

what constitutes humanity, and can it be manufactured? The flip side of that question is also important: Are all people inherently capable of humane behavior, or must the human characteristics of ambition and desire derail the angels of our better natures and thus endanger our ability to be human?

These are not simple questions, and they keep us coming back. Our constant need for Frankenstein tells us not how far we have come in the last two hundred years, but how little distance we have covered in reconciling ourselves to the complicated competing demands of defining “good” scientific work in balance with ethical treatment of subjects. Like the creature himself, these questions remain omnipresent despite our best efforts to banish them.

Interesting medical connection

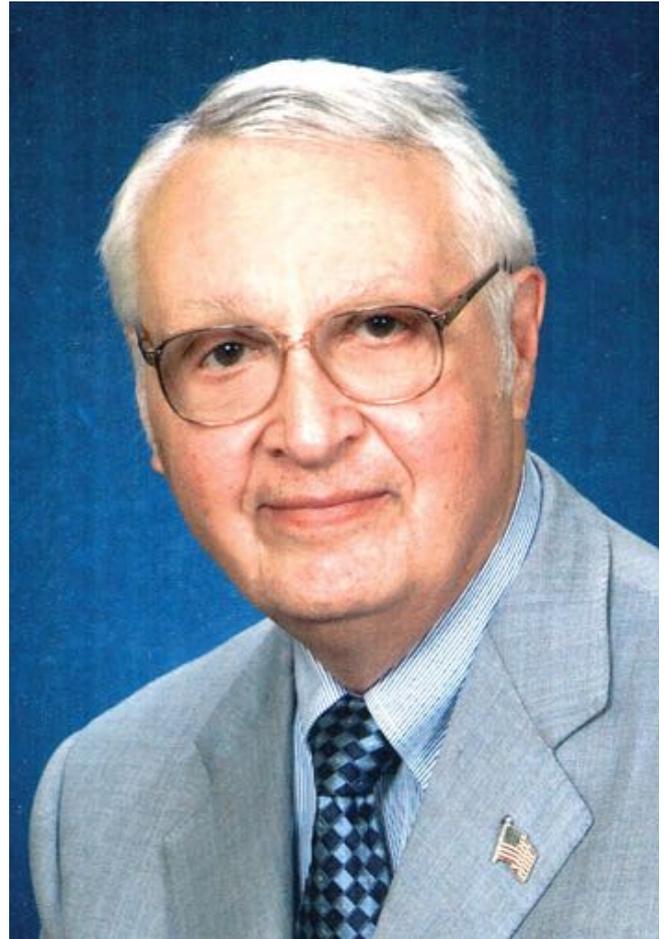
The pacemaker came from the *Frankenstein* movie.

—Jean Rosenbaum, MD from the short film,
Frankenstein and the Heart Machine (The Pacemaker)

Jean Rosenbaum, MD, the inventor of the pacemaker, freely admits that his inspiration for this widely used invention “comes from the Frankenstein movie.” In 1951, as a freshman medical student, he witnessed the untimely death of a young woman whose heart stopped beating, a disturbing event that almost caused him to drop out. That night, Rosenbaum had a vivid dream about Frankenstein’s creature (he had seen the 1931 film as a young child) being hoisted into the lightning storm and the electricity that brings him to life. Inspired by this, Rosenbaum wondered if a small jolt of electric current could be mechanically produced to stimulate a damaged heart to cause it to beat regularly, thus reviving a patient. He put together a portable machine to perform this function but, after testing the results successfully on animals and freshly arrived DOAs, his superiors still deemed the process too dangerous for use on a living human being. Frustrated during this two-year waiting period, Rosenbaum (nicknamed the “Black Vulture” by his colleagues) felt like he was Dr. Frankenstein, and the timorous medical community the frightened town mob. Finally, he was given a chance to demonstrate how the machine would work on a patient whose heart had stopped for three minutes. The rest is medical history.

References

1. Hoffman A. *The Museum of Extraordinary Things: A Novel*. New York: Scribner; 2014.
2. King, S. *Danse Macabre*. New York: Everest House; 1980.



Thank you, Dr. Dans

After twenty-six years of writing “The physician at the movies,” Dr. Peter Dans (AQA, Columbia University, 1960) is retiring to sit back and enjoy movies as entertainment.

I know I speak for all of us at *The Pharos*, and for all our readers in saying, “Thank you, Dr. Dans.”

Dr. Dans is a graduate of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and did his residency on the Osler Medical Service at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He was one of the first assistant residents to be sent to Calcutta for three months to care for cholera patients, following which he finished his residency at Presbyterian Hospital in New York. He subsequently was a United States Public Health Service research associate in viral diseases at the National Institutes of Health, and did an infectious diseases fellowship at Boston City Hospital.

Dr. Dans joined the faculty at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center (UCHSC) in 1969, where he was director of student/employee health services. While at UCHSC, he also started an adult walk-in clinic, sexually transmitted diseases clinic, and a migrant health clinic. During this time, he was recognized as an outstanding teacher, practitioner, and scholar.

In 1978, he was named a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow at the Institute of Medicine at the National Academies of Sciences. He then returned to Johns Hopkins Hospital where he established an Office of Medical Practice Evaluation. At this time, he also directed the medical school course, "Ethics and Medical Core," and served as deputy editor of the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Dr. Dans has had a long-standing interest in, and passion for, the movies. He ran a movie program at the University of Colorado for faculty to watch a movie and then have an in-depth discussion following the viewing.

At Johns Hopkins, he was the AΩA Chapter Councilor, and he and Ralph Crawshaw (*The Pharos* original movie reviewer) did a presentation exploring how medicine

was portrayed in film.

In 2002, Dr. Dans published the book, *Doctors in the Movies: Boil The Water And Just Say Aah*.

Over the years, Dr. Dans has written more than 280 movie reviews. In addition, he has published four articles in *The Pharos*—"The great zebra hunt: A view of internal medicine from the walk-in clinic" (1978); "Passengers and patients: Some ruminations about quality of care" (1988); "Is Alpha Omega Alpha still relevant?" (1994); and "David Seegal: *Ice water* and other maxims of a master teacher" (2014).

Dr. Dans has served our profession, AΩA, and *The Pharos* with dignity and perspicacity. He is an outstanding clinician, teacher, scholar, leader, and writer.

Thank you, Dr. Dans, for all you have contributed to advance and influence the medical profession. And thank you for your invaluable movie reviews, they have been entertaining, insightful and truly enjoyable. We wish you the best!

Richard L. Byyny, MD, FACP
Editor

Dr. Dans was taught and mentored by outstanding teachers and clinicians, including:

Warde Allan, MD

Dana Atchley, MD (AΩA, Johns Hopkins University, 1915)

Paul Beeson, MD (AΩA, McGill University Faculty of Medicine, 1946)

Katherine Borkovich, MD (AΩA, Johns Hopkins University, 1939)

Richard Chase, MD

Leighton Cluff, MD (AΩA, George Washington University, 1962)

Loretta Ford, MD

Robert J. Glaser, MD (AΩA, Harvard Medical School, 1953)

Mac Harvey, MD

Bob Heyssel, MD

Edgar Leifer, MD (AΩA, Columbia University, 1945)

Victor McKusick, MD (AΩA, Johns Hopkins University, 1946)

Gordon Meiklejohn, MD (AΩA, McGill University Faculty of Medicine, 1936)

James Morgan, MD

Richard Ross, MD (AΩA, Harvard Medical School, 1947)

David Seegal, MD (AΩA, Harvard Medical School, 1927)

Henry Silver, MD (AΩA, University of Colorado, 1969)

Charles Smith, MD

Arthur Wertheim, MD (AΩA, Sidney Kimmel Medical College, 1938)

Dr. Dans,

Reading your article "David Seegal: Ice water and other maxims of a master teacher" in the Autumn 2014 issue of The Pharos (pp. 4-7) was refreshing to me. I wanted to thank you for it. Recognizing our own pitfalls and acting on them to improve and provide the best patient care is pivotal, and important to be taught to physicians in training.

I will be using your article as a reference for the students and residents that rotate with me. I also gave a copy to my son, who is fifteen years old, and desires to one day become a physician.

Once again, thanks!

Monica M. Manga, MD

(AΩA, University of Texas Medical School at Houston, 2005)

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