

House Call

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



This prescription label cabinet would have been found in pharmacies circa 1900. Some of the labels include cream of tartar, oil of wintergreen and sugar of lead.

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:

- Winter 2024 | Volume 24 | Issue 1
- 1...Notes from the Curator
 - 2...Saving Babies: The Moms2B Story
 - 3... Collection Highlight, Spring 2024 Programming
 - 4...Recent Donations

Notes from the Curator

By Judith A. Wiener, MA, MLIS

We had a wonderful start to our programming season in the fall for the 2023/2024 academic year and the semester was filled with a myriad of activity. We once again hosted alumni back to campus during The Ohio State University alumni weekend in October with an open house for the College of Medicine and a historical nursing uniform display at the College of Nursing. We celebrated the work of three outstanding George W. Paulson scholars-in-residence – E. Christopher Ellison, MD; Patricia Temple Gabbe, MD; and Douglas Rund, MD – as they published the books that they worked on while in residency at the Medical Heritage Center (MHC), using our historical collections. Information about purchasing these publications can be found on the Scholar-in-Residence Publications [order form](#) and Dr. Gabbe will share more about her work in this issue's featured article section.

In November, we partnered with The Ohio State Department of History again to co-host the John C. Burnham Lecture. This year's lecturer was Johanna Schoen, PhD, from Rutgers University, and she presented her research on the topic of the establishment of neonatal intensive care units and the resulting debates in bioethics. If you missed the lecture, you can access the recording on the [HSL website](#).

Check out the calendar events section of this House Call issue to see the exciting lectures and events we have planned for the new year! Among them is a national travelling exhibit about the history of mental health care from the National Library of Medicine (NLM) that will make a stop at the MHC in the spring. Additionally, we look forward to welcoming a new Paulson Scholar-in-Residence and completing some 5th floor renovations that will allow us to host our lectures in the Health Sciences Library once again. To stay updated on all things happening at the MHC throughout the year, please follow us on social media!



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Saving Babies: The Moms2B Story

Author: Dr. Patricia Gabbe

Destiny Laney with her daughter
Katara on the cover of the book.

Saving Babies: The Moms2B Story, made possible by the support from the Medical Heritage Center's George W. Paulson Scholar-in-Residence program, tells the history of how a research grant from The Ohio State University in 2009 helped create Moms2B: a program to tackle the crisis in Black American infant deaths. Beginning in the predominantly Black American Weinland Park neighborhood near the Ohio State campus, the book describes how Moms2B evolved from the first two pregnant women coming down the steps of a small Black American Church.

As more pregnant women came to Moms2B meetings and told us their stories, they opened our eyes to the social determinants of health. Families shared how they lived in poverty, in neighborhoods with high crime rates, how they struggled to get groceries home on a bus with children in tow, and how it felt to come home and find their belongings on the front porch with an eviction notice.

Each story we heard from parents in the program told us that we needed to change from a structured research study to a more flexible program, working with community partners to create a holistic approach to relieve the stress of their living conditions. We partnered with Mid-Ohio Food Collective to bring healthy food to our sessions, and Yellow Cabs provided transportation as a last resort for moms.

Columbus Public Health taught on safe sleep training and smoke-free environments. Mount Carmel Health opened a site and brought home-visiting nurses to sessions. With a devoted team of Ohio State nurses, dietitians, social workers, child development specialists, navigators and community health workers we reached over 4,000 mothers and reduced not only infant deaths, but the disparities in those deaths as well.

In 2021, our Ohio State colleagues analyzed a group of 665 Moms2B participants and found that when compared to a matched control group, attending Moms2B resulted in a 55% reduction in infant deaths and fewer preterm and low birth weight infants.

A comparison of the investment in the program compared to the estimated hospital costs of preventing preterm births found Moms2B to be cost-effective. Of preventing preterm births found Moms2B to be cost-effective.

Five years after attending Moms2B, participants were interviewed and asked what they remember and learned from the program. One quote from the book:

"Beyond the instant comfort I felt with the program, I was able to build long-lasting and powerful relationships. I have made lots of friends in similar situations. I have received information from nutrition specialists, doctors, nurses, and workers in social agencies. They supported me through food recalls, home visits and general care."

Each of the 14 chapters ends with lessons learned, for example:

- Moms2B builds protective factors for pregnant women to buffer the effects of racism and environmental risks over their lifetime to improve maternal and infant health and, with partners, end the Black-white disparities in infant mortality.
- To close the Black-white disparity gap we must assure all pregnant and parenting women have stable, safe and subsidized housing.
- Fathers need and deserve to feel valued and involved to promote better pregnancy outcomes and to solve the Black-white disparities in infant mortality.
- Team members are the key to success. Families come and return because they know they will be warmly welcomed, respected and their voices will be heard.

Proceeds from the sale of *Saving Babies: The Moms2B Story* support the Medical Heritage Center and the Moms2B program. You can buy the book from Kristin Rodgers, Kristin.Rodgers@osumc.edu, or at the Gramercy Bookstore in Bexley on the Local Author's shelf, or on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com).



Collection Highlight: Mystery Item Identified

By Kristin Rodgers, MLIS

While adding all 5,000+ MHC artifacts into our collections management software several years ago, two mystery items were discovered. Using the power of crowdsourcing via the Health Sciences Library's social medial channels in 2023, we were able to identify the mystery items.

One of these items was discovered to be a sand tee mold. Typically, a golfer would scoop up damp sand inside the mold, place the mold on the ground, then push the plunger button on top of the mold as it was raised up. This would leave a nicely formed "sand tee" on the ground. The golfer would place the ball atop the sand to begin a new hole. This tee, however, includes a knurled dial. Depending on which way the knurled dial is turned, the plunger inside the mold can be raised or lowered, which in turn allows the golfer to make a higher or shorter sand tee – or something in between.

This tee was brought to market by W.K. Hartley in February 1914 and covered under a 1913 British registered design. The side of this tee is stamped "Patent 626,123-13."

Learning the identity of this item has now unlocked a mystery of how it ended up in our collections. It is believed to be acquired from COSI in 1999 when it donated its medical past exhibit to the MHC. COSI may have believed it to be a smoking-related device as we did originally and used it to complete their doctor's office setup.



MHC "mystery object" identified as a golf sand tee mold

Spring 2024 Programming

All programming is free and open to the public.

4th Annual James R. Wright, Jr. MD, PhD Lecture

John Harley Warner, PhD from Yale University will present a hybrid lecture held on April 4, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. titled, "Bedside Stories: The Transformation of the Hospital Patient Chart and the Grounding of Modern Medicine."

Get additional lecture details and register on the [HSL website](#).

Care and Custody: Past Responses to Mental Health Traveling Exhibit

This exhibit will be on display at the Medical Heritage Center from April 8 through May 18, 2024 during library hours (see: hsl.osu.edu). The exhibit examines how the country has moved away from custodial forms of treatment.

More exhibit details can be found on the [NLM website](#).

2024 Friends of Nursing History Lecture

Join us for our annual nursing history lecture on May 2, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. with a 4 p.m. reception featuring Mary McKelvey, PhD, RN and Mary Ann Burnam, PhD for their lecture, "Racism: Its Continuing Presence in American Nursing."

Registration and additional information will be announced on the [HSL website](#).



Recent Donations (August 1 – November 30, 2023)

Material

Robert Atwell (audio films) • Robert Buerki (books) • Donald A. Cramp, Sr. (his archival collection) • Jerome Dare: in honor of Johannes O. Olsen (book) • Diane De Luco (additions to the OHSLA records) • Debbie Freece (nursing articles and books) • Karen Lane (newspaper clipping) • Ruskin Lawyer, Jr.: in memory of Ruskin Lawyer, Sr. (medical instruments and pharmaceutical artifacts of Lawyer, Sr.) • Jay and Roberta Martin (books and medical instruments) • Robert Newcomb (his archival collection) • The Ohio State University East Asian Studies Center (herbs) • Steven Passoa (article) • Nancy Rini (books) • Douglas Rund (books) • Christopher Lee Slocum (doctor's bag with contents) • Joel M. Weaver: in memory of Robert M. Zollinger (book)

Financial

Clayton and Lisa Elliott • Eric and Debbie Freece • Farrell Hamill • John and Anne Hohmann • Karen Lane: in honor of Kristin Rodgers • Krzysztof Mrozek • James Nichols: in memory of Ben and Florence Nichols • Ruth Paulson • Effie Spillman • Michael and Judith Wiener

For information on how to make a material or financial donation to the MHC, please contact [the MHC](mailto:mhcmail@osumc.edu) at mhcmail@osumc.edu or visit the [MHC website](https://go.osu.edu/mhc).

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Dr. Patricia T. Gabbe speaks about her Moms2B book at the MHC Paulson Scholars-in-Residence program reception in October, 2023.