

BSHP GAZETTE

NEWS FROM THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY



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A note from the President

Professor Mark Nesbitt, Senior Research Leader,
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

The Society has wrapped up its free online talks for 2024. We are currently recruiting speakers for 2025, as ever aiming both to highlight the history of pharmacy in Britain, and to introduce us to less familiar (but often connected) histories worldwide.

Please join me in planning your visit to our annual conference in Worcester on 5 April 2025 (details below). Friends took me on a day trip last year, and I was struck by just how unspoilt a cathedral city this is – and one rich in culture and local businesses. If you can, do join us on the optional visits, I look forward to meeting many of you there.

On page 3 you can see our journal editor, **Prof. Stuart Anderson**, receiving the *Schelenz Plakette*, the highest honour awarded by the **German Society for the History of Pharmacy**. Together with my fellow committee members I am delighted to echo the words of the citation:

“With your extraordinary scientific achievements, you not only contributed to the visibility and perception of the history of pharmacy. The excellence of your scientific work promoted the positioning of the history of pharmacy in science as an integral part of pharmacy...We wish you all the best for your future work and we are looking forward to many interesting and exciting investigations and publications to come from your side!”

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2025 Annual Conference - Booking Now Open

by Briony Hudson

SATURDAY 5 APRIL 2025

Book now to attend our annual conference, to be held at the **George Marshall Medical Museum in Worcester**. Join us for a packed programme of talks, socialising, our Annual General Meeting, and plenty of time to explore the museum. Day tickets are **£45** per person including sandwich lunch and refreshments.

Optional dinners

Indicate your interest in optional dinners in central Worcester on Friday 4 and Saturday 5 April when you make your booking.

Programme (see ticket site for full details)

- A morning of short members' talks from plague amulets to Nicholas Culpeper, and serum medicines to Sir Edwin Landseer.
- Presentation of Leslie Matthews medals followed by talk by Dr Anne Stobart on researching historical medicinal recipes
- Curator-led tour of the George Marshall Medical Museum
- Annual General Meeting

Optional visit

There is an optional private group visit to Worcester Cathedral Library at 3pm on Friday 4 April to see a specially selected range of medical material including medieval manuscripts, monastic infirmary rolls and medical publications. This visit is limited to 15 places at an additional charge of £10.

Accommodation

Delegates are responsible for making their own accommodation bookings. Our suggested hotel is the **Worcester Whitehouse** in the city centre, where a number of committee members will be based.



TOP & BOTTOM IMAGES: THE GEORGE MARSHALL MEDICAL MUSEUM IN WORCESTER. GMMM.



QUERIES?

Contact conference organiser,
Briony Hudson (conference@bshp.org)

PROGRAMME, FULL DETAILS + TICKET BOOKINGS

£45 per person

Booking deadline 14 March 2025

www.ticketsource.co.uk/pharmhist

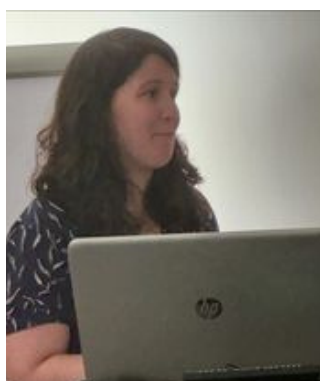
Report on the 46th International Congress for the History of Pharmacy, Belgrade

4-7TH SEPTEMBER 2024

Over 150 participants including several members of BSHP joined the conference with a theme of 'pharmaceutical profession and society: roots, development, and lessons for the future'. A total of 97 oral presentations or posters were presented by pharmaceutical historians from 21 countries. The largest numbers were from the Republic of Serbia (23), France (13), and Germany (8). Two were presented from the United Kingdom.

BSHP members played prominent roles in the Congress. **Halil Tekiner** is the current president of the *International Society of the History of Pharmacy (ISHP)*, **Jelena Manojlovic** was a member of the local Organising Committee, and **Stuart Anderson** was a member of the Scientific Committee. **Halil** also gave a paper on 'The Turkish Physician (1803): A French Opera Buffa by Nicolo Iouard'.

Two of the plenary lectures were also given by BSHP members. The first, after the opening ceremony by **Axel Helmstaedter**, was entitled 'From Morphine to the Opioid Crisis: Iatrogenic Addiction in the 19th and 20th Centuries'. The final plenary lecture was a musical event given by **Christiane Staiger** who asked 'How is pharmacy reflected in popular music? Examples from a pharmaceutical playlist'.



LEFT: AXEL HELMSTAEDTER; RIGHT: HILARY INGRAM GIVING HER TALK.



LEFT: STUART ANDERSON RECEIVING HIS AWARD; RIGHT: PATRICK CHIU RECEIVING HIS ACADEMY MEDAL & CERTIFICATE.

Patrick Chiu gave two presentations, the first on 'the evolution of China's pharmacy from traditional medicine to modern pharmacy, 1800-1949'; the second on 'Moody Meng 1897-1983: A Pioneer of modern pharmacy in Republican China' who was the subject of an article in the September *Pharmaceutical Historian*.

Stuart Anderson gave a paper on 'implementing pharmacopoeias in colonial empires: the British experience 1964-1932', based on his recent book, and was a member of the discussion panel exploring the topic 'history of pharmacy as an academic discipline: present and future'. **Hilary Ingram**, a researcher at the University of Nottingham, gave a paper entitled 'serving the British Empire: Boots the Chemists in the 1920s and 1930s.'

The Congress included some memorable social events. The opening ceremony was held in the headquarters of the Rector of the University of Belgrade, and participants were treated to an outstanding professional rendition of Haydn's opera 'The Apothecary' in the gardens, which was organised by **Jelena Manojlovic**. The Gala Dinner on the last night was held in the gorgeous

continued...

...White Palace (*Beli Dvor*) outside Belgrade and participants were honoured with a personal appearance and presentation by **Crown Princess Margarita**.

The Ceremonial Meeting of the International Academy for the History of Pharmacy, which is open to all participants, was held in the spectacular restaurant of Belgrade's Aeroclub. At this meeting **Stuart Anderson**, who was president of the Academy between 2009 and 2017, was presented with the Schelenz Plakette, the highest honour awarded by the German Society for the History of Pharmacy, by its president, **Dr Susann Landgraf**.

The next Congress will take place in **Innsbruck, Austria, from 2-5 September 2026**. Its theme will be 'drugs and medicines on the mountains'. This will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the *International Society for the History of Pharmacy*, which was founded in Innsbruck on 18 August 1926.

The Congress agreed that this date should be celebrated as international history of pharmacy day 2025.

READ THE LATEST ISHP NEWSLETTER HERE: WWW.HISTPHARMC.ORG



CHRISTIANE STAIGER PRESENTING THE BEST POSTER CERTIFICATE TO SEAN ALEXIS, FRANCE



ABOVE: THE WHITE PALACE (*BELI DVOR*), BELGRADE. BELOW: THE PALACE INTERIOR. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



BELOW: THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 46TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY, BELGRADE

BSHP NEWS

Membership renewals

Renewal invoices for 2025 have been sent out with the following options (which are the same as 2024):

- **£30 for full members**
- **£15 for students**

Many thanks for your support, which allows us to continue to promote pharmacy history through our talks, conference, and the *Pharmaceutical Historian*.

Some members are also receiving reminder invoices for 2024 - please contact honsec@bshp.org if you think you have received this in error and have already paid, or if you do not wish to continue with your membership.

Please quote the invoice reference number when making your payment, which saves us a lot of time matching up members and payments.

Treasurer Jemma Houghton has been updating **Gift Aid** provisions. This enables us to reclaim tax from HMRC on eligible subscriptions and on lump sum donations too. Bringing our Gift Aid up to date will enable the Society to channel more funds to research and dissemination.

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following:

Alison Denham - Leeds
Gillian Woodcock - Eastcote
Deborah Malins - Horsham
Mary Tompkins - Colchester

Pharmaceutical Historian

With this mailing you are receiving the December 2024 issue of *Pharmaceutical Historian*, (Volume 54, Number 4), our flagship international journal. This number includes the last of **Edward Wawrzynczak's** articles on the history of the Lister Institute Serum Department, this time focussing on its activities during the First World War, 1914-1918.

Also included in this number is an article by **Ivana Janošević** and **Jelena Manojlović**, on the oldest town pharmacy in Obrenovac, Serbia and its owners, 1875-2011, which members will remember Jelena talked about at our annual conference in Leeds. **Christiane Staiger** has been exploring the extent to which pharmacists have been engaged as national politicians around the world, and in this number she presents her findings regarding pharmacists as politicians in Canada.

John Crellin reflects on twentieth-century postcard toilet humour in an article exploring humour in health care, and the number is rounded off with a review by **Selina Hurley** of the book *Modern Medicines from Plants: Botanical Histories of some of Modern Medicine's Most Important Drugs*, published by the Royal College of Physicians and edited by **Henry Oakeley**.

Peter Homan Grant Scheme

Apply for up to £500 - Open for applications. Granted twice a year by the British Society for the History of Pharmacy.

<https://www.bsHP.org/awards/PeterHoman.asp>

2024 BSHP EVENTS

Our 2024 talks are now over for another year, if you would like to share your work, please send talk proposals to: events@bshp.org

Past 2024 Events:

Dr Kim Walker, Royal Holloway

The making of a quinologist: The work of John Eliot Howard (1807-1883)

Dr Shahina A. Ghazanfar, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

History of medicinal plants in the Qur'an & other religious texts.

Professor Pablo Gomez, University of Wisconsin-Madison

*Brebajes, Yervas & Pharmacopoeias: Healing Materiality
& The Imagination Of The Early Modern Caribbean*

Watch previous online talks on our youtube channel:

www.youtube.com/@bshpharm

Other history news

The British Society for the History of Medicine (BSHM) call for papers Volume 5 of their online journal *Topics in the History of Medicine*.

The theme is '**Quirks, Quacks and Cul-de-sacs**'. Submission deadline: **31 Dec 2024**.

For queries, contact: editorial@bshm.org.uk.

OTHER EVENTS

Thursday 12 December, 18.30 for 19.00

The Osler Club of London

Professor Martin Elliot

On the importance of bedside manner

<https://www.osler.org.uk/events/blog-post-four-hyyfe>

Until 2 February 2025

Wellcome Collection, London

The Kola Nut Cannot Be Contained

<https://wellcomecollection.org/exhibitions/the-kola-nut-cannot-be-contained>

An exhibition on the kola fruit highlights its significance in West African culture and trade since the 11th century. The kola nut has various religious, medicinal, and social uses. In the 19th century, it was also used in European and American products like Coca-Cola, chocolate, and Western medicines.

Wednesday 12th June 2025 6:30-7:30 pm

Chelsea Physic Garden/Society of Apothecaries

Dr Katrina Maydom

Hans Sloane Lecture: Remedies from the New World in James Petiver's Apothecary Practice

www.apothecaries.org

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