

Minutes of the May 6, 2019 Executive Council Meeting

The Executive Council convened its annual meeting at Del Frisco's Grille (subsequently defunct) in Chestnut Hill on May 6, 2019. Attending were members Mark Callery, Claire Cronin, Gerard Doherty, Robert Driscoll, Richard Ehrlichman, Pardon Kenney, William Mackey, David McAneny, Kevin McCarthy, Frederick Millham, Dmitry Nepomnayshy, Marc Rubin, Jennifer Tseng, and James Yoo, and Administrative Director Ms. Kristen Boyer.

Dr. Millham called the working dinner to order at 6:12 p.m. The surgeons chewed on topics for 2019-2020, several reports, a vision for the Society, and certainly a wonderful dinner with great food and friends.

Dr. Millham rendered his hyperbolic Dickensian perspective of the past season: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." The lectures were consistently superb, although attendance varied. The venues were also convenient, reasonably priced, and welcoming. However, the Society's assets declined. The last item led to an eventual discussion about the virtues and challenges associated with corporate financial sponsorship of future events (vide infra).

Treasurer Marc Rubin reviewed the Society's finances. The combined assets in the checking and savings accounts were \$60,497.99. Revenues during the 2018-2019 season were \$68,215, of which \$40,915 derived from member's dues and \$27,300 from dinner charges. The expenses of dinners totaled \$59,335.51, and other operating expenses (tax preparation, mailings, certificates, programs, banking fees, administrative fees, Case of the Year prize money, Executive Council meeting, and new web site) were \$23,065.47 (of which the web site expenses comprised \$10,850). As a result, total expenses were \$82,400.98, reflecting a net loss for the season of \$14,185.98. Those fortunate to attend the Northeast Surgical Meeting were impressed by its generous corporate sponsorship. In fact, Takada representatives have already approached three Executive Council members about sponsoring the BSS, particularly when it hosts the Northeast Surgical. Discussion ensued about how support might manifest, not only for the tripartate event but also for regular meetings and perhaps even the web site. The Council voted unanimously to further explore collaboration with industry. The members also examined meeting charges for resident dinners and wine as well as seeking 501(c)(3) status for the Boston Surgical Society.

Fresh from the triumphant visit to New York City, Dr. Callery gushed effusive praise ("ridiculously good") of the Northeast Surgical Meeting at the Cornell Club on May 3, 2019. The attendance and content were outstanding, including resident presentations. Details about the program are provided in the BSS Minutes. Our Society was nicely represented by six members and a couple spouses, and the New York and Philadelphia colleagues eagerly anticipate visiting us at the Harvard Club next spring.

Dr. Callery broached the development of "working groups" to engage more Society members, particularly young surgeons. (Upon revision of Bylaws, the working groups could become formal committees.) Examples of activities include local arrangements for the 2020 Northeast Surgical Meeting (a priority), program selection, development, communication, the web site, and membership promotion. The working group concept was unanimously approved.

The shining moment of the evening was preserved for discussion of the 33rd Bigelow Medal. (N.B.: The Council has determined that the Bigelow Medal count is charmingly errant in Chapter 3 of The Red Book. That entry incorrectly mentions Dr. John W. Kirklin as the 23rd recipient rather than the 22nd. The subsequent awardees are consequently off by one through

Dr. M. Judah Folkman, who was actually the 29th honoree. The BSS web site correctly announces Drs. William Silen, Murray Brennan, and Lenworth M. Jacobs as the 30th, 31st, and 32nd medalists, respectively.) The Council unanimously hailed and approved Dr. Millham's proposal of Dr. John Cameron. There is no doubt about Dr. Cameron's enduring, worldwide influence on Surgery, surgeons, and patients, as well as his high personal regard for the Bigelow Medal. The Council affirmed that there is no more deserving honoree. The Council briefly entertained combining the Bigelow Medal presentation with the Northeast Surgical meeting. Such an arrangement could be especially attractive to Dr. Cameron's former colleagues who reside in Boston, New York, and Philadelphia (and, of course, Baltimore). The group ultimately decided to maintain Bigelow Medal as its own prestigious event. Dr. Millham will contact Dr. Cameron to extend the honor and determine his availability in November, 2019.

Dr. Mackey presented the Nominating Committee Report. He, Dr. Kenney, and Dr. Callery proposed elevation of Dr. Ehrlichman from President-elect to President as well as nominations of Dr. McAneny for President-elect, Dr. Douglas Smink for Vice President-elect, Dr. Cronin for Secretary, and Drs. Dana Fugelso and Nepomnayshy for Councilors (replacing Drs. Cronin and Doherty). No other nominations were entered, and a call for vote was moved and seconded. The vote for all nominees carried unanimously, and these nominations will become effective as of the business meeting in December, 2019. Dr. Rubin (Treasurer) and Dr. Yoo (Dinner Chairman) will retain their roles next year. Dr. Kenney will then chair the Nominating Committee that will also include Drs. Callery and Millham. Dr. Millham expressed appreciation to Drs. Mackey and Nepomnayshy for their distinguished service to the Society in respective roles as Chair of the Nominating Committee and Vice President, and to Drs. Cronin and Doherty for their contributions to the Council. In addition, he congratulated Dr. Nepomnayshy for organizing the Case of the Year event, a duty that is now an essential part of the vice presidency.

The Council weighed ideas for the 2019-2020 season and agreed to contract the schedule to five regular meetings (sites to be determined soon), eliminate the February program, move the popular Case of the Year resident competition to March, and establish the Northeast Surgical meeting as a fixed feature in April or May. We shall continue to promote the heritage of surgeons introducing residents and fellows to all that the Society offers.

The members were still invigorated when the Executive Council adjourned at 8:31 p.m. In keeping with tradition, this was yet another comprehensive and productive session, with tremendous excitement and promise for 2019-2020.

Respectfully submitted,



David McAneny, M.D.



On November 4, 2019, the first full day of Eastern Standard Time, 123 well-rested members and guests of the Boston Surgical Society gathered at the Harvard Club of Boston (Back Bay) to honor Dr. John Cameron as the 33rd recipient of the Henry Jacob Bigelow Medal. Although a brisk chill portended the fate of the colorful leaves that still clung to trees lining Commonwealth Avenue, the bonhomie inside Harvard Hall Foyer and two roaring fireplaces in Harvard Hall warmed the group and its special guests, Dr. and Mrs. John Cameron. What an unforgettable evening.

A sumptuous reception, with New England farm cheese and assorted treats, was prelude to artisan farm salad, petite filet mignon with broccoli and mashed potatoes, and dark chocolate flourless cake – the pièce de résistance. Magnifique! Our President, Dr. Frederick Millham, called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. He expressed gratitude to Intuitive, Takeda, and Karl Storz-Endoskope for their gracious sponsorship of the evening.

Following dinner, Dr. Millham rose to introduce Dr. Cameron at 7:58 pm. He reviewed the heritage of the Bigelow Medal that was originally struck through a grant from William Sturgis

Bigelow to commemorate his father, Henry Jacob Bigelow. The latter, of course, is known for the first description of the use of ether as an anesthetic (New England Journal of Medicine, 1846). The gold medal prize was intended to recognize “new and valuable work in surgery or connected with it”. Dr. Millham proudly displayed the 33 Bigelow awardees since 1921. He then acknowledged the difficulty of doing justice to Dr. Cameron’s amazing and prolific career in a necessarily short introduction. He alluded to the honoree’s lifetime of tireless devotion to “messing” with the pancreas, leading to a 30-fold reduction in the mortality rate for Whipple resections at Johns Hopkins (to about 1%), with a series of more than 2,000 of these operations. Perhaps even more remarkable than this feat is that at least 23 of Dr. Cameron’s former chief residents have become chairs of major academic Departments of Surgery, including our colleagues, Drs. Michael Zinner and Keith Lillemoe. Dr. Millham wondered who among those 23 chairs will one day share this same tribute from the Boston Surgical Society. Dr. Millham summoned our distinguished guest to the podium and proclaimed, “Dr. Cameron, by unanimous vote of the Boston Surgical Society Executive Committee, it is my great honor to award you the 2019 Bigelow Medal in Surgery for your valuable work in Surgery as a scientist, a craftsman, a teacher and a leader.”

Dr. Cameron delivered a wonderful, poignant address, “The Bigelow Medal – Hopkins Connection: JMT Finney and more”. Bigelow Medalists with Johns Hopkins associations include Drs. John Miller Turpin Finney (1932), Harvey Cushing (1933), Alfred Blalock (1964), Thomas Starzl (1989), and David Sabiston (1996). However, JMT Finney was the man of the hour. This son of Natchez, Mississippi attended the College of New Jersey (later Princeton), graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1888, and served as “house pupil” at the Massachusetts General Hospital for one year before Dr. William Stewart Halsted recruited him to Johns Hopkins. He became Halsted’s second-in-charge, while also lending his talents to various charitable boards that mostly related to institutions of learning (e.g., Baltimore City School board, Maryland Board of Education, Princeton Board of Trustees, etc.). In fact, he was thought to be a natural heir to Woodrow Wilson as President of Princeton University. In recognition of his skill and influence, JMT Finney became the first President of the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Cameron regaled the audience with extraordinary tales of Dr. Finney, including his service in the American Expeditionary Forces of World War I, during which he rose to the rank of brigadier general and received the Distinguished Service Medal. Lieutenant Colonel John McCrea intersected with Dr. Finney in France. The Canadian physician had famously penned the poem, “In Flanders Fields” but sadly died of pneumonia and cerebral meningitis before the war was over.

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

Dr. Cameron recited JMT Finney's numerous accomplishments, accolades, and plaudits, and yet the epitaph of this great man simply reflects, "Who went about doing good (Acts 10:38)".

By an odd twist of fate, Dr. Halsted never received the Bigelow Medal, although he had been in line for it. In closing his remarks, Dr. Cameron accepted the Bigelow Medal on behalf of both Dr. Halsted and himself. All were spellbound throughout this splendid story of JMT Finney and the axis of Hopkins Surgery leadership that extended from Halsted to Cameron.

Dr. Millham adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm, although many remained deep into the night to greet our esteemed guest and Mrs. Cameron. All left excited about the remainder of the promising 2019-2020 season, including Dr. Millham's Presidential Address during the Annual Meeting of the Boston Surgical Society in December.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David McAneny". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "McAneny" clearly legible.

David McAneny, M.D.



Dr. Teviah Sachs, Dr. and Mrs. Cameron, and Dr. Andrew Warshaw



On the blustery, wet evening of December 2, 2019, the Boston Surgical Society returned to the Boston-Cambridge DoubleTree Hotel to celebrate its 104th Annual Meeting. The wintry mix of sleet and snow was so foul that an executive decision was issued mid-afternoon to forego the traditional black tie for business attire. (What could be next... Hawaiian shirts?) Despite the inclement elements outside, warmth pervaded the occasion. The 71 members and guests enjoyed libations, bountiful cheeses, and assorted hors d'oeuvres before sitting down to a lovely presentation of artisanal salad, filet mignon with cabernet demi-glace, and roasted root vegetables tossed among garlic mashed potatoes. All that topped off with apple pie with caramel drizzle. Our President, Dr. Frederick Millham, welcomed the audience to what would be a special evening, and he later officially called the meeting to order at 7:22 pm.

Dr. Millham summoned Dr. David McAneny to the podium for the Secretary's Report. The Society claimed a strong and steady roll of 387 members and eagerly awaited the impending admission of 7 new surgeons. However, a solemn moment first honored Dr. John Mannick, who had died two months earlier at the age of 91 years. As Chairman of Surgery in two Boston programs (Boston University and the Brigham and Women's Hospital), Dr. Mannick had been a giant presence in our city and Society. Secretary McAneny then reviewed the Spring 2020 season, including the popular Case of the Year program (March 2, 2020) and the Northeast Surgical Meeting. We are thrilled to host surgeons from the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery and the New York Surgical Society on April 24, 2020. At Dr. Millham's prerogative, we shuffled the sequence of events in the agenda to unanimously approve the slate of candidates below. The group hailed the new members as they accepted their certificates and posed for pictures.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>Subspecialty</u>	<u>Endorsers</u>
Isha A. Emhoff	BIDMC	Surgical Oncology	Houlihan/James
Anne Fabrizio	BIDMC	Colorectal Surgery	Callery/Chaikof/Messariss
Betty Fan	BIDMC	Surgical Oncology	Houlihan/James
Nicole S. Gibran	U. of Washington	Burn/Trauma	Burke/C. Ryan
Frank Isik	U. of Washington	Plastic Surgery	Millham/S. Sullivan
Michael Tarnoff	Tufts	General Surgery	Mackey/Cooper
Monica Valero	BIDMC	Surgical Oncology	Houlihan/James

Dr. Marc Rubin presented the Treasurer's Report. He reviewed the details of expenses for 2017-2018 (\$75,820), 2018-2019 (\$86,495), and the 2019-2020 season to date (\$2,745). (The Society's new website incurred a cost of \$10,855 during 2018-2019.) Corresponding income (from contributions, dues, and dinner fees) for each of those years was \$77,050, \$70,805, and \$48,290 (including \$35,990 in dues so far); as a result, the net gains/losses were \$1,230, (\$15,690), and \$45,095, respectively. The Society's current assets are \$97,849.

Dr. William Mackey provided the Nominating Committee report. On behalf of Dr. Kenney and Dr. Callery, he recommended the advance of Dr. Ehrlichman from President-elect to President as well as nominations of Dr. McAneny for President-elect, Dr. Douglas Smink for Vice President, Dr. Claire Cronin for Secretary, and Drs. Dana Fugelso and Dmitry Nepomnayshy for Councilors (replacing Drs. Cronin and Gerard Doherty). No other nominations were entered, and a call for vote was moved and seconded. The slate was unanimously approved and heartily cheered. Dr. Rubin (Treasurer) and Dr. James Yoo (Dinner Chairman) will retain their roles next year, and Dr. Kenney will now lead the Nominating Committee, joined by Drs. Callery and Millham. Dr. Millham expressed appreciation to Dr. Mackey and Vice President Nepomnayshy for distinguished service as officers of the Society and to Drs. Cronin and Doherty for their contributions to the Council.

In his final act as Vice President, Dr. Nepomnayshy stepped to the podium to provide deep background on our President. After exhausting what he had learned from the Millham family and other trusted sources, Dr. Nepomnayshy called upon Dr. Robert Driscoll for greater insight into his partner and colleague. The tag-team described tales of Dr. Millham introducing “Mindfulness” to the South Shore Hospital surgeons, the metaphor of a box of raisins, and the admonition to “Taste the Raisin”. Dr. Millham first thanked Kristin Boyer for her dedication to the Society and rose to the occasion with an outstanding Presidential Address, “The Wisdom of the Ancients.” He began with the *hedera*, a medieval punctuation mark and inspiration for its cousin, the *pilcrow* (¶), that editors now use to separate paragraphs. The *hedera* eventually gave way to a publishing decoration designated by the French term *fleuron*. Of course, the *fleuron* is familiar as the emblem of the Boston Surgical Society; it adorns our correspondence, our website, our neckwear, and these minutes. Dr. Millham then moved to the main event – Wisdom in Surgery – as imparted through medical aphorisms. For example, during training, Dr. Millham adhered to Dr. Charlie Eaton’s “Rules of the House” at Boston City Hospital (available via Google). Dr. Millham summoned Hippocrates (who advocated monitoring outcomes to prognosticate), his Oath, and his 473 aphorisms. Among these are appealing Greek translations: “Life is short” and “Surgery is a long and difficult art, one that can never be fully mastered” and “It is often necessary to act despite incomplete information” and “Experience is delusive”. Hippocrates’ musings and those of more contemporary surgeons built to a crescendo with the declaration that “when we teach with aphorism we are practicing in the oldest traditions of surgery.” Those fortunate enough to learn about the Ancients, including Dr. Millham’s wife Laura Prager, MD and daughter Lucia Millham (HMS-1), roared with delight and deep appreciation.

Dr. Millham again displayed our *fleuron* to separate his reign from his successor’s, and he ceremoniously presented the gavel to Dr. Richard Ehrlichman. In his first official duty as President, Dr. Ehrlichman adjourned the annual meeting at 8:05 pm, even though devoted friends and fans of the Millham family remained for fun, photos, and festivities.

Respectfully submitted,



David McAneny, MD