

The
FOUNDATION
for the HISTORY of
WOMEN in MEDICINE



November 28, 2011

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the Foundation:

In a recent Associated Press article on U.S. history museums and their struggle to secure private funding, statistics indicated that historical organizations are experiencing declining private support. "History is a tough sell," according to Robert Flacke Sr., President of the Fort William Henry Museum. "Updating exhibits and special projects is expensive, especially for smaller museums and lesser known historical organizations."

The economy, no doubt, is responsible for the diminishing return we are seeing in our Annual Fund donations. The Foundation's focus is very specific – promoting the history of women in medicine and the medical sciences – which resonates, perhaps, with a small and targeted audience. The importance of what we do is unchanged. Capturing the history of pioneering women in medicine and making that information available to the current medical community, including students, is a valuable contribution to the field of medicine, but it requires funding, typically received from those of us who are passionate about the cause.

Still, we continue to move forward. Our annual Alma Dea Morani Renaissance Woman Award continues to garner significant national support and awareness. Our Foundation Research Fellowships are competitive. Our student scholarships continue to provide support to the next generation of physicians. Our oral history projects, when funded, will continue to carry the stories forward. Without your help, we will be unable to fulfill our mission *to preserve and promote the history of women in medicine and the medical sciences*.

Thank you for your interest in and commitment to The Foundation for the History of Women in Medicine. I hope we can count on your support this year.

With warmest regards,

Victoria Burkhart, Executive Director

PS: If you have not already done so, consider becoming a member of the Hannah Longshore Society, recognizing those individuals who have included The Foundation for the History of Women in Medicine in their bequest plans. A bequest to the Foundation provides a legacy of support that will enable us to continue our good work for years to come.

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