



# UCLA Programs in Medical Classics

**2004 - 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, 19 October 2004, 6:00 p.m.

***The Myth of the Malaria-Tolerant Native:  
Medical Knowledge and Agricultural Development in  
South Africa in the 1920s and '30s***

**Randall Packard, Ph.D.**

William H. Welch Professor of the History of Medicine and Director of the Institute of the History of Medicine, The Johns Hopkins University

Introduction by E. Richard Stiehm, M.D.

Professor of Pediatrics, Division of Immunology, Allergy and Rheumatology, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Colonial medical researchers in South Africa produced new knowledge about the epidemiology of malaria during the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This knowledge was used to develop public health measures designed to protect Europeans from the disease. Yet it also served other purposes. Of particular interest to colonial officials was the observation that Africans living in the malarious *lowveld* regions of the east Transvaal and Natal exhibited a tolerance to the disease. While the knowledge was based on observations of specific populations, it was translated by employers of labor, municipal officials, and health officials into a general association between geographical residence and resistance to malaria, which ignored important spatial and temporal variations. Dr. Packard's lecture explores both the reasons for the indiscriminate use of the label "malaria-tolerant worker" and its consequences for the health of Africans living and working in the *lowveld*.

The October program is co-sponsored by the UCLA School of Public Health  
(<http://www.ph.ucla.edu/>)

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, October 14, 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](mailto:tgj@library.ucla.edu)> an e-mail, including your name and address, with the words "**Medical Classics Program: October 2004 Reading**" in the subject line; or call the History & Special Collections Division at (310) 825-6940.