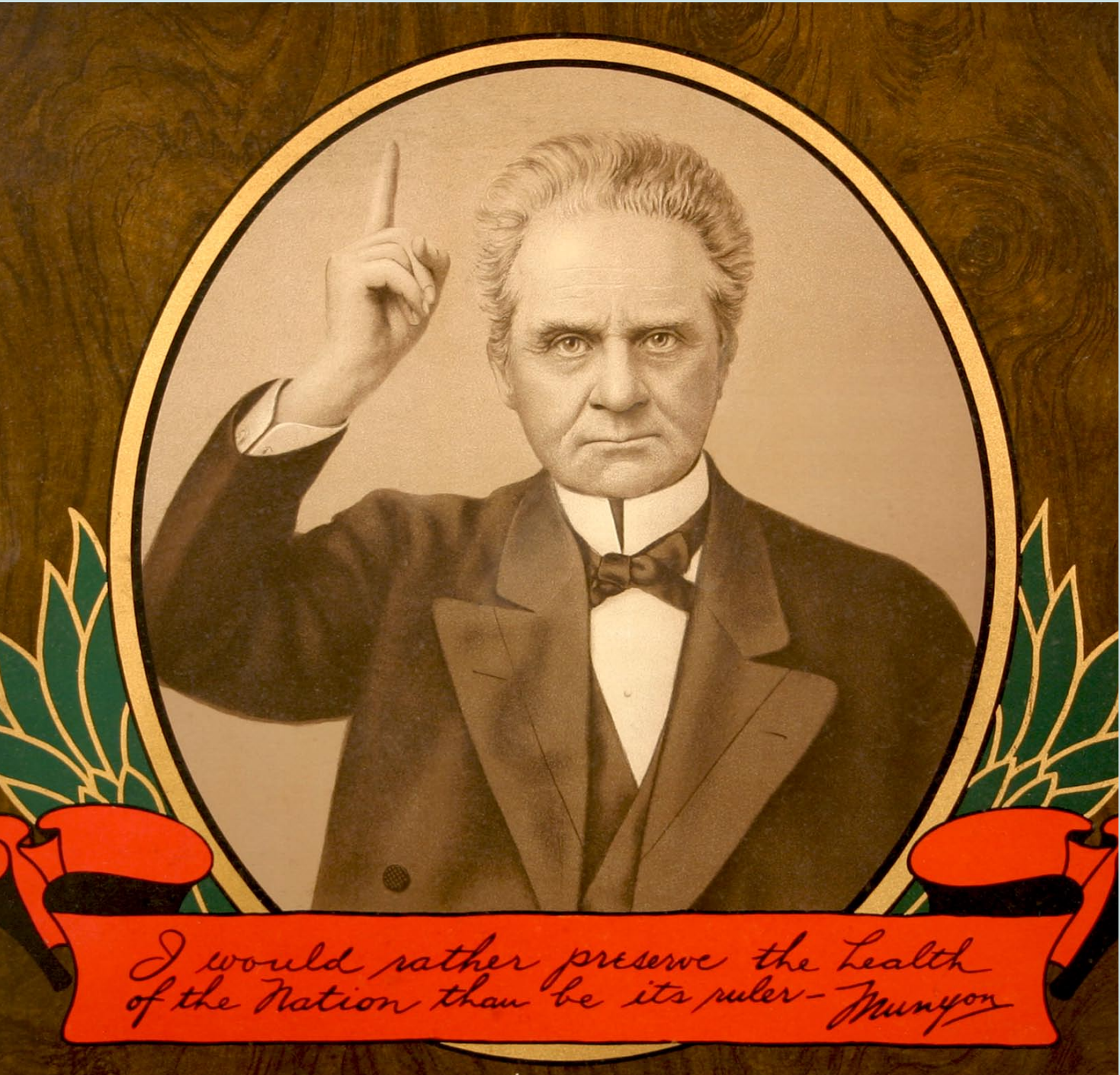




*Newsletter of*

# The Cleveland Medical Library Association



*The Dittrick Museum acquires Munyon's Homeopathic Home Remedies cabinet.  
A large tin advertising drugstore cabinet made by the American Art Works Company in Coshocton, Ohio, circa 1893.*



## From the Director

**Ginger Saha, M.S.L.S.**

*Trends and Realities  
at the Cleveland  
Health Sciences Library*

Are libraries still relevant? More specifically, are academic libraries still relevant? I make the distinction because public libraries are thriving – at least in library-rich Cuyahoga County – while academic libraries are fretting about declines in gate count, and are desperately trying to justify the dollars their administrations pour into them. While both types of library are in the information business, they really have different missions. Public libraries of today serve as community centers and internet cafes that happen to have books, magazines, newspapers, DVDs, games, and story hour. Many offer a food and beverage service which adds to the traditional overdue fines revenue stream. When I visit my local public library to borrow travel guides, the place is packed!! No one is “Shhh-ing” anyone, and children are welcome. It is a happy place.

In contrast, academic libraries are involved in much more “serious” pursuits, e.g. research and study. There are endless rows of bound journals that all look the same, and study carrels designed to provide isolation for the reader. Food and drink are either discouraged or forbidden, and children are most definitely not welcome. Some staff feel their role is to protect the collection, and materials “on reserve” are checked out for limited periods. In my pre-photocopier college days I could check out a poetry anthology for 15 minutes, which was supposed to be enough time to read (and take notes on) the one poem the faculty had assigned. The ambience of my college library was so uninviting that I would take that 15-minute reserve book back to my dorm room to study! Fortunately, my dorm was next door to the library, and there was a covered walkway connecting them. I am told there are still those who regard the academic library as a refuge from the world, and who retreat there to read and reflect on the meaning of deep things. I hope so. That is an important service in a community that values ideas and scholarship.

The value of “library as place” is one we academic librarians continue to promote to administration, but in the age of electronic delivery of practically everything, the overhead required to maintain thousands of square feet of shelving has become a budget line that is being questioned. Many academic libraries have scrapped their stacks, shipped the books to off-site storage,

and reinvented themselves as info-hip cybercafés that Podcast “What’s new!” bulletins and do, indeed, sell cappuccino. There is no question that dowdy academic libraries can learn a thing or two from more stylish public libraries. The Cleveland Health Sciences Library has “lightened up” in recent years, and more changes are bound to come. The Allen Memorial Medical Library hosts receptions, cocktail parties, and dinners on a regular basis, so telling users they cannot have a cup of coffee is hypocritical. The Health Center Library has hosted some large receptions, and the “food police” no longer hunt down offenders. We do draw the line at pizza parties in the group study rooms, though. The Health Center’s leisure reading area is stocked with current newspapers and magazines, and the “computer corral” is always in use.

More than ever, the most important asset the library has is its people. Today’s library user is called an “information consumer” and wants the 3 S’s: “self-service, satisfaction and seamlessness,” according to the 2003 OCLC Environmental Scan: Pattern Recognition. The CHSL staff is the critical link between the library user and the 3 S’s. They no longer teach how to use the card catalog or search Index Medicus, but instead can help with finding electronic journal articles and accessing e-textbooks, formatting bibliographic citations for a paper or NIH grant application, understanding and using evidence-based medicine, setting up authentication software needed for remote access to electronic resources, and lots, lots more. Savvy library users will find the balance between self-service and productive interaction with library staff. Experience tells us that the more sophisticated a library user becomes, the more they value the librarian’s expertise in finding information efficiently. So, the answer is Yes! academic libraries – and librarians -- are still relevant in the electronic information age.

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### ***CMLA Mourns Loss of Asa J. Wilbourn, M.D.***

The Cleveland Medical Library Association is very sad to announce that after a long struggle with illness, Dr. Asa J. Wilbourn passed away the morning of February 6, 2007. Asa was well known as an extraordinary teacher and had been the director of the EMG Laboratory at the Cleveland Clinic since 1974. For the CMLA, Dr. Wilbourn was, in the words of Dzwinka Holian, “a devoted, ten-year member of the CMLA Board of Trustees; one of the few remaining ardent lovers of the library and one of the nicest gentlemen you would ever want to meet. We will miss him.”

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## From the Dittrick Medical History Center

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

### *Blog, blog, blog.*

Cyberspace is filled with opinion and commentary, emanating from hundreds of blogs on thousands of topics. So I guess it was only a matter of time before a blog about medical museums appeared on the web. The blog in question, entitled *Biomedicine on Display* (<http://www.corporeality.net/museion/>) is hosted by Thomas Söderqvist, Director of the Medical Museion [Greek for museum] at the University of Copenhagen. I like to keep current with what's current in my field. *Biomedicine on Display* does that, and so much more. Söderqvist directs a great multifaceted history of medicine collection, combining approximately 250,000 artifacts and specimens, making it one of the most extensive in Europe. The Medical Museion today functions as a department at the University of Copenhagen integrating research, teaching, collections, and exhibitions. To move this institution into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Thomas Söderqvist inaugurated a remarkable project, "Danish Biomedicine, 1955-2005: Integrating Medical Museology and the Historiography of Recent Biomedicine." For this venture Söderqvist recruited several postdoctoral fellows to complement his museum staff. Surrounded with so much talent and energy, Söderqvist is uniquely positioned to keep his finger on the pulse of medical museology and related fields. *Biomedicine on Display* is a public newsletter, e-zine and discussion group rolled into one. It started in Danish in December 2004, but most of the posts are now in English. I encourage you to check it out. I have learned a lot from it, particularly about intriguing projects, both in museum galleries and on the web, and fascinating programs, lectures, and seminars. Recent postings of interest include notices about the Uncyclopedia (November 27 parody of Wikipedia) and the new Google Patent Search (December 16).

### *Handerson Lecture: Dawn Kemp*

This year's Handerson Lecture will take place April 5. The speaker is Dawn Kemp, Director of Heritage at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. Ms. Kemp is Chair of the *Scotland & Medicine: Connections & Collections* partnership, a new initiative to promote the discovery of the many amazing contributions that Scotland has made to the world of medicine, and all the fascinating connections to our everyday lives (

*Dawn Kemp, Director of  
Heritage, Royal College of  
Surgeons of Edinburgh*

[www.scotlandandmedicine.com/](http://www.scotlandandmedicine.com/)). She also co-curated the exhibition *Anatomy Acts*, which explores the social, cultural, and scientific significance of anatomy in Scotland over the past 500 years. (<http://www.anatomyacts.co.uk/>) Ms. Kemp worked as curator of Scotland's National Museum of Flight and has curated numerous exhibitions on Scotland's social and cultural history. She is a part time doctoral student at the University of St Andrews researching museums in early 19th-century Scotland. At the Handerson Lecture, Ms. Kemp will present "Scotland & Medicine: Collections & Connections - the relevance of medical museums in the 21st century." Please join us for this event on Thursday, April 5, 6 p.m. in the Herrick Room, followed by a reception in the Powell Room. R.S.V.P. by April 2 to [jennifer.nieves@case.edu](mailto:jennifer.nieves@case.edu) or 216-368-3648.

### *Ohio Academy of Medical History*

The 2007 Annual Meeting of the Ohio Academy of Medical History will be on Saturday, April 14, at the Granville Inn in Granville, Ohio. Information on the meeting will be mailed to members in February. Information about the Academy, the Annual Meeting, and membership is also available on the Academy's website at [www.case.edu/orgs/oamh/home.htm](http://www.case.edu/orgs/oamh/home.htm), or by contacting the Academy's secretary, Patsy Gerstner c/o the Dittrick Medical History Center, 11000 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44106-1714 or at [p.gerstner@att.net](mailto:p.gerstner@att.net)

### *Cleveland School of Science and Medicine at the Dittrick*

In October the Dittrick welcomed a new group of museum visitors: students from the John Hay High School's newly developed Cleveland School of Science and Medicine. Headed by Edward Weber, this program is open to students throughout the



*John Hay students*

Cleveland Public School District. The school focuses on science and medicine within a rigorous academic framework. Students in the Cleveland School of Science and Medicine participate in educational activities outside regular school hours, including a visit to the Dittrick. They have come here through the fall in small groups to learn more about Cleveland's medical heritage and to identify people responsible for important medical advances. We hope this is the beginning of a long and fruitful partnership with Cleveland schools.

### ***Mütter Museum Advisory Committee***

Editor of the CMLA newsletter, Jim Edmonson, has been asked to serve on the Mütter Museum Advisory Committee by George Wohlreich, M.D., the CEO of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. The Mutter Museum had been under the inspired direction of Gretchen Worden, whom I first met in 1984 at the first Congress of the European Association of Museums of the History of Medical Sciences in London. Sadly, Gretchen died in the summer of 2004. She is such a tough act to follow and the College of Physicians has deliberated very carefully, to move forward without her. Various of Gretchen's responsibilities have been parceled out to college staff, but Dr. Wohlreich appreciates the difficulty of filling her shoes. To that end, he convened for the first time an advisory committee to provide input and counsel. Together with museum staff, we are seeking to chart a new course for the Mütter, one that would make Gretchen proud of her beloved museum.

### ***Dittrick Medical Heritage Tours***

As this newsletter goes to press we still have openings for the Vienna and Budapest tour for April 21 to 29, 2007. For a full

itinerary of this and other Dittrick tours, past and future, see our website: <http://www.case.edu/artsci/dittrick/site2/news/travel.html>. The next tour, already in development, will take us to Belgium in fall 2007. With the help of Dr. René van Tiggelen, a retired radiologist and member of the European Association of Museums of the History



*Rene van Tiggelen, left, and Jim Edmonson*

of Medical Science, we have prepared a full itinerary that will feature museums and collections in Bruges, Ghent, and Brussels. For those of you who enjoy dark chocolate, Belgian beer, and Flemish art, it should be a memorable trip! The tentative dates for the tour are September 29 to October 7, 2007. When we have details firmed up with our friends at Kollander Travel, we will post them on the Dittrick site and mail a separate brochure.

## ***MEDICAL MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS***

### ***Lithuania, Latvia, and Denmark***

This past August, I headed to Riga, Latvia for the 13<sup>th</sup> Congress of the European Association of Museums of the History of Medical Sciences. I took advantage of the trip to Latvia to visit medical museums in the Baltic region, first in Lithuania and later in Denmark. Longtime friend and Smithsonian curatorial colleague Ray Kondratas invited me to make a detour to Lithuania, his ancestral home. I leapt at the offer, knowing that a visit there would be greatly enhanced by a companion who spoke the language and had contacts to open doors. I was not disappointed. Ray proved a marvelous host. Arriving in Vilnius late on a Saturday night, I met Ray and Judy Chelnick (also of the Smithsonian, and the Dittrick before that), and we explored historic Vilnius. Vilnius is home to a remarkable historic district, designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Center, as well as the medical faculty and its anatomical collections. Side trips took us to Kaunas, to visit the excellent museum of pharmacy and medicine there, and to the picturesque lake district around Trakai, once epicenter of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries), which reached from the Baltic to the Black Sea. Ray wants to host a future Dittrick tour to the Baltics, and my visit laid the foundation for a tour itinerary.

Ray, Judy, and I then headed to Riga for the EAMHMS Congress, hosted by the Paul Stradins Museum in Riga. When Latvia was a Soviet republic, the Stradins Museum was the largest medical history museum in the Soviet Union. It is therefore far more extensive than one would have anticipated. In addition to

presenting the broad sweep of medical history, the museum collections are particularly strong in medicine of the Soviet space program.

Following the meeting in Riga, I headed home by way of Denmark, at the invitation of Thomas Söderqvist. At the University of Copenhagen's Medical Museum, I gave a seminar presentation on our plans for the Skuy Collection and inspected their temporary exhibit celebrating the Danish Family Planning Association's 50th anniversary. Denmark, especially Copenhagen, definitely merits a return visit!



*Ray Kondratas in Trakai, Lithuania*



*Judy Chelnick at Paul Stradins Museum, Riga, Latvia*

### ***Dittrick books to be featured in Humanities Week exhibit.***

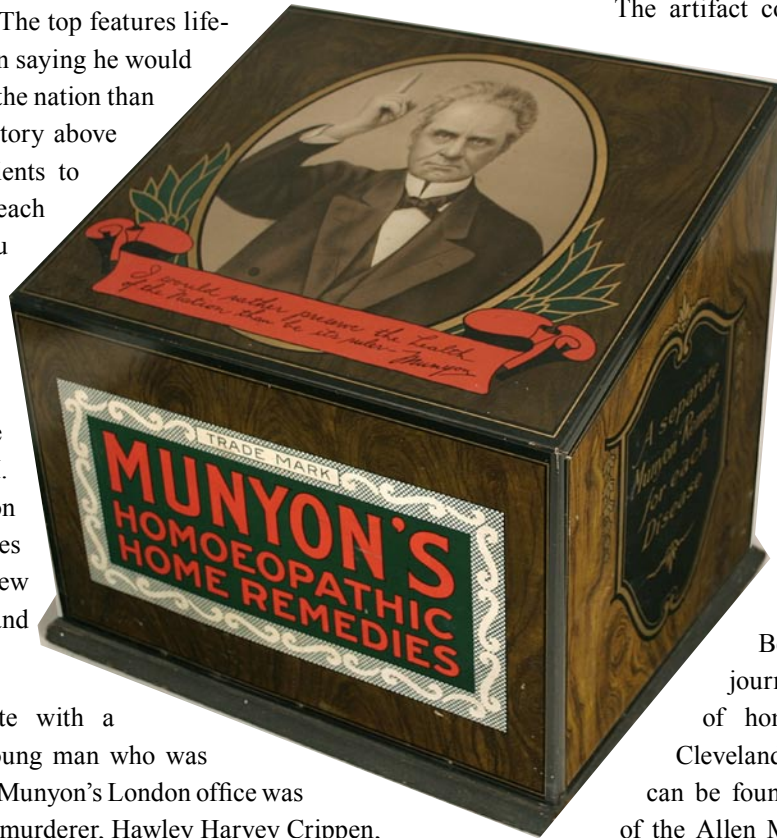
The 2007 Humanities Week at Case (April 15-21) will feature a special exhibition, "The History of the Book — Always in Transition," in the Kelvin Smith Library (11055 Euclid Avenue, opposite the Allen). Humanities Week this year is organized around the theme of "Information Society." The exhibition to complement this theme will feature books from the Special Collections of the Kelvin Smith Library, the Allen Memorial Medical Library, and the Cleveland Institute of Art. The exhibition will be curated by students from Professor Anne Helmreich's ARTH 490 "Visual Art and the Museum" seminar. Dittrick books featured will illustrate important innovations in book design and format (first printed book with woodcut illustrations, a flap book, the first color mezzotint illustration in medical texts, &c). The exhibit opens with a reception on April 17 at 6:00 P.M. There will also be a digital online version of the exhibit and we will post links to that on the Dittrick website. See the Baker Nord Center website for further details about Humanities Week and the exhibition: <http://www.case.edu/artsci/bakernord/>

## New Acquisitions: Homeopathy in Cleveland

The museum was recently given a homeopathic medicine chest that is quite intriguing, and prompts some observations on Cleveland's homeopathic heritage. Munyon's Homeopathic Home Remedies cabinet is a large tin advertising drugstore cabinet made by the American Art Works Company in Coshocton, Ohio, circa 1893. The top features life-like illustration of Dr. Munyon saying he would "rather preserve the health of the nation than be its ruler." There is a directory above the drawers that directs patients to the medicine needed for each illness. For example, if you have a bladder problem, look in drawer number 1. A cold remedy can be found in drawer 5, and a medicine for general debility can be found in drawer 7. Dr. J. M. Munyon founded the Munyon Homeopathic Home Remedies Co. and opened offices in New York City, Philadelphia, and London.

An interesting side note with a Cleveland connection; the young man who was hired to establish and manage Munyon's London office was none other than the infamous murderer, Hawley Harvey Crippen, MD. Crippen was an 1892 graduate of the Cleveland Homeopathic Hospital and practiced in Cleveland for several months, then moved on to New York City. After moving to England to assume

his managerial position in 1897, his life became a story of murder and intrigue. He was convicted and hanged for the gruesome murder of his actress wife in 1910. Much has been written about this case and it is a fascinating story.



The artifact collection also contains several exquisite medicine cabinets that belonged to Cleveland's homeopathic physicians. The earliest (shown in the photograph) is dated 1875 and belonged to Dr. James Craven Wood, who accepted the chair of surgical gynecology at the Cleveland Medical College in 1893. Wood authored several textbooks on gynecology and was editor of the *Cleveland Medical and Surgical Reporter*, a homeopathic journal published in Cleveland.

Between 1848 and the 1920s, six journals dedicated to the practice of homeopathy were published in Cleveland. Several of these journals can be found in the rare journal holdings of the Allen Medical Library, including *The Northern Ohio Medical and Scientific Examiner* (1848), *Proceedings of the Homeopathic Medical Society of the State of Ohio* (1865 to 1915), *The Ohio Medical and Surgical*

*Dr. A. Elizabeth Cannon and her father, Carl Cannon, were homeopathic physicians who established the Nottingham Hospital in 1922. Recently, Melanie Aloi, a Case student in the SAGES program made use of the Cannon collection for an exhibit in the Lowman Room at the Allen Library.*



*Reporter* (1867 to 1877). Library patrons can also find books on homeopathy, written between 1833 and 2003, including those written by James Wood.

The Dittrick Medical History Center is fortunate to have several archival collections related to some of Cleveland's homeopathic physicians and their institutions. A collection of materials that relate to homeopathy in general in Cleveland is also available, including reprints, histories, correspondence, lists of graduates of local homeopathic schools, and annual reports of those institutions. These collections are available to be used in research in the history of homeopathy.



*Homeopathic cabinet (earliest in collection)*

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**Hours**

For information, call either reference desk listed above  
or see "On the Web" below.

**On the Web**

Cleveland Health Sciences Library

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

**For hours see:** <http://www.cwru.edu/chsl/hc.htm>

Dittrick Medical History Center

<http://www.cwru.edu/artsci/dittrick/site2/>

**For hours see:** <http://www.cwru.edu/artsci/dittrick/site2/operations/>

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## ***DATES TO REMEMBER***

**April 5, 2007:** Handerson Lecture, Dawn Kemp, Director of Heritage of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

**April 13, 2007:** Cleveland Medical Library Association annual meeting  
<http://www.case.edu/affil/cmla/events.htm>

**April 14, 2007:** Ohio Academy of Medical History (Granville, Ohio)  
<http://www.case.edu/orgs/oamh/home.htm>

**May 3 to 6, 2007:** Medical Museum Association and American Association for the History of Medicine (Montreal, Quebec)  
<http://www.case.edu/affil/MeMA/annual.htm>