

# TRENT ASSOCIATES REPORT

Fall/Winter 2010

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## Greetings from the New Curator

Many people have asked me how I am enjoying being the new Curator for the History of Medicine Collections. I can honestly say, I'm busy and loving every minute of it! It's hard to believe that I started in this position on September 1st. In the past few months, I've had the pleasure of meeting many people while getting to know more about the collection. This fall has involved a variety of events, including the seventh annual anatomy visit, two pre-clerkship class visits, instruction for several undergraduate courses, the collaborative speaker series between the Trent History of Medicine Society and UNC's Bullitt Club, and other visits from non-Duke groups.



Through answering reference questions, planning exhibits, and providing instruction, I am constantly learning more about the gems and treasures here within the History of Medicine.

I am occasionally asked what led me to pursue my new role as Curator of the History of Medicine Collections. I often mention that my first experience with the History of Medicine began when I was a graduate student in library school at North Carolina Central University. My focus was on the health sciences track, and a related course involved a tour of the History of Medicine. Viewing the ivory manikins, hearing about the range of curator duties, and getting a glimpse of the Trent Room and the locked stacks piqued my interest and made a big impression. Throughout graduate school, I worked full time in the Preservation Department at Perkins Library here at Duke. I also began an internship in the Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture, which is part of the Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library. The excitement of working with special collections led me to seek other professional opportunities in similar areas. When I found that this position combined my interest in health sciences with special collections work, it seemed too good to be true. I feel very fortunate to be working in an area about which I am so passionate.

The wonderful staff at the Medical Center Library & Archives have made me feel quite welcome and have been incredibly generous with their time and assistance. If you're close by, please stop in and introduce yourself. If you're further away, feel free to call or email me. I'd love to hear your thoughts and ideas about how to continue building upon what is already such a rich and remarkable collection.

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## Moving the History of Medicine Collections

For some time, there have been discussions about the future location of the History of Medicine Collections. A decision has been reached that the History of Medicine Collections will move and become part of the Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library (RBMSCL) at Perkins Library, located on the main campus at Duke University. This was not an easy decision but has the full support of the Trent and Semans family members, as well as History of Medicine faculty.

A committee of administrators from the Medical Center Library & Archives and the RBMSCL, in consultation with faculty, has been meeting to address a variety of issues related to the relocation. Although there may be questions and concerns that arise, this will also be a great opportunity to broaden the reach of the collection and expose more researchers and students to the resources available. The Curator will continue to work closely with staff at the Medical Center Library & Archives and have a presence within the Library, including exhibit space. The Medical Center Library & Archives will continue to have a core collection of contemporary materials about the history of medicine, as well as a few representative volumes and reproductions that will expose students, faculty, and other patrons to the wonders of older medical works.

The timeline for the actual transition is still fluid at this point, though the current goal is to move the materials and services during the summer of 2011. We will keep our users informed as to the progress.

## Adventures in History by Jessica Roseberry

As the Oral Historian at the Duke Medical Center Archives, I've had the opportunity to provide coverage and support services for both the outgoing and incoming Curators at the History of Medicine Collections. Prior to the retirement of the former Curator, Suzanne Porter, I spent an hour a week in History primarily digitizing a large bookplate collection and making it available through the Historical Images in Medicine (HIM) database. Since I've been working with the new Curator, Rachel Ingold, my time has expanded and I'm able to offer a variety of services such as assisting with class visits, video recording Trent lectures, weeding through a partial collection of ephemera, and covering the reference desk when the Curator has other obligations.

The chance to interact with a fantastic collection and two such capable curators has offered the opportunity for wonderful new ideas and experiences. For example, I have heard lectures by Dr. Jeff Baker and Dr. Valeria Finucci in which drawings in deeply historical texts were explicated, given docent tours of the Josiah Trent room, answered fascinating questions from students about tiny ivory manikins, and listened to some of Duke's own beloved emeritus faculty members elucidate diverse topics from their past experiences. Being a part of all of this has expanded my own perspective and increased my interest in how the past connects so profoundly to the present. Please take the time to learn about some of the rich experiences this rare collection has to offer. You won't be sorry!

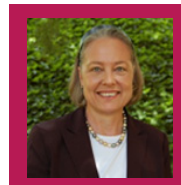
### Trent-Bullitt Speaker Series

The 2010-2011 Collaborative Speaker Series, cosponsored by Duke's Trent History of Medicine Society and UNC's Bullitt History of Medicine Club, is well under way. Lectures are held on the second Tuesday of the month unless otherwise noted and alternate between Duke and UNC. We have been fortunate to have Dr. Dan Blazer and Dr. Ruby Wilson here at Duke. These events were recorded and are available on our Website at <http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu/hom/events/speakerseries/>. The following speakers will round out the remainder of the series.

January 11, 2011 - Duke

**P. Preston Reynolds, MD, PhD, FACP**

The Federal Government's Efforts to Racially Integrate Hospitals under Medicare, 1963-1967



February 1, 2011 - UNC

**Samuel K. Roberts, MA, PhD**

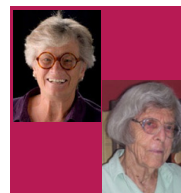
Infectious Fear: Politics, Disease, and the Health Effects of Segregation



March 8, 2011 - Duke

**Florence Nash, MA & Barbara Newborg, MD**

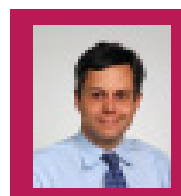
Walter Kempner and the Rice Diet: Challenging Conventional Wisdom



April 5, 2011 - UNC

**Jeffrey P. Baker, MD, PhD**

The Historical Context of the Autism Epidemic



### Recent Acquisitions

Brunner, Hans. **Otologische Diagnostik der Hirntumoren** ... Berlin & Wien: Urban & Schwarzenberg, 1935.

Doyen, Eugene-Louis. **Surgical Therapeutics and Operative Techniques** ... New York: William Wood, 1917-1920.

Sarlandiere, Jean-Baptiste. **Memoires sur L'Electro-Puncture** ... Paris: chez l'auteur, ... 1825.

St. Peter's Hospital. **The Medical Case Register, manuscript** ... London, 1872-1877.

## Pre-Clerkship Classes



Dr. Jeff Baker demonstrates use of O'Dwyer's apparatus

Beginning in August, second-year medical students began attending instruction sessions in the History of Medicine with the help and assistance of Medical Center Archives staff. Prior to starting their rotation in Pediatrics, Surgery, or Obstetrics, students spend an hour immersed in the history of these specific areas led by Dr. Jeff Baker. By being introduced to rare and unique print materials, instruments, and artifacts, students are able to take a walk through history and see not only how far medicine has advanced, but also how history repeats itself at times. For the Surgery group, we display items such as the Renaissance amputation saws and bloodletting devices along with the works of Ambroise Pare and John Hunter. William Hunter's impressive *Gravid Uterus*, *The Four Seasons*, and a variety of instruments such as early forceps are intertwined with Dr. Baker's discussion for the Obstetrics group. Students in the Pediatric group are exposed to a variety of artifacts, including infant feeders and homeopathic medicine chests along with eighteenth and nineteenth century books on topics ranging from caring for children to the rise of inoculations and vaccinations. The pre-clerkship instruction classes are held every eight weeks.

## Upcoming Exhibits

A collection of apothecary jars, representing a wide variety of styles and ranging in date from the fifteenth century through the nineteenth century, is currently on exhibit outside the History of Medicine Reading Room. In late January, the History of Medicine and Medical Center Archives will be exhibiting items that draw upon materials in our collection relating to the role and impact women have played in medicine throughout history. A traveling exhibit, *Changing the Face of Medicine*, will be displayed in February and March. We will also be highlighting women in medicine here at Duke. In April, a joint exhibit between Perkins Library and the History of Medicine titled *Animated Anatomies: The Human Body in Anatomical Texts from the 16<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries* will be on display, presenting the unique anatomical and medical flap books contained in our libraries. An opening reception will be held here on Monday, April 18, followed by a symposium in Perkins Library.

## Seventh Annual Anatomy Visit

On October 21st, about one hundred first-year medical students viewed and discussed historical anatomical works during the annual anatomy class visit. Works by Galen, Vesalius, William Hunter, and others were displayed, and students were encouraged to compare what they were currently viewing in the dissection lab to these historical texts. Most of the items showcased were from the Dr. Josiah Charles Trent collection, which contains many of the rare, unique materials that form the foundation for an impressive history of medicine collection. Thanks to Dr. Jeff Baker for his leadership and coordination of the event. We also appreciate the assistance of Dr. Frank Neelon and Dr. Valeria Finucci, as well as Medical Center Library & Archives staff for an exciting, memorable afternoon.



Medical students explore Hunter's *Gravid Uterus*

## Membership Form

Become a member of the  
**Trent Associates for 2011**  
at one of the levels indicated:

_____	Member	\$25.00
_____	Contributing Member	\$50.00
_____	Sustaining Member	\$100.00

Gifts in kind are also appreciated and count toward membership.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to **Duke University** and send to:  
Trent Associates for the History of Medicine  
Duke University Medical Center Library  
Box 3702  
Durham, NC 27710*

## What's Your Preference?

The *Trent Associates Report* is currently available online and in print. We would like to know your preference. Please contact us with your name and mailing address if you would like to continue to receive a print version or with your name and email address if you would like to be notified when the Web version is available. You may contact us by phone at **(919) 660-1144**, by email at [mclhistory@mc.duke.edu](mailto:mclhistory@mc.duke.edu), or send your information to the **History of Medicine Collections, Medical Center Library, DUMC Box 3702, Durham, NC 27710**.

# Seasons Greetings



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