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History of Medicine and Health Care Program  
&  
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University of Calgary

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## ABSTRACTS

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### *An Exploration of Cicero's Mental Health Using the DSM-5*

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This paper explores the state of Cicero's mental health during the years leading up to and including his year of exile. Using the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) and Cicero's personal letters, the paper identifies the ways in which Cicero meets the standard criteria for a diagnosis of having experienced a Major Depressive Episode (MDE) in the year of his exile, 58 BC. The contributing factors to his MDE include Cicero's personality, a constant need for validation, external pressures and personal anxieties. His depression manifests in many ways from extreme sadness and decreased interest in pleasurable activities to feelings of worthlessness and suicidal ideation. This study is important as it sheds light on an already stigmatized mental disorder and helps to challenge the notion that the illness of depression is a product of our modern culture and instead to understand it as a timeless and human condition.

### *The Metamorphosis of Psychiatric Language and the Emergence of the Schizophrenia Concept (1902-1911)*

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The context for the problem of psychiatric classification is not simply a scientific or a clinical one. It is a profoundly epistemological context, which concerns the way in which concepts in mental pathology are shaped. At the turn of the twentieth century, Emil Kraepelin's dichotomy between dementia praecox (schizophrenia) and manic-depressive psychosis (bipolar disorders) yielded a new foundation for clinical psychiatry. However, this dichotomy imposed itself as a

paramount approach for the classification of psychoses only because it has been increasingly determined according to psychological criteria.

Eugen Bleuler's great contribution to psychiatry was his subtle reduction of all psychotic manifestations in schizophrenia to a set of specific dynamics, namely, the "tendency to autism" and the "aptitude for dissociation". Although Bleuler's major work *Dementia praecox; or, The group of schizophrenias* (1911) gave psychoanalysis a monopoly on the analysis of symptoms in schizophrenia, his attitude toward this discipline has remained ambivalent. In this connection the recently published correspondence between Bleuler and Freud sheds a new light on Bleuler's attitude toward psychoanalysis.

Using the correspondence letters and some of their scientific writings, this presentation will illustrate the theoretical movement of writing that led to the rupture between these two protagonists. This rupture involves diverse aspects: personal and metapsychological. I argue here that the articulation between personal experience, clinical experience and psychological theorization was crucial for the emergence of the schizophrenia concept.

### ***The Emergence and Evolution of "Social Inequity" in Population and Public Health, 1830s - 2010s***

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"Social inequity" is an essential value in contemporary population and public health, yet little is known about its history. When did this concept emerge and how has it evolved over time? Today, social inequity refers to the "systematic, socially produced (and therefore modifiable) and unfair" differences and variations in health that exist between different socioeconomic groups (Whitehead and Dahlgren, 2006: 2). In this paper, I argue that this concept of social inequity has existed throughout the modern history of public health.

I evaluate different conceptualizations of social inequity from four stages in the modern history of public health: (1) Industrialization and Sanitary Reform; (2) the Bacteriological Era and the Child Health; (3) Social Activism, Empowerment, and Health Promotion; and our current stage of, (4) Population and Public Health. For each stage, I consider the social processes that created social inequities, the types of inequities that existed, and to what extent the public deemed them unfair. Where relevant, I also focus on what the public health response has been to reduce social inequities in health. I focus on the developments that were most influential to contemporary public health in Canada and therefore draw from the histories of public health in the United States and England since the 1830s to the present day. I defend that the concept of social inequity and the actions taken reduce social inequities in health have evolved to become more inclusive and more explicitly focused on justice.

## ***Crossroads of Civilizations: Conflicting and Complementary Ideas of Health and Medicine in China***

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### Background:

The first schools of Western medicine in China were founded in the 1830s. Subsequent attempts to eradicate the influence of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) met with public opposition due to the scarcity of Western-trained physicians. More recently, attempts have been made to create a new system of Chinese medicine combining both Western and traditional aspects.

### Methodology

I conducted twenty-eight semi-structured interviews with health care practitioners in China. The questions focused on the attitudes of both traditional and allopathic medicine practitioners towards each system, as well as the training and regulation of physicians and their perceptions by the general public.

### Summary of research findings

In clinical practice, traditional medicines are commonly prescribed by allopathic physicians, for example using traditional herbal remedies to reduce side-effects in patients receiving chemotherapy. Western-trained practitioners are frequently dismissive of TCM treatments, despite using them and observing their clinical efficacy. As a result, TCM practitioners, who often make two separate diagnoses and give two sets of prescriptions, believe that they are the only ones capable of switching mindsets and truly integrating traditional and Western medicine.

## ***Historical Portrayal of Occupational Therapy in The Globe and Mail from its first appearance in 1918 to 2014***

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OT became more widely known in Canada during World War 1 when OT was seen as beneficial for shell-shock patients (Peloquin, 1991) and injured soldiers. Since then, OT has broadened its purpose and scope beyond the medical (Green, 2001; Thomas, Gray, & McGinty, 2011) to address various social issues (Schmitt & Branscombe, 2002). OT is seen as crucial to societal development and addressing societal issues of the present and future (Freeman et al., 2014). Newspapers influence public opinion (Wallack, 1990). As such, the portrayal of OT influences readers' perceptions of OT. The content of Canadian national newspaper The Globe and Mail was analyzed for its portrayal of OT from its first appearance in The Globe and Mail in 1918 to 2014.

Key findings of our study indicate that the newspaper coverage of OT decreased over the years, was consistently portrayed as a medical endeavor and thus missed the transformation of OT and the broadening of the client base over time. Our findings suggest that the reader of The Globe and Mail cannot grasp the true scope and understanding of OT, which poses a problem to the profession as people might join or not join the OT field under false assumptions.

***Radium Dial Workers – Radium as a Useful Tool and Deadly Metal during the Early 1920s***

Emily Hurst

University of Calgary

In this project I have used the *Radium Dial Worker Tragedy* which took place in Orange, New Jersey during the early 1920's, to compose a historical case study to broadly explore the nature of science. In doing so, I have developed a teaching tool for use at the high school and university level, that will explain the ways in which the discovery of radium and its industrial applications have far reaching implications in regards to medicine, workers' rights and industrial hygiene. As dial painters working for the U.S. Radium Corporation, the women meticulously applied radium laced luminous paint to the dials of watches and clocks so that they could be seen in the dark. In order to be as detailed as possible, the women created a fine brush point by placing the brush between their lips and twirling it to a point. In doing so, the women consumed some of the paint and constituent radium.

Because the symptoms of radium poisoning observed in the dial painters had not been seen before this time, health professionals and sufferers alike were perplexed as to the cause. We know now that radium ingestion and external exposure can have severe deleterious effects on the human body, but at the time these connections had not been made.

The process of knowledge accumulation in the midst of the *Radium Dial Worker Tragedy* acts as the scaffolding for the case study and is intended to provoke students to question their own knowledge base regarding scientific discovery and the process by which they acquire it.

***A History of Aboriginal Health Research within the Faculty (Cumming School) of Medicine***

Paula Larsson

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Today, the health of the First Nation communities within Alberta is of central concern to both Alberta Health Services (AHS) and to researchers in the Cumming School of Medicine at the University of Calgary. Physicians, professors and health care workers are involved in many initiatives to identify health care problems within communities and to provide engaged, culturally-informed and safe health care services. The creation and expansion of the GRAPH research group through the O'Brien Institute for Public Health (IPH) and extensive Faculty involvement in Aboriginal health research demonstrate the determined involvement of members of the Cumming School of Medicine with Aboriginal health. Yet a more sustained focus on Aboriginal health has only picked up in the last five years (about 2009-2014) within the School. The current initiatives resulted from the efforts of many individuals, who pushed to bring Aboriginal health and First Nations people into the mandate of the School. This has been a long - and often frustrating - process for those involved. The process began in the 1970s with the building of the Stoney Health Clinic at Morley and has culminated in the creation of the Aboriginal Health Program, the GRAPH research group and many individual research projects and clinic outreach programs by Cumming School of Medicine physicians and scholars.

### ***Depicting the Dead: The Anatomical Accuracy of Skeletal Figures in Roman Art***

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Did ancient Roman artists depict correct anatomy when representing human skeletons in art? Historically, artists have played a crucial role in uncovering details of human anatomy, but in the case of Roman art that portrays skeletons, classical scholars often refer to the figures as inaccurate or incorrect (Olfers, 1831; Dunbabin, 1986; Cuomo 2007). These scholars do not generally offer any specific reasons for this appraisal, and use no anatomical terminology in such assessments. This study presents ten examples of representations of skeletons in Roman art, including four confirmed to be from Pompeii, and six suspected to be but with no firm provenance. A comparative morphological analysis of these works and human remains examines several points of correspondence, and reveals that Roman artists may have based their depictions on factual information derived from real human beings, possibly deceased. The study suggests that classical history could benefit from an increased understanding of osteology and anatomical training when attempting to define and understand how art affected the development of anatomical knowledge in the ancient world.

### ***How Newtonian was Newtonian Medicine?***

Kirsten Walsh

University of Otago

With the publication of the *Principia* in 1687, Newton introduced a powerful new methodology. He combined the solid foundation of experiment and observation with the rigour of mathematical reasoning. By the 1690s, the ‘Newtonian method’ had spread beyond mechanics to other branches of natural and even general philosophy. In Scotland, there emerged a ‘Newtonian medicine’—a starkly mathematical approach to medicine that viewed the human body as a machine, to be explained by geometrical and mechanical principles. This mathematical form of Newtonian medicine all but disappeared in the 1730s, to be replaced by an *aethereal* Newtonian medicine, based on the queries introduced in the 1717 edition of Newton’s *Opticks*. Focusing on Newtonian theories of disease, I follow this transition from mathematical to aethereal Newtonianism, asking: How *Newtonian* was Newtonian medicine?

### ***Aretaeus of Cappadocia and the Empathy of Personification***

Amber J. Porter

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A spleen that “delights in” things, a heart that “comprehends” the presence of other organs, and a disease that “lurks” in the body – these are all functions not possible for bodily organs and ones that more properly describe the actions and emotions of human beings. Actively imagining the emotional and motivational states of these organs and diseases is a quality of Aretaeus’ writing that is not seen to the same degree in other Greco-Roman medical literature. Aretaeus, in his work, often personifies human organs, such as the stomach and the lungs, but also diseases and their processes in the body. They are given agency, purpose and characterization, all of which

contribute to their personification in Aretaeus' medicine. In addition, this may explain an oddity in Aretaeus' text: his description of the uterus as an animal. What I would like to suggest is that considering his penchant personification it is very easy for him to see the uterus as an animal, given its mysterious nature and how it has been described by previous authors, like Hippocrates and Plato. If other organs can command, be delighted, reject, suffer and act, the uterus certainly can take on characteristics of a similar sort, at least for Aretaeus. Thus, its attraction to pleasant odours and repulsion by unpleasant odours, as well as its ability to affect other organs, is not so different from the way Aretaeus describes other organs, such as the stomach or the heart.