Our educational programming and outreach initiatives have evolved over the years to meet the changing needs of our increasingly international audience, which includes an incredibly broad age range and spans a multitude of disciplines, interest areas, and geographic regions. 228 years ago, 24 physicians recognized the need for a professional organization that would provide opportunities for research, discussion, and collaboration among leading medical professionals and public health innovators. Today, our Historical Medical Library, Mütter Museum, Center for Education and Public Initiatives, and History of Vaccines provide programming ranging from an exploration of Vesalius, the "Father of Anatomy," to murder mystery events showcasing the use of science in criminal investigations.

For more than 150 years our Library was the preeminent medical research library in the country, and our Fellowship was created around this invaluable resource. During the past 50 years, the need for this service has lessened with the development of outstanding research hospitals and university libraries in the area. Now we are once again poised to serve as a unique model with the revolutionary transformation of our Library into a more relevant 21st century medical humanities resource. The culmination of this ambitious, multi-year project will be the renovation of the physical library into an exhibition space designed to showcase the treasured collections of our Library. The Board of Trustees approved a feasibility plan, reviewed by Deloitte Consulting, LLP, and over the next year we will proceed with the first phase of the project, which includes the development of a "digital spine" that will increase access to and the searching capabilities of our library, archive, and museum collections.

Although the College is now much more than a professional medical society, you will see in the following pages that our Fellows are our primary ambassadors, our committed supporters, our youth mentors, and often our speakers and presenters. This is truly a year to celebrate, and we are thankful to our community supporters, and staff who have made these remarkable accomplishments possible.

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The College of Physicians of Philadelphia welcomed the following new Fellows, who were elected between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015.

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Edward N. Smolar, MD
Miriam Solomon, PhD
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Pablo Tebas, MD
Joel M. Wierenga, PhD
Gil Yaspovitch, MD
A One-Day Conference Exploring Suicide among College Students

The Anguish of Suicide in College Students: Awareness, Education, Understanding, and Access to Help featured three keynote speakers, Salman Akhtar, MD, Victor Schwartz, MD, and Matthew Wintersteen, PhD, who did a remarkable job of exploring a number of perspectives in a succinct and engaging manner. Attendees from a variety of disciplines were able to join together to explore this harrowing topic.

The Wood Institute Travel Grant Recipient Spotlight

Seth Kane, Lead Fabricator at the New Flesh Workshop in New Jersey, received a travel grant through the Wood Institute in the Summer of 2014. Kane’s goal for his research in the Library was to catalogue and analyze historical and contemporary examples of humans who exhibit physical, cognitive, and metabolic capacities beyond the normal range of human abilities. Kane’s work seeks to answer this question: Are there specific physical abnormalities caused by engaging in extreme activities that may be beneficial to increased endurance?

Pilot Program Engages LGBTQ Youth in STEM Fields

Our Out4STEM program works with partnering organizations, such as the University of Pennsylvania and Q Spot, to increase the representation of LGBTQ individuals in STEM careers. The program provides LGBTQ role models and mentors who work in STEM fields, as well as peer support, tutoring, and information about how to attain the necessary college degrees or vocational training to enter these fields. Our participants have expressed increased confidence about attending college and pursuing scientific careers. One participant explained, “I joined Out4STEM because of the frustration and loneliness I feel as a queer person interested in science fields. It is the only science-oriented place where I feel safe, as a transgender person, to talk about my experiences in life.”
Increasing Access through Digitization

In recognition of how unique our collections are, the College has made digitizing its collections a priority. During the past year, the Library digitized more than 1,370 images from 70 different sources for use in the Digital Image Library (http://www.cppdigitallibrary.org); 8,470 users have accessed these images for a total of 63,157 views. As part of the Medical Heritage Library partnership, the Library also completed a major NEH-funded initiative to digitize national medical journals published 1790 - 1920. The Library submitted more than 500,000 pages for digitization. This digitized content has been made available through Internet Archive (archive.org), and users have downloaded our materials more than 250,000 times since early 2014.

Saving our Collections

Every day Mütter staff work with a team of interns to care for and preserve our unique collections—this ranges from monitoring and adjusting liquid levels in our wet specimens to in-depth paper, bone, instrumentation, anatomical model, and textile conservation. Staff care for and conserve approximately 40 wet specimens per year, and our conservation methods have resulted in several published papers along with consultation requests from other institutions. After working with Mütter staff, interns have gone on to amazing positions elsewhere, such as Museum Collections Technician at the Warren Anatomical Museum, Center for the History of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, and Science Writer for Science Fact, a website managed by the LabX group.
Celebrating “the Father of Modern Anatomy”

In celebration of his 500th birthday, Vesalius on the Verge incorporates specimens and instruments along with texts to create an experience that both educates and brings to life some of the more iconic images in Vesalius’ De humani corporis fabrica (On the fabric of the human body), the first published anatomically accurate atlas of the human body. For instance, a desiccated body and full skeleton are juxtaposed with illustrations from Vesalius’ books to show the detail rendered in the works. The exhibition also features a recreation of Vesalius’ dissection table, using contemporary tools and implements to demonstrate how Vesalius would have used what he had at his disposal to perform his dissections. There were no special scalpels or bone saws five hundred years ago, and Vesalius stressed the skills of his hands over the tools in them.

Death Under Glass: May – December 2014

Curated by College Fellow Marianne Hamel, MD, PhD, a board-certified forensic pathologist, and Nikki Johnson, MFA, a professional photographer, Death Under Glass not only showed the colorful photomicrographs generated from post-mortem examinations but also promoted understanding of the power of histological analysis and its critical role in autopsy pathology. Large-format digital images of stained microscopic preparations were used to show certain parts of cells, identify foreign material, or distinguish cell types from one another for forensic investigative purposes. The exhibition garnered a great deal of press, including articles in Microscopy Today and Critical Values, as well as features in Science Friday’s Picture of the Week, NYMag.com, and The Independent.

Hidden Beauty: Exploring the Aesthetics of Medical Science: January – June 2015

This collaborative project by artist Norman Baker and scientist Christine Iacobuzio-Donahue, MD, PhD, from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center asked the viewer to consider the aesthetics of human disease. The fifty large-format images elicited an appreciation of the visual beauty of the human body as well as a deepening respect for those who struggle against the natural force of disease, while at the same time educating the lay audience with clear and concise legends for each image. These exquisite images, captured with a variety of imaging technology, ranging from spectral karyotyping to scanning electron microscopy, offered a behind-the-scenes look into the human body and the world of medicine.
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THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS IN THE NEWS

Mütter Museum Serves as Magnet for Artists, WHYY
about Body Lautrec, a play that opened at the Fringe Festival, which utilized the College’s collections

Raise Your Boring Halloween Plans from the Dead, Vanity Fair
about the Mütter’s annual Day of the Dead celebration

Skepticism in Medicine Turns 500, WHYY
about Vesalius, his work, and the College’s exhibition and programming around his 500th birthday

Hidden Beauty: Diseases Under the Microscope, Wall Street Journal
about Hidden Beauty exhibition at the College

How Einstein’s Brain ended up at the Mütter Museum in Philadelphia, Smithsonian
about how the Mütter Museum came to acquire slides of Einstein’s brain, donated by College Fellow Lucy B. Rorke-Adams, MD

The 20 Best Things to do in Philadelphia, Time Out Philadelphia
Mütter Museum is featured as #3

Mütter Museum Offering Free HIV Testing, Free Admission, and More, G Philly
highlights the College’s participation in National HIV Testing Day