

Press Release
October 2019

Apothecaries' Medical History and Philosophy Faculty Celebrates Diamond Anniversary

The Faculty of the History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy at the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries celebrates its 60th anniversary on 21 October with a packed programme of events, open to all.

To mark its Diamond Anniversary, the Faculty is organising celebratory events including: a one day symposium exploring the history of medical botany; a visit to Chelsea Physic Garden; an International Women's Day event; a dinner for the launch of *These Are the Hands*, which is an NHS poetry anthology; and a 60th anniversary formal dinner.

A Diamond Patrons' scheme has also been launched to establish a fund that will enable the Faculty to pilot new and innovative events in the future.

Briony Hudson said:

This milestone year offers a perfect opportunity to spread the word about what the Faculty does and to invite people to join us. It is an enormous honour to be President of the Faculty in its 60th year, and I am excited at the range of events in our Diamond Anniversary programme. As a freelance historian, I am particularly keen to welcome everyone with an interest in medical and pharmacy history, or the ethics and philosophy of healthcare to attend. Although the Society of Apothecaries is a medical body, the Faculty's activities are truly open to all, whether you are a healthcare professional from any discipline or an interested member of the public."

The Faculty, based in the 17th century guildhall of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries in Blackfriars, London, offers events, workshops and courses for anyone with an interest in the history of medicine. Its Apothecaries' Lecturers and outreach visits encourage medical students to engage actively with their professional history, and it works in partnership with a wide range of related organisations.

Since its foundation, the Faculty has hosted regular Eponymous Lectures, named to recognise significant figures in the history and philosophy of medicine including Sir Hans Sloane, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and John Locke. Lectures take place in the Society's magnificent Great Hall and are open to all.

The Faculty also offers courses leading to diplomas in the History of Medicine (established in 1970), and in the Philosophy of Medicine (established in 1978), which are also open to all. Short courses in the History of Medicine and the History of Pharmacy run regularly.

Professor Michael Farthing, Master Apothecary said

"The Society is extremely proud to have the Faculty as an integral and vital part of the Society; on behalf of our members I take this opportunity to wish it a very happy 60th birthday. Modern medicine is moving rapidly forward and ever more dependent on advanced technology. An understanding of its historical roots and philosophy gives us – clinicians and lay people alike – insights that remind us of the human dimension.

During the early 19th century, the Society recognised the importance of history, ethics and the other humanities for those studying medicine with the aim of producing a rounded professional. As modern medicine moves rapidly forward, an understanding of its historical roots, the development in philosophical constructs related to health and the continuing

evolution of biomedical ethics are highly relevant to clinical practice in the 21st century. The Faculty's Diploma Courses and public lectures are available to all, and I take this opportunity to welcome you to visit and enjoy our historic Hall and archive."

Notes to editors

Further details about the Faculty are available from the Society of Apothecaries' website <https://www.apothecaries.org/about-the-faculty/>

The 2019-20 Faculty programme includes 8 Eponymous Lectures, which journalists are welcome to attend for free, two Diploma courses, short courses and events. Full details of the lecture programme are available here: <https://www.apothecaries.org/faculty-events/> and courses here: <https://www.apothecaries.org/courses/>

Media enquiries

A range of images representing the Faculty is available. To request images, seek further information or to discuss interviews, please contact:

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The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries

The Society of Apothecaries was incorporated as a City Livery Company by royal charter from James I on 6 December 1617 in recognition of apothecaries' specialist skills in compounding and dispensing medicines.

Today, we occupy a unique position within the medical profession, offering education and recognised qualifications in vital areas of medical practice that are not provided elsewhere. We are the examining body for seven different Diplomas. As a City Livery Company, we also play a significant charitable role, alongside our events and social programme for members. The Society's Liverymen form part of the franchise for the election of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs and the Society supports the activities of the Lord Mayor and Corporation.

Under its current constitution, 85 per cent of the Society's membership must have obtained a medical qualification registrable with the General Medical Council, or a pharmacist's qualification registrable with the General Pharmaceutical Council.

The Society has two Faculties, both of which are charities by constitution:

- Faculty of the History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy (established 1959)
- Faculty of Conflict and Catastrophe Medicine (established 2005)

Between them, they run an active programme of lectures and courses for members, Fellows and members of the public.

Our extensive Archives and Collections are an important international research resource for doctoral, postgraduate and undergraduate students.