

News from the Society

Members in the News

Joseph M. Healey, J.D., an Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Medicine and Health Care at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine in Farmington, Connecticut, will author a monthly column in *CONNECTICUT MEDICINE* entitled, *Medical Law and the Physician*.

Leonard Berlin, M.D., a participant in recent Society programs and a successful malpractice countersuitor at the trial court level, has had his case reversed by the Illinois Appellate Court. Dr. Berlin has indicated his intention to appeal the decision to the Illinois Supreme Court.

Stephen M. Weiner, LL.B., formerly Commissioner of the Massachusetts Rate Setting Commission, has been appointed Director of the Center for Law & Health Sciences at Boston University School of Law as of July of 1978. With the support of Dean Richard E. Speidel, J.D., LL.M., a member of the Board of Editors of the *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF LAW & MEDICINE*, Mr. Weiner intends to maintain the Center for Law & Health Sciences as a major resource center for health law research and education. The Society expects to continue its close working relationship with the Center and with Mr. Weiner, and, in fact, Boston University School of Law plays a prominent part in the housing of the Society's proposed *Library of Law, Medicine and Health Care*.

Dennis R. Martin, R.N., a recently enrolled member of the Society and the founder of the National Male Nurse Association, recently presented the Association's Luther Christman Award to Myrtle K. Aydelotte, Ph.D., the Executive Director of the American Nurses' Association and a member of the Society's Council. Dr. Aydelotte was honored for demonstrating excellence and leadership consistent with the highest principles and professional standards of the nursing profession.

A number of Society members recently participated in the Eighth Symposium on *Philosophy and Medicine*, entitled *The Law - Medicine Relation: A Philosophical Critique*, held at the University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, Connecticut, on November 9-11, 1978. They were: **George J. Annas, J.D., M.P.H.**; **William J. Curran, LL.M., S.M.Hyg.**; **Angela Holder, J.D.**; and **Lisa Newton, Ph.D.**

New Library of Law, Medicine & Health Care Proposed by ASLM

In late November of 1978, the Society publically initiated its campaign to establish a much-needed, multidisciplinary information and research center encompassing all aspects of medicolegal relations. The Library of Law, Medicine & Health Care will be a national resource center for persons and institutions that seek to explore current problems of public concern at the various interfaces of law and medicine.

A prospectus for the library, detailing the need for and goals of the facility, its current resources, its interrelation with the Society's two publications, and the specific bibliographic and research projects proposed, and seeking more than \$400,000 over a 3 year period, was sent to over twenty national foundations seeking their support in the initial establishment of the library. Over the next weeks and months, funding efforts with the National Library of Medicine, the medical, legal, and health care professions, and with Society members will be initiated with the expectation of establishing the physical location in Boston, Massachusetts by July 1, 1979.

The *ad hoc* Planning Committee for the Library, which first met in February of 1978, was co-chaired by William J. Curran, LL.M., S.M. Hyg., Professor of Legal Medicine at Harvard School of Public Health and Harvard Medical School, and by Elliot L. Sagall, M.D., *President of the Society*. Over twenty national and regional authorities representing the legal and medical professions, library science, and legal and medical educational institutions participated in the development of the finalized prospectus.

The Library would have the following services to offer, some of which are designed solely to benefit *off-site* users:

- specialized reference assistance to on-site users and to off-site Society or Library members concerning bibliographic requests on medicolegal issues;
- photocopying service for articles, court decisions, and other items cited in a new, monthly library-based publication — *MEDICOLEGAL INFORMATION NEWS*;
- circulation of duplicate copies of Library books to Society or Library

members; borrow-by-mail service for off-site members;

- substantive individualized legal and medical research by student research assistants;
- development of a specialized bibliographic cataloguing system for medicolegal materials, with the potential of establishing an "on-line" computerized information system with the support of the National Library of Medicine;
- seminar series and research associates' programs in conjunction with the Center for Law & Health Sciences at Boston University School of Law.

Although definitive plans have not yet been finalized, current negotiations with Boston University School of Law indicate that the new Library will be given physical space on the Boston University campus and will operate in close proximity to the Center for Law & Health Sciences. The establishment of an assured permanent location for the Library, as well as those Society activities that will remain closely allied with the Library, is the top priority at this time.

Contributions: A special Library Fund has been established by the Society devoted solely to the establishment of the Library of Law, Medicine & Health Care. Tax-deductible contributions from those Society members interested in supporting this unique and much-needed information and research center are most welcomed. Checks should be paid payable to the ASLM Library Fund and be sent to the attention of the Executive Director, American Society of Law & Medicine, 454 Brookline Avenue, Boston, MA 02215.