



Courtesy of the Mennonite Archives of Ontario

## PREAMBLE

This conference traces the rise and practice of modern medicine and medical research among Mennonites. It contrasts the shift from folk and herbal medicine to modern practice. It focuses on a profound shift in medical knowledge and its link to religious faith, ethics and cultural identity among Mennonites.

We begin the first day with an interdisciplinary overview of the making of modern medicine, featuring the theme in literature, anthropology and history. We then listen to the stories of 'vocation,' following the paths of 'notable' and acclaimed, doctors and nurses. At the 'heart' of the conference we turn to an extraordinary modern medical development, the Mennonite participation in DNA research, offering the possibility of groundbreaking medical discovery and treatment. On the second day we turn to the specific factors of ethnic boundary, race, religious teaching and gender within the Mennonite world.

Certainly other themes await further study. Much more research could trace the rise of medical 'authorities', on the institutionalization of medicine, on the role of government in health insurance and immunization and on faith, the divine and the miraculous. Such topics await serious study.

Enjoy this foray into a crucial dimension of Mennonite society and religious faith. The history of Mennonite medicine will shed light on both, the ways religion shapes ideas about health and illness, and the way medical ideas reflect the history of a people.

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

7:00 p.m. Reception for Paper Presenters and Chairs,  
Faculty Club, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Wesley Hall, University of  
Winnipeg

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

8:30-8:40 a.m.

### Welcome and Introduction of the Conference

Royden Loewen, Mennonite Studies, University of  
Winnipeg

8:40-10:15 a.m.

### Contesting Modern Medicine

Chair: James Hanley, University of Winnipeg

Jesse Hutchison, University of Waterloo, Ph.D. Cand.,  
"Beginning with herself in the third person': Illness and  
Agency in Rudy Wiebe's *Of this Earth*"

Rebecca Plett, McMaster University, Ph.D. Cand., "From  
Martyrology to the Medical: Making a Contemporary  
Mennonite Subject"

Vanessa Quiring, University of Waterloo, Ph.D. Program,  
"Mennonites, Community and Influenza: Creating  
Communities and Understandings of Disease during the  
1918-1920 Influenza Epidemic"

10:15-10:45 a.m. Coffee

10:45 a.m. -12:20 p.m.

### Physical Well-Being: Past and Present

Chair: Mike Neufeld, Mennonite Brethren Collegiate  
Institute

Marlene Epp, Conrad Grebel University College, "Eat less  
pork, take more baths': A Health Treatise from 19<sup>th</sup>  
Century Russia"

Kathryn Fisher, McMaster University, "Determinants  
of Physical and Mental Health in the Old Order  
Mennonites of Waterloo Ontario"

Katharine Enns, Canadian Mental Health Association,  
Alymer, Ont., "Healing Body and Soul"

12:20-1:20 p.m. Lunch

1:20-3:15 p.m.

### Stories of the Medical 'Vocation'

Chair: Kellie Thiessen, University of Manitoba, School of  
Nursing

Henry G. Friesen, "From Morden, Manitoba to the  
Transformation of the Medical Research Council of  
Canada"

Joseph Martin, "Building Bridges from Duchess, Alberta to  
Dean of Harvard Faculty of Medicine"

Mary Dyck, "From RN Team Leader, Goshen to Gerontology  
and Administration, Mennonite Nursing College, Illinois  
State University"

Terry Klassen, "From MK in New Hope, Belize to Leadership  
at the Children's Hospital, Winnipeg"

3:15-3:45 p.m. Coffee

3:45-5:15 p.m.

### Genetic Disorders and Anabaptist Infants

Chair: Glen Klassen, University of Manitoba (formerly)

# Mennonites, Medicine and the Body: Health, Illness and Medical Research in the Past and Present

An academic and community  
education conference

Hosted by the Chair in Mennonite Studies



Convocation Hall, 2nd floor Wesley Hall  
23 and 24 October, 2015

FREE ATTENDANCE – REGISTER ON-SITE

Marlis Schroeder, University of Manitoba, College of Medicine, (prof. emeritus), "Mennonite Infants and Severe Combined Immunodeficiency Disease: A Translational Research Report"

Victoria Mok Siu and Tony Rupar, Schulich School of Medicine and London Health Sciences Centre, and Jane Leach, Perth District Health Unit, Listowel, Ont., "Newborn and Carrier Screening for Genetic Disorders in the Old Order Amish and Mennonite Population of Southwestern Ontario"

5:15-7:30 p.m. Dinner Break

7:30-9:30 p.m.

### **FEATURED EVENING:**

#### **Mennonites, DNA Research and Gene Discovery**

Greetings: Dr. Annette Trimbee, President, University of Winnipeg

Chair: Bruce Guenther, Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary

Matthew Farrer, University of British Columbia, "Parkinson's Disease, Heredity and Heresy: Molecular Insights from Mennonite Families"

Cheryl Rockman-Greenberg, University of Manitoba, College of Medicine, "Mennonites and the Hypophosphatasia Story: Turning a Potentially Fatal Disorder into a Treatable One"

Reception to follow in foyer

### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24**

8:30-10:05 a.m.

#### **Old Traditions and Health Culture**

Chair: Hans Werner, D. F. Plett Historical Research Foundation

Kerstin M. Reinschmidt, University of Arizona, "Mennonite Women's Everyday Lives in Health and Illness: Revisiting an Ethnography in Chihuahua, Mexico"

Judith Kulig and Hai Yan Fan, University of Lethbridge, "Body, Mind and Spirit: Understanding the Low German Mennonites' Health from a Holistic Perspective"

Ralph Friesen, Nelson, BC, "School of Suffering: Views on Death and Dying in the *Kleine Gemeinde* Mennonite Tradition"

10:05-10:35 a.m. Coffee

10:35 a.m. -12:10 p.m.

#### **Race, Racialization and Medicine**

Chair: Deborah Martin-Koop, MCC Manitoba

David Daniels and Jason Dyck, Mennonite Central Committee, "Ojibwa and Mennonite Health Traditions: A Comparative Study"

Joe Wiebe, University of Alberta, Camrose, "Illness and Medicine among Mennonites and Metis of Southeastern Manitoba"

Ben Goossen, Harvard University, Ph.D., Cand., "Measuring Mennonitism: Blood, Bodies, and Racial Science in Nazi Germany"

12:10-1:10 p.m. Lunch

1:10-2:45 p.m.

#### **Mission, Church and Medicine**

Chair: Jon Bonk, Boston University

Brian Froese, Canadian Mennonite University, "Bodies, Souls and VisitingHours: Mennonite Brethren Outreach in British Columbian Hospitals"

Christoffer H. Grundmann, Valparaiso University, Indiana, "Mennonite Medical Missions: Their History and Message"

Jim Pankratz, Conrad Grebel University College, "Mennonite Medical Mission in India as Christian Witness and Cultural Critique"

2:45-3:15 p.m. Faspa

3:15-4:50 p.m.

#### **Feminism and Concepts of the Body**

Chair: Val Hiebert, Providence University

Susanne Guenther Loewen, Toronto School of Theology, Ph.D. Cand., "Re-Baptizing Mary: Toward a Mennonite-Feminist Re(dis)covery of the Mother of Jesus"

Rachel Waltner Goossen, Washburn University, Topeka, "Mennonite Bodies, Sexual Ethics: Women Challenge John Howard Yoder"

Conrad Stoesz, Mennonite Heritage Centre/Centre for MB Studies, "'For women whose monthly period has not occurred': Revisiting Mennonite Midwives of Manitoba"

4:50-5:00 p.m.

#### **Collecting the Voices and Whither To?**

The Conference Hosts

#### **Conference Details:**

**Major Contributor:** Alexion Canada. **Other**

**Contributors:** The University of Winnipeg, D.F. Plett Historical Research Foundation Inc., University of Manitoba College of Medicine.

#### **The Planning Committee:**

Cheryl Rockman-Greenberg (Distinguished Prof., Dept. of Pediatrics and Child Health, U. Manitoba, College of Medicine); Bruce Guenther (President, MB Biblical Seminary, Langley); James Hanley (Prof., History of Sc., U. Winnipeg); Glen Klassen (Winnipeg); Terry Klassen (Head, Dept. of Pediatrics and Child Health and Assoc. Dean, Faculty of Medicine, U. Manitoba); Royden Loewen (Chair in Mennonite Studies, U. Winnipeg); Vanessa Quiring (Ph.D. Student, U. Waterloo); Conrad Stoesz (Archivist, Centre for MB Studies/ Mennonite Heritage Centre, Winnipeg).

#### **Lodging:**

Suggested lodging is at Holiday Inn, Colony Street, Winnipeg. Phone 204-786-7011 and ask for special University of Winnipeg (Mennonite Studies Conference) rates.

#### **Parking:**

Park at any one of a dozen Impark parking lots around the University, at the ANX Parkade off of Colony, or the Hudson's Bay Parkade off of Memorial Blvd. Street parking on both Friday night and on Saturday is possible as well.

#### **Food:**

Eat at any one of a dozen restaurants within a block or two of the University or at one of the University's five restaurants: Stellas, Elements, Riddel Hall Cafeteria, Starbucks, etc.

#### **Proceedings:**

Selected papers, refereed through a peer-review process, will be published in the 2016 issue of the *Journal of Mennonite Studies*. To subscribe, email [r.loewen@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:r.loewen@uwinnipeg.ca). Current subscription cost: \$28/year.

Back issues available at \$18 per issue: 2015, Ex-Mennonite/ Near Mennonite; 2014, Mennonites, Human Rights and State Power; 2013, Anti-Modern 'Horse and Buggy' Pathways; 2012, Mennonites in Siberia; 2011, Mennonite/s Writing; 2010, Mennonites, Melancholy and Mental Health; 2009. For more information visit [jms.uwinnipeg.ca](http://jms.uwinnipeg.ca)