LOWER MORTALITY IN MAGNET HOSPITALS

A study led by the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, which included 564 hospitals in four states, found that patients treated in magnet hospitals (specially designated for their nursing excellence) had 14 percent lower odds of death than those in non-magnet hospitals. The study, published in Medical Care, concluded that the lower mortality found in magnet hospitals was largely attributable to measured nursing characteristics but there was also a mortality advantage above and beyond what could be measured. "Magnet recognition identifies existing positive organizational behavior that improves patient outcomes."

For more information please see the article record in PubMed at: PMID 23047129

The Augustus C. Long Health Sciences Library at the Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC) is pleased to present "Mirroring Medicine," an exhibition of medical-themed medals from the collection of Dr. Ira Rezak, Professor Emeritus of Medicine at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and a graduate of Columbia College (1959) and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine (1963). More than 275 items from 30 countries are on display dating from the 3rd to the 21st centuries. Besides being curious, rare, and informative, the medals displayed are often works of fine art in their own right.

Dr. Rezak's medical medal collection, formed over 50 years, is one of the most important in private hands. It includes coins, tokens, amulets and votives, badges, prizes, decorations, plaquettes (rectangular medals), medallions (medals for walls), as well as medals proper. The collection encompasses medicine in its broadest sense: medals relating to nursing, dentistry, hospitals, medical education, public health, pharmacy, and physical rehabilitation are all on display. Other topics represented by items in the show include disaster relief, blood transfusion, religion and medicine, alternative medicine, and the role of water in health.

Portraits of distinguished physicians are well represented in the exhibition. Included are medals for Sigmund Freud's 50th birthday in 1906; the Charaka Club medal presented to William Osler, ca. 1903; a 70th birthday medal for Louis Pasteur (1892); and a 1932 medal honoring Spanish neuroanatomist Santiago Ramon y Cajal. One of the most curious may be a small medal issued to honor French physician Joseph Guillotin; the medal commemorates not his invention of the guillotine but rather his less notorious role as president of the French Academy of Medicine in 1807-1808.

The exhibition is open from 7 AM to 9 PM on Lower Level 2 of CUMC’s Hammer Health Sciences Center. Access is allowed to all those holding Columbia University or New York-Presbyterian Hospital identification. For more information, or to arrange a visit to the exhibition for those without authorized access please contact: hslarchives@columbia.edu.

/Stephen Novak, Head of Archives & Special Collections

NEW! PALLIATIVE CARE E-BOOK COLLECTION

Thanks to the generosity of The Y.C. Ho/Helen and Michael Chiang Foundation, the Health Sciences Library has purchased a Palliative Care ebook collection (module) from Oxford Scholarship Online. This interdisciplinary collection includes about 70 titles on various aspects of palliative care published in different years by Oxford University Press. This core collection purchased with the foundation grant money will be updated with new titles on a regular basis.

Use CLIO Basic Search to look up specific titles or select Keyword (Boolean) from the drop down box and search for "Oxford Scholarship Online Palliative Care" to find all collection titles.

/Marina Chilov, Ref. & Monograph Coll. Dev. Librarian
USB flash drives are convenient thanks to their portability and compatibility with most computers, unfortunately this also makes them easier to leave behind when you’re done working. At the help desk, we see a lot of forgotten keys and are happy to return them to the proper owner. However, they are not always found by someone who is willing to do the same.

If you’re storing important and sensitive files on a memory stick, make sure that you’re protecting them appropriately. Even when we are able to reunite a drive with its owner there’s no way to be sure that the information on it hasn’t been read or copied by unauthorized people unless you’ve taken the time to encrypt your data. Please be sure to set up one of the following methods before a problem occurs:

Password protect files - any Office file can be secured by setting a password on it. With the file open, find the password protection options and follow the instructions to select a strong password:

- in Office 2010 for Windows look under File – Info

Other programs may have encryption or password setting information in their Help menu.

Encrypt all or part of the drive – encryption programs that are native to your computer’s operating system, such as Windows BitLocker and Macintosh’s Disk Utility, will often allow you to encrypt your drive. Other programs, including Truecrypt and WinZip, can be installed on your computer to use for external drive or file encryption.

Be sure to read all of an encryption program’s instructions carefully before using it; there may be restrictions with compatibility on different systems, and, if possible, you may want to create a backup key that can be used if you forget an encryption password. Encrypted data is usually set to be unrecoverable if you are not able to provide the correct password. More information can be found on our Using Encryption page.

Windows 8 and Mac OS 10.8 Support

Microsoft set October 26th as the official release date for the newest version of its operating system, Windows 8. Most Windows based computers purchased after this date will come with version 8 pre-installed, however it may be possible to request Windows 7 through the seller.

CUMC IT will not be able to fully support Windows 8 for a while after its release as we test to make sure that it works properly with Medical Center resources such as wireless and Pharos printing. Many software vendors also need time to release versions of their programs that are fully compatible with a new operating system.

Macintosh OS 10.8, Mountain Lion, has been tested to work with programs including Athens and Pharos, however there are still some incompatibilities that prevent us from offering full support. We will continue to update the Operating System Compatibility and Support page with new information, please be sure to review https://secure.cumc.columbia.edu/cumcit/secure/policy/os.html before you upgrade or purchase a computer with a newly released OS in order to understand how it might affect your ability to use it at CUMC.