

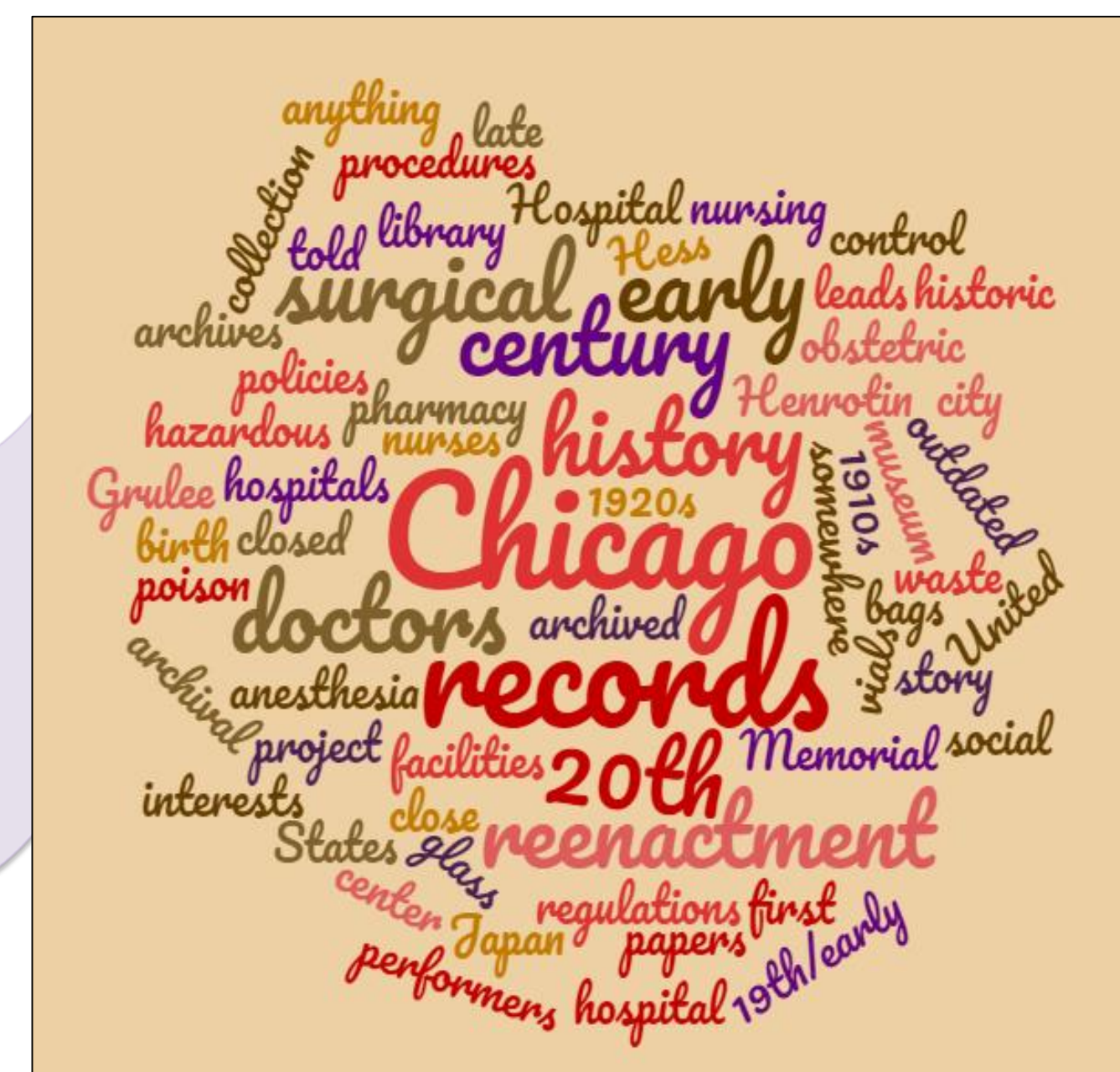
Medical Archives and History: Local Informal Network Support and Shared Expertise of CAMA

Ramune K. Kubilius, MALS, AHIP (*)

Collection Development/Special Projects Librarian, Galter Health Sciences Library & Learning Center, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

Questions and Needs

Institutional records, photographs, archives, and artifacts, especially at smaller health institutions, do not always receive formal or sustained attention and staffing. Yet the demand for expertise and services in this area often arises. An informal network of colleagues can provide support for both novice and experienced information professionals, who are charged with organizing their institutions' archives or answering internal and external medical history questions, often in addition to other duties. CAMA is one such network.



Selected Google Groups discussion topics in a word cloud generated in WordClouds.com

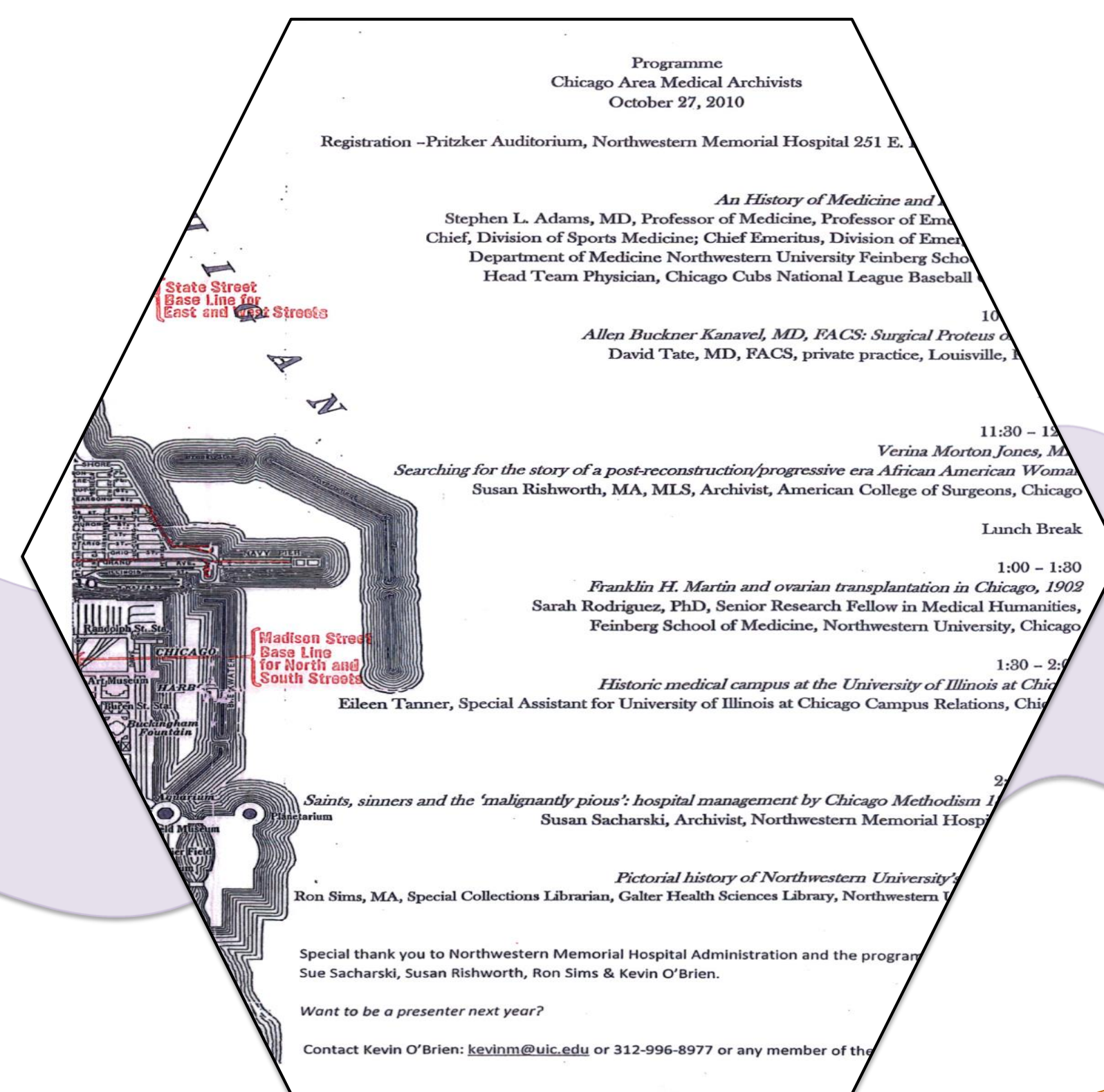
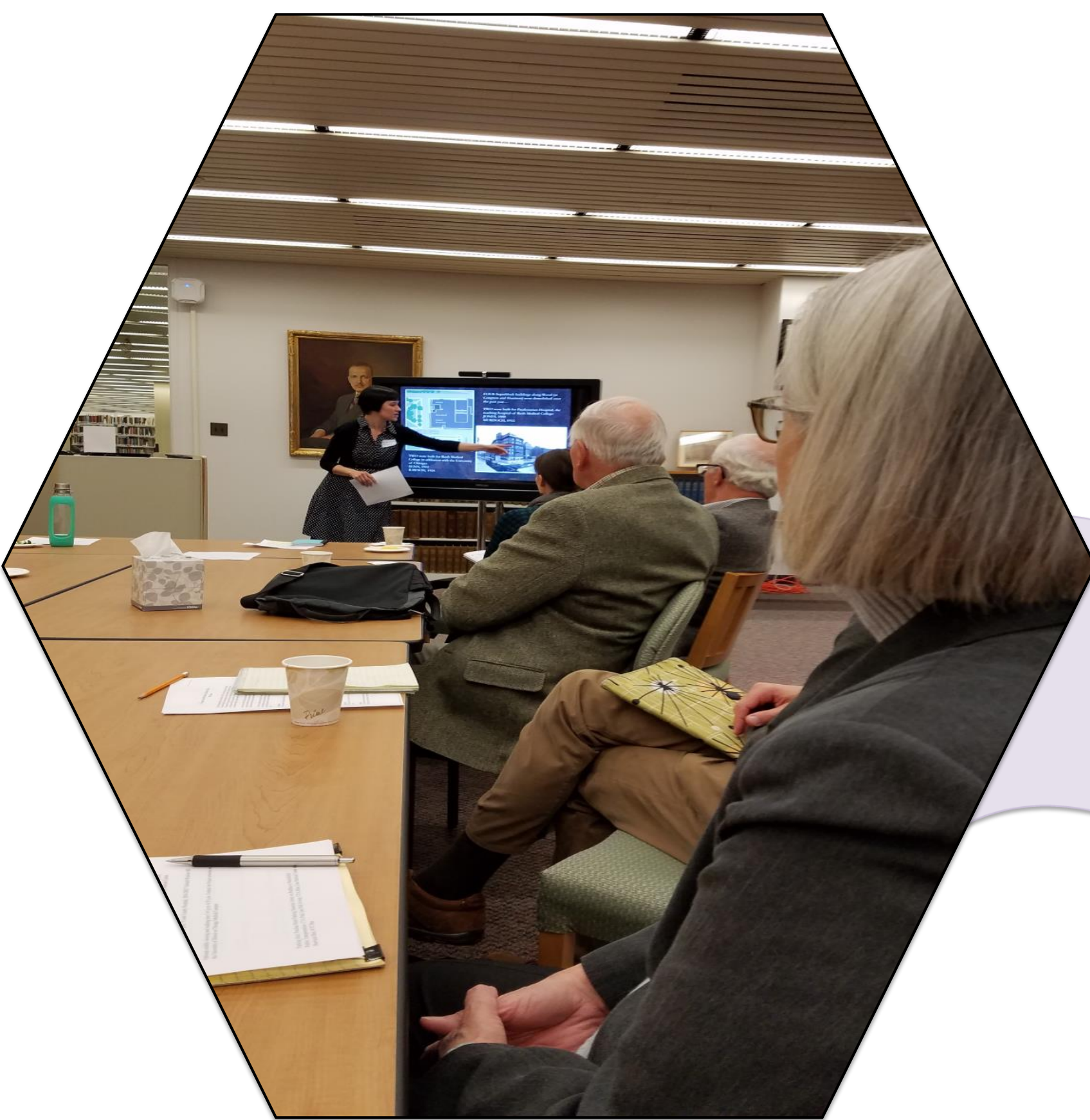
Members of the informal CAMA network include those who are affiliated with:

- American College of Surgeons
- Northwestern Memorial Hospital
- Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
- Rosalind Franklin School of Medicine
- Rush University Medical Center
- University of Illinois at Chicago

& independent researchers, history of medicine enthusiasts, students...

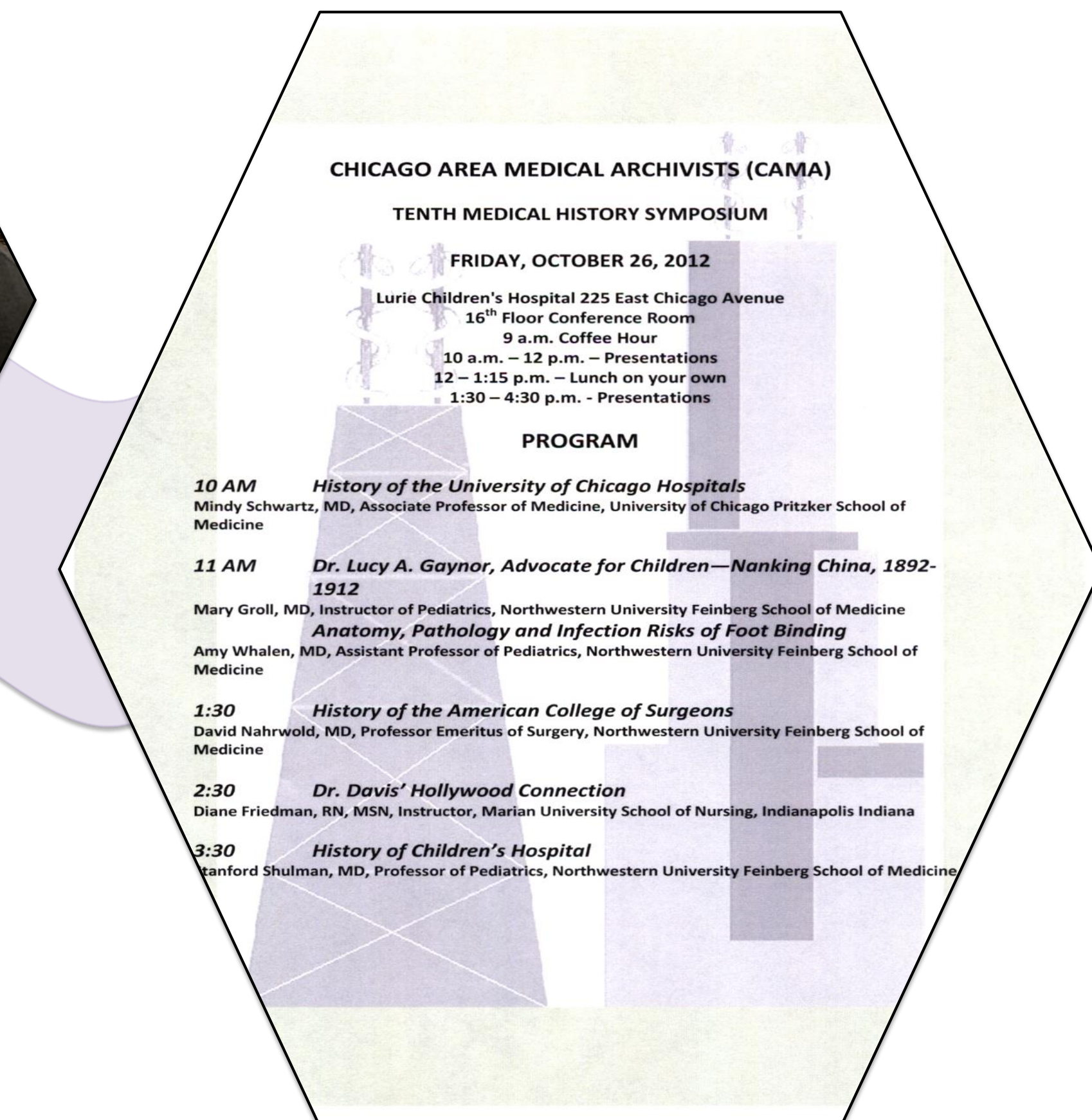


Montage of CAMA events, people, artifacts, and presentation items...



Medical history symposia

- Highlights of Chicago area:
- Medical history
 - Research in progress
 - Institutions
 - People
 - Events



Expectations

... "given the workloads and staffing resources of the archives involved, the informal nature of CAMA is appropriate. The group email list provides a place where we can reach out to a wider pool of archivists/institutions that hold similar records.."

Rank priorities for the preservation of medical institutional memory (highest-1 to lowest-5), n=8

- Staffing #1 (4) #2 (2) #4 (2)
- Funding #2 (3) #3 (3) #1 (1) #4 (1)
- Policies & procedures for institutional records & memorabilia #2 (3) #3 (2) #1 (1) #4 (1) #5 (1)
- Administrative support #3 (3) #4 (3) #1 (2)
- Other support #5 (7) #4 (1)

What do you feel are misconceptions about medical institutional archives, records, photographs, etc. , n=8

- No need (no interest, no future demand) 50% (4)
- Can be done by staff in other departments, units 50% (4)
- Someone else will do it 0
- Requires archival expertise 0
- Can be done by the library 0

Appeal

"One of the appeals of CAMA is that it welcomes not only archivist/librarians who work with health sciences records, but it's also a group for anyone interested in the history of Chicago medicine/nursing..."

Survey

Respondents to a small survey conducted in an August 2019 show CAMA member variety (n=8)*

- Archivist 4
- Librarian 0
- Both librarian and archivist 2
- Independent researcher 1
- Other Archivist & Exhibition Director 1

- 7 manage an archives or answer medical history questions as part of their responsibilities.
- All 8 feel CAMA is a useful network or resource.

CAMA

*Acknowledgement: Thank you to fellow CAMA members who provided inspiration and input for this poster

Chicago Area Medical Archivists (CAMA)

- Founded in 2002 as an informal networking group
- Members: librarians, archivists, historians, & independent researchers
- Sponsors an (almost) annual fall history symposium
- Maintains a GoogleGroups list- by being a member of the list, one becomes a member of CAMA...

Information: <http://www.chicagoarchivists.org/cama>