Dear Chapter Members,

New Chapter Chair Roberta Bronson Fitzpatrick recaps recent chapter events and offers a glimpse of things to come in 2015. Jaqueline Woolcott provides a detailed look last year's annual Chapter meeting. In the Kudos column, Robin Wright reports the awards given to members at that meeting and other news from members.

Renae Barger introduces new continuing education opportunities from the Middle Atlantic Region. Cathy Boss reprints 8 Excuses for Not Getting Copyright Permission. Claire Joseph addresses the nurse-to-patient ration in the Nursing and Allied Health column.

We include a profile of one of our Chapter member, Danielle Aloia. Jackie Heller describes a research paradigm called PCOR and we end with a book review by our new editor, Jennifer Kaari.

We hope you are looking forward to spring! Please send any suggestions and contributions for future issues to the newsletter editors, Sarah or Jennifer.

Happy Reading!

The Editors

January 2015
I’d like to begin my inaugural newsletter column with some acknowledgements for Chapter members who made significant contributions during the last year. For a full list, please see Robin Wright’s “Kudos” column. A big “thank you” to Winifred King, Latrina Keith, and Bill Self for all of their work to coordinate the 2014 annual meeting and to Mahnaz A. Tehrani for her unflagging service as Chapter Chair.

A joint annual meeting was held this year on Friday, October 24, 2014. The NY-NJ Chapter joined the BQSIMB (Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, Manhattan, and the Bronx) Health Sciences Librarians group at the Mount Sinai Medical Center in Manhattan. “Creating Collaborations: How Did They Do That?” was the theme of the joint meeting.

After being welcomed to the meeting by both Mahnaz Tehrani, NY-NJ Chapter Chair, and William Self, President of BQSIMB, Renae Barger, Executive Director of the NN/LM Middle Atlantic Region delivered the NN/LM Update. Carla Funk, Executive Director of MLA, gave the first Keynote address, “Librarians Without Borders” MLA’s Global Health Information Initiatives.” William Self gave the second Keynote address, “BQSIMB: a history of collaboration.” Linda Walton, MLA President, provided an MLA Update for attendees.

A “lightning round” of presentations by members continued the theme of collaboration. Brief presentations were given on a wide range of topics, including

- Atlantic Healthcare Systems Consumer Health Information Ambassador Program, utilizing trained volunteers with iPads to work with the library to deliver quality information to patients and families;
- A project between the library and Research Department at Staten Island University Hospital to improve awareness of and access to research resources;
- A faculty/librarian collaboration in health information literacy instruction for a graduate public health program at Long Island University;
- Providing evidence-based health information with a federally-qualified health center and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine;
- Collaborating with faculty at Touro Harlem on research, courses, and workshops;
- St. Barnabas Hospital Library’s work with the hospital’s Volunteer and Patient Experience departments to create an employee appreciation program;
- Coney Island Hospital Library’s work with their Research and Medical Education Chairs to increase research productivity of residents
- Practitioner partnerships with Bergen Community College
I found the presentations to be both interesting and inspiring. Many of our members work tirelessly to enhance their work environment by introducing additional services and by reaching out to new (and established) user communities. Each time that I attend an annual meeting, I leave with great ideas and with my pride in health sciences librarianship renewed.

That said, plans are underway for our 2015 annual meeting, which will probably be held locally, and for the 2016 meeting. Based on your votes, the NY-NJ Chapter will participate in a joint meeting in Philadelphia, PA with the Philadelphia Chapter and the MAC Chapter.

During part of the annual meeting program, Mahnaz showed a simple video, featuring photos of Canadian geese and illustrated by brief messages about working as part of a team. Let me take a feather (ha, ha) from Mahnaz’s video and encourage you all to participate in Chapter activities and to volunteer for committee service. We will need you to work on annual meetings and on various Chapter committees. If you have a particular interest and want to share your time, please contact me or indicate your preferences on the membership renewal form.

Feel free to contact me to share ideas, opinions, concerns, etc.

Best,

Roberta Bronson Fitzpatrick
NY-NJ Chapter Chair, 2014-2015
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**Chapter Membership Dues Reminder**

Chapter membership dues are $15.00 a year, and can be paid using PayPal or by check. They are due at the beginning of the calendar year. To become a new member, or renew your membership for 2015:

- Complete our online [PayPal form](#) and pay by credit card or PayPal account; *OR*
- Complete the [2015 Membership Form](#) and mail it with your check for $15.00, made payable to “NY-NJ Chapter of MLA”.

**Address to send check:**
Patricia Gallagher
3379 Beaverwood Lane
Silver Spring MD 20906

NOTE: The mailing address to submit dues payments and membership forms has just changed. If your institution’s accounts payable department sends in your dues check, make sure they update the address in their system. Please verify that the correct address is being used, or switch to PayPal instead!
Creating Collaborations: How Did They Do That?  
NY-NJ MLA Annual Chapter Meeting  
Friday, October 24, 2014  
Jaqueline Woolcott  
The New York Public Library  
jwoolcott@gmail.com

Creating Collaborations was this year’s topic for NY-NJ MLA annual chapter meeting. We joined forces with The Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, Manhattan and the Bronx Health Sciences Librarians (BQSIMB) on Friday, October 24th at the Mount Sinai Hospital, Icahn School of Medicine, in the lovely (although chilly) Stern Auditorium. Conversation was warm, the coffee was hot, and we had some lofty goals for the day: learn to do more with less, discover ways to embed your expertise with another department, and determine when you have a practical and valuable end result. With much to do, the meeting started right away.

Mahnaz Tehrani of NY-NJ MLA and William Self of BQSIMB kicked us off with a sincere welcome. Mahnaz showed photos from the very first chapter meeting in 1949 held at the NY Academy of Medicine. The cost was only $2.75 and included a cocktail dinner. She also set the stage for a fruitful and collaborative day with the following quote:

No one person, no one alliance, no one nation, no one of us is as smart as all of us thinking together.  
- James Stavridis, Navy Admiral.

Our Regional Medical Library update came from Renae Barger, Executive Director, NN/LM Middle Atlantic Region. She discussed enhancements with Docline, the new Medline mobile site, and the organization’s effort to encourage collaborative projects. These include the National Library of Medicine’s exhibitions across the U.S. with topics ranging from the history of nursing, poisons, and native voices. Renae mentioned a few continuing education courses to look for: affordable care act, emergency preparedness and response summit, and their mentorship programs. Additionally, look for a bioinformatics course and a grants and proposal writing class in early 2015.

Our first keynote, Carla Funk, Executive Director of MLA, showed us efforts in global collaborations with her talk Librarians Without Borders: MLA’s Global Health Information Initiatives. MLA cooperative efforts have taken on many forms over the past 80 years. They are currently offering many fellowships and awards, which so far have recognized librarians from 37 countries. Additionally The Medical Library Disaster Relief Fund started in 2005 with Katrina and Rita and has since helped librarians all over the world. Librarians Without Borders have also established bilateral agreements between a dozen or more library associations across the continents which promote publication exchanges, visiting professionals, sister library programs, and continuing education opportunities. Carla’s suggestions for making partnerships succeed: create mutual goals and objectives, commit for the long term, and while working identify new opportunities for partnerships.
Our second keynote, William Self, President of The Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, Manhattan and the Bronx Health Sciences Librarians (BQSIMB), discussed the group’s long history of collaboration. This includes the fee-free Interlibrary Loan program, listserv, continuing education programs, and cooperative purchasing.

Next up? A wonderful lunch provided by Mt. Sinai. Conversation was friendly, the food was plentiful, and vendors spoke about their products.

Following lunch the NY-NJ MLA Business Meeting started off with a fun, inspirational video about team building then we leaped into the nitty-gritty:

- The chapter currently has 184 members, 21 of which are new in 2014.
- We’ve established several methods of communication including the listserv, website, Facebook, archive, and newsletter.
- The chapter is in good financial standing. Overall totals were about $600 less than last year, due to the Adobe subscription we purchased for offering continuing educations.
- We updated our bylaws (Article IV, Meetings. Section 3, Quorum) to meet national MLA standards, which states, “at all regular and special meetings the presence of 10 members of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.” This changed from “presence of 10% of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.”
- The gavel was passed from Mahnaz Tehrani to Roberta Bronson Fitzpatrick, Associate Director of George F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences at Rutgers University. Thank you for all the hard work and direction in 2014 Mahnaz. We’re looking forward to the upcoming year with Roberta as our Chapter Chair.

Several of our wonderful members were recognized for their ongoing commitment to the profession. Thank you to the Nominating Committee for your excellent work and a huge congratulations to this year’s award recipients!

- Melissa Spangenberg, Outstanding Contribution of a New Member
- Pamela Kerns, Outstanding Contribution of a Member
- Helen-Ann Brown Epstein, Lifetime Achievement Award
- Mark Funk, Lifetime Achievement Award
- Dr. Erich Meyerhoff, Honorary Recognition

When the organizations regrouped we were given a tour of both NY-NJ MLA & BQSIMB’s lovely new sites. Afterward Linda Walton, President of MLA, gave us an update, which also included website improvements. She highlighted priorities for the next year, discussed the data management specialization program, new consumer health information brochures, and emerging roles for the Health Science Librarian. She also invited everyone to MLA’15 Annual Meeting in Austin, May 15-20. The topic is “Librarians Without Limits.” Twitter fans, be sure to follow #mlanet15.

Lightning Round Sessions ranged from volunteer ambassadors, classes with integrated librarians, and non-traditional partnerships. All eight sessions showed the positive role librarians play in the health field and reminded us how wonderful it is to work in a profession known for collaboration. Then we were off to happy hour at Joe Fresh!
Thanks to everyone involved with planning. It was an informative and enjoyable meeting. We’re looking forward to next year!

Sites & Resources of Interest:

Chapter Meeting Site, includes agenda, abstracts, and other interesting information: https://sites.google.com/site/nynjbqsimbmeeting2014/program


MLA Bylaws: http://research.mlanet.org/bylaws.html

MLA’15 Annual Meeting: http://mla15.meeting.mlanet.org/

NLM Associate Fellowship Program: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/about/training/associate/


NLM’s “Pictures of Nursing”: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/picturesofnursing/

NY-NJ MLA Bylaws: http://www.nynjmla.org/blog/bylaws/

NY-NJ MLA Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/37010985494/
Congratulations to our members who won Outstanding Achievement Awards at the NY-NJ Chapter of MLA and the Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, Manhattan and the Bronx (BQSIMB) Health Sciences Librarians 2014 Joint Annual Meeting held at Mt. Sinai Hospital Icahn School of Medicine, Stern Auditorium on October 24, 2014:

**Lifetime Achievement Award**

Helen-Ann Brown Epstein  
Retired  
Weill Cornell Medical College  
Weill Cornell Medical Library

Mark E. Funk  
Retired  
Weill Cornell Medical College  
Weill Cornell Medical Library

**Outstanding Contribution by a New Member**

Melissa Spangenberg  
Winthrop University Hospital  
Hollis Health Sciences Library

**Outstanding Contribution by a Member**

Pamela Anderson Kerns  
Archivist

**This year’s recipient for the Chapter Research Grant:**

Daina R. Bouquin for her study, “Data and Literacy in Biomedical Research Environments.”  
Weill Cornell Medical College  
Weill Cornell Medical Library

**Presentations**

Robin Wright, MSILS  
Lehman College, CUNY  
Leonard Lief Library
Robin Wright presented in June with Lehman colleagues, Rebecca Arzola and Alison Lehner-Quam, at the Hispanic Education Technology Services (HETS) Technology Showcase: Best Practices in Teaching with Technology at Lehman College, Bronx, NY.


Robin Wright presented with Lehman colleagues at the Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy in Savannah, GA in October.

Cohen M, Lehner-Quam A, Wright R. “The Information Literacy Flipped Classroom: Lesson Planning Workshop.”

Publications

Jackie Heller, MLS

Jackie Heller had an article published in HealthLine, the Newsletter of the Hospital Library Services Program of the Long Island Resources Council:


Jackie Heller, a member of the Health Concerns Committee of the Suffolk County Library Association Reference and Adult Services Division, contributed the section “Treatment Centers” to *Lifeline: Your Connection to Current Medical Resources: Heart Disease*. 2014 Fall;24:30-35.

Robin Wright, MSILS
Lehman College, CUNY
Leonard Lief Library

Latrina Keith, MLS
New York Academy of Medicine Library
Robin Wright and Latrina Keith had an article published in the Journal of Electronic Resources in Medical Libraries.

Hello NY-NJ Chapter readers. I would like to take this opportunity to let you know about 2 new upcoming CE opportunities. To coincide with NN/LM MAR funding, we have teamed up with Outreach and Evaluation expert, Cindy Olney, from the NN/LM Outreach and Evaluation Resource Center (OERC) to offer a 4-part webinar series, eligible for up to 8 MLA CE. “Mapping an Outreach Project: Start with Information; End with a Plan” is designed for anyone who wants to garner support, financial or otherwise, for a new project or service. You will learn how assessment and evaluation are effective tools for project planning and proposal writing. Assessment allows you to gather compelling information about the need and viability of your project. It also helps you build relationships with potential partners. Adding evaluation methods to your program plan helps you “begin with the end in mind,” making desired results the centerpiece of your project proposal.

- January 12: noon-1:00 PM (Webinar 1) Know the factors that influence people to adopt new ideas and technology so you can choose the best strategies for your project
- January 14 noon-1:00 PM (Webinar 2) Gather information about your target audience that is most effective for planning your project
- January 26: noon-1:00 PM (Webinar 3) Use a project-planning tool that allows you to logically link resources and activities to desired results
- January 28: noon-1:00 PM (Webinar 4) Incorporate evaluation into your project and understand how your plan can be expanded into a full project proposal

MAR funding applications are due March 13, 2015 and while special attention will be given to applications for NN/LM MAR awards, the information in this class is relevant to many types of outreach and project proposals. Registration is now open for this class.

MAR staff has also been in discussions with Network members and members of our Special Advisory Groups and Regional Advisory Committee to solicit feedback on challenges academic, hospital and public libraries are experiencing in the current healthcare environment. Topics surrounding the Affordable Care Act emerged as a common theme. Based on this feedback, MAR has assembled a planning committee of forward thinking public, academic and hospital...
librarians to help organize a symposium that will identify roles for information professionals under the healthcare law.

**SAVE THE DATE**: this full day symposium will take place on April 24, 2015 at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. MAR will be offering travel stipends to support attendance for those traveling from outside of Philadelphia and MLA CE is in the works. The agenda is still in the planning phase but it is shaping up to be an educational and collaborative day. Topics identified to be addressed include:

- Being on the front lines; understanding the law, terminology and challenges of coverage
- Areas for reimbursement and keeping incentive dollars
- Patient safety in HealthIT
- Libraries and the Affordable Care Act
- Libraries as essential partners and engaging non-library partners

Look for the announcement and registration over the next few weeks. I would like to recognize the planning committee whose expertise is bringing this together:

Cristina Pope, Director, Heath Sciences Library at SUNY Upstate Medical University

Donna Gibson, Director of Library Services, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Terri Wheeler, Director, Weill Cornell Samuel J. Wood Library/C.V. Starr Biomedical Information Center

Michelle Kraft, Senior Medical Librarian, Cleveland Clinic

Carol Cave-Davis, Director, Medical Library - Jamaica Hospital Medical Center

Amy Haugh, Director, Medical Library Services, UPMC St.Margaret

Liz Morris, Project Coordinator, OCLC Webjunction

Cathay Keough, Statewide Coordinator, Delaware Division of Libraries

Karen Parry, Manager of Information Services, East Brunswick Public Library

NN/LM MAR staff:
Barbara Epstein
Renae Barger
Michelle Burda
Lydia Collins
Missy Harvey
8 Excuses for Not Getting Copyright Permission

Reprinted with permission from copyright lawyer, Lesley Ellen Harris, founder of Copyrightlaws.com, a portal for copyright and licensing information for creators, owners, distributors, and consumers of content.

We have all heard excuses for not obtaining copyright permission prior to using a copyright-protected work. We may even have uttered some of the excuses set out below. Do you have a favorite excuse or one not mentioned below?

I found it online.

- Not all online content is in the public domain. Always assume that online content is protected by copyright. That’s true even if the content has no copyright symbol or notice.

I was in a hurry.

- Nothing in copyright law allows use without permission just because the consumer/user is in a hurry and must get a document to print or to include content in slides. If you plan to use copyright-protected material, plan ahead. It may take some time to clear the rights you need.

My boss told me to copy it.

- If your boss didn’t provide you with a written warranty that s/he will be liable if you get caught infringing, this may be the time to stand up to your boss. Not easy to do, but this may in fact be the start of your new copyright compliance program at work.

I’ll never get caught.

- So you know you should be obtaining permission. Everyone thinks they will never get caught…until they do.

It’s for education.

- Not all uses for educational purposes fall within an exception in copyright law. Check the Copyright Act in your country; it may provide some special limited free uses for nonprofit education, plus fair dealing or fair use may allow some educational uses too.

It’s for internal use.
• Whether you are using content internally or publicly, you still need to obtain permission from the copyright owner. Same is true if you are publishing content on your private Intranet or your public website.

It has a Creative Commons license.

• A CC license does not mean free; the content is subject to the terms and conditions in the CC license – read the license and see what’s allowed. There are 6 different licenses which allow different kinds of use.

I emailed, called, faxed and snail mailed the copyright owner but never received a reply.

• This does not exonerate you from copyright liability. Unless the copyright owner provides permission, you may not legally use the content. Some countries have specific provisions for orphan works, works in which the author may not be found or located. The U.S. has no such provision.

Nursing and Allied Health

Claire B. Joseph, MS, MA, AHIP
South Nassau Communities Hospital
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A question I am often asked to research is to find standards, mandates, or guidelines regarding nurse-to-patient ratio. A recent guest editorial in November’s JONA (Journal of Nursing Administration)* speaks to the new Massachusetts Nurse Staffing Law, Bill H.4228, signed into law in June by Governor Deval Patrick. Massachusetts now requires hospitals to staff ICUs at 1:1 or 1:2 nurse-to-patient ratios. Nurse administrators and nurse managers at South Nassau found this article of great interest, so you might want to pass this along to your nursing administration (if you haven’t already!) At present, New York and New Jersey require public reporting and disclosure on nurse-to-patient staffing ratios, but a law to mandate ratios has not been enacted.

As a member of South Nassau’s Nursing Research & Evidence-Based Practice Council, I am often asked to assist nursing staff in their search for literature in support of their research projects. We now have Magnet status, but even without it there is a big push for nursing staff to pursue further education and research and to ultimately publish.

An excellent resource is Oermann & Hays’ book Writing for Publication in Nursing* Much of this book can also be used for librarians who would like to publish!

While it is not about nursing per se, I want to bring to your attention an excellent work on consumer and patient health information, The Medical Library Association Guide to Providing
Consumer and Patient Health Information* Many of us are involved, either directly or indirectly, with consumer and patient health information, and this work is a great resource.

Happy Holidays, everyone!


Get to Know Your Chapter:

Danielle Aloia
Sisalée Hecht, MSLIS, AHIP
Eastwick Education
shecht@eastwick.edu

1. Your present position
   I am the Special Projects Librarian at the New York Academy of Medicine’s Center for the History of Medicine and Public Health.

2. Your previous jobs – all libraries?
   I have been working in libraries for over 25 years. This includes public, museum, government, nonprofit, and school libraries. My first library job was in a community college library and I haven’t looked back since. Although, I’ve worked in other fields I usually held a volunteer job at a local public library.

3. Your education, both undergraduate and graduate
   I have an A.A. in fine art from Herkimer County Community College, a B.A. in liberal arts with a biology focus from Sarah Lawrence College, and an MSLS with a health sciences focus from Catholic University of America.

4. Where did you grow up? Where do you reside now?
   I was born in Brooklyn, grew up in Westchester County, NY, lived in Washington, DC for 14 years, and now live in Bronxville, NY.

5. Your responsibilities at present position – can you please explain what “grey literature” means?
   My work involves evaluating, collecting, and cataloging public health grey literature for the Academy’s *Grey Literature Report in Public Health*. I am responsible for marketing
and promoting as well as maintaining the database. I also provide reference services to the public and Academy staff.

Grey literature encompasses many types of materials but generally speaking it is anything that is not available through commercial sources. As an example, the Academy produces many reports and policy documents that are not available through databases or search engines. These reports are important for the research that is conducted not only because it is timely but also because it is instrumental in shaping health policy issues. Having a place to find these materials is crucial to health policy research, this is where the GreyLit database came into play.

6. Your career aspirations … where do you see yourself in the future? In library research? In library administration?
   I consider myself a mid-career professional. Right now I am looking to expand my research skills. Currently, I am contributing to research in the field of grey literature and writing for the Center’s blog. Research will continue to be a factor in my career. For the future, I see myself moving toward a database development or analyst position, this includes work on digital repositories. As we know the future library will be a much different animal than we have today and I believe specialty databases will be an integral part of that evolution.

7. Professional memberships
   I am a member of METRO Library Council, NY-NJ Chapter of MLA, and GreyNet International (a grey literature association)

8. Hobbies and/or interests
   Moving back to New York a few years ago has been a wonderful experience. There are so many author events, art exhibits, and performances happening here that I am busy most of the week. Attending art classes and spending time with my dog and cat, Coco and Babel, fill in the rest of my free time. Except that I am trying to read 52 books a year and haven’t been able to make it past 49!

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**PCOR**

Jackie Heller, MIA, MLS
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Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR) is a research paradigm that is premised on research priorities and outcomes. It also includes evidence-based medicine. The teachable question for clinical researchers is: How can patient-centered research “translate” comparative effective research (CER) to patient-centered outcomes (PCO)? Librarians therefore need to know what are the best practices used in patient-centered research that could guide clinical researchers to identify gaps in evidence and to appraise the harms and benefits of treatment interventions. Both the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) and the National Library of Medicine (NLM) provide opportunities for librarians to explore web-based interfaces and resources about patient-centered research for best patient outcomes.
PCORI Resources and Tools:
PCORI (Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute) Methodology Committee. 2014. “Research We Support” (http://www.pcori.org/content/research-we-support).

NLM Resources and Tools:
Clinical Trials (http://clinicaltrials.gov/)

Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/mesh)
- MeSH terms: Controlled Clinical Trial (Publication Type); Comparative Effectiveness Research; Outcome Assessment (Health Care); Patient Outcome Assessment; Randomized Controlled Trial (Publication type); Randomized Controlled Trials as Topic; Research, Comparative Effectiveness

National Information Center on Health Services Research and Health Care Technology (NICHSR) (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr):
- HSRProj (Health Services Research Projects in Progress) (http://wwwcf.nlm.nih.gov/hsr_project/home_proj.cfm)
- Health Information Technology and Health Data Standards at NLM (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/healthit.html)
- Health Services and Sciences Research Resources (HSRR) (http://wwwcf.nlm.nih.gov/hsrr_search/index.cfm)

NLM Bookshelf:
- Health Services/Technology Assessment Texts (HSTAT) (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK16710)

Includes ClinicalTrials.gov, HSRProj for Health Services Research Projects, and PubMed

PMID: 25229640; PMCID: PMC 4168256 “An integrative model of patient-centeredness -- a systematic review and concept analysis.”
PMID: 22511692 “Methodological standards and patient-centeredness in comparative effectiveness research: the PCORI perspective.”

“Cochrane reviews and summary of findings tables.” (http://cebgrade.mcmaster.ca/)

“World Health Organization Guideline Development.” (http://cebgrade.mcmaster.ca/)

PMID: 22496843; PMC 330617 “From the trenches: a cross-sectional study applying the GRADE tool in systematic reviews of healthcare interventions.”

PMID: 15615589; PMC545647 “Developing and evaluating communication strategies to support informed decisions and practice based on evidence (DECIDE): protocol and preliminary results.”

PMID: 23294803; PMC3546302 “Current experience with applying the GRADE approach to public health interventions: an empirical study.”

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**Reader to Reader**

Jennifer Kaari  
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**Dr. Mutter's Marvels: A True Tale of Intrigue and Innovation at the Dawn of Modern Medicine**

Dr. Thomas Dent Mütter’s enduring legacy has been the Mütter Museum in Philadelphia, the museum of medical oddities that began as his personal collection of specimens. With this new biography, Cristin O'Keefe Aptowicz sets out to expand that legacy to include his contributions as a medical innovator. The Dr. Mütter that emerges in this book is an early pioneer of cleanliness standards, an innovative plastic surgeon, and an advocate of doctor-patient communication, at a time when all of these practices were considered unusual or even eccentric in mainstream medicine. He also emerges as a fascinating character, by turns vain, brilliant, and deeply humane, even in his fascination with the patients who were considered “monsters”. Aptowicz applies artistic license liberally throughout the book, freely imagining entire scenes and situations without first-hand sources and this approach may make the book frustrating for serious historical scholars. However, it is a must-read for fans of popular non-fiction interested in a gripping story with a glimpse into medical history and for anyone who has visited the strange and fascinating collection at the Mütter Museum.