Esteemed pathologist and teacher Dr. John E. Pless (1938-2014) was the Emeritus Clyde Culbertson Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the Indiana University School of Medicine. He was also a state and national leader in forensic pathology and performed thousands of coroner’s autopsies during his long career.

Dr. Pless gave generously of his time, talent, and treasure to raise awareness and promote the well-being of the Old Pathology Building and the Indiana Medical History Museum and served as President of the Board of Directors from 2009 through 2010. He loved to share his knowledge of the history of medicine with visitors he brought to the museum, including for many years the entire sophomore class of IU School of Medicine students at the Indianapolis campus.

He made a lasting impact on many. The Annual Pless Memorial Central State Circle lecture to honor donors to the Indiana Medical History Museum at the $500 level and up is named in his memory. Please join us on January 21st for the 2018 lecture presented by Dr. Robert M. Pascuzzi. Look for details on page 4.

John E. Pless, MD
In February of 2017, long-time volunteer Mary Mauer was hired to fill the brand new position of Executive Assistant. We asked her to introduce herself and tell us a little bit about her. Here’s what she had to say:

I received a BA in Anthropology with a focus in Archaeology, and minors in History and International Studies from the University of Kentucky in 2012. I went on to receive a MA in Museums Studies, focusing in Archaeological Curatorship from the University of Leicester in England. In the summer of 2014, I moved to Indianapolis intending to stay for only six months. Because of my previous work and research in representing medicine in museums, I began volunteering at IMHM in my first week in Indianapolis. Like so many others, I immediately fell in love with the building, collections, and people. At the IMHM I started as a docent before taking on additional duties conducting inventories and cataloging and documenting artifacts throughout the museum. I also created the bloodletting display that was in the Reception Room for several years. Now, in addition to my administrative duties, I am working to develop the volunteer program and education programs for K-12 groups, and I am helping to develop a program to track visitation patterns and demographics and evaluate tours and programs, to help us better understand our current audience and improve our visitors’ experiences.

‘Tis the season…Annual Campaign time! A gift to the Annual Fund shows that you believe in the work of our Museum, the dedication of our small staff, and the impact we have on our community and the future of Indiana’s medical history. In 2018, we are excited to take our impact even further.

Every day, guests are fascinated with the Indiana Medical History Museum and the stories held in this building. From the preserved specimens to the intact chemical bottles and jars situated on the shelves, curiosity flourishes in the halls of the Old Pathology Building. This is only possible with the support of members and donors like you. You create the solid foundation that makes it possible for the us to carry out our mission and accomplish our ambitious goals. If you’ve already given for the 2017-2018 Annual Fund, Thank You! If you haven’t, it’s not too late! You can make a donation via check made out to Indiana Medical History Museum or donate online today at www.imhm.org/donate and choose Annual Fund for Operating Expenses in the drop down menu.

We hope you had a wonderful holiday season, and we wish you a happy new year!
IHB Historical Marker for Lincoln Hospital

The Indiana Historical Bureau has approved a historical marker that commemorates an important event in the medical history of Indianapolis—Lincoln Hospital 1909-1915.

In the early twentieth century, African-American doctors were barred from treating their own patients and performing surgery in Indianapolis’ hospitals. In 1909 with no access to a safe environment for performing surgery and a black population that was understandably dissatisfied with the poor conditions in segregated hospital wards, a group of black physicians established their own hospital in a converted two-story residence on the northeast corner of 11th Street and Senate Avenue. With 19 rooms and a surgery suite, the physicians had the ability to fully practice their profession. The hospital also provided a nursing school for young black women who were excluded from schools because of racial segregation. The new marker recalls the challenges of these dedicated physicians and young women from other cities in the state who trained there. It will also include information about two other small hospitals of the era—a private clinic opened by Joseph Ward, MD and Charity Hospital, operated by the Sisters of Charity, a philanthropic black women's' club.

The marker will be installed and dedicated in the early fall of 2018. The Aesculapian Medical Society of Indianapolis endorses the project and monetary donations to help pay for the marker are welcome. If you’d like to help, contact Norma Erickson at nerickson@imhm.org.

Tune in to Hoosier History Live (WIRC 88.7 FM) on Saturday, February 10th at noon to learn more about Lincoln Hospital. Norma Erickson will be talking with host Nelson Price about her research on the history and importance of the hospital. Visit www.hoosierhistorylive.com for more information as it becomes available.
Join us for the Annual Pless Memorial Central State Circle Lecture
to honor our Central State Circle members
and remember Dr. John E. Pless. Reception to follow.

Sunday, January 21st at 2pm
at the Indiana Medical History Museum

Cost: Free for Central State Circle and Edenharter Circle Members
$5 for nonmembers

Register at CSCLecture.eventbrite.com
or call 317-635-7329

Famous Musicians and Composers are in many ways like close friends. They have used the most uniquely human of brain functions to create, express, and share their ideas and feelings. The convergence of their neurological disorders, brain function, and music provides us with a gallery of stories that both entertain and inform. From Ravel to Rachmaninoff, from Guthrie to Gershwin...these tales and others will be shared from the perspective of a clinical neurologist.
Indiana Medical History Museum
3045 West Vermont St.
Indianapolis, IN  46222
317-635-7329 • www.imhm.org

MUSEUM HOURS
During our Winter Hours, we are open on Saturdays or by appointment. We will resume our regular hours on Saturday, January 20th.

Regular Hours
Wednesday - by appointment
Thursday-Saturday - 10am to 4pm; Tours begin on the hour, and the last tour starts at 3pm

UPCOMING EVENTS
Check back at our website for more information as it become available. To receive email notifications, please make sure we have your current email address on file.

Early Spring (details to come)
Spring Installment of the Forensic Science Lecture Series

April 19th 6pm
Medical History Improv with Off Topic

Late Spring (details to come)
The Annual Lande Family

IMHM Board of Directors

President       Alan D. Schmetzer, MD
Vice President  Janice Pascuzzi- Hrisomalos, JD
Secretary       Kathleen Hull, MD
Treasurer       Steve Stucky, CPA
Immediate Past President    Robert M. Pascuzzi, MD
Executive Director  Sarah M. Halter

Norma B. Erickson
Richard D. Feldman, MD
Richard Gantz, PhD
Rhonda S. Garrison
Guy J. Hansen
Christopher Kellams, MHA
Jeffrey J. Kellams, MD
Juliet L. King, MA, ATR-BC, LPC
Leah Knight, APRN-MH
Jon Marhenke, MD
Shirley Mueller, MD
Cathleen Nine-Altevogt, JD
Pamela S. Perry
Marilyn L. Pfisterer
Julie Reneé Ruschhaupt, MSN, RN, BS, ACC-ICF
George E. Sandusky, DVM, PhD
William H. Schneider, PhD
Jane E. Schultz, PhD
James W. Smith, MD
Clay W. Stuckey, DDS
David Zauner