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# Preface, Table of Contents & Participant List

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# The Proceedings of the 18th Annual History of Medicine Days Conference 2009

The Proceedings of the 18th Annual History  
of Medicine Days Conference 2009:  
The University of Calgary Faculty of Medicine,  
Alberta, Canada

Edited by

Lisa Peterman, Kerry Sun and Frank W. Stahnisch

**CAMBRIDGE**  
**SCHOLARS**  
P U B L I S H I N G



The Proceedings of the 18th Annual History of Medicine Days Conference 2009:  
The University of Calgary Faculty of Medicine, Alberta, Canada,  
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# LIST OF ALL PRESENTERS AND THEIR ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

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Bradley Ball.....	Dalhousie University
Brydon Blacklaws.....	Dalhousie University
Lesley Bolton.....	University of Calgary
Valerie Brulé .....	University of Calgary
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Chantelle Champagne .....	University of Alberta
Stephen Choy.....	University of Western Ontario
Rebecca Coish .....	University of Manitoba
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Caitlin Symonette.....	University of Western Ontario
Gordon Tsang .....	University of Western Ontario
Stefanie van der Gracht .....	University of Calgary
Julian Vanderpol .....	University of Alberta
Sebastian Vuong .....	Dalhousie University
Kat Williams.....	McGill University
Dr. Nicole Wilson .....	University of Calgary
Jennifer Zymantas.....	Lakehead University

## PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It has been almost twenty years since Dr Peter Cruse inaugurated the Calgary History of Medicine Days as a local platform at which students could present their research projects in the history of medicine at the University of Calgary. In the beginning, it was just one day that marked the end of the term and also the local history of medicine course, about which he wrote:

[...] part of the popularity may be linked to the course's noncredit status. This, he said, means students take it 'because they get excited about the history of their profession and with the idea that if they look to the past they can get an idea of how to conduct their own affairs.' He stresses that the course also has a practical side because it teaches students how to develop the art of speaking in public and how to prepare slides for a presentation – skills that receive little development in other courses.<sup>1</sup>

Although the Calgary "History of Medicine and Health Care" course has somewhat changed its nature since the historical development started by Peter Cruse, the students continue to be committed to this experience, which offers them insights from various faculty members into their specific areas of interest (etc. history of pathology, complementary and alternative medicine, the history of medical specialization and education, to name just a few). Students not only get a hands-on exposure to historical sources and artefacts, but they are paired with supportive faculty preceptors and pursue smaller research projects on their own with supervisory input from faculty members in the Medical School as well as from Main Campus. This means that the culture around History of Medicine and Health Care has developed into a truly inter-professional and intergenerational form of education, research and exchange. The intriguing character of the field is likewise reflected in the research exchanges during the Calgary History of Medicine Days, which have now grown into the only singular national event at which both undergraduate, early graduate and postgraduate students in the History of Medicine can

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<sup>1</sup> Peter Cruse, "University of Calgary students keen to revisit medical history," *Canadian Medical Association Journal* 156 (1997), p. 628. The article was written by Peter Cruse in the third person singular, before it was submitted to CMAJ.

meet and exchange their ideas and research with likeminded peers as well as many faculty members and colleagues from Calgary, Alberta and Canada. Since the last two years, there have also been quite a number of international presenters and contributors, who made their way to this major event in history of medicine at the University of Calgary.

As such, the development of the Calgary History of Medicine and Health Care Program and the increase in the activities around the annual History of Medicine Days at the University of Calgary are very much in line with the recent discussion by professional medical historians from numerous programs in North America. This was, for example, well reflected at the 2010 Conference of the American Association for the History of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic, in Rochester, MN (April 29 – May 2) this year. With its inter-professional and interdisciplinary outlook, the Calgary program further progresses in concurrence with the values promoted by the Association of American Medical Colleges. They can be found, in an intriguing article by the distinguished cardiologist and bioethicist Erich H. Loewy from UC Davis:

The author in this article advocates the teaching of the history of medicine to medical students throughout their undergraduate medical education. The thesis is that teaching the history of medicine enhances the development of the student into a physician and supports his technical training. History acts as a unifying force connecting a variety of scientific and humanistic disciplines and, by providing a historical perspective, serves to promote the student as a professional.<sup>2</sup>

This encompassing approach to the History of Medicine is now further represented in the annual Proceedings Volumes, which combine the submitted and accepted papers from medical history, health care, history and other interested undergraduate and graduate students from across Canada. The individual categories outlined in the Table of Contents assemble the submitted papers on general topics from the history of medicine and health care, as they were arranged in the program of the 18<sup>th</sup> annual History of Medicine Days. Subjects range from ancient history of medicine to modern developments and touch on personal stories of doctors, attitudes to disease, economics of medicine, health policy and the history of public health and eugenics. With Frank W. Stahnisch having assumed the role of the Chair of the Calgary History of Medicine and Health Care Program together with the Alberta Medical

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<sup>2</sup> Erich H. Loewy, "Teaching the History of Medicine to Medical Students," *Journal of Medical Education* 60 (1985), pp. 692-695; esp. 692.

Foundation/Hannah Professorship in the History of Medicine and Health Care in 2008, the Proceedings Volumes have now been rearranged and prepared in a more novel manner. Of all the submitted conference papers, a maximum of the twenty best papers will be considered for inclusion and publication in the conference proceedings. The review process and the selection of high quality papers is made by a local committee, which further receives input from the Board of Advisors to the volume editors as well as from external historians of medicine, whose expertise is sought on a case- and experience-oriented level. The volume editors for the Proceedings of the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual History of Medicine Days Conference are pleased with the final thirteen papers selected for publication which represents the high standard of all the research projects presented at the Calgary conference. Among these is also one international paper from Niklas Ingold, a PhD student in History of Science at the University of Zurich in Switzerland. We are very grateful that this top quality article could be included in this volume as well.<sup>3</sup>

Furthermore, with the publication of this volume, the editors will actively seek to include a paper or even the manuscript from the respective keynote speakers, so as to adequately represent his or her featured lecture to the annual History of Medicine Days conference. In 2009, the invited keynote lecture was given as a co-sponsored event together with the Darwin Lecture Series at the University of Calgary and the Calgary History of Medicine Society. The distinguished Professor of Biology and Chair of the History of Biology Program, Dr. Garland E. Allen, from Washington University in St. Louis (United States) could be won. His topic “Evolution, Genetics and Eugenics: The Misuse of Biological Theory, 1900-1945. Lessons from the Past”, was largely based on an earlier article that was published in the scholarly journal *Endeavour* as: “Genetics, Eugenics and the Medicalization of Social Behaviour: Lessons from the Past,” *Endeavour* 23 (1999), pp. 10-19. The proceedings editors wish to express their sincere thanks to Dr. Allen, the editors-in-chief of *Endeavour*, Drs. Christopher M. Tancock and John Waller, as well as the publisher Elsevier Ltd. in Oxford, England. They have all given us their permission and the rights to reuse this article in our Proceedings Volume, which thus can reflect the main argument and historical content of the author’s

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<sup>3</sup> All of the contributions in these proceedings, for which the volume editors have received explicit *Copyright Transfer Forms* and *Author Consent Forms*, will also be made available online through the University of Calgary Internet Repository *dSpace*: History of Medicine Days Community Homepage:  
<https://dspace.ucalgary.ca/handle/1880/47439>.



keynote address as it was held on Friday, March-6 2009 in the Libin Theatre of the University of Calgary Medical Faculty.

The abstracts from all other presenters at the conference are included in a special Appendix, so as to comprehensively document the activities, discussions, oral and poster presentations at the Calgary History of Medicine Days in the current conference proceedings. This year, 59 students from fifteen universities – Dalhousie University, Lakehead University, Memorial University of Newfoundland & Labrador, Northern Ontario School of Medicine, Queen's University, McGill University, University of Alberta, University of British Columbia, University of Calgary, University of Guelph, University of Manitoba, University of Saskatchewan, University of Toronto, University of Western Ontario, and the University of Zurich – gave oral or poster presentations during the two-day event held on March 6-7, 2009. Research enthusiasm, oratory and A/V competence of the speakers were of a very high quality. The conference audience was not only magnificently entertained, but the local and national delegates contributed to a very stimulating and engaging discussion throughout the whole event. The proceedings editors wish to thank all participants for their active contributions and support, which helped to make this academic conference very successful. Both the publication of the Proceedings Volumes and the organization of the Calgary History of Medicine Days would not have been possible without the substantial financial support from Associated Medical Services and the Alberta Medical Foundation. In addition, we wish to thank Vitaid Ltd. for a donation to the conference, the Calgary Darwin Lecture Series, the Philosophy and the History Department, the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Calgary for their continued support. We also extend our warm thanks to Jennifer Lewis for her secretarial support during the first stages of preparing this manuscript, when submissions arrived in 2009, as well as to Beth Cusitar for her important additional editorial help before the manuscript was finalized.

Frank W. Stahnisch

Lisa Petermann

Kerry Sun

(University of Calgary,  
December 10, 2010)