *Wanganui Herald* some 63 years earlier, which described his appointment as Under-Secretary of Crown Lands as a 'disgraceful abuse of patronage'.

VICTORIA BRANCH NEWS

The highlight of the year for the Victorian Society was to host the biennial Conference of the ANZSHM in Melbourne in July. Led by the indefatigable Madonna Grehan, the organising committee, with the assistance of Anthea Hyslop and Ann Westmore, had been planning the event for two years.

The Australian Catholic University, in addition to a substantial grant, generously provided us with venue facilities free of charge. We were additionally supported by Jon Baines Tours and Chanters Ridge winery.

With just over 200 registrants, and a very comprehensive program, we trust that the conference met the expectations of everyone who attended. We certainly enjoyed it!

The last meeting of the year on 22 November featured Sylvia Sagona on 'The rise and fall of absinthe: the drink that brought down the French Second Empire'. Sylvia is a specialist in the art, literature and society of 19th century France.

On a sad note, we mourn the passing of long-time member, Professor Richard Ball, a prominent psychiatrist and historian.

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BLAST FROM THE PAST *Medical History Australia* 25 years ago

In November 1992 our newsletter opened with an eloquent 2-page account of the 33rd ISHM Congress, held in Granada and attended by two Australian Society members. As the anonymous reporter ruefully noted, the inability to cover the cost of simultaneous translation saw 75% of papers delivered in Spanish, 'an unsatisfactory aspect of the meeting'. English was obviously not then the lingua franca it has since become.

The other item of note was the launch by the American Association for the History of Nursing of the *Nursing History Review* as a 'showcase for the most significant current research on nursing and health care history'. The journal from volume 13 (2005) is now online and, although the emphasis has always been on North America, there have been occasional reviews of Australasian volumes and, during the past decade, two extended articles of local interest – Pamela Wood's 'Sickening nurses: fever nursing, nurses' illness, and the anatomy of blame, New Zealand 1903-1923', 2011, 19:53-77 and Naomi Rogers' piece on Australia's Sister Elizabeth Kenny, reviewing her work with American polio sufferers in 'The most admired woman in the world: forgetting and remembering in the history of nursing', 2015, :23:28-55.

CALL FOR PAPERS

**AHA Conference 2018:
The Scale of History, 2-6 July**

The Australian Historical Association Conference 2018 is offering a Medical History stream at its annual conference in Canberra, Australia. Papers are invited that address any aspect of medical and health history, in the context of scale. Scale may be expressed through a lens of health policy, governance and politics, or positioned as structural and gendered. Medicine and health are broadly conceived, embracing related areas of practice such as pharmacy, dentistry, nursing and alternative fields.

The 2018 AGM of the ANZSHM will be held during the conference week. For more information, see <https://www.theaha.org.au/aha-conference-2018-the-scale-of-history/>

JOURNAL WATCH

C Rusterholz, 'Testing the Gräfenberg Ring in interwar Britain: Norman Haire, Helena Wright, and the debate over statistical evidence, side effects, and intra-uterine contraception', *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*,

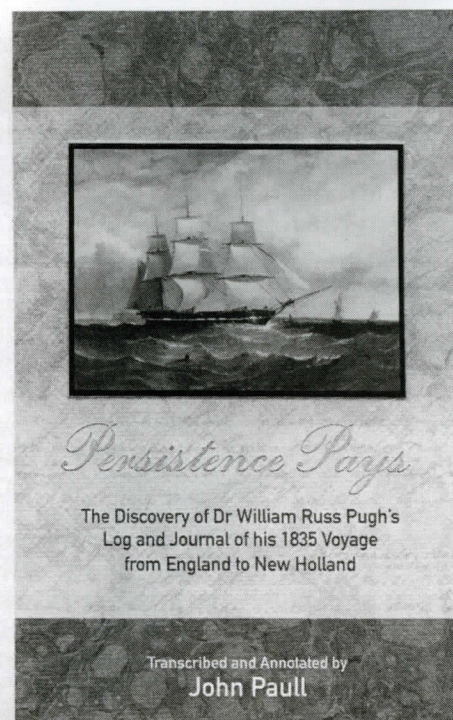
72.4, October 2017, 448-67.

Australian-born sexologist Norman Haire (1892-1952) was a controversial figure in his adopted British homeland. This carefully researched article explores his failure in the 1930s to gain acceptance for his views on a new IUD device, views rejected in favour of those of a near-contemporary, the former Chinese missionary and gynaecologist, Helena Wright (1887-1892).

BOOK REVIEW

John Paull (transcriber and annotator), *Persistence pays: the discovery of Dr William Russ Pugh's log and journal of his 1835 voyage from England to New Holland*, Launceston 2017, xix + 84pp.

Over the past 18 months readers of the newsletter have been able to follow the ongoing saga of John Paull's biography of the Launceston anaesthetist, and his ultimate success in tracking down Pugh's account of his journey out from Britain in 1835.

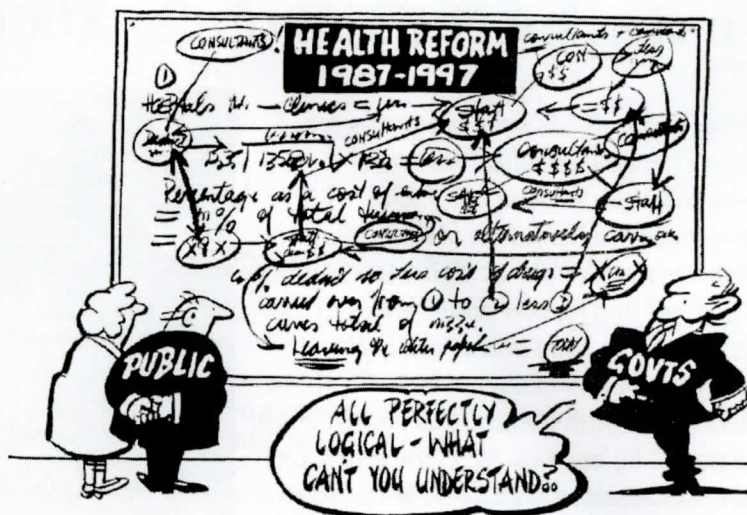


Paull has now produced a transcription of the manuscript, which was recently donated by members of Pugh's family back in England to the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office.

The annotations are detailed and informative and the text is enhanced by the inclusion of relevant maps and contemporary illustrations and photographs. The end result is a handsome and valuable addition to the medical literature of voyaging to mid-nineteenth century Australia.

WITNESS SEMINAR Auckland, February 2018

A witness seminar will be held on 28 February 2018 at the University of Auckland on 'Health Policy Making in an Era of Reform: the New Zealand Health System in the 1980s and 1990s'. The era of reform in the 1980s and 1990s was a pivotal moment in the history of New Zealand's health system, and the aim of the seminar will be to capture and record the experience of participants in these events, in order to illuminate key aspects of New Zealand's health politics and to identify factors that inhibited or delayed major change.



The event is jointly organised by Professor Martin Gorsky and Dr Hayley Brown of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine Centre for History in Public Health and Professor Linda Bryder of the University of Auckland, and is part of a Wellcome Trust funded project on Health System Reform.

CONFERENCE REPORT BSHM, 13-16 September 2017

In September 2017 five of our members attended the 27th Congress of the British Society for the History of Medicine, held in Surgeon's Hall, Edinburgh. Pride of place goes to David Watters, who was invited to deliver the prestigious Douglas Guthrie Lecture which commemorates the Edinburgh ENT surgeon and distinguished medical historian who was the founder and benefactor of the Scottish Society of the History of Medicine in 1948. David's wide-ranging talk was entitled 'Daring to dream of equal opportunity in medicine'.

Our other four attendees covered a wide spectrum of subjects. Linda Bryder's 'Truby King and babies of empire' revisited King's ideas and publications to show how his advice has been misrepresented by many historians. Peter Burke's paper on caricatures of the medical men in the 19th century magazine, *Vanity Fair*, compared photographic and artistic representations of the same individuals and invited his audience to decide which provided the better understanding.

Derek Dow's account of 1830s Edinburgh medical graduates in New Zealand used the careers of 21 Edinburgh-trained doctors to examine major trends in the evolution of the medical profession in New Zealand. Patricia's Hardy's contribution on the imagery of the 'notorious frock coat' in the history of surgery also looked at the construction of medical identity and historical memory in the context of the 'Listerian Revolution'.

One interesting feature of the conference was a session devoted to the papers shortlisted for the medical undergraduate prize. The four finalists came from Edinburgh (2), Aberdeen and Barts. The winning paper was an absorbing account of the role of the 'lady almoner' in following up patients discharged from Frimley Sanatorium for tuberculosis patients from 1907 until the early 1930s. The topic provided added interest when Linda Bryder revealed after the lecture that she had physically rescued the Frimley records from imminent destruction in the mid-1980s (while researching her DPhil thesis on the social history of TB) and facilitated their transfer to the archives.

In addition to David Watters, two other keynote lectures were scheduled. The opening plenary by Philippa Langley, a historian and screenwriter, was an insider's view of the quest to exhume the remains of Richard III from his resting place in a Leicester car park – a fascinating tale of historical and medical detective work.

Unfortunately Malcolm Nicolson, the final keynote, whose paper was headed 'How distinctive was Scottish medical practice?' was indisposed. In his absence the conference conveners assembled a panel to discuss the relationship between 'clinical' and 'academic historians' and invited Linda Bryder to be the lead discussant. The ensuing debate raised many relevant issues but, as is all too common on these occasions, one was left feeling that we had been preaching to the already converted.

Derek A Dow

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES—AUCKLAND December 2019

New Zealand has been the venue for three previous medical history conferences, the first of which was organised in Hamilton in 1987 by the late Dr Rex Wright-St Clair. Rex's efforts inspired two further conferences in Auckland in 1994 and 2005, both convened by Professor Linda Bryder who will again assume this role in 2019, assisted by our two NZ councillors, Dr Derek Dow and Ms Ella Arbury, long-time Society member Dr Kate Prebble, and Dr Katrina Ford.

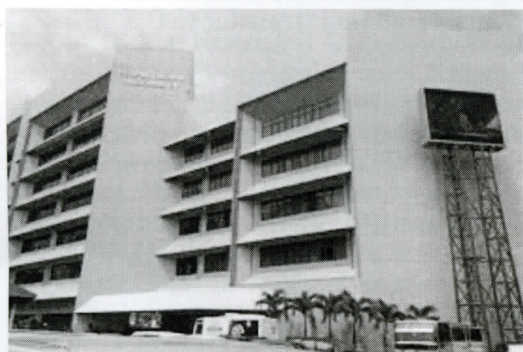


ANZSHM
16th Biennial Conference
Auckland
3-7 December 2019

CALL FOR PAPERS

A joint meeting of The Asian Society of the History of Medicine and HOMSEA (History of Medicine in Southeast Asia) will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 27-30 June 2018 on Colonial Medicine after Decolonisation: Continuity, Transition, and Change.

Submissions on all topics related to the history of medicine in Asia are welcome; those related to the conference theme are especially encouraged. Participants can submit full panels (2, 3, or 4 papers) as well as individual papers. Paper proposals (title, author, and an abstract in English up to 200 words) and a one-page CV or panel proposals (200 words with abstracts and CVs of all participants) should be sent by electronic mail to Dr James Dunk (james.dunk@sydney.edu.au). The deadline for submission is 1 February 2018 and notification of acceptance will be given by 1 March 2018.



The program committee comprises Dr Harry Yi-Jui Wu (Hong Kong); Dr Ning Jennifer Chang (Taipei); Prof Laurence Monnais (Montreal); A/Prof Hans Pols (Sydney); Dr Yu-Chuan Wu (Taipei); Dr Por Heong Hong (Kuala Lumpur); and members of the Local Arrangements Committee.

The conference will be hosted by the Indonesian Academy of Sciences, which is located in the new buildings of the Indonesian National Library in the centre of Jakarta.

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For the latest information, visit the ANZSHM Internet Website: www.anzshm.org.au

LETTERS, PHOTOGRAPHS AND ARTICLES ARE WELCOME, PREFERABLY IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE 15 FEBRUARY 2018.