



UCLA Programs in Medical Classics

2003 - 2004

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 advances in medicine, as well as the relations of medicine to broader cultural settings.

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

Tuesday, 24 February 2004, 6:00 p.m.

***Herman Boerhaave and Enlightenment Medicine:
Steering Clear of Ultimate Questions***

Harold J. Cook, Ph.D.

Professor and Director, The Wellcome Centre for the History of Medicine at
University College London

Introduction by Dora B. Weiner, Ph.D.

Professor of the Medical Humanities and of History, UCLA

Hal Cook has for some years been working on the history of medicine and natural history during the Dutch Golden Age, rounding off his story with a fresh look at the famous medical and botanical (and chemical) professor of Leiden, Herman Boerhaave. Boerhaave became the most famous medical professor of early 18th-century Europe. Yet there have been quite different views about his contributions, even among his students: was he a materialist, a mechanist, an iatrochemist, a vitalist, a Hippocratic, a Calvinist? This presentation takes another look at Boerhaave's teachings, not in light of what came after, but in light of the controversies of his own world, so that we can see afresh the intellectual and clinical problems facing him, and how he dealt with them or finessed them.

Dr. Cook is co-editor of the journal *Medical History*.

The February program is co-sponsored by the UCLA Department of History
(<http://www.history.ucla.edu>)

An optional dinner with the speakers, at \$22.00 per person, will take place in the Faculty Center about 7:30 pm. A reservation is required for dinner; please call the History & Special Collections Division of the Louise Darling Biomedical Library at **(310) 825-6940** 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) 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: February 2004 Reading**" in the subject line; or call the History & Special Collections Division at (310) 825-6940.