



# 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, 17 May 2005, 6:00 p.m.  
UCLA Faculty Center

***Genetic Individuality in Medicine:  
From Garrod to Pharmacogenetics and  
Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms***

**Nathaniel Comfort, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor of the History of Medicine, The Johns Hopkins University

Introduction by Edward R. McCabe, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor and Executive Chair of Pediatrics, David Geffen School of Medicine  
at UCLA; and Physician-in-Chief, Mattel Children's Hospital

The problem of individuality dates back to the Greek Rationalists. Dr. Comfort's talk traces the problem in modern genetic medicine, from the work of Archibald Garrod to present-day research in pharmacogenetics, single nucleotide polymorphisms, and other examples. He argues that geneticists today are still wrestling with the essential tension between Rationalist/Individualist approaches and Empiricist/Categorical approaches to disease.

This is the fourth 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, May 12, 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 Archibald E. Garrod (1902) "The incidence of alkaptonuria: a study in chemical individuality," *Lancet* ii: 1616-1620) or more information, please send Teresa Johnson ([tgj@library.ucla.edu](mailto:tgj@library.ucla.edu)) an e-mail, including your name and address, with the words "**Medical Classics Program: May 2005 Reading**" in the subject line; or call the History & Special Collections Division at (310) 825-6940.