

Bicentennial Celebration Event  
Maude Abbott and the Medical Museum  
McGill University  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada



Symposium  
Maude Abbott and the Medical Museum  
March 18, 2022  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

# WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome to the Maude Abbott and the Medical Museum Symposium.

The symposium brings together individuals interested in the life and work of Maude Abbott, former Curator of the McGill University Medical Museum. It showcases research from a variety of disciplines, including Abbott's medical innovations, museology experience, publications, teaching, exhibitions, role as a pioneering female doctor, and relationships with other individuals.

It is our hope that this symposium will invite open discussion as well as spark future research collaborations on Abbott as well as the history of museums in medical education.

# ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Prof. Annmarie Adams, Social Studies of Medicine/Architecture

Dr. Richard Fraser, Maude Abbott Medical Museum

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Cover image

Caricature of Maude E. Abbott

F.M.G. Johnson. 1934

McGill University Archives PRO28123

<b>8:15 – 8:30</b>	Welcome and Introduction Annmarie Adams Richard Fraser
<b>8:30 – 9:00</b>	Curating Abbott: the architecture of medical exhibits 1931-33 Annmarie Adams Department of Social Studies of Medicine and School of Architecture McGill University
<b>9:00 – 9:30</b>	Maude Abbott at the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania Steven J. Peitzman Drexel University College of Medicine
<b>9:30 – 10:00</b>	Maude Abbott from a librarian's perspective M.K.K. Hague-Yearl, Osler Librarian Osler Library of the History of Medicine McGill University
<b>10:00 – 10:30</b>	Break
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	The Holmes Heart: still beating nearly two centuries later Clyde Partin Gary W. Rollins Professorship of Medicine Paul W. Seavey Comprehensive Internal Medicine Clinic Emory University School of Medicine
<b>11:00 – 11:30</b>	Maude Abbott and (auto)biography: reading medical women's life writing Emily Cline English Department Queen's University
<b>11:30 – 12:00</b>	Maude Abbott, Florence Nightingale, and the history of nursing in Quebec Olivia Vincelli Volunteer Research Assistant Maude Abbott Medical Museum McGill University
<b>12:00 - 1:30</b>	Lunch

<b>1:30 – 2:00</b>	<p>Maude Abbott: an influencer in Texas medicine and museology</p> <p>Judith F. Aronson</p> <p>Paula Summerly</p> <p>University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston</p>
<b>2:00 – 2:30</b>	<p>The role of Maude Abbott in the curation and expansion of the WMCP Pathology Museum</p> <p>Brandon Zimmerman</p> <p>Legacy Center: Archives &amp; Special Collections, Drexel University College of Medicine</p>
<b>2:30 – 3:00</b>	<p>Break</p>
<b>3:00 – 3:30</b>	<p>The relationship between Maude Abbott and Helen Taussig and the origins of pediatric cardiology</p> <p>William N. Evans</p> <p>Professor of Pediatrics</p> <p>University of Nevada School of Medicine</p>
<b>3:30 – 4:00</b>	<p>Homesick Canadian sisters Maude and Alice Abbott: travel, medicine and mania in 1890s Europe</p> <p>Barbara Brookes</p> <p>Professor Emerita, University of Otago, New Zealand</p>
<b>4:00 – 4:30</b>	<p>Maude Abbott: alternative facts and accolades 1868 – 2018</p> <p>Richard Fraser</p> <p>Joan O'Malley</p> <p>McGill University</p>
<b>4:30 – 5:00</b>	<p>Wrap up</p> <p>Annmarie Adams</p> <p>Richard Fraser</p>

This illustrated paper explores the role of visual evidence in medical biography. In particular, we examine three traveling exhibits curated by cardiologist Maude Abbott in consecutive years in the early 1930s. What role did these exhibits play in Abbott's life story? How did this professional work enable Abbott's growing reputation in the face of her rare position as a highly accomplished woman? Abbott's exhibitions for the New York Academic of Medicine (NYAM) in October 1931; the centenary British Medical Association (BMA) meeting in London of July 1932; and most spectacularly, the Century of Progress World Fair in Chicago of 1933 play prominently in existing biographies. The repeating content of the exhibits became the core of her magnum opus, *Atlas of Congenital Cardiac Disease*, of 1936. Looking at the exhibits from a material-culture perspective, however, and making use of her diaries illuminates the significant role of "display" architecture at this time. Beyond Abbott's special arrangements of specimens and texts, that is, the architecture where the exhibits were shown framed her work in particular ways. In each of the three cases, I would argue, the design context functioned differently. A non-descript room in York and Sawyer's eccentrically decorated NYAM building; the Aston-Webb-designed Judd Laboratory at Imperial College; and Paul Cret's exquisite Art Deco masterpiece, the Hall of Science, displayed tiny hearts and crooked images, carefully assembled by their highly mobile and distinctively female curator. This somewhat motley architectural collage, then, reveals the range, import, and impact of Abbott's curatorial work.

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**Annmarie Adams** is currently writing a book on Maude Abbott, entitled *Maude Abbott: A Life in 10 Spaces*, funded by SSHRC and under contract with McGill-Queen's University Press. She is jointly appointed in the Peter Guo-hua Fu School of Architecture and the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at McGill University. She holds the Stevenson Chair in the History and Philosophy of Science, including Medicine, and has just finished a five-year term as Chair of the Department of Social Studies of Medicine. From 2011-15 she served as Director of the School of Architecture. Dr. Adams has written, co-written, and/or co-edited *Architecture in the Family Way: Doctors, Houses, and Women, 1870-1900* (McGill-Queens University Press, 1996); *Medicine by Design: The Architect and the Modern Hospital, 1893-1943* (University of Minnesota Press, 2008); *Designing Women: Gender and the Architectural Profession* (University of Toronto Press, 2000), with sociologist Peta Tancred. Her research has garnered numerous awards, including the Christophe Pierre Award for Research Excellence, the Jason Hannah Medal from the Royal Society of Canada, a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Health Career Award, and a YWCA Woman of Distinction prize. In 2015, she was elected a Fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. She became a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences in 2020.

Several Quaker physicians founded the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania (WMCP) in 1850 to offer medical training and the M.D. to women, the first school of its kind anywhere. As its seventy-fifth anniversary approached, the school had suffered a near financial collapse in 1921, and a near fatal rift in 1923 following the sacking of an admired woman professor. The school also lagged in scientific research. Its leaders sought to raise the college's standing by recruiting one of the leading women medical scientists of North America, Maude E. Abbott. She accepted the invitation for a year's stay, which was extended to two. Dr. Abbott's charge was to build a strong department of pathology and bacteriology, which she accomplished by revising teaching and hiring two assistants, both Canadian women. Of course, she also attended to the museum! She held the title "professor" and was, for the first time in her life, fully in charge of her domain, and free to do as much teaching as she wished, including at the then renowned Philadelphia General Hospital. She also introduced WMCP to the lore of William Osler, and joined in preparation for the school's seventy-fifth anniversary celebrations. Beyond all this, her outgoing personality and position as someone from the outside allowed her to exert a healing effect on the bruised institution. My paper will assert that her two years at WMCP both benefitted the school, and in turn provided Dr. Abbott with entirely new opportunities, and strengthened her self-identification as a woman in medicine.

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**Steven J. Peitzman, MD**, a 1971 graduate of Temple University School of Medicine is Professor of Medicine at Drexel University College of Medicine, which continues [Woman's] Medical College of Pennsylvania and Hahnemann University School of Medicine, though he is supposedly partly retired. His area of practice had been nephrology, and he still does some general medicine as attending at a student-run free night clinic. He teaches medical students and within other programs at Drexel, including medical humanities and clinical skills. Dr. Peitzman maintains a second career as an historian of medicine. His historical work has centered on his own specialty (nephrology) in the 19th and 20th centuries, on the history of American medical education, on medicine in Philadelphia, and on the history of American women in medicine. He is the author of numerous papers and book chapters on these topics, and two books. The first, published in 2000, is *A New and Untried Course: Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania and Medical College of Pennsylvania, 1850-1998* (Rutgers University Press). His second book (2007), within the Johns Hopkins series "Biographies of Disease," is *Dropsy, Dialysis, Transplant: A Short History of Failing Kidneys*. He has taught history of medicine to students at Drexel, Penn, Jefferson and Temple. More recently, Dr. Peitzman has been busy writing nominations to place historic hospital buildings on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. He lives in the Germantown section of Philadelphia.

Maude Elizabeth Seymour Abbott is one of the better-known names—male or female—at the Osler Library of the History of Medicine. She enjoyed a close relationship with William Osler, which certainly accounts for part of her prominence; however, her own achievements in the history of medicine and her contributions to medical teaching at McGill give her a rightful place at the library quite aside from her ties to its founder. The 3.2 metres of textual records, photographs, and glass slides that comprise the Maude Abbott Fonds in the Osler Library Archives are an important stop for anyone wanting to undertake research on Maude Abbott. However, an important part of the librarian's perspective is to recognize—and recall—that there is more to any picture than can be described in an archival finding aid or a catalogue record. Thus, the focus of this paper will be upon the different approaches to research that a librarian may recognize due to daily proximity to the collections. The librarian's perspective on Maude Abbott will be presented by examining two approaches in depth: foremost, the challenges of working with a collection of diverse materials and how those challenges can affect discovery; secondly, there will be a discussion of the smaller discoveries that a librarian finds in books that nonetheless reveal something about the personal and professional life of Maude Abbott.

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**Mary Hague-Yearl** directs the Osler Library of the History of Medicine and is an Associate Member of McGill's Department of Social Studies of Medicine. She studied the history of medicine at Cambridge (M.Phil) and Yale (Ph.D.) before turning to archives and special collections librarianship. In the past, she studied the interplay between medicine and religion in the pre-modern period, and more recently she has given her attention to the representation (or lack thereof) of marginalized groups in historical medical texts.



The saga of the human heart has no story more quirky and compelling than that of the Holmes Heart, pathologically sundered by an absent ventricular septum. Reportedly first described in 1823 by Dr. Andrew Fernando Holmes, of McGill University, in a meeting before the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Edinburgh, the Holmes Heart was resuscitated by Dr. Maude Abbott in 1900. This presentation recalls the key physicians involved in the legacy of the Holmes Heart and traces pathophysiological understanding of the univentricular heart. The mystifying comparison of the Holmes Heart with the alligator heart, specifically involving alligators from the Atlanta Zoo, is explained. The sentinel event of the Holmes Heart was in 1823, when Holmes autopsied a twenty-one-year-old of “delicate habit, who had been affected from infancy ... attended by a peculiar blueness of the cheeks and lips.” Records penned by Holmes suggest cyanotic heart disease and biventricular heart failure as the cause of death. Autopsy revealed the “right ventricle was much less than natural.” Presented are some date discrepancies and other anomalous facts regarding Holmes’s autopsy and his puzzling trip to Edinburgh, which provide opportunities for sleuthing and debate. Abbott in her role as assistant curator of the McGill University Medical Museum, encountered and “became at once interested in an unlabeled specimen”. Intrigued, she re-published Holmes article in her *Atlas of Congenital Heart Disease*, adding her comments and a drawing of the Holmes Heart by R. Tait Mackenzie, MD, thus perpetuating the abiding story of the Holmes Heart.

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**Clyde Partin**, MD, is the Gary W. Rollins Professor of Medicine in the Paul W. Seavey Comprehensive Internal Medicine Clinic at Emory University School of Medicine. He is director of the Emory Special Diagnostic Services Clinic, dedicated to seeing patients with complex diagnostic problems, unusual symptoms, and undiagnosed illness. He spent six years in the United States Air Force as a flight surgeon, stationed in Plattsburgh AFB, NY and Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. A keen proponent for researching the history of medicine, he has published original articles on a wide variety of history of medicine topics. He dabbles heavily in poetry.



A narratological reading of (auto)biographical writing by and about Maude Abbott seeks to uncover the feminine subjectivity in the life writing of an internationally-recognized medical woman. Feminist biographical studies have provided a critical framework for the re-examination of women's written lives, and Maude Abbott's "Autobiographical Sketch," read before the Medical Women's Society of McGill on March 31, 1928 and published posthumously in the *McGill Medical Journal* in 1959, provides a compelling case study. "[W]omen's autobiographies," writes feminist critic Estelle Jelinek, "emphasize to a much lesser extent the public aspects of their lives, the affairs of the world, or even their careers, and concentrate instead on their personal lives domestic details, family difficulties, close friends, and specially people who influenced them."<sup>1</sup> Abbott's "sketch" utilizes both feminine and masculine modes, shifting focus from her professional achievements to praise William Osier's, and others' influence. What does this personal account reveal about her status as an early twentieth-century woman doctor? Abbott's autobiographical self-presentation offers insight into her positionality as a female physician in a predominantly male medical world. Her biographical article, "Florence Nightingale, As Seen in Her Portraits," adapted from a 1915 address to the Harvard Historical Club, is further evidence of her engagement with medical women's life writing. In this piece, her oblique approach to a famous medical woman's life through portraiture departs from traditional biographical modes. Similarly, the biographies of Abbott by Elizabeth Abbott—*All Heart* (1997) and *An Inner Grace* (2009)—and the less formal written reminiscences of Helen Ingleby and Lida Orem Meredith provide an alternative perspective to the male-authored authoritative accounts by H. E. MacDermot (1941) and Douglas Waugh (1992).

1. Jelinek, Estelle C., "Introduction: Men's Autobiography and the Male Tradition," in *Women's Autobiography: Essays in Criticism*, Indiana UP, 1980, pp. 7-8.

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**Emily Cline** is a Ph.D. student in the English Department at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. She completed an M.A. in English at McGill University as a recipient of a SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship and holds a B.A. in English and Women's and Gender Studies from Boston College. In 2019, she worked as a graduate research assistant for Dr. Annmarie Adams on the project "Encountering Maude Abbott". Her current research focuses on the history of science and medicine in Victorian popular fiction written by women. Her work has been published in the graduate journal *Oxford Research* in English and by *Hektoen International: A Journal of Medical Humanities*.

Although best known for her work in medical museums and congenital heart disease, Maude Abbott had several other academic interests, including medical history. Following the invitation of Harvey Cushing in 1915, she gave a presentation on Florence Nightingale to the Harvard Historical Club. Her talk was published the following year in the *Boston Medical & Surgical Journal* and became the basis for a book titled *Florence Nightingale as Seen in her Portraits*. In the book, she recounts Nightingale's life and her reforms to nursing practice, both during and after the Crimean War. Based in part on this work, Abbott was invited to give the valedictory address to the graduating nurses at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal in 1916 as well as a course on the history of nursing to the first year McGill nursing class in the winter term of 1916-1917. The course included approximately 200 lantern slides accompanied by a series of explanatory notes. These were reproduced and made available for purchase by nursing programs throughout North America. Abbott's course at McGill continued for many years and was given "by proxy" at many other institutions. In addition to conveying Nightingale's history, Abbott illustrates the difficulties encountered by women in the medical field in the late 1800s and early 1900s. In this respect, Nightingale and Abbott share interesting parallels as they each struggled to legitimize themselves in the medical field, both professionally and personally. Some of these concepts are intimated by Nightingale in Abbott's 1916 book.

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**Olivia Vincelli** received a Bachelor of Art's in 2014 from Concordia University in Anthropology (Hons), followed by a Master of Art's in Physical and Museum Anthropology from New York University in 2017. Her graduate studies focused on the history of craniometry and its racial origins, compared to the current statistical software used in the forensic determination of ancestry. After which, she proposed ways in which qualitative, social data could be used to increase and strengthen the known datasets at the foundation of databases like Fordisc. Finally, she discussed how the very process of including social narratives could help re-establish relations between the public and academia. During this time, she worked as an intern at The American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) in African and Pacific Ethnology, as well as the Office of the Chief Medical Examiners (OCME Manhattan) in Forensic Anthropology. Currently, she is a research volunteer at the Maude Abbott Medical Museum (MAMM) and intends to pursue a PhD in Digital Archaeology. The objective of her research will be to contribute to the development of a standardized best practice regarding the digitization of human remains. This will be achieved by experimenting with the creation of an ethically-designed web-based management system for the acquiring, storing and sharing of digitized human remains in Quebec.

Texas featured in Dr. Maude Abbott's global network from the mid-twentieth century to the present. This paper analyzes the 1932 correspondence between Dr. Abbott, Dr. Paul Brindley, (Chair of Pathology, University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston (UTMB) and his colleague, Dr. Wilfred T. Dawson on a specimen of Ebstein's Disease. Dr. Abbott's letter of consultation illustrates her profound scientific curiosity, generosity of collaborative spirit, and ability to communicate complex anatomical concepts with elegance and clarity, while manifesting a steely scholarly confidence. Dr. Abbott's influence at UTMB continues. Members of UTMB's John P. McGovern Academy of Oslerian Medicine viewed specimens prepared by Sir William Osler and Dr. Abbott during a 2007 visit to McGill. Inspired by seeing these collections, co-author Dr. Richardson proposed that UTMB's historical anatomical and pathological specimen collections form the core of a new medical museum. The developing museum in Old Red (the 1890 medical department of the University of Texas) is a testament to the long-standing influence of Dr. Maude Abbott at UTMB.

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**Paula Summerly's** academic background is in the history of medicine, paleopathology and combined and media arts. She has curated medical exhibitions on both sides of the Atlantic and served as a curatorial consultant on *Dirt: The Filthy Reality of Everyday Life and Forensics: The Anatomy of Crime* temporary exhibitions hosted by Wellcome Collection, London, UK. Currently, Dr. Summerly is curator of the Old Red Medical Museum at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston (UTMB). The exhibits will showcase a selection of UTMB's 2,000 historical anatomical and pathology specimen collections. Dr. Summerly is a member of Librarians, Archivists, and Museum Professionals in the History of the Health Sciences (LAMPHHS) and Texas Association of Museums (TAM). She has taught several electives at UTMB's School of Medicine and presented papers at local, national, and international conferences.

**Dr. Judy Aronson, MD**, is a Professor of Pathology at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston Texas, USA. She is a pathologist who specializes in medical (hospital) autopsies and has an abiding belief in the value of post-mortems in biomedical education, clinical quality improvement, and research. Dr. Aronson has been recognized for her work as an educator through election to the UTMB Academy of Master Teachers and the University of Texas Kenneth I. Shine Academy of Health Science Education. Having spent her entire 30-year career at UTMB, she has a deep fondness for the institution and its history. As a William Osler Scholar in the John P. McGovern Academy of Oslerian Medicine at UTMB, Judy became interested in resurrecting UTMB's historical Pathology Museum as a teaching resource. This germ of an idea has blossomed under the guidance of Dr. Paula Summerly (co-author on this paper).

2:00 – 2:30 The role of Maude Abbott in the curation and expansion  
of the WMCP Pathology Museum  
Brandon Zimmerman  
Drexel University College of Medicine

From 1923-1925, Maude Abbott served as the Chair of Pathology and Bacteriology and the Director of Clinical Laboratories at The Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania (WMCP), the first degree-granting medical school for women in the United States. Abbott was foundational to the development of the WMCP pathology museum and the expansion of training for female medical students in the fields of surgery and surgical pathology. As this paper will discuss, for countless years the collection building practices of the WMCP pathology museum mirrored the limited gender-specific roles assigned to female physicians, with primary emphasis placed upon illustrative materials and gross pathological specimens in the fields of Obstetrics and Gynecology. During her tenure at WMCP, Abbott used her unique position and considerable influence to increase the collaborative potential of the college's pathological laboratories and those of its affiliated hospital. This, in turn, led to an era of prosperity for the WMCP pathology department and its museum through a marked increase in specimen curation, identification, and acquisition. By 1930, thanks to the work of Abbott, and her successor, Helen Ingleby, a once modest assemblage of pathological material had grown into an enviable and modernized museum. Utilizing primary source materials from The Legacy Center: Archives and Special Collections of Drexel College of Medicine, and contextualized within a larger body of work exploring the extinct medical museums of Philadelphia, this paper discusses the rarely acknowledged role of Maude Abbott in the curation and expansion of the WMCP Pathology Museum.

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**Brandon Zimmerman** has worked over the past 15 years as an exhibit developer, designer, curator, and consultant for numerous museums, libraries, and archives in the United States. He holds an MA in Photographic Preservation and Collections Management from the University of Rochester and George Eastman Museum. In the summer of 2016, he was awarded the prestigious M. Louise Gloeckner Fellowship by The Legacy Center: Archives Special Collections for Women in Medicine and Homeopathy, at Drexel University's College of Medicine (DUCOM), to research dissection photography and the extinct medical museums of Hahnemann University and the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania. Most recently, his work as DUCOM's Human Remains Auditor, focuses on inventorying and identifying historic anatomical and pathological specimens and evaluating the college's role as effective and ethical stewards. Brandon Zimmerman has also designed a new exhibit around DUCOM's most famous specimen, the world's first complete dissection of a human nervous system (also known, as "Harriet"), prepared in 1888 by Dr. Rufus B. Weaver. His current research focuses on the history and development of medical photography, specifically, the obscure sub-genre known as dissection photography – students taking commemorative portraits with their cadavers. His first book on the subject, titled *Exposing Cadavers: Dissection Photography, Abjection, and the American Medical Student*, will be published by Bristol University Press in early 2023.

The literature has scant documentation of the relationship between the important founders of pediatric cardiology, Maude Abbott and Helen Taussig. Entries in the diaries kept by Maude Abbott provide evidence for a close connection between them. Further evidence suggests that their association was complex, and influenced by outside factors, such as their difference in age and era-related notoriety. I attempt to define more clearly the relationship between these two early icons of pediatric cardiology. Together they laid the early foundations of twentieth-century pediatric cardiology. They excelled in medical worlds ruled by men. At the same time, their male, collegial, contemporaries often failed to applaud their accomplishments. Maude Abbott was a pathologist whose fame peaked in the 1930s, just as the clinician Helen Taussig began her career. During the decade of the 1930s, the two developed a working relationship. This relationship is part of the history of pediatric cardiology, but the literature currently lacks documentation of their acquaintance beyond mention. Maude Abbott and Helen Taussig were central to the emergence of pediatric cardiology, albeit that they were not saints. Regardless of relationships, Taussig and others benefitted from the pioneering work of Maude Abbott, leading to the emergence of surgical intervention for children crippled by congenital heart disease.

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**Dr. Evans** is the founder and Co-Director of Children's Heart Center Nevada (CHCN), the only congenital cardiology practice in Nevada with 15 cardiologists, 2 heart surgeons, and 110 support staff. CHCN is one of the five largest congenital cardiology practices in the United States encompassing fetal cardiology, interventional cardiology, electrophysiology, adult congenital cardiology, congenital cardiac surgery, pediatric obesity, and basic science research programs. Dr. Evans obtained his MD from the University of California, Irvine in 1976. He completed his internship, residency, and Pediatric Cardiology fellowship at the Children's Hospital Los Angeles. Dr. Evans is board certified in Pediatrics and Pediatric Cardiology. He holds medical licenses in Nevada and California. In 1980, Dr. Evans became the first Southern Nevada-based pediatric cardiologist. He is a past Chief of Staff and past Chief of Pediatrics at Sunrise Hospital. He is the Founder and Past President of the Las Vegas Pediatric Society, Past President of the Western Society of Pediatric Cardiology (12 western states) and a member of the Clark County Medical Society, the American Society of Echocardiography, Western Society of Pediatric Research, American Osler Society, and the American Association for the History of Medicine. He is also a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Cardiology. Dr. Evans has been a Professor of Pediatrics with the University of Nevada, School of Medicine since 2001 and trained countless residents and medical students. He has published and presented over 200 medical articles and abstracts as well as the self-published *Simple and Easy Pediatric Cardiology* textbook.

3:30 – 4:00 Homesick Canadian sisters Maude and Alice Abbott:  
travel, medicine and mania in 1890s Europe  
Barbara Brookes  
Professor Emerita, University of Otago, New Zealand

An historian of homesickness, Susan J. Matt, has written of the gendered nature of the phenomenon arguing that ‘women’s lack of power and autonomy exacerbated their homesickness’. The story of Maude and Alice Abbott complicates this binary by suggesting that a while a clear purpose in travel protected Maude from depression, Alice her companion was vulnerable. For Maude, the company of her older sister made the quest for postgraduate medical education in foreign cities in 1894-95 much less lonely than it might have been. Alice was 26, two years older than Maude, but a less driven and more fragile individual. She did not have a university education but she was a promising pianist and was to study music in Europe. Having a companion was a great boon to Maude. There would always be someone at home to speak to in English and to share memories of friends in Canada. When Maude fell ill in Vienna, however, anxiety precipitated Alice’s breakdown. With “morbid anxiety and delusions mixed up with being away from home”, Alice never fully recovered. This paper explores the private side of Maude Abbott’s life to examine how her exceptional career was in part shaped by her roles as doctor, nurse, companion and breadwinner for her elder sister.

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**Professor Emerita Barbara Brookes** is a historian whose work has concentrated on the intersection between the History of Women and the History of Medicine. She taught both fields at the University of Otago for 37 years before retiring in 2020. In 2009 she had the pleasure of being a Visiting Scholar at the Osler Library and immersed herself in the papers of Maude Abbott, as an extension of earlier work on early women doctors, which resulted in a journal article. Professor Brookes is the author of the award-winning *A History of New Zealand Women* (Bridget Williams Books, 2016). Her most recent book, co-edited with James Dunk, is *Knowledge Making* (Routledge, 2020). She has co-edited eleven books and her first monograph, *Abortion in England, 1900-1967* (Croom Helm, 1988) was reissued by Routledge in 2013. In 2018 Barbara was awarded the Royal Society of New Zealand Humanities Aronui Medal for ‘her outstanding contribution to Humanities scholarship, reshaping the history of New Zealand by putting women at the centre of a substantial and internationally recognised body of work.’ Her current book project is entitled *Performing Medicine in the English-Speaking World: Anna Longshore Potts MD, 1829-1912*.



Maude Abbott's date of birth is cited virtually everywhere as being 1869. However, her birth certificate clearly indicates that she was born one year earlier on March 18 1868. We have discovered this and a variety of other "alternative facts" related to Abbott in our research of McGill University Archives and other sources over the past few years. In this talk we will discuss some of these as well as a number of other features of her life which have not been well documented in the published literature, such as the story of her father's trial and subsequent "flight" to the United States and the disposition of her estate. Although acknowledged during her lifetime as a leader in the study of congenital cardiac disease by physicians outside of McGill, recognition of Abbott's achievements by the McGill medical faculty, other medical bodies and the public came mostly after her death in 1940. In this talk, we will also discuss a number of the posthumous awards and accolades that have been given to Abbott, including information about how they originated and what has happened to them since their inception.

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**Rick Fraser** is a Professor in the Department of Pathology at McGill University and Senior Pathologist at the McGill University Health Center. He graduated from the McGill Faculty of Medicine in 1976 and joined its Pathology Department in 1980. His medical specialties have been pulmonary disease and autopsy pathology. He has been given several teaching awards from McGill as well as Distinguished Service Awards from the Canadian Association of Pathologists and the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology. He has also developed an interest in the history of medicine and is currently Director of the McGill Maude Abbott Medical Museum.

**Joan O'Malley** holds an MA in Regional Studies and Intervention from the University of Quebec at Chicoutimi. Joan is presently the Administrative Coordinator at the Maude Abbott Medical Museum. Since 2015, she has worked in the research and management of the collections as well as the development and outreach activities at the Maude Abbott Medical Museum.