SoutteReview, Issue 2

Lamar Soutter Library, University of Massachusetts Medical School

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Library Unveils New Website

The Library is pleased to announce that its new World Wide Web site is now available for public use at the address http://library.ummed.edu. Library staff members, working along with consultants, have been redesigning both the content and the appearance of the site for the past eight months.

Some features of the new site:

1. A search engine that makes it easier for visitors to locate resources on our site. Users can perform a case-sensitive search, and for those who are not sure of a term’s spelling, can set the software to allow up to three misspellings.
2. An all-new banner with six graphical buttons is repeated on each page of the web site to facilitate navigation to the Library’s online catalog, a searchable databases page, the search engine, a help page for the website, the Library’s home page, or the Medical Center’s home page.
3. A form that allows faculty, staff or students to submit a materials request electronically from anywhere in the Medical Center.
5. A “What’s New” page that describes recent additions to the website.
6. An Online Journals page that includes links to over 170 titles in over forty medical subject areas.
7. The Library’s class schedule, updated monthly.

Future additions to the site include interactive instructional handouts and classes. The Library staff hopes that our new website proves invaluable to the UMass Medical Center community.
Dr. Majno's Career Highlighted in Library Display

Dr. Guido Majno's many contributions in the field of research, teaching and the history of medicine are being recognized with a display outside The Lamar Soutter Library. Born in Milan, Italy, Guido Majno received his M.D. from the University of Milan in 1947. Dr. Majno was Associate Professor of Pathology at the Harvard Medical School from 1961 to 1968, and Professor and Chair of Pathology at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Geneva, from 1968 to 1973. Dr. Majno was Chairman of the Department of Pathology at the UMass Medical School in Worcester from 1973 to 1995.

Dr. Majno's research interests have included the vascular mechanisms of inflammation, and in addition to many papers on the subject, he co-authored two books: Inflammation: A Scope Monograph in 1977 with G. B. Ryan; Inflammation and Infection in 1982 with R. S. Cotran. Dr. Majno has also worked in wound healing and found, in collaboration with his group in Geneva, the mechanism that closes open wounds. He coined the name "myofibroblast" for the contractile cells responsible for this process.

In collaboration with Drs. Isabelle Joris, Thomas Zand and others, Dr. Majno has been studying the mechanism of atherosclerosis. He co-authored with Dr. Joris a textbook of general pathology entitled Cells, Tissues and Disease, which was awarded the 1997 Medical Book Award (Physician category) from the American Medical Writers Association.

As an amateur historian, Dr. Majno has written on the history of the microscope in pathology, the history of infection, and the development of the plaster cast. His interest in wound healing resulted in the publication of the book The Healing Hand: Man and Wound in the Ancient World, published by Harvard University Press, which won the Phi Beta Kappa award for science and was offered by the Book-of-the-Month Club and the History Book Club.

Dr. Majno has been on the editorial board of many pathology journals and was President of the New England Society of Pathology. He has been named to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Antiquarian Society, and the Swiss Academy of Medicine. Dr. Majno is especially proud of the many teaching awards that he has received from UMass medical students.

Have You Tried This? NEW on the Library Website:

The Lamar Soutter Library is pleased to offer another online service in its continuing efforts to provide up-to-date information to our users. LEXIS®-NEXIS® has provided information for business, legal, and academic researchers for 25 years. Now, through an agreement with the Boston Library Consortium, its World Wide Web product UNIVerse is available to the UMass Medical Center community. Access is gained through the Library's web page at the address http://library.umassmed.edu.

What's in it for me? you ask. There's more than you can imagine! The following subject categories are available:

- News (Including today's world headlines and news from yesterday)
- Business News (Company profiles and personnel, industry forecasts, and trends)
- Legal and Political News and Resources (News; statutory, administrative, and case law; and comment from periodicals with a national and regional perspective)
- Country and State Profiles (Facts, statistics, analysis)
- Biographical Information (Background information on notable people)
- General Medical and Health topics (Search journals and newsletters for full-text articles)
- Medical Abstracts (UNIVerse's version of MEDLINE)
- Accounting, Auditing, and Tax (A comprehensive selection of sources)

Access is restricted to on-campus users. For almost any topic—from general daily news to your graduate research—access thousands of sources in LEXIS®-NEXIS® UNIVerse from the library or your office.
The recent publication of Dr. Nananda Col's book, A Woman Doctor's Guide to Hormone Therapy, has generated considerable positive reaction. Dr. Col, a 1990 graduate of the University of Massachusetts Medical School and current Assistant Professor of Medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine, has received several excellent reviews for this book, and has appeared on numerous television news programs. This book is the culmination of several years of research that began here at UMass Medical Center.

A Woman Doctor's Guide to Hormone Therapy offers women an individualistic approach in the important decision of whether to choose hormone replacement therapy (HRT) after menopause. The book, an expansion of a piece that appeared in JAMA in 1997, begins with an overview of HRT, menopause and HRT, and a quick analytical quiz on whether HRT can prolong a woman's life. The middle part of the book focuses on a woman's risk for breast cancer, coronary artery disease, and potential hip fractures. Each of these risks is discussed in general terms, followed by a score sheet that enables the patient to determine her risk factors for these categories, both with or without HRT. The prediction model can provide women with a more informed basis on whether to use HRT after menopause. The book also discusses how to determine whether a woman should opt for HRT, based on her personal risk factors.

"It's like a doctor talking one-on-one to their patient about whether or not to use HRT," Dr. Col said. "Several women heard about the prediction model which is the basis of my research, and they wanted to determine whether HRT would be wise for them. I couldn't keep up with the demand for everyone who wanted to take part in the prediction model. This book opens up the model to a much bigger audience."

The development of the computer model that determines the predictions in the book was funded from a public grant from the National Institutes of Health. Two of Dr. Col's former UMMC colleagues, Dr. Robert J. Goldberg and Dr. Richard K. Orr, were also involved with this study. Dr. Col continued her study at the New England Medical Center. This research was the basis of the paper entitled "Patient-specific Decisions About Hormone Replacement Therapy in Postmenopausal Women," which appeared in the April 9, 1997 issue of JAMA. As national interest in the HRT study grew, Dr. Col decided to expand her work into a book focused on the patient's point of view. "It was over a cup of tea at my favorite restaurant, Tatnuck Bookseller's in Worcester, MA, that the idea of translating the computer model's predictions into a book first took shape. Chatting with owner Larry Abramoff, one suggestion led to another, and before I knew it, we had outlined a book—one that would be clear and easy-to-understand, written specifically for women actually making difficult decisions about menopause."

Since the publication of the article and the book, Dr. Col has been quite busy with the national media to further explain her research on HRT and postmenopausal women. Several media sources, such as USA Today, Time, Health, PBS's NewsHour, and many other local newspapers and television stations, have focused on her research. The magazine Health named her research as one of the "Top Ten Medical Advances of 1997." Amazon Books, an Internet bookstore, recently cited A Woman Continued on page 3
One of the top issues on a librarian's list of concerns is book and journal preservation and conservation. Preservation of library materials involves the prevention of problems by maintaining an optimal physical environment for the materials. Conservation, on the other hand, deals with the repair of a damaged book or journal.

One of the many duties of Cindy Noe, who works in the Library's Technical Services Department, is to keep the library collection in good condition, which includes repairing or binding books and journals that have become worn or deteriorated. Most of the damage to the Library collection comes from food or drink spills, water, repeated mishandling, or an improper environment involving light, temperature or humidity. The presence of food brought into the library, which attracts mice and insects, further endangers the collection.

Statistics show that 93 unbound journals and 120 bound journals and books in the Library were repaired in-house in 1996-97. Other excessively damaged items were sent outside for commercial binding. If materials are unsalvageable, replacements are considered, if price and availability allow.

Book and journal conservation is painstaking work. Cindy employs a philosophy whereby, through the process of book and journal "triage," the most severely affected items receive first priority. If damage has occurred, the first 48 hours will usually determine if a book or journal can be saved, before its pages begin to mold or bond together. When food or drink has been spilled on an item, it must then be pulled from the collection and repaired. Usually the item can be treated quickly by wiping it off, but other harm requires more extensive care.

What can Library users do to help preserve our collection? How we handle a book affects its longevity. If a book will not lie flat during photocopying, it is unwise to use force. It is not a good idea to repair anything with tape, as its acidic content will eventually cause more deterioration. If an item is damaged, it is important to report it to a Library staff member as quickly as possible. The folding of page corners—as well as the use of paper clips—is discouraged, since this mutilates pages. Writing implements should never be used on library materials.

The staff of The Lamar Soutter Library extends its best wishes to all those graduating or taking exams within the next few weeks!

As this issue of the SoutteReview was going to press, the Library staff learned that Elaine Martin, Assistant University Librarian for the Health Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago Health Sciences Center, has accepted the position of Director of The Lamar Soutter Library. Ms. Martin will assume her new responsibilities on or about July 1.

UMass Grad's Book Garners Rave Reviews
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Doctor's Guide to Hormone Therapy as a "Recommended book."

Dr. Nananda Col resides in Worcester. She is married to Chee-Wai Woon, a 1989 graduate of the University of Massachusetts Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. They have two children, Yvonne and Paul, both graduates of UMass Day Care Center.

Library users will soon see a copy of A Woman Doctor's Guide to Hormone Therapy in the library collection. JAMA is housed in the journal collection on the third floor. Several Internet links relevant to both Dr. Col's study and book are available on the New England Medical Center website at www.nemc.org.