

The 27th BSHM Congress was held from 13th to 16th September 2017 at Surgeons' Hall in Edinburgh.

The New BSHM President (Chris Derrett)



It is a great pleasure and privilege to be appointed President of the BSHM. Iain Macintyre, our past president, has worked tirelessly over the last two years and organized a fantastic Congress in Edinburgh. We are grateful to him for his inspiring leadership.

This is an exciting time for the BSHM. Medical History is in 'rude health' and as an umbrella organization we are able and willing to represent local societies, museums, libraries and individuals from different strands of our discipline throughout the UK. We would like to engage actively with our members of all ages and we welcome opportunities to work with other organizations to help promote study and research in medical history. Please join the BSHM if you are not already a member, we need to increase our subscription income and membership so that we can maintain and develop our services. I invite you to write to me or our secretary if you have any suggestions on how we can make the BSHM more relevant to your needs or if you are willing and able to volunteer your time or other resources. I look forward to meeting many of you during my term as president.

With Best wishes

Chris Derrett president@bshm.org.uk

The Congress

Edinburgh proved to be a very popular venue for the 2017 Congress which was booked to the capacity of the venue with 6 weeks to go.

The 162 delegates came from all corners of the globe – from the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, from Namibia in Africa, from Kazakhstan in Asia and from all over Europe.

It was a pleasure to welcome 19 undergraduates who enjoyed a subsidized student rate thanks to a generous grant from the Wellcome Trust.

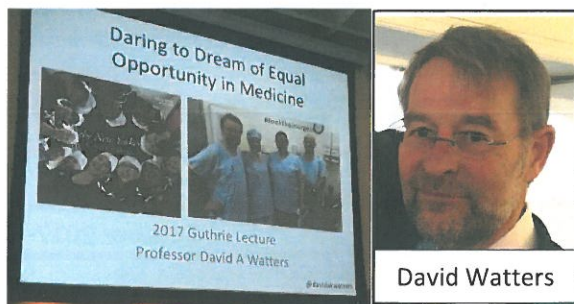
Additional sponsorship was kindly provided by The Douglas Guthrie Trust, the University of Edinburgh Department of Surgery, the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and Jon Baines Tours.

The 151 abstracts submitted were peer reviewed by a panel of 20 referees, who submitted some 500 reports and scores, which led to 75 papers being chosen for oral and 25 for poster presentation. The papers were of very high quality and it was particularly gratifying that all the speakers kept to their allotted time and there were no A-V glitches!!

Philippa Langley's keynote address on her role in finding the remains of Richard III was an eloquent and at times poignant account of these events.



Iain, Philippa and Chris



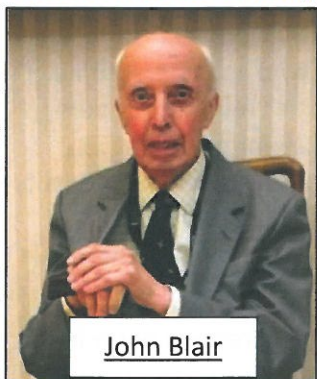
David Watters

David Watters introduced his Guthrie Lecture with a summary of how gender equality in medicine is being promoted today then gave a masterly account of the role of women in medicine throughout history.

Formal feedback has been very positive with 98% of respondents feeling that educational needs had been satisfied. The Congress organization and the dinner and Museum drinks reception also scored highly.

Our thanks to those who came and to the many who contributed to make for such a successful Congress.

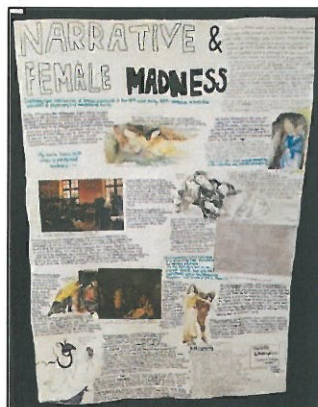
The John Blair Trust (JBT) Prizes



John Blair

From the 11 student posters submitted to the Congress the JBT was delighted to award 2 prizes. It was a difficult choice for the judges but Charlotte Whittingham was the winner and Henry Searle a close runner up.

Charlotte's poster was unique in that it was entirely hand written and illustrated on canvas and vividly displayed her portrayal of *Narrative and Female Madness*. She focused on the 20th century works of Virginia Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway*, Sylvia



Plath's *the Bell Jar* and Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *The Yellow Wallpaper*.



Henry receiving his prize from Sue Weir

Henry explored a relatively unknown Edinburgh doctor and resurrectionist, *John Forrest* who rose to become a leading military surgeon, practiced in Edinburgh and was finally appointed a physician to Queen Victoria in 1859.

The Prize for the best oral presentation went to Flora Malein who spoke about 'The Role of the 'Lady Almoner' in the Tuberculosis Patient Journey at Frimley Sanatorium'

Flora writes: "My talk was based on an undergraduate student project that looked at the role of the Lady Almoner at Frimley Sanatorium, which was part of the Brompton Hospital for 'Consumption and Diseases of the Chest'. The Lady Almoner role, while no longer in existence, is widely considered to be a forerunner of medical social workers. At Frimley, the Lady Almoner's records are part of an extensive archive which contains letters she wrote to patients every year to find out whether they were alive, in work, and still had any tuberculosis symptoms. Many of these correspondences would span decades and are remarkable for the personal perspective they give on the patient's lives and thoughts on their diagnosis. My talk argued that the Frimley



Flora Malein

Almoner's records are unique in their longevity and demonstrate the close personal relationship she built with patients, long after they had been discharged from the Hospital. The records are currently housed within the Royal London's Archives."

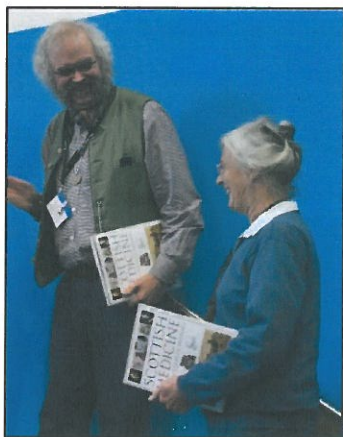
The Medical History Quiz

For the first time the Congress included a Medical History Quiz which had been compiled by



David Wright

(Past President of the BSHM). Congratulations to Adrian Thomas and Alison Nuttall, the winners, who received, as a prize, a copy of *Scottish Medicine An Illustrated History*.



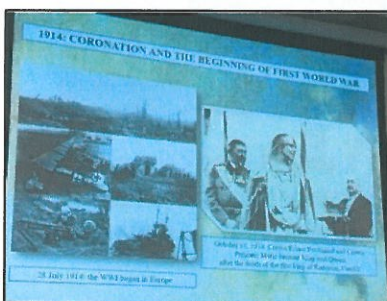
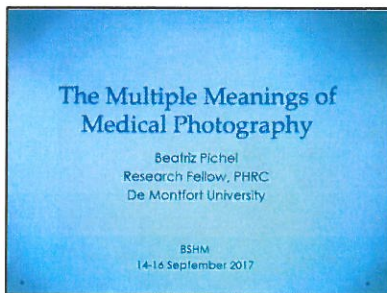
Oral presentations

Papers were based on the four themes, Scotland's Contribution and Influence, Women in Medicine, Apothecaries and their Successors and Art and Photography in Medicine. Parallel sessions aimed to give the delegates as much choice as possible to attend their preferred options.

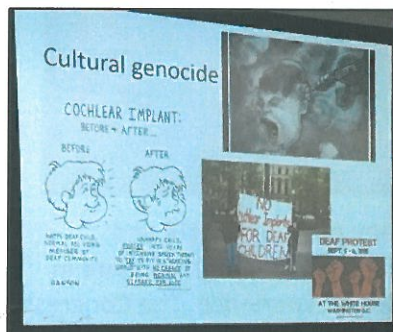


Sophie Goggins and 'The Last Apothecary'

It is not possible to mention all the presentations. However, the papers presented produced stimulating and lively discussion and the presenters should be commended for their work. Examples are given below:



Gabriela Dumitrescu talking about a Princess of Edinburgh who was a reformer of Romania's Health System.



Richard Ramsden talking about Alexander Graham Bell, the Deaf Culture and Cochlear implantation.

The Posters



It was clear from the poster display that the authors had spent some time designing and preparing their posters.

One submission

was from Aleppo and another from Italy. The posters generated discussion and interest.

Medical Walking Tours



A mortsafe

Sheila Devlin-Thorpe's guided medical walking tour provided a fascinating insight into how medicine developed in Edinburgh in the 19th Century.

Networking.



Colleagues from many parts of the UK and overseas had travelled to Edinburgh to share in the History of Medicine Experience. The Congress offered opportunities to make new friends and renew old acquaintances; to discuss research interests and share in learning.

Clinical and Social Medical Historians working together

The final session on the Saturday morning provided the opportunity for clinical and social historians to have a discussion about working together and learning from each other. This involved lively audience participation.



The Session was chaired by Chris Derrett and included David Wright (Scottish Society for the History of Medicine), Gayle Davis (Society for the Social History of Medicine), Anjna Harrar (President Elect, RSM History of Medicine Society), Martin Edwards (Society of Apothecaries) and Professor Linda Bryder (Social Medical Historian from New Zealand).

Finally

The organizers of the Congress would like to thank all those colleagues and friends who helped make the 27th BSHM Congress the success that it was.

Future Events

For information about the Poynter Lecture 2018, the One day workshop September 2018 and the next BSHM Congress in Bristol in September 2019, please see the BSHM website bshml.org.uk

Individual Membership

If you would like to join the BSHM as an individual member please contact our membership secretary Martin Edwards at membsecretary@bshml.org.uk



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