



AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Transition Planning and Implementation

AIHP Annual Business Meeting
November 15, 2018

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Introduction

The work of the AIHP Board of Directors this past year has been shaped by goals it established for 2018-2019, which focus on implementing our succession plan for the Executive Director position, membership development, and planning for the AIHP-sponsored International Congress for the History of Pharmacy. My report concentrates on the succession plan; other reports will cover different goals.

Retirement of Executive Director Higby

The Institute is entering a period of major transitions stemming from the retirement of Executive Director Gregory Higby at the end of 2018. While planning for these transitions, the Board of Directors has reflected on the outstanding service of Dr. Higby and is immensely grateful for his leadership of the Institute and his scholarship in the history of pharmacy. We will be announcing soon a special program, named in honor of Dr. Higby, to help the Institute sustain its commitment to developing and maintaining historical collections. Dr. Higby will continue to serve AIHP on a part-time basis as Fischelis Scholar, primarily focusing on curating the Institute's book, artifact, and document collections.

AIHP Historical Director

Through a generous gift by Robert and Leslie Buerki, supplemented by contributions from others, the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy created the George Urdang Chair in the History of Pharmacy. The grantors specified that this position include service to the Institute as well as the customary academic duties associated with a faculty appointment. Through agreement between AIHP and the University, this faculty member will be appointed Historical Director of the Institute, responsible for direction and oversight of our historical programs. This arrangement has allowed the AIHP Board to redefine the role of the Executive Director, as discussed below.

We are pleased that Dr. Lucas Richert has been appointed by the School of Pharmacy as the George Urdang Chair in the History of Pharmacy, beginning January

1, 2019. At that time, he will also become the AIHP Historical Director and Editor of our quarterly journal, *Pharmacy in History*.

Redefined Role and Appointment of Executive Director

The Executive Director will now concentrate on the administrative and strategic aspects of the Institute, including operations, membership services, program management, communications, staff and volunteer development, fund raising, organizational liaison, and support of the Board of Directors.

The Board is very pleased that Mr. Dennis Birke has accepted the position of Executive Director, effective January 1, 2019. Mr. Birke has served the Institute exceptionally well over the past year as Administrative Director, and we look forward to having the benefit of his talents for many years to come.

Advisory Panel on Historical Activities

With guidance from the Board of Directors and the Historical Director, I will be inviting several individuals to serve on the AIHP Advisory Panel on Historical Activities. This expert group will help develop new programming, facilitate communications among the network of scholars in our field, give us feedback on AIHP historical endeavors, and serve as a sounding board for the Historical Director and the Executive Director on Institute activities.

Conclusion

It is an honor to serve as AIHP President and Chair of the Board of Directors, especially at this time of major transitions in the Institute. I look forward to working with the Board and staff in the coming year to ensure that our new formula for scholarly and executive leadership meets or exceeds expectations for enriching the intellectual lives of members and for serving the field of pharmacy history with energy and integrity.