Meet Dr. Ellen S. More, Medical History Archivist

Ellen S. More is the Lamar Soutter Library’s first head of the Office of Medical History and Archives. This is a new position within the library funded by the medical school administration designed to record and preserve the history of the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Her interest in the history of the American medical profession—particularly the role of women in the profession, and the history of empathy in the doctor-patient relationship—was an evolutionary departure from her original historical expertise.

Dr. More received her PhD in seventeenth-century English history from the University of Rochester in 1980. While she was employed by the History department, she was asked to teach a course on the History of the American Medical Profession, for the broadening of Pre-med students’ understanding of the humanities.

She recalls, “As I became more involved in this course, many students asked me about the role of women in the medical profession. Using the archives of the Edward G. Miner Medical Library, I was able to use the papers of women physicians of Rochester, New York from the 1870s onward.” The wealth of information that Dr. More garnered from the archives helped her to change her focus of interest in history, and led to her writing the Balance/Women Physicians and the Profession of Medicine, 1855-1895 (Harvard University Press 1999).

In this book, Dr. More focuses on the values and choices that women physicians made from the nineteenth century forward, that helped to mold both their character and careers. She states, “I found metaphors involving the concept of balance running through their writings.” These metaphors concern the balance of males to females in the health profession; the balance in a layperson’s life to allow metaphors involving the concept of balance running through their writings. These metaphors concern the balance of males to females in the health profession; the balance in a layperson’s life to allow empathy in the doctor-patient relationship—was an evolutionary departure from her original historical expertise.

Dr. More notes that a book is a traveling exhibit, and is on display at the Lamar Soutter Library from May 5 to June 16, 2006. An outgrowth of this is a scholarly symposium, entitled “Empathy” Enter the Medical Profession, at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, in particular. There are two related strategies that I am hoping to carry to accomplish this. I want to re-ignite appreciative of the value of preservation of historical records by the members of the UMass community. To do that, I hope to meet with the different departments and to ultimately host History of Medicine events.

The Lamar Soutter Library invites you to experience CHANGING THE FACE OF MEDICINE: CELEBRATING AMERICA’S WOMEN PHYSICIANS an exhibit that celebrates the lives and achievements of women in medicine since they first gained admission to American medical schools 150 years ago.

Join us for a variety of events: tours, speakers, a play, book signings, films, displays and more...

The Lamar Soutter Library at the University of Massachusetts Medical School is honored to be one of only three libraries in New England to host this interactive exhibit, based on a larger exhibit displayed at the National Library of Medicine from 2003-2005.

Free and open to the public during library hours from May 5 through June 15, 2006.

Complete exhibit and event details at http://library.umassmed.edu/changingthefaceofmedicine/

“Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America’s Women Physicians” was developed by the Exhibition Program of the History of Medicine Division of the National Library of Medicine in collaboration with the American Library Association Public Programs Office. The traveling exhibition has been made possible by the National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health Office of Research on Women’s Health. The American Medical Women’s Association provided additional support.
Evaluating Evidence Practice Project Culminated

Researchers at the Lamar Soutter Library have compiled the Evidence-Based Practice Project, which addressed the need for access to quality evidence-based public health information. The project is sponsored by Dr. Elaine R. Martin, Founding Dean, Dr. Alexander Simpson, Project Coordinator, and Dr. Mary E. Hartwell, Director. Members of the team are: Dr. Nancy La Pelle; and Dr. Shanine Wilkinson.

The need for improved access to quality public health information has been recognized by researchers, policy makers, and information managers. The Evidence-Based Practice Project (EBPP) for clinical medicine involves using the best evidence to develop public health policies and interventions for public health workforce.

In the last decade numerous clinical EBM resources have been developed to assist clinical practitioners find the best evidence for the medical care of individual patients, but few resources are available for population-based public health practice. To explore and address this gap, the project team examined and classified the features of existing clinical EBM resources in order to improve the health of the public. In this paper, the authors will examine the nature and variety of evidence-based public health resources and discuss outcomes from the self-assessment of these resources.

The project team sought to develop a potential model that could effectively address the information needs of public health professionals. A major challenge to developing an information system targeted to provide evidence-based information to the public health workforce is the great breadth of the public health workforce, which may be more diverse than any other group of health professionals. The public health workforce may be more diverse than any other group of health professionals.

WebCT & PDAs - New Technologies at LSL

In 2005, UMass Medical School embarked on a plan to redesign the Lamar Soutter Library and created an information literacy class to engage the learning experience of all students. The library’s role in education is a learning management tool that allows communication of information about the resources of their courses—as well as discussions and chats—available online. The Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS) was the first school to implement this program over the last year and is planning training and implementation. The program is becoming third-year SOM students. In addition to training and general PDAs, the library has been asked to set up the WebCT in the Library that students and faculty can use to quickly download course work, what barriers they face, and what resources are needed to access the information systems model for access to EBPH information. The project team conducted a qualitative study to determine the information needs of the public health workforce. The research team identified the knowledge domains of public health, which consist of 155 subdomains of public health. The research team identified the unique needs of public health professionals working in the areas of communicable disease control of well-known diseases and evidence-based guidelines needed by practitioners to carry up-to-date drug and diagnostic information.

WebCT designers.

As the Lamar Soutter Library seeks to improve access to quality evidence-based public health information, we want to provide users with a PDA device as part of their clinical training.

With the first year of the PDA require-ments complete, we are reviewing the success of the program over the last year and are planning training and implementation. This paper describes the pilot project that was set up the WebCT in the Library that students and faculty can use to quickly download course work, what barriers they face, and what resources are needed to access the information systems model for access to EBPH information. The project team conducted a qualitative study to determine the information needs of the public health workforce. The research team identified the knowledge domains of public health, which consist of 155 subdomains of public health. The research team identified the unique needs of public health professionals working in the areas of communicable disease control of well-known diseases and evidence-based guidelines needed by practitioners to carry up-to-date drug and diagnostic information.

According to the study, the public health workforce faces several barriers and limitations to accessing quality information for public health practices. These include the following:

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  - Barriers to accessing information, such as the lack of access to electronic databases and having limited access to information systems model for access to EBPH information. The project team conducted a qualitative study to determine the information needs of the public health workforce. The research team identified the knowledge domains of public health, which consist of 155 subdomains of public health. The research team identified the unique needs of public health professionals working in the areas of communicable disease control of well-known diseases and evidence-based guidelines needed by practitioners to carry up-to-date drug and diagnostic information.

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In this book, Dr. More focuses on the values and choices that women physicians made from the nineteenth century forward, that helped to mold both their character and careers. She states, “I found metaphors involving the concept of balance running through their writings.” These metaphors concern the balance of males to females in the health profession; the balance in a physician’s life to his or her personal life.

The book’s first chapter profiles Sarah Adamsson Dolley, the third woman in the United States to graduate from a medical school. Dr. More proceeds to tell the story of women physicians from the nineteenth century to the last decade of the twentieth.

Two noteworthy collaborative ventures of Dr. More’s have involved work on a book and an exhibit. With Maureen Milligan, she served as co-editor of the book The Empathic Practitioner: Empathy, Gender and Practice (Rutgers University Press). Dr. More was the first section, entitled “Empathy” in the Empathy, Gender, and Practice project. As curator of the National Medical Library exhibit Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America’s Women Physicians, her efforts focused on becoming one of only three libraries in New England to host this exhibit.

A Legacy of Service and Learning

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LIBRARY HOURS
Monday - Thursday
7:30 am - 11:00 pm
Friday
7:30 am - 9:00 pm
Saturday
10:00 am - 9:00 pm
Sunday
10:00 am - 11:00 pm

Hours are subject to change due to exams, holidays, and weather conditions. Please call 508-856-2511 for current library hours.

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508-856-6099
Reference Desk
508-856-6557
Document Delivery
508-856-2495
Interlibrary Borrowing
508-856-2080
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