

House Call

A publication of the Medical Heritage Center at The Ohio State University

FROM THE MHC ARCHIVES:



Vesalius's *De Humani Corporis Fabrica* (1555) is the oldest book at the Medical Heritage Center

THE MHC MISSION:

The Medical Heritage Center preserves, promotes, teaches and celebrates the health care legacy of central Ohio as the essential foundation from which the future of the health sciences is born.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Autumn 2016 | Volume 18 | Issue 1

- 1....Note from the Curator
- 2....Ernest Walter Johnson
- 3....Save the dates!
- 4....Collections Highlight, Material Gifts
- 5....Recent Donations

Note from the Curator

By Judith A. Wiener, MA, MLIS

As the Medical Heritage Center (MHC) finishes another busy fall programming season, I thought it would be very appropriate to acknowledge one of the most important collaborations that we have built since our inception. Without partners, many of our programs would not be as robust or even exist at all. As our collection focus is the entire central Ohio area it is vital that we have links to the community through such affiliations.

Our partnership with the Columbus Medical Association Foundation (CMAF) is one that has existed since our founding in 1997. The Foundation contributed funds to start and furnish the MHC and has maintained this support of MHC programs and publications. An example of one such successful program funded by the CMAF is our scholar-in-residence program. This program supports the efforts of scholars to spend time at the MHC and provides them with research and publication support. George W. Paulson, MD, recently used his time as a MHC Scholar-in-Residence to write a book about the health of the presidents entitled, "The Presidents: Their Health and Their Medical Care." He presented the themes of his book at the MHC 2017 Annual Heritage Lecture in front of a packed and enthusiastic crowd at the CMAF offices. The generosity of the Foundation was instrumental in the research, writing, and publication of the book.



Dr. George Paulson lectures about presidential health to an eager crowd at the CMAF offices.

You can give to the CMAF fund for the MHC by mailing your donation to: Columbus Medical Association Foundation, c/o Weldon Milbourne, 1390 Dublin Rd, Columbus, OH 43215. Please indicate "Medical Heritage Center Fund" in the memo line of your check. To contribute to the Medical Heritage Center through the Columbus Medical Association, please visit their site at <http://www.cmafohio.org/home>

You can obtain copies of Dr. Paulson's new book by contacting Kristin Rodgers at (614)292-9966 or kristin.rodgers@osumc.edu. The cost of the book is \$25 (tax included).



Ernest Walter Johnson (1924 - 2014)

By George Paulson, MD

House Call welcomes contributions about the history of our health sciences. In the past 15 years we have featured articles on Richard Meiling, Robert Zollinger, John Vasko, and the founders of Neurosurgery and Neurology at the OSU College of Medicine including Drs. William Hunt, Dwight Palmer, and Norman Allen. Even if a coach said we “Win with People”, the medical center is not just about personalities, nor is it just the sum of all its parts. Consider writing a House Call article about your own department, about your favorite professor, or why, what, or who you remember. You can even offer a thought you’d like to share before the memory is lost forever.

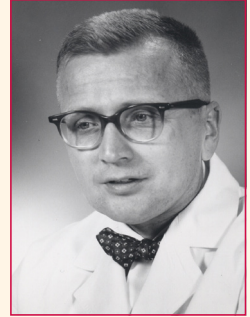


Today we honor Ernest Johnson who served as professor and chair of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) for almost 30 years, and who for 40 years was the primary link of the medical center with medical alumni.

“Ernie” Johnson, though he was third in his high school class of 400, lacked funds for college so he went to

work, and after he was financially able to start at The Ohio State University he was drafted for 42 months, spending 30 months at war in the South Pacific. Along with millions of other servicemen, the G.I. Bill made it possible for Ernie to get more education so he attended the OSU College of Medicine. Interning at Akron General, he entered into practice in Findley, Ohio. A patient with severe paralysis caused him to explore treatments for those with spinal cord injury back at Ohio State where PM&R was in its infancy. He became the third resident to complete the new program. In one reminder of progress in the nation’s health, Children’s Hospital at the time was crowded with children who had infantile paralysis, and many were in iron lungs.

Ernie was awarded an Easter Seals fellowship for advanced training in rehabilitation for those with polio during his residency. He chose to remain in academia, surely a great benefit for the medical center, and by 1963 he was a full professor and had led the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Division out of the Department of Internal Medicine and into independent departmental status at an expanded Dodd Hall. He retired as department chair in 1989 due to age rules, but his influence has continued long after.



Ernie was Associate Dean from 1974 until 2001, the author of 130 articles and books and literally hundreds of editorials for the OSUMC Alumni but also a frequent contributor of editorials in the American Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation where he was Editor in Chief. His interest in words seemed endless and he was particularly persistent in calling his specialty not PM&R but “Physiatry” pronounced Fizz-ee-A’-try. Ernie received the prestigious Henry Betts Award for Rehabilitation and even if he was pleased with the \$50,000 that accompanied the honor, he probably took more pride in twice being elected the president of Miss Wheelchair America, Inc. And of course what he really liked to do was “wheelies”, spinning around and frightening anyone in his path while he demonstrated how an expert could use a wheelchair to climb a curb or step when needed. Perhaps his greatest public accomplishment was to make the campus and by extension all of America more accessible for the handicapped as well as encouraging the hiring of those with disabilities. Whenever your child on a bike bounces off the sidewalk they can now find a ramp down and up, and wheelchairs can be seen at any time on our campus using the curb ramps that also make life easier for parents with strollers. Ernie was a leader in the initiative to keep everyone moving and independent, one way or another.



Ernie's research focused on electromyography and nerve conduction, and he became a national leader with his own textbook "Practical Electromyography," and teaching hundreds at major international conferences. At Ohio State he was not just chosen by students as Professor of the Year in 1968, he also served as the official and then unofficial advisor for Alpha Omega Alpha, the honorary society for medical students. Fellow professors and all administrators learned Ernie was the one most likely to forgive any wayward student and the quickest to encourage any struggling one. He mentored over 250 students and almost as many residents and he was the spirit and cheerleader for rehabilitation and opportunities for the disabled, with an influence far beyond just Ohio as he encouraged the nationwide independent living movement like OSU's two Creative Living locations. Even in the area of pain management his concept of "No pain, No gain" helped set an example for many, and no one in central Ohio did more to help people avoid back surgery. Typically for him, Time magazine quoted Ernie in 14 July 1980, as saying: "Back fusions are like killing a fly on the windowpane with a sledgehammer. The fly is dead but you have also broken the glass." He insisted pain is a privilege, a reminder of being alive.

Ernie was legendary for many things, not least for how he would defend those students in a dispute, and he invariably suggested another chance, and then another one after that. He was not totally flexible in all things, whoever really is? For example he insisted on playing to win in tennis, and told everyone, and more than once, when he did win. Along with Dr. William Havener, Ernie was the most intractable professor, and an absolutely consistent one, in opposing tobacco in all its forms. These two led the campaign to ban indoor smoking on campus at a time when the Ohio State President was a smoker. More than one fellow faculty member had a label thrust onto the lapel of their white coat reminding all of the horrors of smoking.

Ernie's department has continued to thrive, and along with public health and psychiatry remains one of the departments most attuned to the needs of the state. Even the enthusiastic and optimistic Ernie, as he helped the department begin, probably never would have predicted the current extensive teaching in occupational therapy and supporting disciplines or the growth of efforts for modern patient care in areas such as brain and spinal cord injury.

Save the Dates!

The MHC is marking our 20th anniversary in 2017 and we are busy planning a number of events to commemorate this special year! Please mark your calendar for these upcoming events and stay tuned to our website (<http://go.osu.edu/mhc>) and future House Call issues for more information about these lectures and additional programming to be announced.

- The James Warren Lecture in the Medical Humanities: March 2, 2017 from 4-6pm (reception at 4; lecture starts at 4:30) in the MHC. This year's Warren Lecture features an expert medical humanities panel and will highlight the past, present, and future of the medical humanities at OSU.
- The 2017 Friends of Nursing History Lecture: April 20, 2017 from 4-6pm (reception at 4; lecture starts at 4:30) in the MHC. This year's nursing history lecture and will feature Barbara Warren, PhD, RN, who will discuss the history of the Black Nurses Association.

We hope to celebrate with you!

Collection Highlight: Material Gifts

By Kristin Rodgers, MLIS

The MHC has three collection areas: rare books, archives and artifacts. The primary focus of all three collections is central Ohio health sciences history. However, given the nature of rare books and artifacts those two collection areas have a broader scope as well.

The rare books number more than 16,000 volumes, we have more than 4,500 artifacts and 166 archival collections. About ninety-five percent of all collections come from donations. The other five percent is either collected by the curator or purchased.

You might be wondering what we accept, or more importantly, what we do not?

Selection criteria includes:

A. Transfer

Health sciences information is transferred from the Health Sciences Library and OSUL collections when such information is identified as rare. We define rare as not often or easily found. While a specific year does not limit items from being added to the Medical Heritage Center, they are usually pre-1975.

B. Local information

All local health sciences information is sought and added to the collection in order to be the central depository for health sciences information of the central Ohio area.

C. Language

English and European language materials are primarily collected, although we do accept material in other languages, depending on the appropriateness for our collection scope.

D. Geographical Area

Emphasis is placed on central Ohio and Ohio health sciences history materials. United States health sciences history of national significance is another priority collection area. Other materials are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

E. Continuation/Journal

A few select Ohio, OSU health center, and local health community journals are maintained in the collection for historical research purposes. Otherwise, journals are not collected.

F. Artifact

Three-dimensional objects are collected for the purpose of education. Our artifact collection is used to demonstrate the advancement of the health sciences via demonstrations, exhibits, and publication purposes. Specimens of any kind are not accepted. In general, large artifacts are not accepted due to storage limitations. It is also strongly preferred that the artifact donations accepted have a tie to medical practices within central Ohio.

G. NOT collected

- a. Current and non-rare journals and books that are better suited to the more accessible and circulating general collection of the Health Sciences Library.
- b. Subjects generally excluded because they are collected or available at other locations include veterinary medicine, pharmaceutical, pediatrics, psychology, agricultural sciences, biological sciences, audiology, speech and hearing disorders, human ecology, law, biochemistry, bioengineering, social work, and women studies.
- c. Any materials that require a large amount of storage space not available within the MHC.
- d. Medical specimens or hazardous materials.



When in doubt about a particular item you wish to donate, simply contact Collections Curator Kristin Rodgers at 614-292-9966 or Rodgers.102@osu.edu and she will be happy to help determine if your item(s) is right for the Medical Heritage Center's collections. If it is not deemed appropriate, often due to the fact that we already have one or due to space constraints, Rodgers can also suggest alternate repositories that may be interested.

Currently, we are actively seeking white nursing shoes to go along with our expanding collection of nursing uniforms; and archival collections of female and minority physicians.



Monaural Stethoscope, one of the more than 4,500 artifacts

Recent Donations (May 9 – September 30, 2016)

The staff of the Medical Heritage Center would like to acknowledge and thank Drs. George and Ruth Paulson for their generous donation to provide long-term publication support for the House Call newsletter.

Material

Mrs. Molly Brownlee (books) • Dr. John and Mrs. Marjorie Burnham (books and journals) • Mrs. Phyllis Byard (foot pedal for dental pump) • Dr. Kathryn Clausen (her archival collection) • Dr. Daniel Clinchot (books) • Ms. Ruth Bope Dangel (additions to her archival collection) • Drs. Steven and Patricia Gabbe (book) • Dr. James Hamilton (additions to his archival collection) • Mrs. Priscilla Kilman (in memory of Dr. James W. Kilman: two stained glass artworks) • Dr. Bruce Meyer (book) • Dr. Richard Nuenke (comparison spectroscope) • Mrs. Amy Johnson Scott (in memory of Ernest W. Johnson, MD: books, journals and archival materials) • Dr. Marvin Shie (books) • Ms. Cheryl Southward: in memory of Lynette Brehl (books) • Ms. Janice Winkler (in memory of Evelyn A. Jones: White Cross Hospital School of Nursing memorabilia)

Financial

Dr. Susan Benes • Dr. Kathryn Clausen • Dr. Evan W. Dixon • Dr. Richard and Mrs. Leonora Hill • Mr. Michael and Mrs. Judith Krasnoff • Dr. George Lewandowski • Dr. Charles Meckstroth • Dr. Krzysztof Mrozek • Drs. George and Ruth Paulson (in memory of Dr. Robert Wyatt and Dr. Lowell Williams) • Mr. Robert F. Seal • Mr. Laurence and Dr. Linda Stone (in honor of Judith Wiener and Kristin Rodgers) • Mr. Michael and Mrs. Judith Wiener

For information on how to make a material or financial donation to the MHC, please contact Judith Wiener at judith.wiener@osumc.edu or visit our website at go.osu.edu/mhc

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Ernest Johnson's
Medical School Class

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