



**Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
2003 Annual Conference • Pre-Conference Workshop
Sunday, June 22, 2003**

“Epidemics: Lessons from the Past”

Theme:

To understand the public health response to epidemics, including epidemics that result from acts of bioterrorism, it is useful and necessary to have an appreciation for the history of epidemic disease and the historical construction of diseases and epidemics. One approach to the historical analysis of epidemics is to look for a pattern of events characteristic of epidemics. A second approach is to look for patterns in explanations for epidemics. Any explanation of an epidemic must account for collective as opposed to individual illness. The public health response is shaped by the beliefs held by those involved concerning the explanation of disease and epidemics.

Morning Activities: - Hike is Optional for Workshop Attendees

9:00 am – Shuttle Service provided to “Smallpox Hospital Rock” in Farmington, Connecticut. Guided hike ascending Rattlesnake Mountain to “Smallpox Hospital Rock” will be lead by Dr. Ralph Arcari. Look for carvings on the rock of patients of the Todd-Wadsworth Small Pox Hospital from 1792-94. The hike will occur, rain or shine, and will be about three miles roundtrip. Please bring hiking boots if you have them, a raincoat, and a small backpack or the equivalent to carry a boxed lunch.



[Click here for more pictures of Smallpox Rock](#)

Afternoon Activities:

1:00 pm – Return to Hastings Hotel, boxed lunch available for pre-conference attendees that did not attend the hike.

2:00 pm to 6:00 pm – Formal presentations.

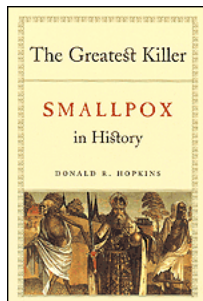
Confirmed speakers: Dr. Donald Hopkins, Dr. Elizabeth Fenn, Dr. Elizabeth Fee, and Moderator Dr. Michael Grey



Evening Activities: - All Conference Attendees Invited

7:00 pm – Meeting the Author Reception and Book Signing, books will be available for purchase at the reception.

Authors



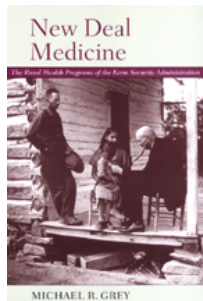
In *The Greatest Killer*, **Donald R. Hopkins** provides a fascinating account of smallpox and its role in human history. Starting with its origins 10,000 years ago in Africa or Asia, Hopkins follows the disease on its rampage through both the ancient and modern worlds, including its spread to Europe and the Americas. He describes how smallpox often wiped out whole villages and decimated the populations of entire regions and how the disease disrupted agriculture and trade. Smallpox changed the course of history as it removed or temporarily incapacitated heads of state, halted or exacerbated wars, and devastated populations that had never been exposed to the disease. In Hopkins's history, smallpox was one of the most dangerous--and influential--characters that shaped the course of world events.

A horrifying epidemic of smallpox was sweeping across North America when the War of Independence began, and until now we have known almost nothing about it. **Elizabeth A. Fenn** is the first historian to reveal how deeply Variola affected the outcome of the war in every



colony and the lives of everyone on the continent. Her remarkable research shows us how the disease devastated the American troops at Quebec and kept them at bay during the British occupation of Boston, and how it ravaged slaves in Virginia who had escaped to join the British forces. During the terrible winter at Valley Forge, General Washington had to decide if and when to attempt the risky inoculation of his troops.

The destructive, desolating power of smallpox made for a cascade of public-health crises and heartbreaking human drama. Fenn's innovative work shows how this mega tragedy was met and what its consequences were for the young republic.



In *New Deal Medicine*, physician and historian **Michael Grey** brings to light the diversity, reach, and complexity of the medical care programs of the Farm Security Administration. Drawing on oral histories, archival records, and medical journals from the 1930s and 1940s, Grey finds the programs were both a rehearsal for more modern forms of medical organization and a lightning rod for critics of "socialized medicine." He assesses the compromises made to try to preserve the programs' somewhat "secret objective" of providing the poor with health care while not running afoul of conservative politicians and their colleagues in the AMA. Acknowledging the effect of changing demographics (doctors, nurses, and farmers alike marched off to war) and economics, Grey contends that these factors do not fully explain the demise of the FSA experiment in health care. Rather, the political winds shifted at the same time that the medical profession acted to protect its authority over the practice of medicine.

New Deal Medicine shows that, by the peculiarly American style of "incrementalism," many of the FSA medical care structures and goals have been at least partially realized in the United States and in Canada. The lessons learned by the FSA personnel were transferred into health programs in Canada, in the labor unions, and finally in Lyndon Johnson's "Great Society."

"George Rosen's history of public health, which follows international development from their Graeco-Roman origins up to the 1950s, has not yet been superseded as a comprehensive introductory survey of the subject... This will be an invaluable resource for all students of the subject, facilitating access to the relevant literature on a wide range of subjects, from specific diseases, through the experience of individual countries, to such areas of public health concern as education, statistics, mental health and nursing." -- *Medical History*



This paperback edition of George Rosen's classic account of the history of public health supplements the original text with **Elizabeth Fee's** new introduction and Edward T. Morman's biographical essay and bibliography.