# NEWSLETTER



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The Newsletter is published for the members of the New York / New Jersey Chapter of the Medical Library Association.

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#### From the Editors

Dear Chapter Members,

In this issue, we start with a summary of our activities from Chapter Chair Mahnaz Tehrani. Fatoma Rad shares all the fun that was had at the Spring Dinner. Renae Barger highlights funding and upcoming events that are sponsored by the NN/LM Mid-Atlantic Region.

Robin Wright reflects on all the awards and other Kudos that our members have earned. Cathy Boss provides information on a new single accreditation system for osteopathic physicians. Claire Joseph recommends some excellent resources for Nursing and Allied Health professionals. Melissa Spangenberg shares information about a health literacy related educational opportunity she organized, including a list of related resources. Sisalee Hecht introduces us to Sheryl Ramer Gesoff, chapter member and Director of the Health Sciences Library at Elmhurst Hospital Center. Finally, Sarah Jewell reviews a recent nonfiction book that may be of interest.

We hope you have enjoyed your summer and are looking forward to the cooler weather and intellectual activities that fall brings.

Happy Reading!

The Editors August 2014



#### From the Chair

# Mahnaz A. Tehrani New York Institute of Technology mtehrani@nyit.edu

Dear Chapter Members,

I would like to begin this column with a quote from F. Scott Fitzgerald in "The Great Gatsby": "And with the sunshine and the great bursts of the leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer."

I hope you have been able to re-unite with your friends and family, visit new and interesting places, or simply have found a quiet and peaceful moment for self-reflection.

It was great seeing many of you at MLA in Chicago in May. Most board members participated for the "sunrise informal meeting" and discussed the old and the new businesses of the Chapter.



The annual spring dinner was held June 19<sup>th</sup> at El Quijote in NYC. This year we had three new members who joined us for this event. The attendees enjoyed a delicious meal with colleagues in a pleasant atmosphere. Also, three members won the raffle prizes. I would like to extend my appreciation to Latrina Keith who organized this special evening.

The MLA Board Meeting in Chicago

The CE committee arranged an educational session of interest to our members. The session was held on Thursday, August 21, on the topic of *Health literacy and its importance*, in Manhattan, the Icahn School of Medicine, Mt. Sinai. This course was presented by Michelle Burda and was organized by Melissa Spangenberg, the chair of the CE Committee.

The terms for the AHIP First-Time Applicant Award is constructed and announced by the Chapter's AHIP Credentialing Liaison Barbara S. Reich. This is a great opportunity for those members who are planning to join the Academy of Health Information Professionals. The information for the application could be found at the <u>Chapter website</u>.



I am delighted to announce that NY/NJ-MLA Chapter is subscribing for web conferencing software. The adoption of a web conferencing tool enables us not only to move along with MLA core values in enhancing and expanding the knowledge and skills of health information professionals, but also to remove the existing geographical barriers and connect our members for meetings and educational purposes more efficiently. Nancy Glassman and Lindsay Greenawalt have agreed to host the online sessions, while Helen Ann Brown Epstein is going to design and lead the discussion for the *Chapter First Online Journal Club Session*. The web conferencing team welcomes any member who would like to present a specific topic for NYNJ-MLA members.

The chapter website is being re-designed. Christina Rivera joined the web team back in April 2014. Energetically, the team is working hand in hand to launch the new interface in the near future. The upgrade of the Chapter web server space by MLA will enable the web team to exhibit many more of the Chapter photo archives.

The Chapter also, is partnering with the Archives and Library Leadership Network (ALLN) of New York City, formerly Regional Professional Leadership Network (RPLN). <u>ALLN</u> is a network of local library organizations, including <u>NY-SLA</u>, <u>NYTSL</u>, <u>Archivists Round Table</u>, and <u>NY-ACRL</u>. The group is coordinated by METRO staff to build community ties, collaborate, and share issues and opportunities. The group meets quarterly, and the last meeting was held on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Shelly Warwick, the Chapter executive board member participated in this meeting. The group focused on what benefits the various member organizations offered to students, and what would students like from the professional organizations for information and library community. Partnering with this group provides publicity for the Chapter on their website and facilitates to partner with other local library organizations.

Last but not the least our annual meeting will be in partnership with BQSI-MB on October 24, 2014. The theme is: "*Creating Collaborations: How did they do that?*" The program will be exceptional with Carla Funk from MLA as the keynote speaker. Stay tuned for program details and updates.

It is hard to believe that my year as Chair is almost at a close. I'd like to express my appreciation to wonderful colleagues who contributed time to the Chapter as officers, committee chairs and committee members. It was their positive energy and support which created connection and collaboration among us to make better decisions when it was needed. I would like to encourage you to get involved with the Chapter's committee to experience the learning curves and rewards. Do your best and believe in what we plant now, we will harvest later!

I look forward to meeting you in October. Enjoy the rest of the summer!



### **Spring Dinner**

#### Fatoma Rad

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Library radf@mskcc.org



L to R, Fatoma Rad, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and Robin Wright, Lehman College/CUNY

On Thursday, June 19, Chapter members got together for the annual Spring Dinner. The dinner this year was located at El Quijote, a festive restaurant that offered great authentic Spanish food. There were 35 attendees, including librarians from hospitals, academic and special libraries, as well as library school students and, like myself, new chapter members.

It was a great night for networking and catching up with old colleagues and friends and for making new ones. The room was full of chapter members exchanging stories, catching up with one another, and familiarizing each other with new faces.

Aside from great food and company, there were also raffle prizes for Barnes and Nobles and Amazon. The winners this year were Cheryl Branche (MLS Student, Queens College) Sheryl Ramer (Elmhurst Hospital Center Health Science Library) and Marie Elias (Montefiore Medical Center Health Sciences Library). A very special thanks to Latrina Keith for helping create such a wonderful night for everyone!



### NN/LM Mid-Atlantic Region Update

#### Renae Barger

NN/LM MAR Executive Director rbarger@pitt.edu

Happy summer, NY/NJ readers! In the last update I announced our new funding opportunities. NN/LM MAR typically awards over \$400,000 each year to support of a wide variety of outreach projects directed at increasing access to health information and improving health outcomes. Last year, funding supported 44 awards for professional development, exhibits, medical library projects, technology improvement, outreach to health professionals and consumers, emergency preparedness, and a group licensing initiative for hospital libraries. This funding allowed Network members to:

- offer 247 trainings and 4 exhibits to educate and promote awareness of NLM resources to approximately 2,500 health professionals, educators, students and consumer groups
- hold a two-day symposium on research data management in libraries, which was attended by 143 registrants from 23 states and Canada
- host a one-day intensive workshop designed to increase the number of New Jersey libraries active in disaster response
- purchase technology to promote evidence-based health information
- involve health sciences libraries in institution-wide health information initiatives
- attend or host professional development events and CEs to increase ability to provide improved health information access
- facilitate cost-effective licensing of electronic resources by joining the <u>HSLANJ Group</u> Licensing Initiative



The NN/LM MAR Team



In this update, I am pleased to draw your attention to the terrific projects your NY/NJ colleagues have been awarded to pursue for 2014-2015:

- Yelena Friedman, Staten Island University Hospital (SIUH) Medical Library, is managing a project to make the library an active partner with the SIUH Department of Research to improve faculty scholarly productivity.
- Andrea Rudner, Fournarakis Medical Library, Richmond University Medical Center (RIMC), is joining forces with nursing administration to create a Nursing Education Council, whose mission will be to raise the level of nursing scholarship and increase evidence-based practice at RUMC.
- Keith Mages and Diane Schwartz, Kaleida Health Sciences Libraries, Buffalo General Medical Center, are initiating a service to teach diabetic patients being treated at Buffalo General Medical Center's (BGMC) Heart & Lung Center (HLC) how to access, evaluate and use quality internet-based health information resources.
- Michael Chartrand and Jeff Garvey, Samaritan Medical Center, are leading a Skype Your Medical Librarian project that will be administered by the staff of the Hunter-Rice Health Sciences Library/Hospital Services Library Program and provide reference services to clinical staff at six critical access hospitals in rural upstate New York.
- Patricia Carroll-Mathes, Southeastern NY Library Resources Council (SENYLRC), is partnering with five community colleges in the Mid-Hudson Valley to expand access to, and use of, National Library of Medicine (NLM) health information resources by future health practitioners.
- Micki Mcintyre, Health Sciences Library, Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine, is leading a technology project whereby the library staff will have the expertise to educate students, faculty and house staff on a variety of mobile devices and apps to determine which best meet their clinical information needs.
- Gloria Wilson, Brooklyn Campus Library, Long Island University, received technology funding to add reference kiosks and a librarian laptop to extend reference services outside the library.
- Robb Mackes, Barbara Reich, and Robin Siegel, Health Sciences Library Association of New Jersey (HSLANJ), continue to facilitate cost-effective electronic licensing for hospital libraries through the <u>Group Licensing Initiative</u>.

NY/NJ public libraries are also ambitious and have been funded for the following projects:

- The East Brunswick Public Library is partnering with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School to promote health literacy among new immigrants and indigent populations by taking the public library's team of consumer health librarians to offsite events, such as health fairs, collaborative outreach projects alongside medical students, blood drives and hospital support groups.
- In support of the NN/LM goal to partner libraries with organizations that have disasterrelated responsibilities, the Township of Washington Public Library is joining forces with their local police, fire and ambulance departments and the Office of Emergency



- Management to incorporate a safety and emergency education program for community residents.
- Atlantic County Library Foundation received funding for a librarian to become a certified Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Instructor.
- The New Jersey State Library will be partnering with the Mental Health Association of New Jersey to provide Mental Health First Aid trainings to public library staff throughout the state of New Jersey. This will provide library staff with mental health literacy tools and resources to deal calmly and effectively with customers who may be suffering from stress or mental health issues in their lives.

To see all funded projects, visit: <a href="http://nnlm.gov/mar/funding/funded.html">http://nnlm.gov/mar/funding/funded.html</a>
Funding is still available for Health Information Awareness, Exhibitor and Professional Development awards, so consider applying: <a href="http://nnlm.gov/mar/funding/">http://nnlm.gov/mar/funding/</a>

**Stay tuned!** NN/LM MAR has reserved funding for a regional symposium for health sciences librarians to be held in spring 2015. We are currently seeking feedback from our <u>Regional Advisory Committee</u> and <u>Special Advisory Groups</u> for topics that are impacting hospital and academic health sciences libraries.

**Upcoming NN/LM MAR Classes and Educational Sessions:** In closing, I would like to highlight some upcoming training opportunities that may be of interest:

- 1. <u>ClinicalTrials.gov: Results Reporting, Unique Evidence, and the Role of Medical Librarians</u> September 2 22, 2014 (3-week, self-paced)
- 2. <u>Beyond an Apple a Day: Providing Consumer Health Information at Your Library</u> September 5 sponsored by Long Island Library Resource Council, Farmingdale Public Library
- 3. <u>Health & Wellness @ the Library: The Essentials of Providing Consumer Health Services</u> Online, begins September 22 **This course has been certified for 12 contact hours** of Medical Library Association (MLA) CE credit!
- 4. **NEW!** Focus on NLM Resources: <u>Finding Health Services Research</u> September 23 Presenters: Staff from National Information Center on Health Services Research and Health Care Technology (NICHSR)
- 5. **NEW!** Health on the Range: Rural Health Issues and Resources **Never before offered!** Online, September 30
- **6. NEW!** Boost Box: <u>NLM Disaster Information Resource Center and MLA Disaster Information Specialization</u> September 25 Presenters: Siobhan Champ-Blackwell and Cindy Love, NLM Disaster Information Specialist Program

Our <u>training site</u> is updated regularly so check back often or <u>request a class</u> by emailing me at <u>rbarger@pitt.edu</u>. I also encourage you to follow NN/LM MAR activities by subscribing to our <u>listsery</u> or following our <u>outreach calendar</u>.



### **Kudos for Members**

Robin Wright, MSILS
Lehman College/CUNY
Robin.Wright@lehman.cuny.edu

#### **Awards**

Marie T. Ascher, MS, AHIP (D) Health Sciences Library New York Medical College

Marie was awarded an AAHSL Leadership Scholarship to attend the 2014 Harvard Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians.

Tanya Shkolnikov, MLS, AHIP (S) Daniel Carroll Payson Medical Library North Shore University Hospital

Tanya received the Department of Medicine's award for "Outstanding Contribution and Dedication to House Staff Education."

Robin Siegel, MLS, AHIP (S) Medical Library CentraState Healthcare System, Freehold

Robin was awarded the Health Sciences Librarian of the Year 2014 by the Health Sciences Library Association of New Jersey at their annual business meeting on April 3, 2014. Siegel, a member of HSLANJ and the NY/NJ Chapter of MLA, has been an active member of HSLANJ for over 30 years serving on the board, on various committees, and as president. She currently serves on the New Jersey State Library's Database Advisory Committee, as treasurer of the Hospital Libraries Section of the Medical Library Association and as co-chair of the HSLANJ Group Licensing Initiative, which provides cost savings on electronic resources for medical libraries in 15 states.

#### **Degrees Earned**

Nancy R. Glassman, MLS, AHIP (M) D. Samuel Gottesman Library Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Nancy Glassman received her MPH May 30, 2014. Her Capstone project, *Access to Evidence-based Health Information Resources for Health Professionals at a Community-based Organization*, addresses the information needs of unaffiliated community-based health professionals.



#### **Publications**

Shifra Atik, MLS Health Sciences Library Long Island Jewish Medical Center

Shifra Atik published (coauthored with Raquel Fereres-Moskowitz and Barbara Sacks) an article in the current issue of the Journal of Hospital Librarianship:

Fereres-Moskowitz R, Atik S, Sacks B. EMIL mobile: development and implementation of an optimized mobile site for the North Shore–Long Island Jewish Health System Libraries. *Journal of Hospital Librarianship*. 2014; 14(3):311-321. doi:10.1080/15323269.2014.923803.

#### Available at:

http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15323269.2014.923803#.U9wfSGNWr3A

Elisabeth Marrapodi, MLS Library Trinitas Regional Medical Center

Elizabeth was a contributing author in a recently published book that explores how virtual reality has been used to help improve health care. Her chapter examines her experience developing an IRB approved study using interactive health games about heart attack, stroke and medical terminology by utilizing current and emerging technology. To date over 3,000 people worldwide have played these games.

Marrapodi E. Improving health information literacy with games in the virtual world of Second Life. In: Ma M, Jain LC, Anderson P. eds. *Virtual, Augmented Reality and Serious Games for Healthcare 1*. Heidelberg, Germany: Springer-Verlag; 2014: 175-189.

#### Recognition

Yelena Friedman, MLS, AHIP (D) Medical Library Staten Island University Hospital/North Shore/LIJ Health System

Yelena recently completed a full redesign of the BQSIMB (Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, Manhattan and the Bronx Health Science Librarians) website. This includes an enhanced interface, new layout, and features making the site more functional, and giving it a modern, attractive look. The new BQSIMB website was launched on July 4, 2014.

Available from: <a href="http://www.bqsimb.org/">http://www.bqsimb.org/</a>



#### **Government Relations**

#### **Cathy Boss**

Booker Health Sciences Library cboss@meridianhealth.com

The American Osteopathic Association's House of Delegates, representing the nation's more than 104,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and osteopathic medical students, voted on July 19, 2014, to support a decision by the AOA Board of Trustees to pursue a new single-accreditation system for graduate medical education. The plans call for the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education to oversee all residency programs by July 2020, and for the AOA and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine to become ACGME member organizations. The AOA currently accredits osteopathic residency training and will cease to do so July 1, 2020.

With representation on the ACGME board, osteopathic physicians will have a voice in the development of the ACGME's new accreditation system, noted new AOA President Dr. Robert Juhasz in an interview. According to Dr. Juhasz, the new methodology looks to advance doctors in their training as they achieve certain competency milestones, rather than advancing them merely with the passage of time. It also provides "an opportunity to let the world know what DOs do, how we think and how we run our practices."

The three organizations began publicly discussing a single accreditation system in October 2012, and this vote allows for the implementation of the new system to go forward, said Dr. Thomas Nasca, CEO of the ACGME. In a letter posted on the ACGME website (<a href="http://www.acgme.org/acgmeweb/Portals/0/PDFs/Nasca-Community/AOA">http://www.acgme.org/acgmeweb/Portals/0/PDFs/Nasca-Community/AOA</a> letter to the Community.pdf), Dr. Nasca stated:

that this single accreditation system will foster greater accountability to the American public for the outcomes that are needed in the healthcare delivery system of the future....And, it provides the greatest opportunity for optimization of use of the GME resources provided by the public to the profession, and maximizes opportunities for the residents of today and tomorrow.

According to an FAQ page on the AOA website (<a href="http://www.osteopathic.org/inside-aoa/Pages/single-gme-accreditation-system-faq.aspx">http://www.osteopathic.org/inside-aoa/Pages/single-gme-accreditation-system-faq.aspx</a>), the unification sends a message to Congress that, as potential GME spending cuts are discussed, the three organizations are collaborating "to remove any perceived inefficiencies in having two accreditation systems."



### **Nursing and Allied Health**

Claire B. Joseph, MS, MA, AHIP South Nassau Communities Hospital claire.joseph@snch.org

I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful summer!

I wanted to be sure you are aware of the following two great resources:

Nursing on the Net: Health Care Resources You Can Use: A Web Sampler of Resources for Nursing Professionals <a href="http://nnlm.gov/training/nursing/sampler.html">http://nnlm.gov/training/nursing/sampler.html</a>

This site provides a seemingly exhaustive list of resources, including "Alternative Medicine," "Associations and Organizations," "Continuing Education," "Evidence Based Nursing," "Multicultural Resources," "Nursing Standards," and "Mobile Resources."

## **Information Literacy Competency Standards for Nursing** http://www.ala.org/acrl/standards/nursing

This site was published late last year by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) of the American Library Association.

"The standards directly address the information skills needed by nursing students at the associate, baccalaureate, master's and doctoral levels and are written for nursing faculty and librarians who support nursing programs and nursing students in academic settings. However, because many nursing students are also practicing nurses, the skills described in the standards can be used for continuing education in the nursing profession."

I utilized this resource when I was developing a recent 3-week continuing education series for the nursing staff, entitled "Are You an *Information Literate* Nurse?"

I'd also like to recommend two excellent books for your library:

Complementary & Alternative Therapies in Nursing, 7<sup>th</sup> ed., edited by Ruth Lindquist, Mariah Snyder & Mary Fran Tracy (NY: Springer, 2014, ISBN: 978-0-8261-9612-5). This is the new edition of an outstanding authoritative and comprehensive work in an area of increasing popularity. As the editors point out, "Consideration of complementary therapies has moved from specific therapies to integrating these procedures into the fabric of practice, education, and research. Nurses have taken the lead in that integration."

Caring Science, Mindful Practice: Implementing Watson's Human Caring Theory by Kathleen Sitzman & Jean Watson (NY: Springer, 2014, ISBN: 978-0-8261-7153-5). Watson is a popular and well regarded nurse theorist; this work offers guidance and relates real-life examples of how to put her theory into daily practice.



### **Continuing Education**

Melissa Spangenberg, MLIS, EMT-B

Winthrop University Hospital MSpangenberg@Winthrop.org



Melissa Spangenberg, MLIS, EMT-B

information."

On Thursday, August 21, the New York/New Jersey Medical Library Association's Continuing Education Committee invited Michelle Burda to present the topic of health information literacy with our members. Her interactive course touched on the necessity of clinicians to understand the lack of health information literacy amongst health consumers. As the NNLM Network and Advocacy Coordinator, she has worked towards educating clinical professionals and librarians on the importance of health literacy.

This event aligns with the MLA strategic initiatives to "promote a sense of community and collaboration with organizations that have similar missions" and to "improve the public's awareness of, access to, and use of quality health

If you were unable to attend, you can find Michelle Burda's health literacy resource guide following this article.











2 MLA CE \* 3 CEU NBPHE (In Process) \* NCHEC-CHES (In Process) Health Literacy: Its importance to you

Michelle Burda. Network and Advocacy Coordinator National Network of Libraries of Medicine Middle Atlantic Region

This unique opportunity brought together several organizations working towards the goal of health information literacy skills for clinical practitioners and medical librarians within the Metro New York area:

The **Public Health Association of New York City** (<a href="http://www.phanyc.org/">http://www.phanyc.org/</a>) is one of the oldest affiliates of the American Public Health Association. Founded in 1936, the organization works to inform and educate its membership on issues of public health, policy, and progress towards a more responsive and equitable health care system. Its members are public health leaders, health care providers, health administrators, researchers, scientists, professors, students and activists. Recently, its membership objectives have turned towards the issue of health information literacy, introducing the topic as a public health priority in a March 2014 panel, *Health Literacy: The Hidden Public Health Problem*.

One of the **Graduate Program in Public Health, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**'s founding goals is to educate "students to consider the health of individuals within the context of community and environmental influences." To this end, the Graduate Program provides training in community health allowing students to identify and recognize a variety of avenues and mechanisms through which community, cultural, and environmental factors can influence health. Of these mechanisms, the issue of health literacy fits into the Icahn School of Medicine's Health and Environmental Literacy Initiative, which seeks to "conduct training workshops on health and environmental literacy issues for a range of audiences."

**NN/LM MAR**, the National Library of Medicine's Middle Atlantic regional office promotes the use and access to reliable health information by consumers in NY, NJ, PA and DE as one of its 2011-16 priorities. Beyond the course "Health literacy: Its importance to you," NN/LM MAR offers a considerable range of courses through their website: <a href="http://guides.nnlm.gov/mar\_ch\_classes">http://guides.nnlm.gov/mar\_ch\_classes</a>.

This training opportunity would not have been possible without the participation of the following:



Jennifer Celio, MPH, MS, OTR/L Co-Chair Program Committee Public Health Association of New York City



Co-Chair Program Committee Public Health Association of New York City

**Christine Cortalano, MPH** 



Michelle Burda, MLS

NN/LM MAR Network &
Advocacy Coordinator at
University of Pittsburgh



#### **Health Information Literacy Selected Resources**

#### Tools and Resources

- Building Health Literate Organizations: A Guidebook to Achieving Organizational Change, authored by Mary Ann Abrams, Sabrina Kurtz-Rossi, Audrey Riffenburgh, and Barbara Savage www.healthliterateorganization.org
- Health Literacy Universal Precautions Toolkit
   <a href="http://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/quality-patient-safety/quality-resources/tools/literacy-toolkit/">http://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/quality-patient-safety/quality-resources/tools/literacy-toolkit/</a>
- Plain English/Plain Language http://www.plainlanguage.gov

#### Key Players

- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) http://www.ahrq.gov/browse/hlitix.htm
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Simply Put http://www.cdc.gov/healthliteracy/pdf/Simply\_Put.pdf
- Clear Health Communications (Pfizer) <a href="http://www.pfizerhealthliteracy.com/">http://www.pfizerhealthliteracy.com/</a>
- **Hablamos Juntos** "Universal Symbols in Health Care Workbook" http://www.rwjf.org/pr/product.jsp?id=15864
- Health Literacy Calgary Charter http://www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca/health\_literacy/calgary\_charter
- "Health Literacy Online: A Guide to Writing and Designing Easy-to-Use Health Web Sites" (U.S. Dept. HHS)
   <a href="http://www.health.gov/healthliteracyonline/index.htm">http://www.health.gov/healthliteracyonline/index.htm</a>
- National Center for the Study of Adult Learning & Literacy (federal funding ended in 2007 but their resources, online-training and teaching materials etc. are available <a href="http://www.ncsall.net/index.html@id=1.html">http://www.ncsall.net/index.html@id=1.html</a>
- National Network of Libraries of Medicine Health Literacy resource page http://nnlm.gov/outreach/consumer/hlthlit.html
- Partnership for Clear Health Communication/AskMe3 Initiative <a href="http://www.npsf.org/askme3/">http://www.npsf.org/askme3/</a>
- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion http://www.health.gov/communication/literacy



### **Get to Know Your Chapter**

Sisalee Hecht, MSLIS, AHIP
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Meet Sheryl Ramer Gesoff, the Director of the Health Sciences Library at Elmhurst Hospital

Center in Elmhurst, New York. (For those of you not familiar with Elmhurst, it is a neighborhood in the borough of Queens County.)



Sheryl has been the director of Elmhurst Hospital Center's Health Sciences Library since 2005. Her responsibilities are far reaching and varied as she works on projects including collection development, literature searches, circulation, and reference. Sheryl is often called upon by hospital administration to help in identifying problems in the hospital

and choose appropriate products that will address those problems. For example, Sheryl purchases web-based, interactive language-learning software including Rosetta Stone so patrons in the Jackson Heights area (the most diverse zip code in the hospital's range) can learn a variety of languages and the Canopy App so patrons can learn medical Spanish.

Sheryl noticed that library patrons were often requesting videos and began purchasing a variety of web-based videos, including Lynda, a computer teaching tool, and health sciences videos from Alexander Street Press and Films for the Humanities and Sciences. She also purchased Isabel, a differential diagnosis tool used by hospital clinicians.

Sheryl is interested in podcasts for scholarly communication, as well as for entertainment. She recorded her interview with Dr. Scott Weingart, a physician at Elmhurst Hospital Center and host of EmCrit, the number one medical podcast in the world and presented it to BQSIMB (Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, Manhattan, and Bronx) Health Sciences Librarians. Sheryl is teaching a webinar about podcasts for the American Library Association in October 2014.

Before her directorship at the Elmhurst Hospital Center's Health Sciences Library, Sheryl was employed there as a librarian where her responsibilities included performing literature searches, collection development, and checking out books. One of Sheryl's main interests is to organize and market podcasts and her "dream job" is to start an organization for librarians and others who would like to classify and spread the word about podcasts.

A graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park, Sheryl majored in speech therapy. She has a master's degree in library science with a specialty in medical librarianship from Pratt Institute.

Sheryl lived in Queens, New York before moving to, and growing up in, Howell, New Jersey (Monmouth County). She now resides on the Upper West Side in Manhattan. Sheryl loves the theater, spending time with family and friends, jogging, and listening to podcasts. In fact, you may see Sheryl jogging through Manhattan while listing to her favorite podcasts: Scientific American's 60 Second Science, Freakonomics, NPR's Fresh Air, StoryCorps, The Moth, and Pop Culture Happy Hour!

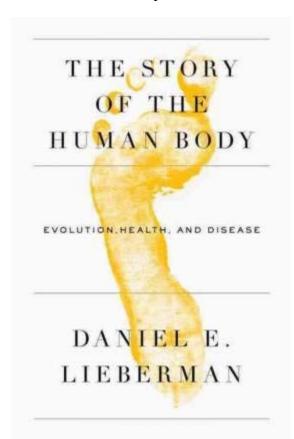


### Reader to Reader

#### Sarah Jewell, MLIS

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Library jewells@mskcc.org

From the "Barefoot Professor" comes a story about the evolution of the human body. Daniel Lieberman, chair of the Department of Human Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University, is known for being a proponent of barefoot running, arguing that the human foot is designed in such a way that running barefoot generates less impact shock than running with sneakers. In a similar fashion, Lieberman starts his book by addressing how humans became bipeds and how freeing our hands for other activities started us on a path which favored the evolution of larger and more creative, adaptable brains.



The Ice Age is the main reason that our bodies evolved to give us advantages when hunting and gathering, Lieberman claims. Food scarcity favored those who were able to throw spears and rocks when hunting. Lieberman also details how the brain and vocal tract evolved as humans developed language, another key trait that allowed for survival advantages.

Next, Lieberman explains how cultural adaptability sparked the agricultural revolution and how farming has brought us both survival advantages and disadvantages. Of particular interest are diseases – including type 2 diabetes, heart disease, myopia and others – that Lieberman argues are the result of evolutionary mismatch, when our Paleolithic bodies adapt poorly to modern behaviors. Although our bodies continue to evolve, the rate of cultural evolution proceeds much faster than the rate of natural selection.

Finally, Lieberman proposes several approaches for using evolutionary logic to improve the fitness

of our modern bodies, including investing in more biomedical research and treatment, educating and empowering people about how their bodies work and even changing the environment.

Lieberman's book is very readable, understandable even by the layperson, yet packed with enough scientific theories to maintain interest. He offers a wealth of references to back up his arguments. The book also contains a detailed index. I recommend this book not only for biomedical collections but also for entertaining personal reading.