

From the Editor

THREE YEARS AGO, I MOVED TO AUSTRALIA FROM THE UNITED STATES OF America. Before I arrived, several expatriates and earlier visitors spoke highly of the quality of life and of the quality of the research in the history of medicine in the antipodean world. In both respects, however, my experiences during the past three years have far exceeded my expectations. The conferences of the Australian Society for the History of Medicine (ASHM) have proved to be an inspiring meeting place of health care professionals and historians engaged in an enduring dialogue, which provided a fascinating perspective on the history of medicine in a corner of the world with which I had not been familiar previously. Naturally, the high quality of scholarship in the history of medicine in Australia and New Zealand is reflected in the articles published in *Health and History*, of which I am now appointed as editor.

During my tenure as editor, I wish to highlight the unique perspective on the history of medicine from our part of the world. Apart from encouraging submissions that reflect the interests of members of the ASHM, I specifically wish to encourage submissions on the history of medicine in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific region. There has been a significant increase in the amount of scholarship on the history of colonial and postcolonial medicine in the Pacific region, which is providing stimulating theoretical approaches and conceptualisations. We are in an unusual position to contribute to this research. I also hope to increase the circulation of *Health and History* internationally and to find a way to make an electronic version of the journal available, which would increase its potential readership dramatically.

In the meantime, I would like to hear from readers as to what it is they appreciate about our journal, where they think it could be improved and what could be changed. But, most of all, I am eager to publish the work of our readers, to make it available to a broader audience and to strengthen the already impressive tradition in the history of medicine in this part of the world. I look forward to your contributions.

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Health and History is a refereed journal concerned with all aspects of the history of medicine and with a primary focus on Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific region.