The early years of the new nation - from roughly the ratification of the Constitution in 1789 until the deaths of the last Founding Fathers circa 1830 – were a period that saw the beginnings of a medical infrastructure in the U.S.: the country’s first medical journal began publication; hospitals were established; medical societies proliferated; and there was a dramatic increase in the number of medical schools – from 4 in 1790 to 24 in 1830.

On display are books, journals, manuscripts and ephemera which illustrate this formative era. Viewers can see a copy of the Medical Repository, the country’s first medical journal, founded by Columbia College medical faculty members in 1797; books on the terrible yellow fever epidemics that ravaged Philadelphia and New York during this period; an 1810 letter from a medical student describing his studies in Philadelphia with famed physician Benjamin Rush; the first charter of P&S (1807); the 1811 ledger of rural Maine physician showing his charges for bleeding and delivering babies; and a copy of the 1831 Massachusetts “Anatomy Act” – the first in the nation – which allowed medical schools access to unclaimed bodies for use in anatomical dissection.

Compared to Europe, U.S. medicine in this period remained poorly organized. It lacked authority and prestige, and received no government research support. American medical education was distinctly sub-par, leading many students to pursue further education in Great Britain and France. Nevertheless, the efforts made by American physicians in this era gave promise of future distinction.

The exhibit is on view on Lower Level 2 of the Teaching & Learning Center in the Hammer Health Sciences Building from March 11 through May 24, 7 days a week from 7am to 10pm. For more information please contact: hslarchives@columbia.edu.

Steve Novak, Head, Archives & Special Coll., HS Library

MD Conference Express is a service of peer-reviewed conference highlight reports intended “to connect the world of medicine with academically sound, peer-reviewed highlights from the global medical conferences that change practice.” (From the MD Conference Facebook page) A the rigorous process of peer review is applied to the medical conference highlights. A medical board of world experts selects the topics, and the articles are written entirely from primary sources. Presenters are invited to review and comment on the articles written about their presentations, and materials are peer reviewed by an independent board of world experts to eliminate any bias. Before publication, materials go through a final review by the conference chair and the editors. The publication is distributed in over 58 countries in almost a dozen languages.

The Health Sciences Library has a trial period for this resource. Find out more at: http://library.cumc.columbia.edu/information-resource-trials

Your feedback is important! Please fill out the survey at the end of the trial information page.
In recent months the success of “watering hole” attacks that breached Facebook, Twitter, Apple and Microsoft stresses the serious need for customers to make sure that the passwords they use for these types of accounts are not used for other logins, especially ones dealing with sensitive or confidential information. While Twitter was the only company to confirm that hackers had uncovered information for over 250,000 accounts – including usernames, email addresses and encrypted passwords – the attacks cast a wide net that snared a number of top tier tech companies with huge customer bases.

Watering hole attacks take advantage of legitimate web sites with security flaws that hackers can exploit in attempts to infect computers that then visit the site. The term watering hole comes from the idea that prey – computers that aren’t adequately protected – will come to the watering hole or website and then be open to attack. The successful breach of Facebook and other companies this past February targeted web sites of interest to software developers, whose involvement with confidential data, such as proprietary software code or databases containing customer information, is of interest to hackers.

These days the number of logins most people have makes it tempting to re-use passwords for different accounts. Unfortunately convenience does not outweigh the need to protect our own personal information and the institutional data that University email and other CUMC programs provide access to. Be sure that you are using a unique password for each account, especially between personal or consumer accounts and CUMC programs. Hackers who uncover account information from an outside company could easily use passwords, email addresses and more details that are often easily found online in attempts to infiltrate University resources. Disable consumer accounts you are no longer using, and don’t use your academic or work email address or login ID for commercial services. Creating separate arenas or “sandboxing” your professional accounts from your personal ones – and even between sensitive personal accounts such as banking and financial versus those used for fun – is an important way to help keep private information properly secured.

Did You Know?

University licensed software and discount information can be found on the CUMC IT site at: http://www.cumc.columbia.edu/it/getting_help/software.html

See http://www.cumc.columbia.edu/it/howto/print/copyscan.html#scanoptions for a list of options available when scanning on the Pharos multi-function printers

A tutorial on how to use classroom podium equipment including the touch panel control, connecting a laptop or USB key, and using the document camera is at: http://www.cumc.columbia.edu/it/cts/eroom.html

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