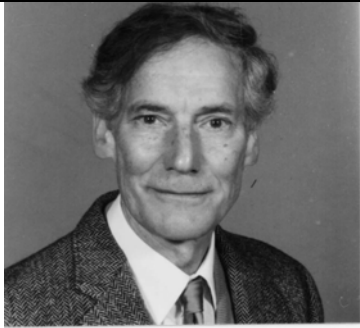




THE HISTORY OF PHYSIOLOGY GROUP NEWSLETTER

Vol. 17, Number 1

Mar/Apr 2006



HISTORY OF PHYSIOLOGY GROUP IS SADDENED BY THE DEATH OF HENRY BROWN

On September 15, 2005, Henry Brown M.D., former Chair of the History Group, died from complications associated with the replacement of an aortic valve. He was born in 1920 and received a B.S. degree from the University of Michigan and a M.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania before serving as a Naval Medical Officer on the USS Independence during World War II. After the war, he was in general practice at Erie, PA before going to Cambridge, England to study biochemistry in the renowned laboratory of Dr. Sanger. Subsequently, he began a residency in surgery at the University of Wisconsin, was called back into military service during the Korean War, returned to Wisconsin to complete his residency, and then accepted a position with the fifth Harvard University Service at City Hospital in Boston. Later he moved to the New England Deaconess Hospital, specialized in hand surgery, became Chief of Hand Surgery at the Manchester VA hospital, and participated in the teaching of anatomy and surgery to medical students and residents at Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Brown interests in research pertained to the biochemistry of wound healing and to the anatomy and functions of the cranial nerves, especially the 11th. He was founding member of the Wound Healing Society and up to his death, was an active member of the Laboratory of Wound Repair and Gene Transfer at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. He joined the American Physiological Society in 1968 and served as the Chair of the History of Physiology from 1999 to 2005 and is credited with making the Group become more focused on "Living History" matters. He will be remembered for having a poster presentation at nearly every meeting, a kind and gentle demeanor, encyclopedic command of the history of medicine and science, and for his realistic portrayal of Dr. William Howell in the centennial production of the history of the American Journal of Physiology. He was a dear friend to all who knew him and he will be missed.

THE LUNCHEON-BUSINESS MEETING OF THE HISTORY OF PHYSIOLOGY GROUP AND "RIGHT STUFF, WRONG SEX" LECTURE BY KATHY RYAN

The **History of Physiology Group Business meeting will be held from 12:01 to 2:00 on Sunday, April 2nd in Pacific I of the San Francisco Marriot** located on the 4th floor

of the building with the Business Meeting starting at 12:20. The buffet will be available near APS Headquarters and it should be brought to Pacific I for consumption, preferably before the session starts. For food planning purposes, individuals who plan to use the buffet should contact Charles Tipton on or before March 17th at tipton@email.arizona.edu.

Immediately after the business meeting, Dr. Kathy Ryan will present a History of Physiology Lecture entitled RIGHT STUFF, WRONG SEX. THE LOVELACE WOMAN IN SPACE PROGRAM (1960-1962) and will answer questions after the presentation.

In 1959, Brig. General Donald Flickinger and Dr. W. Randolph Lovelace II suggested that, from a scientific standpoint, it would be more practical from an engineering standpoint to send women rather than men into space due to their lower body weights and oxygen requirements. When the Air Force decided not to pursue this project, Dr. Lovelace assumed leadership of the Woman in Space Program and began medical and physiological testing of a series of accomplished women aviators at the Lovelace Medical Clinic in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1960. The tests that these women underwent were identical to those used to test the original Mercury astronauts, with the addition of gynecological examinations. Thirteen of the 19 women tested passed these strenuous physiological exams (for comparison, 18 of the 32 males tested passed); a subset of these pilots was further tested on a series of psychological exams that were similar to or, in some instances, more demanding than those given to male Mercury candidates. Despite these results, further testing was halted and the Woman in Space Program was disbanded in 1962. No American woman piloted a spacecraft until Eileen Collins in 1995.

Although the Woman in Space Program received a great deal of publicity at the time, the story of these women was somewhat lost until they were reunited at the 1999 launch of the shuttle Columbia, commanded by COL Eileen Collins. Subsequently, their story has been extensively documented in 3 recent books:

Ackmann M. *The Mercury 13: The True Story of Thirteen Women and the Dream of Space Flight*. New York: Random House, 2003.

Nolen S. *Promised the Moon: The Untold Story of the First Women in the Space Race*. New York: Four Walls Eight Windows Press, 2003.

Weitekamp MA. *Right Stuff, Wrong Sex: America's First Woman in Space Program*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005.

THE FEATURED TOPIC SPEAKER TO DISCUSS “THE OBESITY EPIDEMIC: AN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE”



The History of Physiology featured talk this year will be presented by Dr. George Bray, who is the Boyd Professor at the Pennington Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. **Dr. Bray’s presentation will be given on Tuesday, April 4th from 3:15 to 5:15 in room 252/260 in the Convention Center.**

Dr Bray has been interested in the history of obesity research since he was editor of Obesity Research from 1993 to 1997. During the time he wrote a series of 32 commentaries on what he viewed to be classics in obesity research. This material and his edited version of the commentaries will appear later this year as a book entitled “The Battle of the Bulge: a History of Obesity Research”.

All around us are reports of the obesity epidemic. To many people it seems like this epidemic has burst on the scene only in the last 20 years. However, there is a long history of obesity, and this symposium will try to put some aspects of this problem into current perspective. For example, the body mass index can be traced to Quetelet in 1835, the first popular low carbohydrate diet book to Banting in 1863. In this symposium, these events and others in this epidemic will be put into perspective for the larger audience of interested scientists. The first speaker, **Dr. George Bray**, will develop the historical picture of obesity and show that it is not a new problem. The introduction of the Quetelet Index, now called the body mass index, was in 1835 and its gradual replacement of the life insurance table will be traced. The importance of central adiposity will be traced to its roots, along with the concept of “energy balance”. The second presentation will be by a historian, **Kenneth Albala** from University of the Pacific, who will examine the historical patterns of changing food intake and how this has impacted the positive energy balance that everyone knows is related to obesity. The third speaker will be **Kenneth Carpenter** from University of California, Berkeley, who will trace the history of the popular diet from Banting forward. The final presentation by **Eric Colman** from the FDA will examine the history of medications for treatment for obesity. Before the Pure Food and Drug Laws were passed, the consumer seeking treatment for obesity was subject to a wide variety of treatments including vinegar, soap, and injections of organ extracts. The development of current standards has hit a number of bumps along the way.

PROGRESS ON THE LIVING HISTORY PROJECT

In 1995 the APS council accepted the proposal from the History of Physiology Group to initiate an Eminent Physiologist Program which identified senior members of the Society (70 years or older) who had made significant contributions to the discipline and profession of physiology. Using nominations from individual members or from Sections, a selection committee consisting of Charles Tipton (Chair), Beverly Bishop, Vernon Bishop, Henry Brown, Michael Jennings, and Suzanne Schneider recommended to the Council that Maurice

Burg, Carl Gans, Gabor Kaley, and Bodil Schmidt-Nielson be designated as Eminent Physiologists. Inherent with their selection were videotaped interviews and a biographical profile that would be published in ADVANCES IN PHYSIOLOGY EDUCATION for archival purposes. After accepting the recommendation and implementing the project, the Council decided that the Society would best be served by renaming the project as the Living History Project and not designating members as Eminent Physiologists. Moreover, upon completion of the videotaping of the four members, the Council felt they should re-evaluate the intent, scope, and projected costs of the program before they sought nominations of deserving members. According to Martin Frank, that evaluation should be completed by the summer of 2006.

PROGRAM PROPOSED FOR EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY 2007

For the 2007 Experimental Biology Meeting in Washington D.C., the History Group Program Committee has selected a symposium proposal submitted by Ronaldo Ferraris, the GI and Liver Section Programming Chair. The symposium will trace the historical development of pancreatic physiology and show how it has led to current paradigms of function and can predict future areas where progress will lead to a better understanding of this gland. This symposium is being organized by Dr. John Williams and Joel Adelson.

CALL FOR PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS FOR EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY 2008 AND THEREAFTER

It is time to plan for future programs by the History of Physiology Group and our options are to sponsor a two hour symposium with three or possibly four speakers (like this year), to have a featured topic presentation or lecture with no more than two speakers, or we can couple a featured topic presentation with selected free communications on a chosen subject. Your suggestions should be faxed or e-mailed (see last page) to a member of the Program Committee.

KNOW AND CONTACT YOUR LEADERS IN THE HISTORY OF PHYSIOLOGY GROUP

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