



WPA Milk Truckers
poster, Cleveland, c.1940

*Works Progress
Administration Federal
Art Project commissioned
a variety of health
related posters, like this
one urging milk truck
drivers to report cases of
communicable disease.*



Trends and Realities from Christopher Dolwick



FROM THE
CLEVELAND HEALTH
SCIENCES LIBRARY

*Christopher
Dolwick,
M.A.*

To kick-off this 2016–2017 academic year, the Cleveland Medical Library Association will begin offering a new Student Membership for undergraduate students at universities in and around Cleveland, geared towards (but not limited to) students enrolled in premedical programs or who identify as “premedical.” For an annual fee of only \$20, student members of the CMLA will be eligible to attend: twenty journal club sessions (ten per semester), offering practical experience with critical evaluation of medical literature; and four medical school application workshops (two per semester), providing small group assistance with various aspects of the application process.

During the 2015–2016 academic year, the CMLA and CWRU’s premedical chapter of Phi Delta Epsilon International Medical Fraternity (OH Delta) formed a close working relationship, co-sponsoring and promoting each other’s lectures and instituting a CMLA/PhiDE Journal Club, led by members of the CMLA Board of Trustees, which met several times throughout the year. These collaborative efforts proved so successful that the CMLA Board recently decided to establish a Student Membership to provide additional services and activities for broader undergraduate mentorship. Although currently designed to enhance the premedical student experience, plans are in the works to develop or adapt services to attract students in other pre-health programs, such as pre-dentistry, undergraduate nursing, and pre-physician assistantship. While open to all undergraduates in the Cleveland area, advertising efforts will begin at CWRU and expand to other universities through social media (with assistance from PhiDE).

Journal club sessions available to student members of the CMLA will be led by Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine students employed by the Cleveland Health Sciences Library, and will be held Saturday mornings in the Herrick Room of the Allen Memorial Medical Library. Workshops focusing on the medical school application process (selecting schools, writing personal statements, interviewing, etc.) will be run by staff of the CHSL, faculty of CWRU, and/or members of the CMLA Board, and will be held on either weekday evenings or Saturdays in Allen Memorial.

Ultimately, this Student Membership and its associated programming are intended to promote the CMLA’s burgeoning commitment to mentorship, as well as increase public awareness of the CMLA and its associated institutions: CHSL and the Dittrick Medical History Center. With Allen Memorial becoming a locus for events—lectures, workshops, receptions—planned *for* and *by* undergraduate pre-health organizations, it seems only natural that the CMLA should offer its collective wisdom and guidance to help make medical education in Cleveland better than it has ever been . . . from the beginning.

Journal club sessions and workshops will also be open (and free) to all non-student members of the CMLA (Fellows for Life, Fellows, and Basic), and a semesterly schedule of events will be posted on the CMLA’s homepage at: www.case.edu/affil/cmla/index.htm.

THE MUSEUM AND THE CITY



FROM THE
DITTRICK MEDICAL
HISTORY CENTER

**James M.
Edmonson,
Ph.D.**
Chief Curator

At the Dittrick we have been exploring various ways of engaging audiences within the greater Cleveland area. Augmented public engagement led by Brandy Schillace is a key part of that initiative, and I will defer to her to present the coming year's programming in a section below. As for the Dittrick Museum's interpretation of the medical past, we are devoting more attention to the health and well-being of the city that is our proud home, Cleveland. We haven't traditionally devoted significant attention to public health in our galleries. That is changing in a modest yet important way as a direct outgrowth of work on our NEH funded project, *How Medicine Became Modern*.

In July 2013 Deans Davis and Young asked us to develop a historical component for the new Health Education Campus. Rather than tell a story dominated by personalities (read: dead white men), we began by examining our museum collection to identify select artifacts that represented important turning points in medicine. Many of those dated to the Progressive Era (1890s–1920s) when Cleveland and Western Reserve rose to national prominence in medicine and the health sciences more broadly. To flesh out the backstory of those developments, I turned to Cleveland's medical periodicals, the *Cleveland Medical Gazette* (1886–1901), the *Cleveland Journal of Medicine* (1896–1901), and the *Cleveland Medical Journal* (1902–1918). While we have all these journals in hard copy, these publications are today also available as pdf files. So I downloaded the full run of each journal and spent much of the summer of 2014 plowing my way through them.

What emerges in the pages of these journals is the immediacy and thrill of being at the very edge of scientific advance in medicine in the Progressive Era. In the early 1880s, Koch cemented the understanding of (if not yet cure for) many infectious diseases, while advances in anesthesia and antisepsis made surgical intervention safer. With the advent of appendectomy in 1886, surgeons subsequently ventured into the body as never before. On the forefront of medical advance stood landmark successes in grappling with long-dreaded diseases, beginning with diphtheria, brought to heel with antitoxin treatment and prevention after 1896. The

sense of excitement and anticipation voiced in the medical profession of this time period was palpable and ebullient. The figures at the convergence of these developments firmly believed that medicine was being transformed and revolutionized, even though the antibiotic era lay a half century away.

Medicine's leaders in Cleveland, and in cities across the country, took an abiding interest in how scientific medicine might also transform public health. Their civic involvement in this arena borders on the heroic, combatting outbreaks of smallpox, securing a safe water supply to vanquish typhoid, and focusing attention of the purity and safety of milk to forestall tuberculosis. In our exhibits we have often touched upon various aspects of this transformation, but chiefly with a focus on particular diseases. We are broadening this approach in some new displays on Cleveland's public health initiatives and accomplishments. One display will look at water, first as a breeding ground for disease vectors (mosquitos, malaria and yellow fever), then a thoroughfare for epidemics (cholera), and as a necessity of life that sometimes carried ill-



Satirical cartoon of cholera spreading from Europe to the U.S., Puck Magazine, 1883.

ness (typhoid). Another will look at milk and food, and Progressive Era public health measures implemented to assure their wholesomeness and freedom from the taint of disease.

These additions will be completed in the Fall, and we invite you to stop by and see the changes. Our research for *How Medicine Became Modern* turned up much of the new material, so it will be complementary to that narrative when it is completed a year from now.

CLEVELAND MAYOR VISITS



Mayor Frank G. Jackson recently paid a visit to the Allen and the Dittrick for a tour with Library and Dittrick staff. This welcome occasion began at the 150th anniversary of University Hospitals, where Brandy Schillace spoke about Cleveland's medical past as a prequel to later accomplishments and future developments. She evidently was a hit (so I have been told by several who attended), and she grasped an opportunity to invite Mayor Jackson to pay us a visit. He expressed interest and the ball got rolling. Finally, at the end of a long work day (but

not the end of Mayor Jackson's by a long stretch), he and his entourage arrived for a tour of the Allen and the Dittrick. Brandy greeted them and brought them into the library, where they met Chris Dolwick and learned a bit about the Allen and its contemporary medical collections. They then proceeded up to the museum, and Brandy and I toured the Mayor, sharing what we are up to with the Dittrick at present and looking into the future. All in all, it was a very successful visit, putting us on the Mayor's radar, and sharing with him our very special slice of Cleveland's rich heritage.

SKLAR FAMILY DONATION

Significant donations periodically arrive unannounced at the Dittrick and I would like to share one such happy story with you. In 2015 Jonathan Westin, the Health Policy Director of the Jewish Federations of North America, came to Cleveland to call upon the Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation. While visiting Mitchell Balk and his colleagues down the third floor hall from our offices, Jonathan took note of hallway exhibits featuring displays of surgical instruments. He sought me out and related that a branch of his family, the Sklars, once made instruments. The instrument maker John S. Sklar (1866–1931) emigrated from Minsk, Russia (today's capital of Belarus) to America in 1889.

Upon arrival in New York, he began a small instrument making shop that grew to be one of the leading American surgical instrument companies. (The family sold the firm in the mid-1980s and it continues operation as the Sklar Corporation.) In that conversation, I further learned that his mother, Susan T. Sklar, still possessed company memorabilia and photos, which she kindly offered to donate. Not long after, I refurbished displays of antiseptic and aseptic surgery in our main gallery, and the Sklar story fit neatly into that narrative. So, the next time you visit the Dittrick take a closer look at the exhibit on "Aseptic Instrument Design" and learn more about the Sklar family legacy and see some items they donated.



Jonathan Westin and Jim Edmonson near Sklar display.

J. Sklar Manufacturing Co. instrument makers, c.1910, in shop making OB forceps.

REACHING OUT INTO THE CITY by Brandy Schillace

Our position in University Circle offers a great opportunity. Situated among incredible cultural institutions and neighborhoods like Glenville, Fairfax, and Hough, University Circle is a great place for sharing and public exchange. Health planning has become a big goal for the Greater University Circle Initiative, especially among underserved populations—and one way to build relationships in the present and bridges to the future is (as Jim explains) to take a good look at the past. As a result, I began the *Conversations* program, a supplement to *Explorations* and the other programs already ongoing at the museum. These events were a great success last year and connected us to other institutions likewise interested in reaching out to our city. This present season (Fall 2016–Spring 2017) offers new and exciting collaborations between the Dittrick and the Western Reserve Historical Society, the Cleveland Botanical Garden, and the Museum of Contemporary Art. In addition, these historical discussions will feature panels with public health professionals and physicians. We're also opening our doors with new "Museum Mixers," events that offer a chance to mingle in a relaxed fashion while hearing more about the history of medicine.

Interactive public discussion remains a hallmark of this program, so attendees can expect a 15–20 minute TED style talk, followed by a mini-panel of experts and then an open dialogue through audience round-tables. At 6:00 PM on

Thursday, September 15, I will be speaking on "Presidents, Public Health, and Pre-antiseptic Medicine: Garfield's Death and its Effect on Antiseptic Rhetoric in the Public." Joining me will be Eric Rivet of the Western Reserve Historical Society and Scott Frank, MD, MS, Director of the Master of Public Health Program and Director of Shaker Heights Health Department. You can join us free in the Powell Reading room at the Allen. Our second fall *Conversation* will happen on November 17 at the MOCA (Museum of Contemporary Art): "Industrial Damages: Lead Poisoning's Long Legacy and Industry's Role in Decay." An art installation on similar themes will also be at MOCA; the lecture is free with MOCA museum admission. Our Fall *Mixers* will include one at the Cleveland Botanical Garden during "Hoppy Hour" on October 26: "Beer, Botanicals, and Bathtub Gin." Dittrick Friends can attend the Cleveland Botanical Garden event free by registering on the blog or emailing bls10@case.edu. Our second *Mixer* will be our Holiday Open House on December 10, featuring cookies and good cheer, with Dittrick posters and other items for purchase (plus a raffle!) The Spring will see two more *Conversations* and two further *Mixers*, all in addition to the free public lectures that we continue to host annually. By these means, we hope to give the public and also our members new and exciting ways of perceiving health and the public's role in (and response to) medicine.



Photo by Frank Lanza

Zverina Lecture by Susan Lederer

On November 11, Susan E. Lederer, Ph.D., will present the 2016 Zverina Lecture entitled "Henry K. Beecher's Bombshell: *Ethics and Clinical Research* (1966) and Protecting Human Subjects of Biomedical Research." I heard Professor Lederer deliver this compelling lecture as a keynote speaker at the American Association for the History of Medicine in Minneapolis this past Spring. As Lederer relates, in 1966 Henry K. Beecher, Harvard professor of anesthesia research, authored a powerful critique of mainstream medical research in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Since World War II, Beecher claimed, a new cohort of investigators had entered the field, and were performing experiments on patients and healthy human subjects with little or no regard for their welfare and

often without their knowledge and consent. Beecher's "bombshell" energized both the American public and Congress to take a more aggressive stance toward medical researchers. Lederer's paper explores the genesis and reception of Beecher's critical engagement with biomedical ethics. I thought she conveyed a timely and important message that would find a receptive audience in Cleveland, and I hope you can join us for this important event.

Professor Lederer is the Robert Turell Professor and Department Chair of Medical History and Bioethics at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health.

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE DITTRICK

Many of our newsletter readers and museum visitors are probably unaware that the Dittrick Medical History Center has its own photography studio. This greatly enhances our capabilities in several areas of museum work. The Dittrick's current studio, created in 2014, resides on the Mezzanine (normally accessible only to museum and library staff). Photographer and Image Collection Manager Laura Travis, who has been at the Dittrick since 1999, designed the new studio to expand the museum's photographic capabilities. In particular, she introduced more complex lighting, thereby making possible creative shooting techniques such as "light painting." Recent upgrades of equipment to make this possible have been generously supported by Percy Skuy and the Trustees of the Cleveland Medical Library Association.



Photographer Laura Travis in studio, with an artificial kidney.

The Dittrick staff creates all exhibits completely in-house, from original research through custom photography, graphic design, layout, fabrication and installation. Imaging capabilities are essential at every step along the way. The most recent example of this work is the digital photography Laura has done for *How Medicine Became Modern*, the NEH funded interactive exhibit set to open September 2017, showcasing our collection at its very best.

Documentary imaging, now in digital format, is critically important to serving the collection in other ways behind the scenes. Recently-acquired artifacts are accessioned and cataloged—and photographed—and that information is entered into PastPerfect, our collection management database. We, meaning Jennifer Nieves and Laura Travis, are diligently working to catalog a backlog of objects acquired before implementing PastPerfect in 2002. We originally maintained that information in typescript accession records and transcribed it on to 3" x 5" catalog cards; this data now being entered into PastPerfect.

Laura's studio also routinely produces photography for brochures, invitations, our website and social media. Additionally, authors from CWRU and around the world have used images taken from our rare books and artifact collections in their publications. Our studio and its capabilities are considered enviable by museum colleagues; we sincerely appreciate how fortunate we are to have such a fine studio and a competent, talented staff. The combination of great people and advanced technology gives us the capability to produce superlative exhibits, polished publications, and vibrant social media. Our colleague Lisa O'Sullivan (New York Academy of Medicine) took note of our high production value and said that the Dittrick is "punching above your weight limit!" Indeed, we are, and it is a matter of no small pride to say so.

IN MEMORIAM

MCCORKLE, LOIS ANNETTE (née PAKE), M.D., M.B.A. (1927–2016)

Dr. Lois McCorkle (née Pake), a biostatistician at University Hospitals of Cleveland who helped usher her field into the computer age, passed away January 23, 2016, at the age of 88. Born in Akron, Ohio, and a native of Portage Lakes, Dr. McCorkle began her undergraduate education at the age of 16, graduating in 1947 from Oberlin College with her future husband of 62 years, the late Dr. Hugh Fagnani McCorkle (a pathologist at Fairview General Hospital). They attended Western Reserve University School of Medicine together—marrying in 1949—and, after completing internships in Durham, NC, moved to Cleveland Heights to raise their three children. Besides serving as a biostatistician at UH, Dr. McCorkle was also an assistant professor of biostatistics in the Division of Biometry at WRU School of Medicine. In the early 1980's, she received a MBA from CWRU's Weatherhead School of Management, to augment her interest in hospital utilization and healthcare management. Dr. McCorkle and her husband retired to Kendal at Oberlin in 1993, where they enjoyed sky watching, photography, and their many friends. Dr. McCorkle is survived by two of her children and three grandchildren.

TAVILL, ANTHONY SYDNEY, M.B.CH.B. (1936–2016)

Dr. Anthony “Tony” Tavill, a gastroenterologist specializing in hepatology in Cleveland, passed away July 21, 2016, at the age of 80. He was born in Manchester, England, and graduated from the Victoria University of Manchester Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Nursing in 1960. His first appointment was with acclaimed pancreatologist Dr. Henry T. Howat, who encouraged him to specialize in gastroenterology; then, at the Royal Free Hospital in London under renowned hepatologist Dr. Sheila Sherlock, where he was promoted to Lecturer in 1966; and finally, at Northwick Park Hospital and Clinical Research Centre in Harrow, Middlesex, before emigrating in 1975 to the U.S. and settling in Cleveland.

For over 40 years, Dr. Tavill practiced and taught at area hospitals—Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital (now MetroHealth), Mt. Sinai Hospital, and Cleveland Clinic Digestive Diseases Institute—while also a professor of medicine at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. He served as President of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (1995–96); and, through close association with the American Liver Foundation (ALF), established the Anthony S. Tavill Citywide Liver Rounds, providing a forum for presentation and discussion of cases related to liver disease and transplant. Dr. Tavill was a member of the CMLA Board of Trustees from 1999–2009, and President from 2003–04. He is survived by his wife of nearly 57 years, Anne (née Rayburn), three children, and six grandchildren.

On August 24, 2016, the ALF—Heartland Division (IN, KY, OH) is scheduled to host an event honoring Dr. Tavill, at which Pamela Davis, M.D., Ph.D., Dean of the School of Medicine and Senior Vice-President for Medical Affairs at CWRU, will deliver remarks to an audience of his beloved colleagues and trainees. CWRU has also established an educational fund in Dr. Tavill's name. Donations may be made out as: “CWRU School of Medicine Tony Tavill, MD Fund” and mailed to: CWRU Advancement Services, 10900 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, OH 44106-7035.

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Cleveland Health Sciences Library

<http://www.cwru.edu/chsl/homepage.htm>

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Dittrick Medical History Center

<http://www.cwru.edu/artsci/dittrick/>

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- SEPTEMBER 15** *CONVERSATION:* “Presidents, Public Health, and Pre-antiseptic Medicine: Garfield’s Death and its Effect on Antiseptic Rhetoric in the Public,” Allen Memorial Medical Library, Powell Reading Room, 6:00 PM
- OCTOBER 26** *MIXER:* “Beer, Botanicals, and Bathtub Gin,” Join us for a joint event with the Cleveland Botanical Garden “Hoppy Hour”! \$11.00 admission, free for Dittrick Friends Members. Cleveland Botanical Garden, 5:30 PM
- NOVEMBER 11** *ZVERINA LECTURE:* **Susan Lederer**, presents “Henry K. Beecher’s Bombshell: *Ethics and Clinical Research* (1966) and Protecting Human Subjects of Biomedical Research,” Allen Memorial Medical Library, Ford Auditorium, 6:30 PM
- NOVEMBER 17** *CONVERSATION:* “Industrial Damages: Lead Poisoning’s Long Legacy and Industry’s Role in Decay,” (lecture free with museum admission), Cleveland Museum of Contemporary Art, 7:00 PM
- DECEMBER 10** *HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE!* Join us at the Dittrick Museum for cookies and holiday cheer!