Changes to the *Pharos* editorial board

Ralph Crawshaw, MD, 1921–2014
On May 24, 2014, Ralph Crawshaw of Portland, Oregon died of natural causes. Medical pioneer and tireless social activist, author, and passionate idealist driven to solve problems through practical innovation, Ralph left a legacy of achievements and organizations. His focus was the health of the community. In a few of many examples, he gathered leaders from many professions and industry to work to improve access to health care of Oregonians as well as those globally, to protect the forested watershed of Portland’s water supply from environmental degradation, and to educate physicians about managing pain.

Born in Brooklyn, he found at age eleven his calling in medicine in the movie *Arrowsmith*. Crawshaw’s career highlights his broad interests and recognition. Service as a volunteer ski trooper and later as a Navy physician to marines in World War II bracketed graduation from NYU and a Menninger residency. Scholarly pieces on evolving medical oaths, election to the Institute of Medicine in 1978, presidency of his county medical society, and Senior Scholar at OHSU’s Ethics Center identify a renaissance character. Crawshaw conceived several non-profits. To address the lack of mental health services for children, in 1961 he and an engineer-magnate established what became Lifeworks Northwest. Today this agency annually serves over 17,000 children, adolescents, and adults with abuse prevention, mental health, and addiction recovery services. Decades ago he foresaw mental health as part of community health. In 1982 he formed Oregon Health Decisions and moderated scores of its town halls statewide to engage public dialogue in shaping health policy. Their medical priorities undergirded State Senator John Kitzhaber’s 1993 legislation that provided medical services to 300,000 working poor through the seminal Oregon Health Plan, a kinder, community-shared form of rationing limited resources. Following a rash of suicides of physicians challenged for their drug prescribing, Crawshaw pushed the 1984 creation of The Foundation for Medical Excellence, an educational approach parallel to the...
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Concerns of the supportive state licensing board. TFME would more generally address the doctor-patient relationship and physician professionalism and well-being. The Foundation continues to sponsor regional courses on pain management, several annual lectures by national authorities on health policy and education, monthly colloquia on social and historical topics, and publications on health care reform. In 1986 in JAMA Ralph urged fellow practitioners to aid colleagues in developing countries. Healthcare Volunteers Overseas resulted, as of today having sent over 4500 volunteers on over 8000 missions worldwide.

Ralph was a cheerful, generous, and compassionate—while relentless—persuader, who stimulated the intellect and effectiveness of colleagues, community leaders, and newspaper editors alike. He deposed inaction when logic demanded action. Friendly debates, never arguments, over such topics as the soul versus the spirit of medicine were lively, but seldom resolved. Eclectic, energetic, apolitical in the party sense, naturally perceptive about human behavior, he persuaded others by "inviting their higher angels." In every way Ralph Crawshaw epitomized the worthy physician-citizen.

John A. Benson, Jr, MD
(AΩA, Oregon Health & Science University, 1968)
Portland, Oregon

Ralph Crawshaw launched "The Physician at the Movies" column in 1971. A psychiatrist, he probed the psychological aspects of films in his reviews, many of which remain classics. I got to know him when I invited him to be an AΩA visiting professor at Johns Hopkins in the early 1980s for a two-day film series tracing the trajectory of Hollywood’s portrayal of physicians. We started with the 1946 film Miss Susie Slagle’s about the early days of the twentieth century when Johns Hopkins medical school acted in loco parentis, through Hospital, which showed the dark side of medicine and patient care in an inner city New York hospital, and finally to The House of God, a cult book about hardened and profane residents at a Boston hospital that was turned into a movie but never distributed.

In 1990 Ralph decided to give up writing the column, and he recommended me to Editor Robert Glaser. That led to at least quarterly phone calls or letters of support for my efforts. In his review of my book about doctors in the movies, in his typical enthusiastic way, he suggested to Steve Schroeder, then the president of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, that a copy be sent to every medical student. Steve, being more prudent, graciously agreed to send a copy to every medical school library.

Our conversations, which lasted right up to last year, would end up with his soliciting my thoughts about, and involvement in, his latest efforts to improve the profession and assure compassionate patient care. Like Don Quixote, he was always tilting at windmills, trying to make the seemingly impossible possible—and he often succeeded. He compiled many of his ideas and efforts in his 2002 book Compassion’s Way: A Doctor’s Quest into the Soul of Medicine (Medi-Ed Press, 2002). He didn’t look like a revolutionary. He wasn’t starry-eyed or wild-eyed, but being Brooklyn-born, he was realistic. He knew that revolutionaries often die on the barricades and to the extent that they succeed it is others who often get the credit. This didn’t bother him as long as some good was accomplished. One of the last things that we kicked around was starting a society named after Antoine Lavoisier. A tax collector, lawyer, and banker, Lavoisier’s main claim to fame was his revolutionizing the science of chemistry and proving that it was oxygen and not phlogiston that was responsible for combustion. The society’s motto was to be: “No good deed goes unpunished.” No one illustrated that motto better than Lavoisier whose tax collecting gig caught up with him—he finally rode the tumbrrel to a rendezvous with Dr. Guilliton’s so-called “humane” dispatcher to the next world, an event that led the eighteenth-century French mathematician Joseph Louis Lagrange to say, “Only a moment to cut off that head and a hundred years may not give us another like it.” The same might be said about Ralph. Medicine has lost a great advocate for professionalism and compassion and many of us have lost a dear friend.

Peter E. Dans, MD
(AΩA, Columbia University, 1960)
Cockeysville, Maryland

Retirement

Editorial board member Eric Pfeiffer, MD, published poet, founding director of the Eric Pfeiffer Suncoast Alzheimer’s Center, and emeritus professor of Psychiatry at the University of South Florida College of Medicine, is retiring from the Pharos Editorial Board.

Dr. Pfeiffer served as Interim Editor of The Pharos in 2011 after the death of Executive Director Edward D. Harris, Jr., and before the appointment of Dr. Richard L. Byyny. We thank him for the inestimable help and support he gave us during that difficult time.
New editorial board members

We are pleased to announce the addition of three new members to the Pharos editorial board: Henry Langhorne, MD; Jenna Le, MD; and Janice Townley Moore.

Henry Langhorne graduated from Tulane Medical School in 1957 and trained in cardiology at Tulane and Charity Hospital New Orleans. He has practiced cardiology in Pensacola, Florida since 1963 as a senior member of Cardiology Consultants. Dr. Langhorne has eight collections of poetry published by the West Florida Literary Federation and Pelican Press. He is the former Poet Laureate of Northwest Florida (1999–2009), selected by the West Florida Literary Federation. Over the past twenty years, he has published poetry in a number of periodicals including Plainsongs, The Cape Rock, Poem, The Chattahoochee Review, Negative Capability, Hurricane Review, The Panhandler, JAMA, and The Pharos.

Jenna Le received a BA in Mathematics from Harvard University and an MD from Columbia University. She is a radiology resident at Montefiore Medical Center/The Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University in Bronx, New York. In 2015/16, she will be a Musculoskeletal Radiology fellow at Montefiore Medical Center. Dr. Le is the author of Six Rivers, a book of poetry that was published by New York Quarterly Books in 2011 and was a Small Press Poetry Bestseller. Her poetry, fiction, essays, book criticism, and translations of French poetry have appeared or are forthcoming in many respected literary journals including AGNI Online, Barrow Street, Bellevue Literary Review, The Southampton Review, and 32 Poems. Her past national honors include being a two-time winner of the Pharos Poetry Competition, a William Carlos Williams Poetry Competition finalist, a Michael E. DeBakey Medical Student Poetry Award finalist, a Pushcart Prize nominee, and a PEN Emerging Writers Award nominee.

Janice Townley Moore, a native of Atlanta, is Professor Emeritus at Young Harris College in the mountains of north Georgia, where she has had a long career of teaching English and creative writing. For a dozen years she served as poetry editor of Georgia Journal. Her poems have been published in such journals as Prairie Schooner, Georgia Review, JAMA, Connecticut Review, The Pharos, and in many anthologies including The Bedford Introduction to Literature and The Southern Poetry Anthology (Texas Review Press).