

History Committee Report, Vancouver, May, 2010

In May, 2009 in Baltimore, the LWPES History Committee proposed the intention to create a society “historical exhibit” that would consist of two parts: a virtual web-based exhibit, consisting mostly of items that would be scanned or digitalized and accessible from anywhere, and an exhibit actually housed in some physical location. Progress has been made toward those goals, with highlights as follows:

1. Proposed Physical Location

- Under the leadership of the former History Committee Chairman Del Fisher, several options for the physical location were explored. After extensive background work, the only viable option was the Clark T. Sawin Memorial Library and Resource Center, housed at the Endocrine Society (TES) offices in Chevy Chase, MD.
- Our original proposal to Nancy Chill (Senior Director, Corporate Relations, TES) was enthusiastically greeted, but initially with a \$20,000 price tag attached. With continued negotiations, the price requested by TES was reduced to \$6000.
- The proposal would provide for:
 - A special location within the library housing the LWPES items of interest, marked with a plaque recognizing the contribution.
 - Books on the LWPES shelf would be entered into the library’s current database and available for search, with short term borrowing by members of TES and LWPES allowed if we desire.
 - A special LWPES tab on the library’s database webpage: <http://endocrine.infovisionsoftware.com/>, plus a link to the LWPES website.

Requested allocation for implementation: \$6000

2. Virtual LWPES website exhibit. The committee has been working with George Degnon and Degnon IT specialists, to create and manage a virtual website for our web-based exhibit. This exhibit would have the following structural framework:

- Accessible via the LWPES website – created as a tab on the current website, rather than a link
- Accessible via a link from the Endocrine Society (Sawin Historical Website: <http://www.endo-society.org/about/sawin>)
- General outline of content (proposed)
 - Early days (mostly photos of first generation and first fellows, scanned covers only of key texts, also key early seminal manuscripts, especially if signed)
 - Published (or photocopied) Presidential addresses
 - Photos of officers (Pres, Sec’s, Treasurers, Directors) from the beginning
 - Key articles (e.g. Del Fisher history, others)

- Oral histories
- Presidential videos - oral interviews 2007
- 1994 Montreal presidential videos (see below)
- Other items as they become available

Requested allocation for implementation: \$

3. Additional committee activities

- Solicitation of the entire membership (December, 2009) for physical items of historical interest (photos, key seminal manuscripts, etc.). Response was meager, but a few important items were received:
 - 1994 video, on the occasion of Lawson Wilkins's 100th birthday, with the first five LWPES Presidents addressing items of key historical interest – received from Harvey Guyda.
 - Reminders from Europe to consider contributions to the field made by key leaders (e.g. Prader, Tanner). No actual historical items received however.
 - A few articles submitted by membership, including items of interest suggested by Dorothy Becker.
 - An overture by Sally Radovick to survey and solicit potential items from the Hopkins libraries and offices.
 - Plans to videotape the keynote presentation by Claude J. Migeon on “The Legacy of Lawson Wilkins” at this meeting
- In view of the meager membership response to our initial request, Del Fisher has agreed to make a personal contact with 2nd generation members, again soliciting items of personal interest (work in progress).