



AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY

JOINT REPORT OF THE HISTORICAL DIRECTOR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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by Lucas Richert, PhD, and Dennis Birke

From the perspective of AIHP's staff, 2019 has been a year of transition, assessment and evaluation, and planning for the future. This joint report of the Institute's Historical Director (Lucas Richert) and Executive Director (Dennis Birke) briefly outlines the work and activities of AIHP's staff during 2019.

Leadership Transition: We assumed our new roles in January, following the retirement of AIHP Executive Director Greg Higby at the end of 2018. This change in leadership was a significant event for AIHP. Not only was this the first change in the Institute's staff leadership in more than 30 years, but it also marked the beginning of a new managerial/ leadership structure for AIHP. Leadership responsibilities are now shared between the Historical Director and Executive Director. Each of us has assigned areas of primary responsibility (*e.g.*, Luc is the Editor-in-Chief of *Pharmacy in History*, while Dennis oversees AIHP's finances and day-to-day operations), but in practice leadership responsibilities are largely shared and exercised in close collaboration.

We are pleased to report that, at least from our perspectives, the Institute's new leadership structure is working smoothly and effectively. We enjoy working together and we energize each other as we discuss our hopes and plans for the Institute. And, despite our differing backgrounds, we are discovering that we share a common vision for the Institute – a vision that leaves both of us excited about AIHP's future. We'll be sharing some preliminary thoughts about our strategic priorities for the Institute in a separate report at the Annual Business Meeting.

Pharmacy in History: 2019 marks *Pharmacy in History's* 60th year of publication! During this anniversary year, the Historical Director, in his role as the journal's Editor-in-Chief, has instituted several significant changes designed to strengthen and improve the publication. A new eight-person Editorial Board has been established to provide guidance, advice, and assistance to the publication's editors. This brings *PH* in line with comparable journals. In addition, a new editorial team, comprised of three Contributing Editors and three Review Editors (all volunteers), will be overseen by Luc and *PH* Senior Editor (and AIHP's Assistant Director) Gregory Bond, PhD. We appreciate all of the time and effort our volunteer editors and Editorial Board members are contributing to make *Pharmacy in History* an even better publication.

Two combined issues of *Pharmacy in History* will be published in 2019. Volume 60, Nos. 1&2, published in June, featured several peer-reviewed articles (one of which was covered by a major website, Slate.com) and several reminiscences honoring the leadership and scholarship of Greg Higby. The next issue (volume 60, Nos. 3&4),

scheduled for publication in December, will include (among other things) articles exploring the future of the history of pharmacy.

Additionally, the EIC, in collaboration with the larger editorial team, recently issued a call for papers for a special issue currently scheduled for Fall 2021.

Planning is underway for additional changes to *Pharmacy in History* that we believe will modernize its look and improve and expand its editorial content.

International Congress: In September, AIHP hosted the 44th International Congress for the History of Pharmacy in Washington, DC. Needless to say, planning and executing this event consumed an enormous amount of the time and energy of Institute staff in the months preceding the event. We believe the Congress was a huge success, despite a lower-than-expected turnout, and we are very proud of both the substance and execution of the event.

We'd like to again express our deep appreciation to USP (the United States Pharmacopeia Convention, Inc.) for its generous financial support of the event. Also deserving of special mention is AIHP member John Parascandola, PhD, who chaired the Congress' Program Committee. John devoted an incredible amount of time to planning the program and coordinating all the details that allowed for the presentation of five plenary lectures, 56 papers, and 33 posters. Thank you, John!

Awards and Grants: 2019 has been a very busy year for AIHP's awards program. The Institute awarded the George Urdang Medal to Greg Higby for his publications that have contributed to a deeper and richer understanding of the history of American pharmacy, particularly its evolution during the nineteenth century. AIHP's Edward Kremers Award was presented to Alain Touwaide for his published work on *materia medica* and pharmaceutical practice in Byzantium, the Arabic world, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance.

The AIHP Robert P. Fischelis Award was given to George B. Griffenhagen for his decades of support of the Institute and his many contributions to the field of the history of pharmacy. The award was presented to George at the International Congress, to a rousing ovation.

In 2019, the Institute also awarded two Certificates of Commendation and 22 AIHP Student Recognition Certificates.

AIHP awarded a \$2,000 PhD Thesis Support Grant to Naomi Rendina, a PhD candidate at Case Western Reserve University in support of her research regarding the development of childbirth-inducing drugs. AIHP also awarded financial assistance to four "early career researchers" to allow them to attend the 44th International Congress for the History of Pharmacy.

We thank the members of AIHP's Awards Committee for the many hours they devoted to the Institute's awards program during 2019.

Historical Collections: We are pleased to report that AIHP renewed its commitment to its historical collections during 2019. Greg Higby, in his new role as Fischelis Scholar, is organizing the Institute's book collection and addressing a backlog of documents to be archived. A very dedicated volunteer – Beth Richert, PhD, who just happens to be Luc's spouse – devoted more than 100 hours of time preparing a complete inventory of AIHP's collection of 564 pharmacy trade catalogs and worked with AIHP staff to organize and catalog other Institute collections. Thanks Beth!

In recent weeks, we have initiated discussions with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Digital Collections Center to digitize certain parts of the Institute's collection and making them widely accessible online. Planning is ongoing. This is a very exciting development that we hope will come to fruition in 2020.

Our campaign for contributions to the new AIHP Gregory J. Higby Fund – established in late 2018 to honor Greg Higby and to provide financial support for maintaining and expanding the Institute's historical collections – to date has generated contributions and pledges exceeding \$37,000! Our thanks to the many AIHP members who have contributed to the Higby Fund, and we extend our special thanks to Mickey Smith for his \$10,000 contribution and to William Heller for his \$3,000 pledge. (If you haven't yet made a contribution to the Higby Fund, it's not too late!)

During 2019, researchers from China, Japan, Scotland, Canada and the United States visited the Institute to use our historic collections. We fielded many more research inquiries via email and telephone.

Programming: The International Congress was the Institute's primary programming effort in 2019, but we have been engaged with several other activities here at our host institution, the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy. In conjunction with the School's Social and Administrative Sciences Division, we sponsored lectures by visiting scholars from China and Canada, and presented a panel addressing "Pharmacy and Diversity" from a historical perspective. During the year, AIHP staff also designed and curated several exhibits at the School on pharmacy history topics.

Social Media/Communications with Members: During 2019, the Institute increased its efforts to stay in touch with our members and supporters. We posted more than 30 articles on AIHP's website reporting on Institute activities and developments, and we distributed two editions of *e-Scripts*, our e-newsletter. (Expect another edition in January.)

The Institute also has made a concerted effort to use its Twitter account to maintain a dialogue with members and others interested in the history of pharmacy and pharmaceuticals (and related fields). A dedicated volunteer, Naomi Rendina (who earlier in 2019 received an AIHP PhD Thesis Support Grant), has signed on as AIHP's Social Media Coordinator. In that role, she is responsible for posting regular news updates about Institute events and activities, as well as provide information about the history of pharmacy, drugs, and medicines more generally. Thanks in large part to Naomi's efforts, AIHP now has more than 400 followers on Twitter! Thanks Naomi!

Staffing: Upon assuming our positions in January, it quickly became apparent to both of us that staffing levels at the Institute were inadequate to support existing operations. The budget approved by the Board of Directors for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2019, took a small but important step to address this serious problem by providing funding to employ Assistant Director Greg Bond on a fulltime basis (rather than 80%). In addition, Luc has arranged for a graduate student at the UW-Madison School of Pharmacy to devote approximately 10 hours per week to supporting the Institute's work. These additional resources are welcomed, but inadequate staffing remains a serious problem. We are always looking for volunteers to support the work of the Institute!

Representation at Meetings: During 2019, Luc represented the Institute at the annual meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine, the annual meeting of the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine, the biennial conference of the Alcohol and Drugs in History Society, and the International Congress for the History of Pharmacy, where he delivered a plenary lecture. Dennis represented AIHP at the quarterly meetings of the Joint Commission of Pharmacy Practitioners. Assistant Director Greg Bond and Curator/Program Manager Beth Fisher recently attended the Local History Preservation Conference.

Conclusion: It has been a busy and productive year and we are pleased with the progress we have made. It is important to stress, however, that we need the ongoing support of AIHP's members to help advance the mission of the Institute. We appreciate your past support and hope that you will continue to do so.