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SoutteReview, Issue 1

Lamar Soutter Library, University of Massachusetts Medical School

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Wheeler Honored in Presentation

Brownell Wheeler, M.D., Harry M. Haidak Distinguished Professor and the Founding Chair of the Department of Surgery, was honored on November 14 in the Allan S. Goff Learning Center auditorium. Two rare medical books were presented to Dr. Wheeler by Francis D. Moore, M.D., Moseley Professor of Surgery Emeritus at Harvard Medical School and the Surgeon-in-Chief Emeritus at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston. Dr. Moore lauded Dr. Wheeler and his long, distinguished career in surgery, and the work he is now doing in the study and research of end-of-life issues.

After opening remarks by Chancellor Aaron Lazare, comments were made by Drs. William C. Meyers, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery; Lynda Young, President of the Worcester Medical Library and of the Worcester District Medical Society; and Grant V. Rodkey, past President of the Boston Medical Library. Kevin Courtney, Associate Vice Chancellor for Development, spoke on the proposed renovation of The Lamar Soutter Library.

During his presentation of the volumes, Dr. Moore was not hesitant to exhibit their superb workmanship and illustrations. De Fabrica Humani Corporis (1543), by Andreas Vesalius, is considered the seminal work in medical science. Its woodcuts, crafted by Johan Calcar, represented a breakthrough in anatomical rendering.

Oeuvres, by Ambroise Paré, who is often referred to as the “Father of Surgery,” appeared in 1614. A groundbreaking work, this manual of surgery was published in French rather than Latin, broadening its accessibility to the medical world. Some present-day surgical instruments and procedures were actually invented by Paré.

Responding to the presentation, Dr. Wheeler expressed his appreciation to Dr. Moore for the gifts. In an ensuing slide demonstration, Dr. Wheeler compared the Vesalius illustrations to anatomy texts of that era. The other works were primitive in their depiction of human anatomy, whereas the woodcuts in the Vesalius volume reflect a more modern representation.

At the ceremony’s conclusion, Dr. Moore invited the audience to examine the textbooks and to ask him questions about them. The participants then attended a reception in the newly refurbished Rare Books Room in The Lamar Soutter Library.
Welcome to the SoutteReview!

Here it is: the first issue of our library newsletter, SoutteReview. Months of dreaming, hours of planning, tons of meetings, and here we are, ready to launch the first library newsletter.

SoutteReview is derived from the official name of our library, The Lamar Soutter Library. Founding dean and first chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Dr. Soutter was a decorated World War II veteran, a distinguished Boston surgeon, associate professor of surgery at Boston University Medical School, and founder of the blood bank at the Massachusetts General Hospital. Lamar Soutter retired as chancellor of the UMass Medical School in 1975, and died in 1996 at the age of 87.

Our aim is simple: we at The Lamar Soutter Library wish to offer you, the reader, information and perspective on the ever-changing nature of the world of biomedical information as seen through the collective eyes of our library personnel. For us, it is a great challenge.

Please let us know if we are meeting that challenge. We need your feedback and your perspective as we inaugurate a new era of the library. You may want to think of this effort as our way to reach out to you, our valuable patrons. Please keep us posted; we want to know.

Welcome!

Display Features Writings of Moore

In conjunction with the presentation of two rare books by Francis D. Moore, M.D. to Dr. H. Brownell Wheeler, the Library is featuring a display of Dr. Moore’s writings. A prolific author, Dr. Moore has written some 200 articles, concentrating mostly on surgical topics. He has also written several books including Metabolic Care of the Surgical Patient (1959), a standard textbook and widely quoted volume in the surgical literature. Most recently he has written A Miracle and A Privilege (1995), examining fifty years of surgical advancement.

A native of Evanston, Illinois, Dr. Moore was an attending physician at the first successful human kidney transplantation in December, 1954. Now in his eighties, Dr. Moore remains active, recently advising NASA on physiological effects of long-term spaceflight. Dr. Moore and his wife currently reside in Westwood, Massachusetts.

The display runs through January, 1998.

Have You Seen This?

NEW in the Reference Collection:

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF NUCLEAR MAGNETIC RESONANCE.

This ambitious eight-volume set commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the first observations of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) in 1945. Details of various techniques and applications, plus historical details, are gathered together into one collection of volumes. They span introductory to advanced levels of knowledge on the topic.

Volume 1 is devoted to a history of the subject and its workers. Volumes 2-8 present a “reasonably comprehensive” selection of topics: medical diagnosis, imaging of various organs (including heart, lung, liver, brain, kidney, etc.) and body regions, and an extensive section on tumors. It is an invaluable reference source for anyone studying NMR spectroscopy and the use of superconducting magnets in magnetic resonance imaging. There are also separate listings for infant development and organ studies.

Articles have been systematically arranged under the following five technical areas: Inorganic applications, Physics applications, Biological applications, Instrumentation and Organic applications, and Biomedical applications. The complete outline appears at the beginning of volumes 2-8. A particular topic can be found either directly by turning to the appropriate place in the encyclopedia, or from the Subject Index in volume 8.
A Dose of Reading

The following are accounts by cancer survivors, offering us a humanistic perspective on this disease. Deviating from the approach of clinical texts, these books convey what it is like to look at (and live with) this affliction from the inside. In future issues of the SoutteReview, we'll showcase books on other physical, mental, or emotional disabilities. Whether a medical practitioner, patient, or layperson, we derive from such memoirs new insights, empathy, and strength, as we see ourselves as members of the human community. All items are available through The Lamar Soutter Library.

- Broyard, Anatole. Intoxicated by My Illness; and Other Writings on Life and Death (1992). Besides writing of his bout with prostate cancer, Broyard provides an overview covering the literature of memoirs on illnesses.
- Conway, Kathryn. Ordinary Life: A Memoir of Illness (1997). How this psychotherapist coped with the onset of cancer three times in her forty-seven years.
- Feldman, Gayle. You Don't Have to Be Your Mother (1994). About this magazine correspondent's battle against breast cancer, which had previously afflicted her mother.
- Frank, Arthur. At the Will of the Body: Reflections on Illness (1991). A survivor of cancer and heart disease, this medical sociologist details the ways in which his experiences as a patient have given him a new perspective on his profession.
- Ryan, Cornelius. A Private Battle (1978). His daily journal entries, in which he voices his inner fears and thoughts, as he battles cancer.

What About...?

(Your chance to ask us questions)

Q. How can I get a copy of an article from a journal the Library doesn't subscribe to?

A. The Interlibrary Borrowing Department (ILB) will request materials from other libraries. The cost is $8.00. Photocopies of articles are typically received between 1 to 2 weeks. All requests are processed electronically within 24 hours to assure the quickest turn around time possible. Fax requests can have an article in your hands from within a few hours to a day. Prices for faxed articles vary, from $15.00 to $20.00.

Q. I frequently get a message in Netscape, 404 Not Found. What does that mean? Is there any way I can connect to this site?

A. According to PC Computing Magazine (www.zdnet.com/pccomp/features/excl1197/undo/stuff1a.html):

"Break this error message by backtracking through the URL and deleting what's in front of the nearest slash. If the author hasn't included an index.html page, a list of pages will appear."

Q. It would be really helpful if I could have my MEDLINE print out in alphabetical order by the title of the journal. Can I do this?

A. Yes, using the OVID software,
   - Select Print Set.
   - Choose Options.
   - Select Primary Sort Order, and click on Modify.
   - Select Source.
   - Choose Ascending (will sort in A-Z order).
   - Click on OK, and then on OK again.
If you worked for a legal firm or a business that required articles from biomedical journals not available locally, where would you turn? For a number of institutions across the country, the answer is The Lamar Soutter Library at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center. The Library serves hundreds of patrons, representing the biomedical, educational, legal, and business fields, who have never set foot on our campus.

“Document Delivery” refers to the supplying of an article to a person or institution outside of the library’s usual patron base. At The Lamar Soutter Library, Document Delivery is truly a booming business. Statistics from the Boston Library Consortium (BLC), which includes Boston College, Boston Public Library (BPL), Boston University, Brown University, MIT, Northeastern University, Tufts University, Wellesley College, and the five UMass campuses, indicate that during the 1996 fiscal year The Lamar Soutter Library filled well over 26,000 requests for library materials to outside patrons. In terms of sheer volume, this figure places the Library second only to BPL among BLC institutions. This year, the Library may receive over 30,000 requests.

The “flip side” of Document Delivery is Interlibrary Borrowing—receiving on loan from another library a book or article that is not held in our collection. This is the service with which the library’s in-house patrons are undoubtedly most familiar. Frustrating as it may be to find that the Library doesn’t carry a journal, it is reassuring to know that the Interlibrary Borrowing office is able to fill well over ninety percent of the requests it receives.

Another measure of a library’s effectiveness at Document Delivery is the lending-to-borrowing ratio. This figure is the ratio of journal articles from our collection supplied to outside patrons (lending) to the number of articles and books not in our collection supplied to our patrons from other libraries (borrowing). In this category, The Lamar Soutter Library is consistently in the top spot in the BLC, an indication of the strength of the Library’s collection in biomedical research.

Requests for documents are received in the library by fax or mail from patrons all over the United States, Canada, Great Britain, and as far away as Belarus and Poland. Outside inquiries are handled by John Hemenway and Spiro Efstathiou. Requests from in-house patrons are processed by Karen Cangello and Nancy Boucher. Together, these four staff members have many years’ experience supplying books and articles to patrons, whether on or off campus.

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Two awarded prize for “Name Our Newsletter” contest

Congratulations to Marc Mancuso, first-year medical student, and Doreen Needham, faculty secretary in the Graduate School of Nursing, winners of the Library’s “Name Our Newsletter” contest. Both Doreen and Marc submitted the name SoutteReview, which was selected as the winning entry from the nearly sixty ballots received. Runner-up is Paul Julian, reference associate in The Lamar Soutter Library. In the spirit of the merger, Marc decided to combine the name “Soutter” with the word “review,” while for Doreen it was an impromptu idea. Thank you to Kettles and Leo’s Ristorante for donating the prizes, and thank you to all who suggested names in our contest! 🎉

Marc Mancuso (left) and Doreen Needham (right) are pictured with the bust of Lamar Soutter.

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SoutteReview is an occasional publication of The Lamar Soutter Library at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center.

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