

American Veterinary Medical History Society

“Devoted to the Diffusion of Veterinary History”

INTERIM NEWS & COMMENT

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Susanne Whitaker, reporter

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Dr. Jerry Owens' Cross-country Visits

In early October, AVMHS president Dr. Jerry Owens (jowensdvm@aol.com) traveled across the country making various history-related visits. On his itinerary was research in the archives at the MSPCA Angell Memorial Medical Center in Boston for his ongoing writing projects. He also enjoyed visiting with Dr. Robert S. Treat, Sr. in Manchester Center, Vermont. Then, it was on to Ithaca, New York for meetings with former Animal Medical Center colleagues at Cornell and updates on Society matters with Secretary-Treasurer Susanne Whitaker.



Dr. Fred Born speaking at the dedication of the Veterinary Clinic at the Galloway House and Village, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, July 11, 2009

Days later, Dr. Owens was impressed by a tour of the Veterinary Office at the Galloway House and Village

Museum in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin with Dr. Fred Born. Dr. Owens described this trip as “highly productive” in getting to meet our members and others involved in preserving the heritage of the profession.

Dr. Owens also visited Mrs. Ann Smithcors at her home in San Barbara, California. Her husband Dr. J. Fred Smithcors (1920-2006) founded AVMHS in 1978.

Dr. DE Buckingham's 1900 Small Animal Surgery Table

After reading about the private veterinary schools that once existed in Washington, DC in the June 2019 issue of *Veterinary Heritage*, AVMHS charter member Dr. R. Gary Roop (drgrgroop@gmail.com) brought an interesting item to our attention—a small animal operating table dating from about 1900 that belonged to and was actually used by Dr. David E. Buckingham, Jr.

An 1893 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Buckingham had maintained an active and highly respected private practice in the District from 1893 for more than 50 years. He was also dean of the George Washington University School of Veterinary Medicine from 1908 to 1918. In addition to being elected president of the District's first Board of Veterinary Examiners, Dr. Buckingham served as veterinarian to many pets of various US presidents at the White House for 25 years from 1915. Thus, he personally cared for President Harding's Airedale terrier “Laddie Boy,” Coolidge's white collie “Rob Roy,” Hoover's Belgian shepherd “King Tut,” and of course Roosevelt's Scottish terrier “Fala” among many others. He also is said to have advised Mrs. Hoover that her white Persian cat with pneumonia had had too many baths.

Dr. Roop indicates that Dr. Buckingham's son, Dr. Richard G. Buckingham (UPenn '38), had established a mixed practice in Rockville, Maryland after graduating. This small animal operating table was among the items included in the public auction of Dr. Richard Buckingham's estate. It was purchased by Maryland veterinarian, Dr. Grant Nisson, in March 1997. Later, Dr. Nisson and his wife Debra donated the table to the

Carroll County Farm Museum in December 1999 for the Maryland VMA's historical exhibit.

The surgery table is currently featured as a center piece in the "1890 Veterinary Surgeon's Office." This one-room veterinary museum was organized by Dr. Roop and his colleagues to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association. The exhibit opened in September 1985 and continues to be accessible seasonally in The Farmhouse at the 140-acre Carroll County Farm Museum in Westminster, Maryland (<http://www.carrollcountymuseum.org>). This period museum features an 1852 brick farm house with six themed exhibit rooms, a general store, living history center, and working farm operations with live animals that provide "a window to nineteenth century living."



Dr. Roop (left) shown with curator Victoria Fowler accepting the table in front of the door to the veterinary museum. As noted in these pictures provided by Dr. Roop, the cream-colored table has an adjustable platform with strap hooks and a central cradle for patients of varying sizes. Dr. Roop speculates that Dr. Buckingham may have had the table custom-made by a metal shop for his practice in the District.



The operating table can be seen front and center in the veterinary exhibit room behind the protective wood railing.



A view from behind the railing toward the opposite wall.

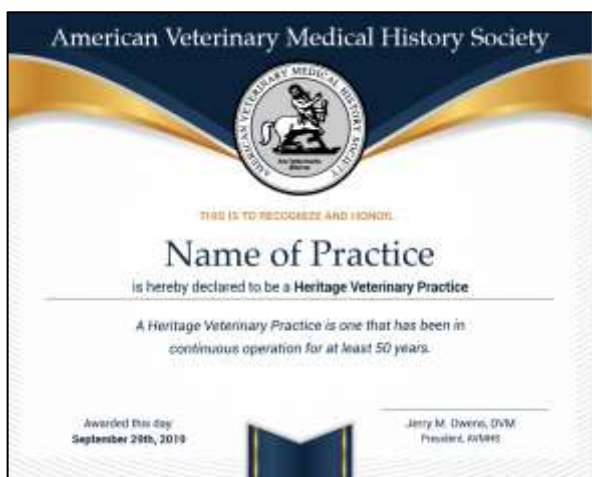


During summer months, MVMA members volunteer as docents explaining items in the exhibit to visitors. Dr. Roop is shown with a traditional Derby hat that 19th century veterinarians often wore.

New Registry Recognition Certificate

Back in 2006, the Society established a Registry of Heritage Veterinary Practices to honor and recognize practices that had been in continuous operation for 50

years or more. After sponsored funding obtained by past coordinator Lesley Ann Gentry was fully expended for producing wooden wall plaques, Dr. Owens has recently commissioned his nephew, Jonathan Owens, a graphic artist, to design a new certificate (shown below). The certificates will be printed on quality stock and customized with the practice's name. Suitable for framing for display in waiting rooms or offices, each will be hand signed and mailed to all practices in early 2020.



We are also pleased that Jonathan has designed a new tri-fold brochure to help promote the Registry and continue to identify additional long-standing practices in the United States and Canada. A copy of this brochure will be enclosed with each certificate and an explanatory cover letter. A pdf is accessible from the Registry page at <https://www.avmhs.org/registry-of-heritage-practices>

In addition, Society board members chose the following logo from several designs Jonathan created. Practices may wish to post this distinctive logo on their Websites to further recognize their heritage status.



A current list of Registry practices can be found at <https://www.avmhs.org/registry-of-heritage-practices>. Please let Dr. Owens (jowensdvm@aol.com) know if you are aware of other 50 year old practices in your vicinity that should be recognized and receive a recognition certificate and brochure.

Dr. E.P. Steffey Awarded Dudley Buxton Medal

We are pleased to share news that AVMHS member Dr. E.P. “Gene” Steffey has recently been awarded the Dudley Buxton Medal for 2019 by the Royal College of Anaesthetists. This prize is awarded annually for “meritorious work in anaesthesia or in a science contributing to the progress of anaesthesia.” Emeritus Professor of Veterinary Anesthesiology at the University of California, Davis, Dr. Steffey is the first veterinarian to be awarded this distinguished recognition by the British society. He is a strong supporter of veterinary history, has given talks on topics related to the history of veterinary anesthesia, and is interested in preserving the heritage of this specialty. Congratulations, Dr. Steffey!

History Posters for AVMA in San Diego

Given our success and overall positive experience with posters related to the history of veterinary medicine at AVMA conventions in recent years, why not think about submitting a proposal for 2020 in San Diego this coming summer? If you will be attending and have a history topic in mind, a Call for Hot Topics and AVMA Posters will start on **January 15, 2020**. Please check the avma.org Website at that time for more information. If you submit, kindly keep the Society in mind so we can coordinate efforts and promote everyone's posters. Our past presenters can also provide helpful advice.

Dr. Born's Vintage Instrument Quiz #7

This issue's instrument quiz from Dr. Born is: “What was the horsehair in this vial used for and when?” Charter member Dr. Fred J. Born (fjorn@att.net) from Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, gives us a hint that it was used in human medicine and on a famous yellow dog. See page 7 for the answer and explanation.



Four Ingram Brothers Revealed

Discoveries related to the history of veterinary medicine can come from many sources. Sam Hendrix (hendrij1@auburn.edu), who authored the outstanding biography on Dr. Charles Allen Cary* last fall, reports being busy on another project. This one documents the lives of the four Ingram brothers from Alabama, all of whom studied under Professor Cary as veterinary students at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute College of Veterinary Medicine around the turn of the twentieth century.

The first part of Sam's article on the lives of these brothers appeared on pages 10 to 13 of the summer 2019 issue of *Auburn Veterinarian* magazine. Please find it online at: <https://www.vetmed.auburn.edu/newsroom/auburn-veterinarian/> The second part will appear in the fall 2019 issue available in January, 2020.



* Hendrix, Sam. *The Cary Legacy: Dr. Charles Allen Carey: Father of Veterinary Medicine at Auburn and the South*. Montgomery, AL: The Donnell Group, 2018. 374 pgs. Order online exclusively from the Auburn University Bookstore at <https://www.aubookstore.com/p-17490-the-cary-legacy.aspx>

Society of Phi Zeta Archives

The Society of Phi Zeta, the only honorary organization for veterinary medicine, was founded at the New York State Veterinary College at Cornell University in 1925. From the Latin “philozoi,” it means “love of animals” and was established “to promote, acknowledge, and reward scholarship in the profession of veterinary medicine.” As a faculty member at that time, Dean Veranus A. Moore was a sponsor and later Dean William A. Hagan served its first president. Several years later, a second chapter was established at the University of Pennsylvania in 1929, and was followed by other

colleges. Currently, every veterinary college in the United States has a Phi Zeta chapter.



Four boxes of Phi Zeta records before shipping to Cornell

Recently, Phi Zeta national president Dr. Cheryl Blaze at Tufts University made arrangements with the Cornell archivist Evan Fay Earle to deposit Phi Zeta's central historical papers with the parent institution of the Alpha Chapter.

The collection will be held in Rare and Manuscript Collections in Kroch Library. As a standard archival management practice, an inventory list, called a “Finding Aid,” will be compiled to help describe and locate items in the collection by box and folder. Many of these Finding Aids can be browsed online to identify items for paging in advance of in-person visits.

Despite contemporary preference for “Internet-everything” these days, institutional archival collections remain important resources for preserving and accessing historical material for research purposes. Although an increasing number of photographs and other items in those collections are being digitized and made available online, much remains in print form to be discovered.

As examples, the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists files can be found at Iowa State University Special Collections and those from the Association of Women Veterinarians (AWV) are held by Washington State University Manuscripts and Special Collections (MASC).

Fort Ord Veterinary Station Hospital

Dr. Karen Hassan (bigreypony@yahoo.com) writes to indicate that she is starting a non-profit group to renovate the Fort Ord Station Veterinary Hospital (SVH) in Marina, Monterey County, California. She would greatly appreciate any advice, suggestions, and support other AVMHS members may have for going about such an

effort and making it successful. Please forward communications directly to her.



The Fort Ord SVH certainly deserves to be preserved because of its significant association with the World War II mobilization era as one of the last built medical facilities for mounted, horse-drawn, and mule-packing units of the U.S. Army.

Shortly after Fort Ord construction began in 1940, the horse-drawn 76th field artillery battalion became the first unit assigned and stabled there and a hospital was soon opened on January 30, 1941. Activity continued throughout the war until most of the horse apparatus was removed in 1946 as part of the transition to mechanization. Of the 12 Series 700 station veterinary hospitals originally built at forts around the nation, the Fort Ord SVH is the only known complete hospital surviving.

The Fort Ord SVH was listed on the US National Register of Historic Places (NRHP #14000305) on June 17, 2014. (The detailed application can be found at: <https://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/places/pdfs/14000305.pdf>)

WAHVM 44th International Congress

On February 27-29, 2020, the World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine (WAHVM) will host its 44th International Congress at The Farm Inn Hotel and Conference Centre, City of Tshwane, in the southernmost tip of the Africa continent. This meeting is also sponsored by the South African Veterinary Medical Association and the Veterinary History Society of South Africa.

Themes for this year's biennial congress held in South Africa are: "The Vet Histories of International Cooperation," "Tropical Diseases," and "Free Topics." The call for papers noted that "All contributions will be

based on historical methodology and originate from unpublished work or provide an historical and not a technical review in respect of a component of the congress themes or the other subjects." Oral presentations are allocated 25 minutes plus 5 minutes for discussion.

WAHVM accepts individual memberships and invites all interested persons to attend their Congresses. To obtain more general information and submit a registration, go to <http://www.savetcon.co.za/WAHVM2020/> or contact Dr. Andrew Gardiner (Andrew.Gardiner@ed.ac.uk)

Meeting and Event Calendar 2020

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|--------------|---|
| Feb 27-29 | 44th International Congress, World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine (WAHVM), South Africa |
| April 15 | Student History Essay Contest Deadline |
| Jul 31-Aug 4 | AVMHS 43rd Annual Business Meeting and Program, San Diego, CA |

New AVMHS Members (as of Dec. 26)

We are pleased to welcome:

- Charles S. Bryan, MD (*Columbia, SC*)
- James K. Burt, DVM (*New Albany, OH*)
- Kimberly Everson, DVM (*Van Dyne, WI*)
- Anthony J. Fischetti, DVM (*Hastings-on-Hudson, NY*)
- Andrew Greenwood, MA, VetMB (*West Yorkshire, UK*)
- Daniel L. Grooms, DVM, PhD (*Ames, IA*)
- Karen Hassan, DVM (*Pacific Grove, CA*)
- Roger C. Kuhn, DVM (*Mill Valley, CA*)
- Arthur Lage, DVM (*Pembroke, MA*)
- Robert E. Lewis, DVM (*Conover, NC*)
- Christopher D. Nagano (*Washougal, WA*)
- Roberta H. Symes, DVM & Myron G. Rightman, DVM (*Santa Fe, NM*)
- Gordon H. Theilen, DVM (*Dixon, CA*)
- Joseph B. VanderVeer, MD (*Newtown Square, PA*)
- Randy Wheeler, DVM (*Ankeny, IA*)
- James F. Wilson, DVM, JD (*Yardley, PA*)
- Robert Yelland, DVM (*Piedmont, CA*)

New Registry of Heritage Veterinary Practices

We are pleased to welcome the following new Registry member:

- *Animal Hospital of Livermore (*Livermore, CA*)
- *Ard-Vista Animal Hospital (*Winston-Salem, NC*)

- *Greenfield Animal Hospital (*Southfield, MI*)
- *Memorial Town & Country Animal Clinic (*Houston, TX*)
- *Old Town Veterinary Hospital (*Winston-Salem, NC*), Estab. 1966
- *VCA Lake Shore Animal Hospital (*Chicago, IL*)
- *Westbury Animal Hospital (*Houston, TX*)

*Also, accredited for 50 years by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA)

New Books

Akhtar, Aysha, Carl Safina and Deepti Gupta. *Our Symphony with Animals: On Health, Empathy, and our Shared Destinies*. United States: W. W. Norton & Co., Inc, 2019.

Barnhart, Matthew D. and Karl C. Maritato. *Locking Plants in Veterinary Orthopedics*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2019. 240 pgs. ISBN: 9781119380122
Includes "A Brief History of Veterinary Locking Plates Applications, by Karl C Maritato.

Broom, Donald M. and Ken G. Johnson. *Stress and Animal Welfare: Key Issues in the Biology of Humans and Other Animals*. 2nd ed. Cham, Switzerland: Springer International Publishing, Imprint Springer, 2019. 230 pgs. ISBN: 9783030321529

Brown, Judkin and Timothy Silver. *An Environmental History of the Civil War*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2020. ? pgs. ISBN: 9781469655383

"Browning and Silver show how the war influenced the future of weather forecasting, veterinary medicine, the birth of the conservation movement, and the establishment of the first national parks."

Cassidy, Angela. *Vermin, Victims and Disease: British Debates over Bovine Tuberculosis and Badgers*. Cham: Switzerland: Springer International Publishing, Imprint Palgrave Macmillan, 2019. 366 pgs. ISBN: 9783030191863

Englar, Ryane E. *Writing Skills for Veterinarians*. Sheffield, UK; Portland, OR: 5m Publishing, 2019. 166 pgs. ISBN: 9781789180350

Flynn, Jane. *Soldiers and Their Horses: Sense, Sentimentality and the Soldier-Horse Relationship in the Great War*. New York: Routledge, 2020. ? pgs. ISBN: 9780367894702

French, Richard D. *Antivivisection and Medical Science in Victorian Society*. [s.l.]: Princeton University Press, 2019. ?? pgs. ISBN: 9780691100272

Hammond, Mitchell L. *Epidemics and the Modern World*. Toronto; Buffalo; London: University of Toronto Press, 2019. ?? Pgs. ISBN: 978148759374



Hunt, John H. *Why Does My Cat Look at Me Like That?: Ponderings of a Small Town Veterinarian*. [s.l.]: Dorrance Pub. Co., 2019. ? pgs. ISBN: 9781480982673
<https://www.ellsworthamerican.com/living/arts-a-living/on-call/>

Jeannet, Jean-Paul. *Leading a Surgical Revolution: the AO Foundation—Social Entrepreneurs in the Treatment of Bone Trauma*. Cham, Switzerland: Springer, 2019. 401 pgs. ISBN: 9783030019792

Letts, Elizabeth. *The Perfect Horse: The Daring Rescue of Horses Kidnapped by Hitler*. [Fiction]. New York: Delacorte Press, 2019. 253 pgs. ISBN: 9780525644743



Lynteris, Christos, Carsten Timmermann, and Michaels Worboys. *Framing Animals as Epidemic Villains: Histories of Non-Human Disease Vectors*. Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019. 247 pgs. ISBN: 9783030267940

Wang, Jessica. *Mad Dogs and Other New Yorkers: Rabies, Medicine and Society in an American Metropolis, 1840-1920*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins

University Press, 2019. 322 pgs. ISBN: 9781421409719

Weil, Karl. *Precarious Partners: Horses and Their Humans in Nineteenth-century France*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020. ? pgs. ISBN: 9780226686233

Answer to Instrument Quiz #7

This is a vial of 12 sterile, standard ETHICON 000 black horsehair strands, each 28 inches long.

Dr. Born indicates, "In 1915, George F. Merson opened a facility in Edinburgh, Scotland for the manufacturing, packaging and sterilizing of catgut, silk and nylon sutures. Johnson & Johnson acquired Mr. Merson's company in 1947, renaming it Ethicon Suture Laboratories. In 1953, the company became known simply as Ethicon Inc."

"After the American Civil War from 1861 to 1865, the medical doctors from North and South came together in an attempt to exchange what they had learned. This information was to be used in the emergency treatment of civilians. One glaring difference was the substantially higher number of ancestors who survived major surgery in the South than in the North, where the post treatment infection rate caused high numbers of fatalities."

"The doctors of the North (often called 'sawbones' for all the amputations done) used imported silk thread for stitching wounds. It was strong, light and 'slick', making use much easier during stitching. Because of the naval blockades, there was no silk thread in the South, for even the most prominent of patients. Cotton thread was not a success as it broke down before the wound had healed sufficiently. Horse hair was tried. But because it was too stiff

to make sutures in its natural state, it was boiled in water to soften and become more pliable. The result was that the Northern silk thread had been handled by countless unwashed hands from several continents and introduced all the pathogens it carried right into the wound."

"The horse hair was sterile when it came from boiling, and handled by significantly fewer numbers of people. Far fewer pathogens were introduced right into those wounds. With antibiotics and sterile procedural practices still years away, many folks owe their ancestral branches to the boiled horse hair sutures, and to the women and men who devised that method of softening the fibers for using in textiles." Even in the early 20th century, literature indicates that horsehair was sometimes used for facial and genital surgery in human medicine in cases that did not require strength.

In addition to earlier soldiers' war wounds, Gipson wrote in a popular fiction book set in post-Civil War Texas that horsehair was used in an emergency to stitch Old Yeller's injury after this big yellow dog had been mauled by a wild animal.

* * *

Send news, comments, and suggestions for the next *News & Comment* to: AVMHS Secretary-Treasurer Susanne Whitaker, 23 Wedgewood Drive, Ithaca, NY 14850-1064, phone 607-257-9248 or email skw2@cornell.edu or avmhs.info@gmail.com.

"The farther backward you look, the farther forward you are likely to see."

Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

Contents of Recent Veterinary History Journal Issues

Copies of articles may be obtained through interlibrary loan services provided by your local college or public library, or from the AVMHS Secretary-Treasurer if unavailable from other sources.

Recent Journal Articles & Chapters Related to the History of Veterinary Medicine

Bryan CS, Podolsky SH. History of medicine: Sir William Osler (1849-1919)—The uses of history and the singular beneficence of medicine. *New England Journal of Medicine*. 2019 Dec 5;381(23):2194-2196. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMp1911601

Currier RW, Widness JA. A brief history of milk hygiene and its impact on infant mortality from 1875 to 1925 and implications for today: a review. *Journal of Food Protection*. 2018 Oct;81(10):1713-1722. doi: 10.4315/0362-028X.JFP-18-186.

Daniel-Ribeiro CT, Lima MM, Pays JF. [Reflections on three episodes of Louis Pasteur's life as seen in the William Dieterle's movie (1936)]. *Bulletin de la Societe de Pathologie Exotique*. 2019;112(1):22-29. doi: 10.3166/bspe-2019-0073. [in French; English abstract]

Domingo MS, Cantero E, García-Real I, et al. First radiological study of a complete dental ontogeny sequence of an extinct equid: implications for equidae life history and taphonomy. *Scientific Reports*. 2018 May 31;8(1):8507. doi: 10.1038/s41598-018-26817-3. *PubMed Central*, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5981301/>

Donald PR, Diacon AH, Lange C, et al. Droplets, dust and guinea pigs: an historical review of tuberculosis transmission research, 1878-1940. *International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease*. 2018 Sep 1;22(9):972-982. doi: 10.5588/ijtld.18.0173. Erratum in: *Int J Tuberc Lung Dis*. 2018 Oct 1;22(10):1244.

Haridas RP, Bause GS. A newly discovered manuscript of Charles T. Jackson, MD, on the preparation and administration of anesthetics for humans and animals. *Journal of Anesthesia History*. 2018 Jul;4(3):163-170. doi: 10.1016/j.janh.2018.04.003.

Haridy Y, Witzmann F, Asbach P, Schoch RR, Fröbisch N, Rothschild BM. Triassic cancer-osteosarcoma in a 240-million-year-old stem-turtle. *JAMA Oncology*. 2019 Mar 1;5(3):425-426. doi: 10.1001/jamaoncol.2018.6766.

Jones RS. Dudley Buxton Medal for contribution to the science of anaesthesia awarded to Professor E P Steffey by the Royal College of Anaesthetists. *Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia*. 2019 Sep;46(5):559. doi: 10.1016/j.vaa.2019.08.001.

Leibo SP, Szein JM. Cryopreservation of mammalian embryos: Derivation of a method. *Cryobiology*. 2019 Feb;86:1-9. doi: 10.1016/j.cryobiol.2019.01.007.

McElfresh KR, Gleasner RM. Evaluating a historical medical book collection [case report]. *Journal of the Medical Library Association*. 2019 Oct;107(4):560-565. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5195/jmla.2019.666> *PubMed Central*, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/31607813>

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Ramirez Rozzi F, Froment A. Earliest animal cranial surgery: from cow to man in the Neolithic. *Scientific Reports*. 2018 Apr 19;8(1):5536. doi:10.1038/s41598-018-23914-1. *PubMed Central*, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5908843/>

Sánchez de Lollano Prieto J, Sánchez Ortiz A. The ceroplastic collection of the Royal Veterinary School in Madrid: a history waiting to be recovered. *Journal of the History of Collections*. 2019;31(2):291-308.

Schoefert AK. Comparative neuropathology (1962): attending to neuropathologies across multiple species. *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*. 2019 Apr 1;74(2):192-215. doi: 10.1093/jhmas/jrz014. *PubMed Central*, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6498748/>

Serrano I, Gomes D, Ramilo D, Rebelo MT, da Fonseca IP, Moreira A, Oliveira M. An overview of zoonotic disease outbreaks and its forensic management over time. *Journal of Forensic Science*. 2019 Sep;64(5):1304-1311. doi: 10.1111/1556-4029.14034.

Szczygielski T, Drózdź D, Surmik D, Kapuścińska A, Rothschild BM. New tomographic contribution to characterizing mesosaurid congenital scoliosis. *PLoS One*. 2019 Feb 27;14(2):e0212416. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0212416. *PubMed Central*, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6392265/>