

ACP

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
INTERNAL MEDICINE | *Doctors for Adults*[®]

Leonard M. Keilson, MD, FACP Memorial Lecture
Serving our Patients and Profession:
A Centennial History of the American College of Physicians
2015 Maine ACP Chapter Meeting
Bar Harbor, Maine
September 26, 2015

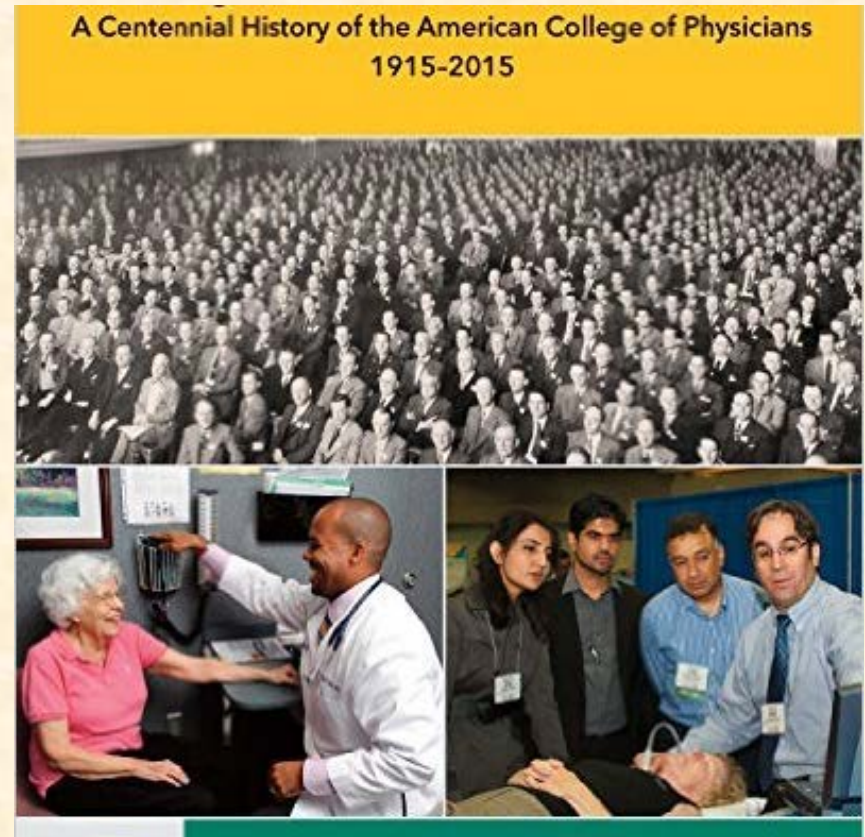
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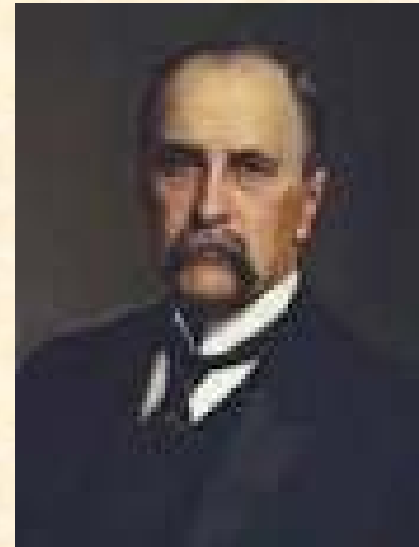
ACP Centennial History Project

- 2015 marks the 100th Anniversary of the American College of Physicians.
- The Founding of ACP



Sir William Osler

You cannot afford to stand aloof from your colleagues in any place. Join their associations, mingle in their meetings, giving the best of your talents, gathering here, scattering there; but everywhere showing that you are faithful students, as willing to teach as be taught. Aequanimitas (1904)

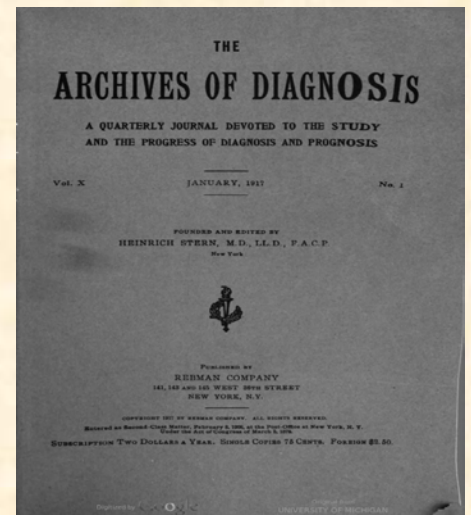


Sir William Osler

The Vision of One Man ...

Heinrich Stern, MD, FACP (1868-1918)

- **New York City Leading Physician**
 - **Professor of Medicine in New York and Boston**
 - **Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine**
 - **Founded the Manhattan Medical Society**
 - **Founded the Archives of Diagnosis (1907)**
 - **Published >300 articles in US and European medical literature; and 6 books translated into multiple languages**
 - **Chairman of the American Medical Association (AMA) Section on Pharmacology and Therapeutics**



The Royal College of Physicians (London)

Dr. Stern and the RCP (Lon): 1913

- Stern was impressed that the RCP (Lon), as a *learned professional college* (an organized group of professional people with particular aims, duties, and privileges and not a trade guild), had a social contract to self-regulate licensure, to develop educational standards, and to develop and enforce ethical standards.
- As the 1518 founding charter (Henry VIII) decreed, this *college* (RCP Lon) would “curb the audacity of those wicked men who shall profess medicine more for the sake of their avarice than from the assurance of any good conscience...” 1st Royal College President was Thomas Linacre, scholar and physician to Henry VIII and colleague of Sir Thomas More, Erasmus and Cardinal Wolsey.
- Dr. Stern returned to the US determined to found an *American College of Physicians* for *all* qualified physicians practicing “internal medicine”.



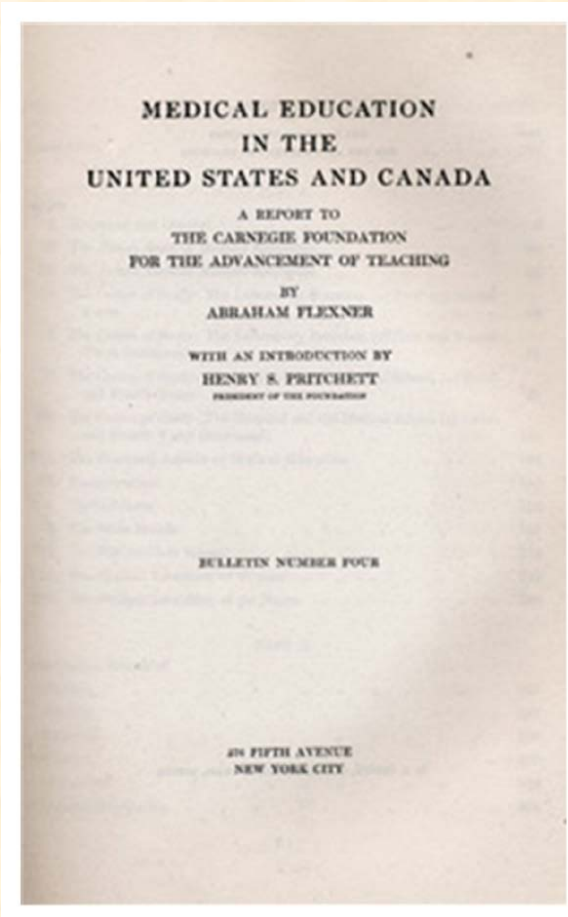
Dr. Thomas Linacre
humanist scholar (Oxford
and U. of Padua) and
physician; Linacre
College at Oxford

Professional Colleges (1847-1915)

- **American Medical Association (1847)**
- **The Association of American Physicians; Dr. William Osler; (1885 – U. of Pennsylvania)**
 - Founded by 7 physicians, including Dr. Osler, as an elite society devoted to the pursuit of excellence in academic medicine, medical research and practice.
- **American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology (1896)**
- **American Association for the Advancement of Osteopathy(1897); name changed to the American Osteopathic Association (1901)**
- **Alpha Omega Alpha (1902)**
- **American College of Surgeons (1913)**

North American Medical Education (1915)

- **American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) (1905)**
- **American Medical Association (AMA) Council on Medical Education (1906)**
- **Abraham Flexner**
 - *The American College: A Criticism (1908)*
 - *Flexner Report (1910)*
 - Flexner visited 155 medical schools in Canada and the US; about half closed by 1920



Abraham Flexner

Founding of ACP (1915)

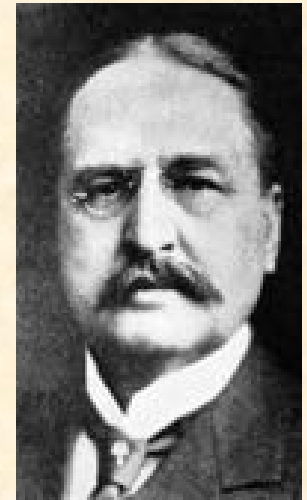
Dr. Stern convinced 6 NYC colleagues that an *American* College of Physicians was not only desirable but necessary to develop, maintain and enforce standards for medical education, examination and licensing, ethical and performance standards and, professional discipline. Two closely related organizations were formed:

- *The American Congress on Internal Medicine, (The Congress)* was incorporated on January 8, 1915 – the *first* time “internal medicine” was used in an organizational name. Its sole purpose was to “...facilitate scientific intercourse ... and promote good fellowship”.
- *The American College of Physicians* was incorporated on 11 May, 1915 as a non-profit scientific organization. ACP was underway... The two organizations merged in 1926.

ACP Begins

The Founding Years

- **First Meeting June 25, 1915 at the Hotel Astor, NYC**
- **Elected by the ACP Council, Dr. Reynolds Web Wilcox becomes the 1st ACP President; Dr. Stern was elected Secretary-General.**
- **Membership expands to 74 (1916) and as far away as Pittsburgh, Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit, and Washington.**



Reynold Webb Wilcox,
MD, MACP.
First President, 25 June
1915

Stern Dies (1918)

First Leadership Crisis

Rescue Committee

- **Frank Smithies, MD, MACP (Chicago)**
- **Clement R. Jones, MD, FACP (Pittsburgh)**
- **William Gerry Morgan, MD, MACP (Washington, DC)**

Crisis Averted – Smithies replaces Stern as Secretary-General (1918-25) and takes charge.

Pestilence and War

- **Influenza Pandemic: The week of November 1st, 1918 the PHS reported 12,357 deaths in New York City.**
- **WWI Armistice signed Nov. 11, 1918**



Frank Smithies, MD, MACP
Second Secretary General (1918)
and later President

Maine ACP History and Trivia

When was the Maine ACP Chapter Founded?

- **1915**
- **1926**
- **1939**
- **1948**

Bonus – who was the first ACP Governor?

Maine ACP History and Trivia

When was the Maine ACP Chapter Founded?

- **1926 ((ACP Board of Governors (and Regents) est. 1922))**

Bonus – who was the first ACP Governor?

- **Edwin W. Gehring, Portland (1926-38)**
 - **Nephew of Dr. John G. Gehring, a prominent neurologist in Bethel, ME, founder of the Gehring Clinic and physician of William Bingham II**
 - **Gould Academy graduate and Bowdoin Medical College (1904)**
 - **Elected Maine Medical Association Treasurer (1909)**
 - **Appointed to the Maine State Board of Health (Oct 28, 1914 – notice in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*)**

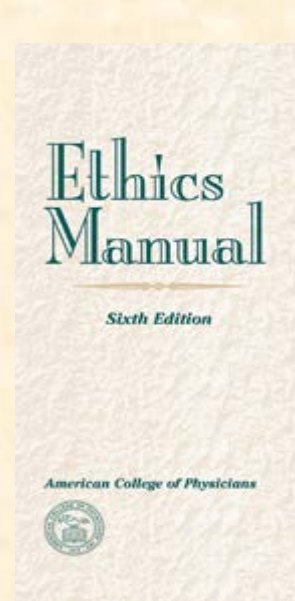
Milestones

Knowledge and Education

- Annual (clinical) sessions (1920-2015)
- *Annals of Medicine* (1920)
- *Annals of Clinical Medicine* (1922)
- *Annals of Internal Medicine* (1927 – 2015)
- First Postgraduate Courses (1938)
- Regional Meetings formalized (1941)

Ethics – “I pledge...” (1924)

- Ethics Manual (1984-2015) now in the 6th Ed.
- Ethics, Human Rights and Professionalism Committee (1985-2015)
- Self-regulation of the College membership (1960s-2015)



Diversity and Discipline

Milestones (cont.)

■ Public Accountability and Self Assessment

- American Board of Medical Specialties (1934)
- American Board of Internal Medicine (1936)
- Joint Commission for the Accreditation of Hospitals (1951)
- Residency Review Committee-Internal Medicine (1953)
- Medical Knowledge Self-Assessment Program (MKSAP-1967)

■ Health Policy and Advocacy

- Health and Public Policy Department (1978)
- Washington D.C. Office opens (1981)
- Health and Public Policy Committee established (1982)
- ASIM-ACP Merger (1998)



“An idea promulgated by a single physician ... evolved into the international American College of Physicians -144,000 Students, Associates, Members, Fellows and Masters strong..”

Clif Cleaveland and Fred Ralston; *Serving Our Patients and Profession: A Centennial History of the American College of Physicians Chapter 1 The First 75 Years*

