

**35<sup>th</sup> HISTORY of MEDICINE DAYS 2026**  
**Thursday, March 19, 2026**

**Program**



**Cumming School of Medicine**  
**3330 Hospital Drive NW**

**2:40PM REGISTRATION** (AZRIELE Atrium)

**AZRIELE Atrium, Cumming School of Medicine**

**3:00PM** Welcome

**Dr. Stephen Pow**, Conference Chair

**SESSION 1 – EPIDEMICS & COVID-19** (AZRIELE Atrium)

**3:05PM – 3:35PM** Chair: **Dr. Fedir Razumenko**, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary

1. Un-Muddying the Waters: Radical Science and Public Health Reforms in Response to the Cholera Epidemics of the 19th Century – **Eliza Stewart (University of Calgary)**
2. Epistemic Entwinement and Adaptation: The Rise of Western Medicine and Evolution of Ayurvedic Medicine in 19th Century India – **Sanskruiti Patel (University of Calgary)**

**POSTER SESSION I** (LIBIN Theatre)

**3:45PM – 4:15PM** Chair: **Dr. Guido van Marle**, Dept. of Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases, University of Calgary

- I. From Borrowed Spaces to LEGO: The Evolution of Paediatric Oncology at the Alberta Children's Hospital – **Andrea Huber (University of Calgary)**
- II. How Did the Cold War Radiation Anxiety Include the Public's Perception of the Use of Radiation Generating Medical Imaging and Procedures in North America? – **Kai Zhang (University of Calgary)**
- III. From Lipids to Proteins: The Discovery of the Mechanisms Underlying General Anaesthesia – **Yi An Wang (University of Calgary)**
- IV. Shear Talent: The Contributions of Ambroise Paré to the Transformation of the Barber Surgeon and the Revolutionization of Surgical Education – **Mehr Malhotra (University of Calgary)**
- V. From Pennyroyal to Mifegymiso: The History of Abortifacients from Ancient Greece to the Present – **Miila Gordon (University of Calgary)**

- VI. From Alienation to Understanding: A History of British Psychiatry – **Marisa Beevers (University of Calgary)**
- VII. Analysis of Religious-Based Mental Health and Psychiatric Interventions – **Treeva Hakim (University of Calgary)**
- VIII. The Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder of Japanese Atomic Bomb Survivors and Their Treatment Options, 1945 to 1965 – **Zoha Ayyaz (University of Calgary)**
- IX. Interpreting Trepanation: Cultural, Medical, and Disability Perspectives in Ancient Societies – **Mohamed Ali El Droubi (University of Calgary)**
- X. Midwifery, Witchcraft, and Medicine: Reproductive Control from the Salem Witch Trials to Modern Legislation – **Ijun Seo (University of Calgary)**
- XI. Medicine as a Practice of Mercy: Medieval Islamic Contributions to the Ethics of Paediatrics – **Daniyal Sait (University of Calgary)**
- XII. The Interplay of Hospitals and Public Health in Medieval Islamic Society – **Alessandra Amato (University of Calgary)**
- XIII. Driving Me Crazy: How Real-Life Conspiracies in Medical History Feed Present-Day Medical Mis-Information – **Marsden Ashe (University of Calgary)**

**4:15PM – 5:00PM COFFEE / FOOD BREAK (HRMB Atrium)**

**SESSION 2 – CANADIANA (LIBIN Theatre)**

**5:05PM – 6:10PM Chair: Prof. David Marshall, Dept. of History, University of Calgary**

- 3. The Canadian Red Cross and the Blood Program in Canada – **Hind Messouar (University of Calgary)**
- 4. Challenge, Charity, and Change: A History of Women’s Societies and the Rise of Public Health in Calgary, Alberta, 1900 to 1950 – **Maggie Ayriss (University of Calgary)**
- 5. Regulating Indigenous Women’s Reproductive Health: Institutional Governance, Resistance, and the Historical Roots of Reproductive Justice in Canada – **Dr. Arielle Perrotta (University of Calgary)**
- 6. Evidence-Based Medicine and Advocacy Politics in the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care – **Antonio Chemello (University of Calgary)**

**SPECIAL LECTURE & DISCUSSION (LIBIN Theatre)**

**6:10PM – 7:45PM**

**Chair: Dr. Stephen Pow**

***The Canadian Task Force on Preventive Care: Two Cycles of Birth, Life, Death and Resurrection***  
**Prof. James A. Dickinson, Professor in the Department of Family Medicine,**  
**Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary**

**Friday, March 20, 2026**

## **Program**



**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
CUMMING SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

**Cumming School of Medicine**  
**3330 Hospital Drive NW**

**8:10AM REGISTRATION (LIBIN Theatre)**

**LIBIN Theatre, Cumming School of Medicine**

**8:30AM** Welcome

**Dr. Stephen Pow**, Conference Chair

**8:35AM** Greeting Addresses

**Dr. Todd Anderson**, Dean – Cumming School of Medicine

**Dr. Erin Gibbs Van Brunschot** - Vice-Dean – Faculty of Arts

**8:45 AM** Introduction HMDs Conferences & Calgary History of Medicine and Health Care Program

**Dr. Stephen Pow**, Calgary History of Medicine and Health Care Program

**8:50AM** AMS Program Presentation

**Anne Avery et al.**, Associated Medical Services, Inc., Toronto, ON

### **SESSION 3 – MEDIEVAL MEDICINE (LIBIN Theatre)**

**9:00AM – 10:05AM** Chair: **Prof. Lesley Bolton**, Dept. of Classics and Religion, University of Calgary

7. Revisiting Albucasis: Historical Foundations of Dysmenorrhea Management Suggesting Ongoing Gaps in Western Medicine – **Seyedeh-Samin Barakati (Western University)**
8. The Two Faces of the Two Snakes: The Caduceus as a Symbol of Medicine – **Jephania Chow (Western University)**
9. Avicenna's Approaches to Burn Wound Management in Historical and Contemporary Perspective – **Pardis Ghaneian (University of Ottawa)**
10. Knights Hospitallers: The Pioneers of Modern Medicine – **Johnny Li Tang (Western University)**

**10:05AM – 10:35AM** COFFEE / FOOD BREAK (HRMB Atrium)

**SESSION 4 – MILITARY MEDICINE** (LIBIN Theatre)

**10:40AM – 12:00PM** Chair: Prof. Timothy Stapleton, Dept. of History, University of Calgary

11. Experiencing Atrocities Through a Medical Lens: Canadian Doctor David Christie's Work Liberating Bergen-Belsen, and his Development and Publication of a Mobile 'Crash-Carriage' Post World War II – **Gregory Scott Finney (Manchester Metropolitan University, UK)**
12. From Operation to Optimization: How Amputation Prosthetic Care was Re-designed in Post-War Canada – **Joy Chowdhury (University of Toronto)**
13. Hidden Agendas: Medical Advancements Acting as an Accomplice to Help Germany Meet Their Economic and Political Objectives During World War One – **Aurora Wengzynowski (University of Calgary)**
14. Osler Society of London (Ontario) and the Second World War: A Study of Volunteerism – **Nancy Qiao (Western University)**

**KEYNOTE LECTURE & DISCUSSION** (LIBIN Theatre)

**12:00PM – 1:20PM** Chair: Dr. Stephen Pow

*Rhythms of Care: Temporality in Medieval Islamic Medicine*

*Prof. Ahmed Ragab*

*Professor of the History of Medicine, Institute for the History of Medicine,  
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, United States*

*In conjunction with the O'Brien Institute for Public Health, the Calgary History of Medicine Society,  
and the C-S.T.E.M.S. Working Group at the Calgary Institute for the Humanities*

**1:20PM – 2:20PM** **BUFFET LUNCH** (AZRIELE Atrium)

**SESSION 5 – HISTORY OF INDIGENOUS HEALTH** (AZRIELE Theatre)

**2:25PM – 3:15PM** Chair: Dr. Geoffrey Hudson, Dept. of Human Sciences,  
NOSM University

15. The Right to Grieve: Exploring Perspectives of Settler-Colonial Medicine on Indigenous Mourning – **Keelin Eastveld & Emily Kapustin (Toronto Metropolitan University)**
16. Which Way Does the Wind Blow? Contrasting Western Knowledge of Chinook Headache in Alberta to Indigenous Storytelling – **Claire Del Zotto & Lomesh Choudhary (University of Toronto)**
17. Healing Without a Cure: Tuberculosis Medicine Before Antibiotics – **Caroline Alionte (Western University)**

**POSTER SESSION II** (AZRIELE Atrium)

**3:25PM – 4:55PM** Chair: Dr. Arafaat Valiani, Dept. of History, University of Oregon, United States

- XIV. A Review of Historical Métis Traditional Medicines in Wound Care: A Focus on White Spruce (*Picea glauca*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), and Broadleaf Plantain (*Plantago major*) in Canada – **Amy Lefebvre (Northern University)**

- XV. From Mourning to Mistrust: Grief, Medical Authority, and Public Trust from the 19th Century to the Vaccine Age – **Shreya Sharma (Western University)**
- XVI. Machines and Manpower: Respiratory Crisis and the Hidden Limits of Intensive Care: A Comparative Case Study – **Shuhan Bu (Western University)**
- XVII. The Graduated Cure: Prescribing Exercise in the Early Days of Post-WWI Sanatoria – **Minhal Ahmed (Western University)**
- XVIII. Phlebotomy as a Cardiorespiratory Intervention in Islamicate Medicine: Indications and Contradictions – **Syed Arfat Irfan (Western University)**
- XIX. Vigilance Behind the Curtain: Pulse Oximetry and the Making of the Invisible Operating Room – **Mona Taboun (Western University)**
- XX. Phantom Pain? Ambroise Paré's Perception of Pain in Surgical Patients – **Fatima Khaliq (Western University)**
- XXI. The Rise of Endotracheal Intubation in the Early Twentieth Century – **Andrea Wang (Western University)**
- XXII. Matters of the Heart: Ancient Egyptian Understandings of Cardiology – **Helen Boles (Western University)**

**4:55PM – 5:05PM BREAK**

**SESSION 6 – HISTORY OF PHARMACEUTICALS & DRUGS** (LIBIN Theatre)

**5:10PM – 6:15PM Chair: Prof. Ahmed Ragab, Institute for the History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, United States**

- 18. A Fatal Drug: How Chloroform's First Death Shaped the Emergence of the Professional Anaesthesiologist – **Michael Su (Western University)**
- 19. Laughing Gas and the Mind: 19th-Century Anaesthetics and Insights into Consciousness – **Joycelyn Ba (University of Toronto)**
- 20. Reconstructing Identity: The Guinea Pig Club and the Making of Modern Plastic Surgery – **Sarah Bilgasesem (Western University)**
- 21. When Insight Became Illicit: LSD and the Boundaries of Psychiatric Medicine – **Katie Chen (Western University)**

**6:15PM – 6:25PM BREAK**

**SESSION 7 – MIND & BRAIN** (LIBIN Theatre)

**6:25PM – 7:25PM Chair: Dr. Pedro Falk, Department of History, University of Calgary**

- 22. "All in Your Head": Tracing the Shift from Psychogenic to Physiological Models of Erectile Dysfunction – **Siddhant Maini (Western University)**
- 23. From Therapeutic Nihilism to Time-Dependent Intervention: How Tissue Plasminogen Activator (tPA) Revolutionized Acute Ischemic Stroke Treatment – **Bryn Tannar (Western University)**
- 24. When Soldiers Lost Their Voice: Mutism, Shell Shock, and the Neurology-Psychiatry Divide in First World War Canada – **Shahithra Kirubalingam (Western University)**
- 25. The Heredity of Alcoholism: Eugenics, Psychiatry, and Suicide in Brazil, 1910s-1940s – **Dr. Pedro Falk (University of Calgary)**

**SPECIAL FEATURE AWARD SESSION** (LIBIN Theatre)

**7:25PM - 8:05PM Chairs: Dr. Stephen Pow & Dr. Michael Williams  
– Department of Computer Science**

**Michael & Michelle Williams Award in  
Science, Technology, Environment, & Medicine Studies**

University of Calgary 2025 Graduate Student Award Recipient  
Bestowment of Certificate and Project Presentation

**8:10PM – 9:20PM BUFFET DINNER** (AZRIELE Atrium)

[Registration Required by March 4, 2026]

**Saturday, March 21, 2026**

## **Program**



**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
CUMMING SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

**Cumming School of Medicine**  
**3330 Hospital Drive NW**

**LIBIN Theatre, Cumming School of Medicine**

**8:10AM REGISTRATION** (LIBIN Theatre)

### **SESSION 8 – SURGERY** (LIBIN Theatre)

**8:30AM – 9:50AM Chair: Dr. John Jarrell, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Calgary**

26. “Acceptable Risk” as a Concept Before Risk Scores: Human Heart Transplantation and the Contentious Meaning of Surgical Success, 1967–1969 – **Sajid Wariach (Western University)**
27. The Power of gLOVE: Evolution of Surgical Glove – **Victor Lam & Asma Bilgasem (University of Toronto)**
28. From Experimental Optics to Sports Medicine Revolution: The Early History of Arthroscopy and its Legacy at Western University – **Ibrahim Alsakhadi (Western University)**
29. Desperate Times, Drastic Measures: When Pituitary Ablation was the Only Treatment for Diabetic Retinopathy – **Natalie Kearns (Queen’s University)**
30. Standardizing Urgency: A Historical Perspective on the Canadian Triage and Acuity Scale – **Ismina Papadhima (Western University)**

### **SESSION 9 – WOMEN’S HEALTH** (LIBIN Theatre)

**9:50AM – 10:55AM Chair: Carole Rush, Faculty of Nursing, University of Calgary**

31. Climacteric Insanity: The Medicalization of Women’s Aging in Nineteenth Century Britain – **Eliana Kagal (University of Toronto)**
32. Displacing the Dai: Colonial Obstetric Intervention and the Legacy of Maternal Care in India, 1880–1947 – **Shehla Choudhary (Western University)**
33. Beyond the Scalpel: Vera Peters and the Cultural Barriers to Breast-Conserving Therapy – **Mia Hubert (University of Toronto)**
34. Canadian Women Physicians and the Feminist Legacy of Breast Cancer Treatment – **Veda Sharpe (McMaster University)**

**10:55AM – 11:25AM COFFEE / FOOD BREAK** (HMRB Atrium)

**SESSION 10 – HISTORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH** (LIBIN Theatre)

**11:30AM – 12:50PM Chair: Dr. Zach Marshall, Department of Community Health Sciences,  
University of Calgary**

- 35. From Parasols to SPF: Fashion Trends, Sun Exposure, and the Medicalization of Sunscreen in the 19th and 20th Centuries – **Jennifer Tran (Western University)**
- 36. Bodily Sovereignty and Scientific Trust: A Critical History of Vaccine Resistance – **Fabiana Kellen (Western University)**
- 37. Pathologizing Parenting: The Refrigerator Mother Theory and its Legacy in Autism Care – **Hayden Hartwick (Western University)**
- 38. Epidemic as a Social Diagnostic: Rethinking Cholera and Public Health in 1970s Ibadan – **Sesan Johnson (University of Calgary)**

**POSTER SESSION III** (AZRIELE Atrium)

**1:00PM – 2:55PM Chair: Prof. Glenn Dolphin, Tamaratt Chair of Science Teaching,  
University of Calgary**

- XXIII. From Womb to World: Leonardo da Vinci's Fetal Studies and the Birth of Modern Illustration – **Jacqueline Chen (Western University)**
- XXIV. "The Natural Obligations of Community": The Optimistic Birth and Growth of the Canadian International Development Agency and Early Canadian International Aid Messaging – **Aishwarya Kulkarni (Western University)**
- XXV. From Destruction to Healing: Radiofrequency Ablation and the Changing Clinical Understanding of Pain – **Noah Lim (Western University)**
- XXVI. Medicine and Music: A History of Canadian Music Therapy – **Anna Schwartz (Northern University)**
- XXVII. Renal Colic in the Sistine Chapel: Michelangelo and the Lived Experience of Nephrolithiasis – **Nikita Burman (Western University)**
- XXVIII. Scientific Inquiry or Ethical Transgressions? Re-evaluating Canada's Twentieth-Century Nutritional Experiments on Malnourished Institutionalized Children: A Case Study – **Elijah Van Dinther (Western University)**
- XXIX. Live and Let Die: The 1952 Copenhagen Polio Epidemic and the Birth of Modern Intensive Care and End-of-Life Ethics – **Rowaida Hussein (Western University)**
- XXX. From Bells to Gongs: The Evolution of Cancer Treatment Rituals – **Evan Schreier (Western University)**
- XXXI. Beyond the Germ: How Political and Institutional Alignment Determined the Fate of Medical Knowledge in the Nineteenth Century – **Sai Thirugnamsampanthar (Western University)**
- XXXII. A Flexible Solution to a Rigid Problem: How Surgical Reluctance to use Flexible Endoscopy Enabled the Development of Gastroenterology – **Ali Abdel Raheem (Western University)**
- XXXIII. White Gold in the OR: The Survival of Cocaine as an Anaesthetic in Canadian Sinonasal Surgery – **Muhammad Ans & Hannan Minhas (Western University)**
- XXXIV. Reproductive Bias in Early PICOS: The Stein-Leventhal Syndrome – **Ariela Jamshidi-Shahvar (Western University)**
- XXXV. Beauty or Burden? How Silicone Implants Reframed Risk in Surgical Innovation – **Marina Shaker (Western University)**

**2:55PM – 3:55PM BUFFET LUNCH** (AZRIELE Atrium)

**POSTER SESSION IV** (AZRIELE Atrium)

**3:55PM – 5:10PM Chair: Dr. Arielle Perrotta, Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Calgary**

- XXXVI. Twilight Sleep: Pain Relief, Power, and the Rise of Modern Obstetrics – **Madhura Deshpande & Mathavan Vije (Western University)**
- XXXVII. From Fatal Diagnosis to Treatable Disease: How Genetics Research Changed the Outcomes of Cystic Fibrosis – **Alice Zheng (Western University)**
- XXXVIII. Rinderpest: Humanity's Centuries Long Battle with Cattle Pestilence – **Alexander Moersch & Andee Qiao (Western University)**
- XXXIX. Minimalism Before the Revolution: Walter Messerklinger's Work and its Parallels in Minimally Invasive Surgery Revolution of the 1980's – **Rachiel Chirara (Western University)**
- XXXX. Lifting the Pilocarpine Gloom: How the Modern Glaucoma Paradigm Began in Montreal – **Afreen Ahmad (University of Toronto)**
- XXXI. "Born on Display": How Incubator Exhibitions Reshaped the Boundaries of Neonatal Care – **Mahma Ahmed (Western University)**
- XXXII. From Clot to Closure: Viral Hurdles in Fibrin Glue Adoption – **Asma Bilgasem (University of Toronto)**
- XXXIII. Disaster as Catalyst: The Shift in Surface Burn Therapy After the Coconut Grove Fire – **Tara Behtashi & Jady Clark (Western University)**
- XXXIV. Shouldice Hernia Repair: From Wartime Innovation to Modern Success – **Jady Clark & Tara Behtashi (Western University)**
- XXXV. From Humors to Anatomy: How Ancient Greek Medicine Shaped Western Medical Thought – **Sarvesh Mohan (University of Fredericton)**
- XXXVI. When Housing Became Health Care: Tuberculosis, Overcrowding, and Public Health Policy in Canada – **Ria Bagga (Western University)**

**5:10PM – 5:20PM BREAK**

**SESSION 11 – ETHICS & EDUCATION** (LIBIN Atrium)

**5:25PM – 6:30PM Chair: Dr. Aaron Cliff, Alberta Children's Hospital, University of Calgary**

39. Poetic Pathogenicity: Girolamo Frascatoro's Interdisciplinary Approach to the Symptomatology and Transmission of Syphilis During the Italian Renaissance – **Jayhan Kherani (University of Toronto)**
40. Reproductive Medicine as Administrative Power: Vasectomies and the Transformation of Medical Authority During India's Emergency (1975–1977) - **Sahara Rosha (Western University)**
41. Medical Students of Chinese Ancestry at the University of Ottawa, 1945–1967 – **Adrian Wong (Ottawa University)**
42. Historical Depiction of Latin American Soul Loss Across Colonial, Anthropological, and Psychiatric Archives – **Valentina Gasca-Castro (University of Calgary)**

**SESSION 12 – TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION** (LIBIN Theatre)

**6:30PM – 7:45PM Chair: Dr. Megan Delehanty, Dept. of Philosophy, University of Calgary**

43. From Forgotten Experiments to Global Protocol: Chest Compressions for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and its 'Accidental' Rediscovery by Two Electrical Engineers at Johns Hopkins University – **Hamzah Algodí (Western University)**
44. From Blade to Beam: The Global Femtosecond Laser Evolution – **William Herspiegel (University of Toronto)**
45. When Seeing Meant Saving: Foreign Bodies and the Evolution of Pediatric Airway Endoscopy – **Yasmine Madan (Western University)**
46. Grafting at Straws: Origins of Corneal Xenotransplantation and the Limits of Early Transplantation Science – **Isabell Kearns (McMaster University)**

**7:45PM – BUFFET DINNER** (AZRIELE Atrium)

[Registration Required by March 4, 2026  
Eat, enjoy the band, and mingle.

**Joseph Bahhadi & Friends Jazz Group** (University of Calgary students)

**8:30PM – 9:15PM – AWARDS CEREMONY**

**10:30PM – OFFICIAL PROGRAM ENDS**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

The History of Medicine Posters may be viewed on Friday and Saturday in the AZRIELE Atrium of the Cumming School of Medicine.

This program has received an educational grant or in-kind support from: Associated Medical Services, and the Alberta Medical Association

**Check the Registration Desk for CME details.**