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Baylor History of Medicine Society Schedule 2006-2007

Baylor History of Medicine Society

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Recommended Citation

Citation Information: Baylor History of Medicine Society, "Baylor History of Medicine Society Schedule 2006-2007" (2006).

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Baylor History of Medicine Society
Schedule
September, 2006 to May, 2007
BCM Room 187A (Jaworski Classroom)

September 12, 2006

H. Tristram Engelhardt, Jr., Ph.D., M.D.

“After Western Medicine: From Hippocrates to Xavier Bichat”

People often refer to those contemporary physicians who embrace the dominant, global, scientific-medical paradigm as allopaths, in contrast to homeopaths. This description is false. Beginning at the end of the 17th century, a revolution gained momentum, which changed the very way in which physicians think about medical knowledge. This revolution has swept aside traditional Western medicine, just as it is marginalizing traditional medicine throughout the world. This lecture will offer a brief overview of how Western medicine, grounded in Greece and Hippocrates, was set aside by the emergence of a new medical-scientific paradigm with roots in the work of physicians such as Xavier Bichat.

October 10, 2006

David Sears, M.D.

“Who Goes First? The Story of Self-Experimentation in Medicine”

Human experimentation is necessary for scientific progress in medicine. A small subset of human experimentation, that is experiments by scientists on themselves, has occurred throughout recorded history. Lawrence Altman, physician and long-time science writer for the N.Y. Times, has reviewed this history in a book that provides the stimulus and much of the information for this talk. The urge to “try it out on myself first” has influenced scientists, from medical students to Nobel Laureates, who have yearned to make new discoveries. In this presentation examples of self-experimentation in medicine from the 17th century to today will be discussed.

November 14, 2006

Carlos Valbona, M.D.

“Exercise and Health: From Pre-History to the Present”

Exercise as a preventive measure has been advocated from at least, 3000 BC. Scholars of the Paleolithic suggest that walking was part of prehistoric life. Hippocrates extolled its medical usefulness. The first books on the topic, date to 1553 by the Spaniard Mendez and 1563 by the Italian Mercuriale. The medical literature of XIX and XX centuries reveals increasing interest in exercise and provides evidence of its usefulness in the prevention and treatment of MI. Blackburn in the 1970s admonished physicians to prescribe exercise for all persons. His suggestion is particularly valid if we wish to control the epidemic of obesity

January 9, 2007

Student Essay Contest Winners

1st Place: Don Lassus, “Supernaturalism to Rationalism and the Man Between.”

2nd Place: Ajit Vyas, “The Fog of War’s Silver Lining: The Lasting Impact of Military Medicine.”

February 13, 2007

Annual David M. Mumford lecture on the History and Ideals of Medicine

Howard Brody, M.D., Ph.D., Director, Institute for the Medical Humanities at UTMB

“From Drummers to Detail Men: Medicine and the pharmaceutical industry in the United States, 1900-1960”

Today’s critics of the relationship between the pharmaceutical industry and the medical profession often fail to realize the long history of this relationship. The link between the physician and the detail man (salesperson) was formed and solidified during the 1930s and 1940s. Moreover, serious conflicts of interest in medical research due to industry funding can be identified in the 1930s. It was nevertheless the era 1945-1960 that was most important in creating the modern dependency of the physician on the detailing system. This occurred because of the explosion in new types of effective pharmaceuticals; the lack of any effective educational response from academic medicine; and the AMA’s withdrawal from the field of objective drug evaluation.

March 13, 2007

Annual John P. McGovern Lecture and Banquet

Herbert M. Swick, M.D.

Institute of Medicine and Humanities, Missoula, MT

Noon Presentation

Eyewash and Thunderbolts: The Medical Adventures of Lewis and Clark

In 1804, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark embarked on a two year journey to explore the uncharted American West. Remarkably, during their epic journey, only one member of their Corps of Discovery died. But the expedition encountered a number of medical problems, from infectious diseases to a rather embarrassing gunshot wound. No physician traveled with Lewis and Clark, so they depended on the medical theories and therapeutic armamentarium of Benjamin Rush. This presentation will consider the medical preparations made by the expedition leaders, in the context of early 19th Century medicine, as well as some of the medical challenges they confronted.

Banquet Presentation:

Angry Arrows and Satin Dresses: Tales from the Annals of Plague

Bubonic plague, the infamous Black Death of Europe that erupted in the 14th Century, created havoc, yet from the devastation of the plague emerged numerous advances in society and culture. By the time that the epidemic waned in the 17th Century, plague had transformed economic, political and religious institutions. It had stimulated a new, humanistic focus in art, and literature, and music. It had shaped medical beliefs. Bubonic plague, often thought to be a relic of the past, remains today an important global scourge. This McGovern Lecture will explore a few of the fascinating ways in which plague transformed our social and cultural life.

April 10, 2007

Robert Gordon, M.D.

“The Greatest Books in the History of Neurology”

The history of any medical or scientific discipline may be presented in several different ways. One can focus on personalities and their contributions, the history of important concepts or the history of specific discoveries. In this talk the history of neurology will be presented from the point of view of the great written works, the books and journal articles, that have announced the most important advances in neurology and the neurosciences. Ten such works, considered the greatest works in the history of neurology, will be discussed. These will include landmark works of Willis, Galvani, Magendie, Broca, Charcot, Gowers, Sherrington, Ramon y Cajal, Cushing and Hounsfield.

May 8, 2007

Armond S. Goldman, M.D.

“Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s Paralytic Illness: What was the cause?”

It is widely believed that President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) developed paralytic poliomyelitis at age 39 years. However, our analysis published in 2003 revealed sensory as well as motor dysfunction and a symmetric, ascending paralysis that partially resolved. Those features and FDR’s age strongly suggested that the disease was Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS), an autoimmune neuropathy. Some historians and physicians criticized the article but did not contest the findings in peer-reviewed journals. The rationale for polio, why FDR’s paralytic illness was reexamined, and why many seem reluctant to consider the possibility of GBS will be discussed in the context of the history of medicine.