Contents

Official Notices
SSHM Annual Conference
and AGM 2005 - p. 2

Conference reports
‘Corporealities’— p. 2
‘Transfer and Histoire
croisée in the History of
Psychiatry’ -
p. 4
‘Patients and Pathways’ - p. 6

Exhibition
From Wright to Knight
Exhibition,- p. 8

Announcements
‘Body States: The Pilot
Project’- p. 8
‘Working with Dust’ -p. 9

Psychiatric Cultures
Compared -p. 10

CUP Discounts for SSHM
Members -p. 11

Roy Porter Student Essay
Competition - p. 12

‘Body States: The Pilot Project’,
Centre for the History of Medicine,
University of Warwick,
Page 8

Correspondence should be sent to Dr Cathy McClive, Department of History, University of Durham, 43 North Bailey, Durham, DH1 3EX, United Kingdom.

Email gazette@sshm.org
Web http://www.sshm.org
OFFICIAL NOTICES

SSHM Annual Conference 2006 and Annual General Meeting for 2005

Practices and Representations of Health: Historical Perspectives

28-30 June 2006
University of Warwick
Coventry, United Kingdom

The Society for the Social History of Medicine 2006 Annual Conference, ‘Practices and Representations of Health: Historical Perspectives’, jointly organised by the Centres for the History of Medicine at the Universities of Birmingham and Warwick, will be held at the University of Warwick on 28-30 June 2006. Keynote speakers include: Susan E. Lederer (Yale University), Sir Geoffrey Lloyd (Cambridge), and Charles E. Rosenberg (Harvard University).

Poster Competition
The Programme Committee welcomes proposals for posters on research in the history of medicine. There will be a prize of £250 awarded for the best poster presentation. Please submit a brief abstract of your proposed poster to Molly Rogers (molly.rogers@warwick.ac.uk).

Registration
Online registration is available at www.warwick.ac.uk/go/sshm2006

Student Bursaries
The SSHM is offering bursaries for students to attend the conference. For more information please contact the SSHM Treasurer (details on the SSHM website).

Questions
If you have any questions or concerns regarding the conference, please contact Molly Rogers, Administrator for the Centre for the History of Medicine at Warwick (molly.rogers@warwick.ac.uk or 024 7657 2601).

NB: The SSHM Annual General Meeting 2005 will be held at the Society’s Annual Conference at the University of Warwick, 28-30 June 2006. Details of location, time and the agenda will be published in the next gazette issue, March 2006.

CONFERENCE REPORT

‘Corporealities: the Contested Body in 19th and 20th Century Medical Photography and Illustration’

Centre for the History of Medicine, University of Warwick, 23 April 2005

On 23 April 2005, the Centre for the History of Medicine at the University of Warwick hosted a workshop entitled ‘Corporealities: the Contested Body in 19th and 20th Century Medical Photography and Illustration’. The event provided a forum for a discussion of modern medicine’s dependency on visual images and imagining, and a consideration of the interests and purposes served by the medical visualisation of the human embodiment in its multitude of scientifically-mediated forms. Eight speakers presented their work from a variety of disciplines and expertise. The event was organised by Dr Claudia Stein (University of Warwick) and Dr Suzannah Biernoff (Middlesex University).

A number of common themes emerged from the seemingly disparate papers which provided opportunities for some lively
debate and discussion over the course of the workshop. The hermeneutics surrounding the categorisation of images – photographic and art- emerged from the presentations by Julia Voss (Max-Planck-Institute, Berlin), Molly Rogers (writer and independent scholar) and Suzannah Biernoff (Middlesex University). How did the different composers expect these images to be read and what was the vernacular vocabulary of their audiences? Voss suggested that the domestic settings and the oval format of the photographs in Charles Darwin’s *Expressions*, can be interpreted as adhering to the portrait rather than the scientific tradition. Rogers’ work considered the possible attribution of Louis Agassiz’s slave daguerreotypyes as scientific objects and identified the poses of the slave-front and side views-as reminiscent of later anthropological ‘objective’ science. She contextualised and problematised such a categorisation prior to the emergence of the ‘science’ of anthropology. The danger of adopting a teleological approach – scientific objects in the making – was discussed. Again, similarities with portraiture- clothing, posture, casing- were identified suggesting that their automatic categorisation as scientific objects is no longer possible.

This issue of categorisation was also present in the work of Biernoff on the Henry Tonks. Tonks, who trained as a surgeon before becoming an artist and Slade Professor, completed a series of pastel drawings of wounded soldiers before and after facial surgery. Can these drawings be defined as portraiture or medical archive? The subjects were ‘wounded servicemen who had been referred to Harold Gillies’ pioneer for facial surgery. The drawings remained in Tonks’ room at Queens’ Mary Hospital at Sitcup and were not on public display. His motivation in completing these works was unclear. They were not the only visual record of the surgical procedures. Stereographic photographs were also taken of the patients, pre and post operatively and were included in the medical archives of the procedures. The question of motivation and the function of the drawings formed the basis of a debate highlighting the drawings’ possible role in professional promotion and the tensions between the ideals surrounding military masculinity and war-time horror. As with Louis Agassiz’s slave daguerreotyptyes, the subjects’ permission was not sought before the commission of the images highlighting the power relationship between the viewed and the viewer and complicating the appropriateness of their categorisation as portrait. Both sets of images have been subject to historic and contemporary censorship. Deborah Padfield (artist) emphasised the centrality of the power relationship between patient and doctor in the presentation of her work on patients’ representation of their understanding and experience of pain.

Many of the papers found the exploration of the composers, and indeed the images’ relationship with ‘objectivity’ and ‘authenticity’ fruitful. Voss interrogated this issue in her consideration of Darwin’s willingness to alter images during the production process. She discounts the suggestion that by altering the images Darwin was seeking to add greater import to the scientific ‘authenticity’ of his work, but wished to perfect them as studies of expressions which would be active to a non-scientific audience. The issue was particularly prevalent in Andrew Warwick’s (Imperial College, London) presentation on x-rays as evidence in German Orthopaedic surgery. The use of x-rays as objective evidence in medical diagnosis and its subsequent take-up by the profession in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was explored. Using the example of the treatment of congenital dislocation of the hip in Germany, he asserted that ‘x-rays produced new definitions of what constituted a satisfactory cure.’ The work highlighted the tension between the anatomical correctness of the patient, as suggested by
x-rays, and the functionality of the hips under treatment. Prior to the introduction of x-rays the successful treatment of a dislocated hip was defined by the patients’ ability to walk. Surgeons such as Albert Hoffa, one of the leading exponents of orthopaedic surgery, paraded children under treatment during presentations of his work to ‘prove’ their recovery. The introduction of x-rays problematised this definition of recovery, the x-rays showed that the treated hips were not always anatomically ‘correct’ suggesting that ‘a new kind of visual display in which the anatomical, rather than functional effect of the operation, became the main focus of interest’.

Late nineteenth century themes examining the tension between the anatomical correctness and the functionality of the body as a machine, and concerns with degeneracy and modernity, were present in Anthea Callen’s (University of Nottingham) presentation on the ideals of the labouring male body and Michael Sappol’s (National Library of Medicine, Bethesda) study of the work of Fritz Kahn. Sappol gave a fascinating presentation of examples of Kahn’s conceptual medical illustrations from his works published in the first half of the twentieth century. It was, as stated by Sappol himself, ‘an appreciation of Kahn’s art and career’. Kahn situated ‘the body in industrial modernity’ and Sappol’s presentation touched on many of the themes which had emerged earlier in the day such as the reading and viewing of medical illustrations by non-scientific audiences and the extent to which science and knowledge objectify the body, resulting in the loss of emotion and humanity. The theme of emotion, and its evocation, was a focus of Robin Anne O’Sullivan’s (independent scholar) examination of Bill Viola’s, _The Passions_. The affect of his series of visual images on an audience and their ability to view and read them was a primary concern of her study. Comparing _The Passions_ to the devotional art of the late Middle Ages and the Renaissance, O’Sullivan contested that a limiting factor of Viola’s work was the inability of modern audiences to fully ‘embody’ and empathise with the images. Unlike the devotional art of earlier periods audiences were no longer aware of how to engage with such images, they no longer provided the ‘catalyst to meditation’ Viola intended. O’Sullivan drew on a theme present in many of the other studies, the impact different cultures of empathy and of reading had upon the use of medical illustration.

Catherine Cox
University of Warwick

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**CONFERENCE REPORT**

Comparison, Transfer and _Histoire croisée_ in the History of Psychiatry.

**University of Southampton, 3–4 September 2005**

This conference aimed at bringing together researchers in the history of psychiatry and psychotherapy interested in employing comparative methodologies. It was sponsored by the Society for the Social History of Medicine, the British Academy and the Wellcome Trust, and the programme was set up in collaboration with the Berlin Centre for the Humanities and Health Sciences and the Berlin School for Comparative History of Europe.

During two intense days of presentations and discussion, emphasis was placed on the methodological and conceptual problems and the advantages that can be derived from a comparative focus in historical research. In her contribution ‘Insanity and Families in New South Wales, Victoria and New Zealand’, Catherine Coleborne discussed the interaction between the families of mentally ill people and representatives of psychiatric
institutions in New South Wales, Victoria and New Zealand, from the 1860s to 1914. Jacqueline Leckie focused on Fiji and the Colonial Pacific, looking at the various roles of mental hospital asylums in this geographic area. Together with Waltraud Ernst’s presentation on nineteenth-century psychiatry in British India and New Zealand and Jim Mills’ contribution on ‘Colonial Psychiatry and Cannabis Consumption in India and Egypt’, these papers constituted the panel on ‘Global, Local and Colonial Perspectives’. This included also Christiane Hartnack’s project, which focused on a comparison of psychoanalytic practices and theories in Austria (Fin-de-siècle Vienna) and North-East India (Ranchi), and Akihito Suzuki’s sophisticated analysis of early twentieth-century psychiatric therapeutics in Japan and other countries.

The section on ‘The Psychiatric Patient and Society’ included Akira Hashimoto’s and Thomas Mueller’s presentations on psychiatric family care. While Hashimoto focused on the Japanese reception of the Flemish model of Gheel via German medicine in the early twentieth century, Mueller looked at psychiatric family care in France and Germany, reflecting in particular on the different historiographic cultures involved. Aude Fauvel successfully explored patients’ views in contrast to the public’s perceptions of nineteenth-century French psychiatry.

The Southampton conference benefited not only from presentations offered by academics at different stages of their career, but also from the insights derived from a National Health Service research project. The paper presented by Christiane Wildgrube in the ‘War and Trauma’ section of the conference introduced the audience to a comparative study of German, Serbian and British psychiatric textbooks since 1945 and their different conceptualisations of ‘psychological trauma’. Paul Weindling’s contribution on psychiatrists’ and therapists’ discussions about hallucinations in 1960s New York included sources such as photographs and tape recordings. Psychiatry during the Second World War was the topic of Isabelle von Bueltzingsloewen’s presentation. She focused on the (forced) dying of psychiatric patients in German-occupied France.

Apart from the fact that an extremely interesting selection of papers was presented, a second and no less major aim of this conference was to reflect on the value of comparative approaches to historians of psychiatry and psychotherapy. The varied methodologies connected with specific approaches such as transfert or transfer analysis, transnational history, entangled histories, and/or histoire croisée provoked fruitful discussion, be it on the merit of certain concepts in regard to regional, diachronic or inter-‘national’ perspectives or on their general validity. The value of research restricted to a narrowly national focus, especially if issues of globalisation and cultural exchange are not to be lost sight of, was questioned by conference participants. A leading theme that emerged from the conference was that of ‘transnational psychiatries’. A book with that title is planned. It will provide a publication that does not merely assemble a variety of nation-focused accounts from a range of countries, but presents social and cultural histories of psychiatry that are inherently comparative.

Thomas Mueller, Institute for the History of Medicine, Centre for the Humanities and Health Sciences at Charité Berlin / Berlin School for Comparative History of Europe.

Dr. Thomas Mueller
Institute for the History of Medicine
Klingsorstr. 119
12203 Berlin
thomas.mueller@charite.de
Patients and Pathways: Cancer Therapies in Historical and Sociological Perspective

University of Manchester, Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, 6-8th October 2005.

Website: http://www.cancer-history.org/conferences/

This workshop conference, organised by Carsten Timmermann and his colleagues of the Cancer history group as part of their Wellcome Trust Programme Grant and hosted by the Manchester Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine explored historical and sociological interpretations of cancer across time and place. The concept of 'patient pathways' was used to engage with the diversity of experience and meaning that cancer engenders.

Twenty papers examined a variety of cancers and explored issues surrounding diagnosis, treatment and research. In his introductory 'History of and for patients', John Pickstone began from the vantage point of the 1970s/80s, when patient's histories first emerged, and looked both backwards and forwards in time within the British NHS context to explore changing notions of patienthood.

The remainder of the papers were grouped around several broad themes:

Negotiating life and death decisions

Four papers were given on issues surrounding cancer diagnosis and treatment. Keith Wailoo looked at 'honest diagnosis' and the cultural politics surrounding patient communication in American medicine. Isabelle Baszanger presented results of her ethnographic research into late terminal cancer treatment in France. 'Near the threshold of death' she found patient pathways consisting of 'loops of time' in which treatment/palliation issues get continually re-negotiated between doctor and patient in interactions which mobilise hope, silence and denial. Gretchen Krueger discussed parental choice in the face of childhood malignant disease in America in the 1930s, at a time when medical, legal and social agencies began to work in consort on child care, sometimes against parents' wishes. Two case studies regarding the treatment of 'glioma babies' were discussed and illustrated different pathways towards the diagnosis and treatment of retinoblastoma for the families concerned. Jason Szabo discussed medical orientations to cancer care in the 19th and 20th centuries with reference to curable/non-curable disease and palliation.

Patient stories: on what it means to be a cancer patient

Barron Lerner's paper discussed one prominent patient's experience of acute myeloid leukaemia in America in the 1970s. Morris Abram's fight and survival subsequently became shaped, by himself and others, into a particular type of patient narrative emphasising optimism and deep involvement in the technicalities of available and experimental therapies. Emm Barnes considered research into chemotherapy for childhood cancer in the early 1960s. The dynamics of patient recruitment for experimental treatment regimes are examined using three young patients’ stories. These individual pathways are related to evolving professional networks; this in turn changes the meaning of patienthood for those individuals and leads to a re-appraisal of the role and impact of early clinical research to later treatments. On 'Survivorship' Joanna Baines contrasted cancer as an event with cancer as a process and showed how these concepts could be applied to the experiences of different generations of patients and their pathways through the disease.
Publics and patienthood

David Cantor explored the varied meanings of hope in the context of the 1950s campaign by the US Food and Drug Administration against the alternative practitioner Harry Hoxsey. Using letters from the public in response to the FDA’s efforts to discredit Hoxsey, the political use of hope in the battle between orthodox and unorthodox medicine is examined. The distinctive nature of cancer education in Britain in the first half of the 20th century was covered in Ornella Moscucci’s paper, ‘Fast-track to treatment’. Debates around cancer education in public and professional rhetorics centred on varied meanings of hope, cure, prevention and early treatment; the result in Britain was a focus on education of the medical profession (especially community practitioners such as GPs, nurses and midwives) rather than the lay public. Kate Field, a historian at the Department of Primary Care, University of Oxford, described the audio and written resources on cancer patient narratives that have been collected as part of the DIPEX project, which may be of use to future historical study.

Clinical trials and patients as subjects

Gerald Kutcher presented the story of Maude Jacobs, one of a number of patients who received experimental whole body radiation for breast cancer administered by Dr Eugene Saenger at the University of Cincinnati in November 1964. Maude’s traumatic and tragic fate, and her inclusion in a study which was related to the effects of possible whole body irradiation in service personnel, shows the patient as subject, object and finally martyr. Peter Keating and Alberto Cambrioso examined patients in protocols. They described how cancer (and other) patients can be grouped into different categories which are not mutually exclusive (e.g. ‘last chance patients’, ‘patients as a scarce resource’ [for clinical research programmes], ‘activist patients’, ‘private patients’, etc.). By the mid-1980s in the US, patient-protocol interactions can be understood as a network consisting of these patient groups, as well as community oncologists, clinical researchers, insurance companies, drug companies and oncology corporations. Research and treatment protocols therefore become seen as ‘convergence points’ for varied patient pathways through disease.

Treatments and modalities

Ilana Löwy examined trends in the treatment of female cancers with respect to surgery and radiotherapy - their various forms and combinations during the years 1920-1960 in France and the US. When to choose which therapeutic option, and why, is explored in the context of ‘surgical activism’, the emphasis given to radiotherapy in France, and attempts to quantify the outcomes of difficult, sometimes unpredictable, diseases such as breast cancer with a view to selecting the best treatment pathway for an individual patient. Similar themes were discussed by Elizabeth Toon in relation to expanding treatment modalities for advanced breast cancer in Britain in the 1960s and 1970s. Problems in deciding what is classed as a ‘response’ in a disease with a variable natural history and when, in the face of aggressive treatments, that response can be considered ‘worthwhile’ in patients who were likely to die from their disease, are examined. Carsten Timmermann’s paper considered the surgical management of lung cancer using the story of Frank Craig, who suffered from the disease and was (in medico-pathological terms) a ‘routine’ lung cancer patient. Surgical treatment and success rates for lung cancer became static in the 1960s and the paper explores the meanings of this for patients and surgeons. Treatment and palliation are discussed in a similar context to Isabelle Baszanger’s ‘loops of time’ (see above), the fluid and shifting nature of these categories at different phases of the
disease being apparent in Frank Craig’s story as written by his wife.

**Services and trajectories**

Charles Hayter described ‘official’ and ‘unofficial’ treatment pathways arising after the centralisation of cancer care in Ontario, Canada in the 1930s to 1960s and highlighted the problems such a strategy caused for optimal patient care. Patrick Castel examined peer relationships in French oncology and suggested that an understanding of these informed sociological analysis of the therapeutic relationship in cancer diseases. Teun Zuiderent-Jerak and Roland Bal described their ethnography of work practice in an oncology tertiary referral hospital in the Netherlands. Their aim is to re-define ideas of standardization and patient centredness in such a way that these previously mutually exclusive concepts can be brought together for patient and staff benefit in a system under stress.

Andrew Gardiner
CHSTM, University of Manchester

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**EXHIBITION**

**From Wright to Knight Exhibition,**

**University of Durham, 4th November - 25th December 2005**

This November marks the start of a new exhibition that will run until the Christmas holidays in the Palace Green Library at the University of Durham. It is a sample of the many books and manuscripts that were recently donated by David M. Knight, Durham’s emeritus professor of the history and philosophy of science. Most of the sources were published or penned during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries and they address various aspects of the history and philosophy of science and medicine. Durham students, staff and friends inaugurated the exhibition on the 4th of November with a wine and nibbles reception and then proceeded into the reading room to look at several items up close. On display were student medical notes, scientific manuscripts, books, journals, and old exam papers. They also had the opportunity to view a recently acquired manuscript written by Thomas Wright, the famous eighteenth-century astronomer who lived in Durham, and several rare anatomy books. The exhibition marks the start of Durham’s new MA in the history and philosophy of science and medicine.

M. D. Eddy
University of Durham

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

‘Body States: The Pilot Project’

**Centre for the History of Medicine, University of Warwick**

A voyage through a man’s gastro-intestinal tract and a chance to contemplate the human body as a doctor or surgeon might. These were just some of the opportunities presented to the audience of ‘Body States: The Pilot Project,’ a live art event held Saturday, 11 June 2005. The first phase of a collaboration between the Centre for the History of Medicine and the School of Theatre, Performance and Cultural Policy Studies, both at the University of Warwick, Body States brought together five live artists to explore the common concerns of the disciplines of performance and medical history. The Centre and the School are working towards creating a live art residency, a position that would allow a performance-based artist to develop work relevant to the history of medicine.

Interest in the project has been high: more than thirty artists responded to a call that went out in the summer of 2004. Five
artists – Ansuman Biswas, Anna Dumitriu, Ju Gosling, Phillip Warnell and Louise Wilson – were then selected to participate in Body States, at which they presented or performed their work. The Wellcome Trust supported the event, through the Centre’s ‘Cultures and Practices of Health’ research programme.

The individuals who participated in Body States are all established artists with a wide variety of experience. Ansuman Biswas, for example, has worked as an actor, musician, installation artist, composer, filmmaker and writer. He has also presented his work in a number of different contexts, ranging from the Whitechapel Art Gallery and the Royal Ballet, to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and MTV. Biswas’ piece for Body States, called ‘Theatre’, was a simple yet evocative performance in which he lay naked and with eyes closed on a spotlight table in a darkened space. The audience were invited to move around the space and ‘examine’ the ‘subject’, raising questions about how the body is conceived both as object and as lived experience.

Despite employing vastly different methods in their work the artists share an interest in exploring medical themes, specifically with reference to the body. According to Dr Hilary Marland, Director of the Centre for the History of Medicine, ‘The history of the body, embodiment, and lived bodily experience are areas of great interest to historians of medicine. By exploring the intersection between performance and medical history, this project provides vast opportunities for the mutual enrichment of the two disciplines.’

Other work presented included ‘Host,’ by Phillip Warnell, an installation/performance incorporating video and film recordings, performance, and laser and sound. ‘Host’ made use of video material recorded whilst the artist had ingested a miniature camera, recording photographic images during its voyage through his gastro-intestinal tract. Warnell then ‘stitched’ the images into sequences which he finally composed into a four-screen video projection, creating a fascinating public environment from internal landscapes.

At the end of the event, after all five artists had presented their work, the audience was invited to put questions to the artists regarding their performances and, more broadly, their interests and methods. Following the success of Body States, the Centre and School are conducting further discussions with the artists to select one with whom to develop a funding application. With funding in place, the chosen artist would use their time at Warwick to develop performances, work with students, and participate in the research cultures of the Centre and the School. Further events and performances are planned at different stages in the overall project. For more information contact Molly Rogers (molly.rogers@warwick.ac.uk).

Molly Rogers
Administrator
Centre for the History of Medicine
University of Warwick

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT & CALL FOR PAPERS

‘Working with Dust: Health, Dust and Diseases in the History of Occupational Health’

An international comparative conference on industrial health and the politics of disease regulation since 1700

Centre for Medical History, University of Exeter, 10th, 11th and 12th April 2006

The Centre for Medical History at the University of Exeter is hosting an international conference to be held at the
If you are interested in contributing to the April 2006 conference, please forward an abstract of 250 words to Claire Keyte, Administrator, The Centre for Medical History, School of Humanities & Social Sciences, University of Exeter, Amory Building, Rennes Drive, Exeter, EX4 4RJ, or by email to cfmhmail@exeter.ac.uk by 31st January 2006.

This conference is sponsored by the Society for the Social History of Medicine and the Wellcome Trust.

Claire Keyte
University of Exeter

**RECENT PUBLICATIONS**

**Psychiatric Cultures Compared: Psychiatry and Mental Health Care in the Twentieth Century**

Marijke Gijswijt-Hofstra, Harry Oosterhuis, Joost Vijselarr and Hugh Freeman (eds),

Amsterdam, Amsterdam University Press, September 2005
Available outside the Netherlands: January 2006
Paperback 456 pages €34.50, $50, £24

The history of mental health care in the twentieth century is a relatively uncharted territory. This volume offers overviews of various national psychiatric cultures and explores new research subjects. By confronting Dutch psychiatry with developments abroad, the editors highlight contrasts and analogies. Some articles focus on the interaction between asylums and the family, others address issues such as psychiatric nursing, psychotropic drugs, the organisation and policies in psychiatry, the role of various professions, the development of the in- and outpatient mental health sectors, anti-psychiatry and de-institutionalisation. Several authors bring in the broader social
and cultural context, such as the two World Wars, the welfare state, gender and class relations, the protest movement of the 1960s, democratisation, and totalitarian regimes. Two broad reflective reviews, one historiographic and the other contextual and comparative, conclude the volume.

For more information please contact: marketing@aup.nl

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Peter Baldwin

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The Jamaica Paradox
James C. Riley

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978 0 521 85047 6 (052185047 9)
Hardback Normal price £35.00, Discount price £28.00

ROY PORTER STUDENT ESSAY COMPETITION

The Society for the Social History of Medicine (SSHM) invites submissions to its 2005 Roy Porter Student Essay Prize Competition. This prize will be awarded to the best original, unpublished essay in the social history of medicine submitted to the competition as judged by the SSHM's assessment panel. It is named in honour of the late Professor Roy Porter, a great teacher and a generous scholar.

The competition is open to undergraduate and postgraduate students in full or part-time education. The winner will be awarded £500.00, and his or her entry may also be published in the journal, Social History of Medicine.

The deadline for entries is December 31, 2005.

Further details and entry forms can be downloaded from the SSHM's website: http://www.sshm.org

Alternatively, please contact David Cantor
Division of Cancer Prevention
National Cancer Institute
Executive Plaza North, Suite 2025
6130 Executive Boulevard
Bethesda MD 20892-7309
U.S.A.
Email: competition@sshm.org

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