Lamar Soutter Library Annual Report FY2016

Lamar Soutter Library, University of Massachusetts Medical School

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Lamar Soutter Library: Launching Our History - Past, Present, and Future

Writing the History of the University of Massachusetts Medical School
Ellen S. More, Ph.D.

In 2005, the UMass Medical School (UMMS) faced a major problem. More than 40 years after the institution’s founding, its history was cloaked in mystery. Many archiving efforts had been made to preserve the history of the institution, but the final result was an inconsistency of narratives. To better understand the institution’s identity, and to create a common platform for the future, it was determined that a comprehensive history of the institution needed to be created.

In 2005, under the leadership of Dr. Ellen S. More, the creation of a comprehensive history of the UMass Medical School was initiated. The project involved the collection and analysis of primary sources, as well as the development of a narrative that would capture the essence of the institution’s history. The project was funded by a grant from the National Library of Medicine, and the results were published in a book titled “History of UMass Medical School: A Major Academic Medical Center on the Western Slope of New England.”

In 2016, the book was updated and revised, and a print version of the book was published by TidePool Press. The updated edition includes new research and additional information on the institution’s history. The book provides a comprehensive overview of the institution’s history, from its founding in 1965 to the present day.

Grants/Sub-Contracts in Effect FY2016

National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM)

151-1601S1-01. 5-year award to the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) as the NNLM Regional Medical Library (RMIL) serving northeastern United States. The RMIL conducts outreach efforts to librarians, health professionals, and the public, including educational programs, the NNLM National Library of Medicine (NLM) database, and a variety of other initiatives.

Public Health Information Access Network (PHIAN)

551-1601S1-01. 5-year award to UMMS as the PHIAN State Medical Library of Massachusetts.

Office of Medical History & Archives

The Office of Medical History & Archives (OMHA) continues to preserve and communicate the history of the University of Massachusetts Medical School during FY2016 through the work of the UMass Medical School History Department and the UMass Medical School History Advisory Board. The program continues to work on the preservation and dissemination of the history of the University of Massachusetts Medical School, as well as on the history of the surrounding communities.

In FY2016, the Office of Medical History & Archives continued to work on a variety of projects, including the development of new exhibits, the creation of new publications, and the ongoing effort to preserve the history of the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

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Selected Presentations, Posters, & Publications


Catherine Car, MLS, AIHLP contributed a check book chapter entitled “Supporting Cancer Knowledge Needs Using Online Databases in Cancer Care” to CancerCareGardens.com a handbook for the healthcare, access access hub established by the Department of Radiation Oncology CE and the Department of Medicine (Division of Hematology, which is published through Elsevier, 2015.

Penny Jackson, MLS, was the recipient of the October 2015 Vantage Award. Achievement award for recognizing a person for their work in enhancing and promoting as an MLS standard and supporter of the health science library community in New England.

Levine, J. was selected for the 2016 David D. Koons Traveling Fellowship. The $20,000 scholarship was awarded to a person who represents excellence in learning in performing in medical informatics in the United States. Canada, Canada, and abroad to perform its function of studying a specific aspect of health information management.

Catherine Car, MLS, was the recipient of the 2016 Vantage Award. Achievement award for contributing to cancer knowledge needs using online databases in cancer care.

Catherine Car, MLS, was the recipient of the 2016 Change Award. Achievement award for contributing to cancer knowledge needs using online databases in cancer care.

Lisa Palmer, MLS, AIHLP was selected for the 2016-2017 Council of the IMLS under the Committee. Poster presentation at the 2016-2017 Health Library Communications Expert Directory, established by the National Library of Medicine.

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