Dr. Frank R. Smith, a 1962 graduate of the College of Physicians & Surgeons, has recently donated an important early 19th century surgical kit to the Archives & Special Collections at the Augustus C. Long Health Sciences Library.

The kit is in beautiful condition, is almost complete, and has a wonderful association with Columbia University. A small plaque on the lid notes that it was a gift from John Anthon to Dr. Smith’s ancestor, Dr. David Hosack, in recognition of his “medical services cheerfully & attentively rendered to both his parents in extreme sickness.”

Hosack (1769-1835) was an eminent early 19th century American physician, scientist, and educator who served at various times as professor of botany, materia medic, medicine, and physiology at P&S.

The donor, John Anthon (1784-1863), was a noted New York City lawyer and jurist who was a founder of the New York Law Institute.

The surgical kit will be featured in a small exhibit on Lower Level 1 of the Hammer Health Sciences Building in January, 2015.

Stephen Novak, Head, Archives & Special Collections

The National Library of Medicine has created an EbolaVirus Resource as a part of its Virus Variation tool, a comprehensive resource offering the tools necessary to search, retrieve and display large virus sequence data sets.

Through EbolaVirus Resource users can retrieve, view and download the nucleotide and protein sequences of the Ebola virus and explore other Ebolavirus resources, such as the NCBI Zaire Ebolavirus reference genome, publications, 2014 Ebolavirus outbreak information resources and a Health Map, which provides a history of the media coverage of the outbreak since its beginning. Go to:


What is the H-Index?

In 2005, in a paper published in PNAS, Jorge E. Hirsch, a physicist at the University of California at San Diego proposed a measure “which gives an estimate of the importance, significance, and broad impact of a scientist’s cumulative research contributions.” This measure, called the h-index or Hirsch index, takes into consideration both the number of papers authored by a scientist and the number of times those papers are cited. Thus, it aims to create a balance between the quantity and quality of research by measuring both research productivity and impact based on citation count.

The h-index is easy to calculate: an author with an index of h has h papers each of which has been cited at least h times. For example, an author with an h-index value of 75 has 75 publications which have been cited at least 75 times each or more.

Online databases, such as Web of Science or Scopus also make it possible to calculate the h-index. You may watch a brief video on citation analysis and the h-index at: http://youtu.be/7qssEKTHQII.

The h-index has its limitations, and other measures have been designed in an attempt to address them. Learn more at: http://tinyurl.com/qe3f9cb.

In 2008, the Transplant Library, which includes all randomized controlled trials from the earliest record, including many congress abstracts and selected, good quality systematic reviews from 2008. RCTs published from 2004 have been given a methodological quality rating. To connect to the Transplant Library, go to:

http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio10935779
A spate of OS upgrades for iOS and Mac OS X, as well as a new version of Outlook via Office 365, has kept our testing staff very busy. As a rule of thumb we strongly advise against being an early adopter to avoid the headaches of using software or hardware that can still be very buggy and incompatible.

iOS 8 – a configuration file to set up Athens secure WiFi and CUMC VPN has been available for a while now. If you had been already set up Athens or VPN on an iPhone or iPad and want to upgrade to iOS 8, you will need to uninstall your existing Enterprise Profile. Full instructions are in the Wireless at CUMC pages: http://cumc.columbia.edu/it/howto/wireless/index.html

Yosemite - Apple released version 10.10 of its operating system for Macs in mid October as a free upgrade. Unfortunately as of this writing it is not supported at CUMC due to compatibility issues with WiFi and Exchange email. A beta release of the first update to Yosemite, 10.10.1, seems to help resolve network connectivity issues. However, testing is still in progress. Please look for updated information on the CUMC IT home page and Operating System Compatibility and Support in the Policies section of our website: https://secure.cumc.columbia.edu/cumcit/secure/policy/os.html

Outlook in Office 365 for Mac – Microsoft released an updated version of Outlook in its Office 365 subscription suite. Due to numerous reports of login and synching issues as well as features becoming buggy or disappearing we strongly advise against upgrading. If you use an Exchange email account (@cumc.columbia.edu), Outlook 2011 is the only supported software program for Mac users.

The Federal Communications Commission’s decision in 2002 to classify broadband as an information service rather than a telecommunications service was an attempt to encourage growth and innovation by placing the burgeoning high-speed Internet providers under lighter regulation. President Obama released a statement and video on November 10th urging the FCC to reclassify the service so it falls under Title II of the Telecommunications Act, acknowledging that the current use of broadband means it should be regulated similarly to phone utilities:

“…our law has recognized that companies who connect you to the world have special obligations not to exploit the monopoly they enjoy over access in and out of your home or business.”¹

While the FCC may not make a decision until mid-2015, pressure from the President as well as millions of comments it has received on proposed rules are giving hope to proponents of net neutrality.

¹http://www.whitehouse.gov/net-neutrality

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