



UCLA Programs in Medical Classics

History of Recent Advances in Therapeutics

Winter-Spring 2005

UCLA Programs in Medical Classics is a series of presentations designed to enhance an appreciation of the links among famous medical writings, clinical practice, basic research, and humanistic scholarship. Six times a year these meetings bring together a convivial group of individuals of scholarly tastes—both from the community and from UCLA faculty, students, and staff—for a lecture and an opportunity to discuss and examine texts and topics that embody the history of medicine, as well as the relations of medicine to broader cultural settings.

<http://www.library.ucla.edu/biomed/his/medicalclassics.html>

Tuesday, 12 April 2005, 6:00 p.m.
UCLA Faculty Center

George Huntington and “On Chorea”: East Hampton and the Making of a Genetic Disease

Alice Wexler, Ph.D.
Independent Scholar

Introduction by Marie-Françoise Chesselet, M.D., Ph.D.
Charles F. Markham Professor of Neurology, and Chair of Neurobiology,
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Dr. Wexler’s lecture will focus on George Huntington’s 1872 paper, “On Chorea,” which gave what is still considered to be a classic account of the disease, including an accurate description of the hereditary pattern (later recognized as dominant inheritance.) She will discuss the context for that paper in the Huntington medical family; the town of East Hampton; the importance of cattle breeding and horse raising in the town and the possible contribution of these activities to George Huntington’s genetics insights; his writing of the paper; and then how it entered into medical discourse after publication.

This is the third of four lectures in the **History of Recent Advances in Therapeutics** series, which is co-sponsored by the [UCLA Center for Society and Genetics](#).

CME credit is available for this series: <http://www.medsch.ucla.edu/cme/>

An optional dinner with the speakers, at \$22.00 per person, will take place in the Faculty Center about 7:30 pm. An advance reservation is required for dinner; please call the History & Special Collections Division of the Louise Darling Biomedical Library at (310) 825-6940 by Thursday, April 7, to make a reservation.

An abridged form of a classic text related to the evening’s lecture will be distributed by snailmail to those persons who request it in advance. To request this *related* text (*the lecture itself is not recorded or transcribed*; the related text is George Huntington (1872) “On chorea,” *Medical and Surgical Reporter (Philadelphia)* 26(15): 317-321) or more information, please send Teresa Johnson (tgj@library.ucla.edu) an e-mail, including your name and address, with the words “**Medical Classics Program: April 2005 Reading**” in the subject line; or call the History & Special Collections Division at (310) 825-6940.