

TUDÓSKLUB

ismeretterjesztő programok közérthető nyelven helyi kutatók előadásában

A Massachusetts-i Magyar Egyesület szeretettel vár minden érdeklődőt a tudósklub
következő előadásán

2008. január 20-án, vasárnap este 6-kor
az MIT 4-237-es termében.

Az előadás nyelve angol

Semmelweis and His Friends Dr. Constance Putnam

Semmelweis undoubtedly alienated people who could have helped convince additional key professors and practitioners he was right, but a characterization of him as someone on the fringes of medical society results from an incomplete review of his career. Original archival research done in Budapest's history of medicine library and archives leads to a different interpretation. Many physicians—not only in Budapest—believed Semmelweis, followed his teachings, and endeavored to spread the word. Yet these facts and the full record of the several roles Semmelweis played in Budapest's medical world typically go unacknowledged.

My research lays the basis for a more accurate portrait. Semmelweis was close to two men in particular, arguably the most important physicians in Budapest (János Balassa and Lajos Markusovszky); his friendship and collaboration with them deserve much more attention. Furthermore, Semmelweis contributed frequently to the journal he worked with them to found. A greater familiarity with the journal, which is still published today, develops a richer context for Semmelweis's career. Additionally, books available only in Hungarian, a few letters, and numerous certificates connected with the careers of the three men, facilitate a re-assessment of Semmelweis, the much-mythologized researcher, writer, professor, and practicing physician.

Independent Scholar Constance Putnam holds a Ph.D. in Medicine and Society from Tufts University. She has published three books as well as numerous articles in professional journals here and abroad. She is co-author of the biography of Dartmouth Medical School's founder Nathan Smith sole author of the first full history of Dartmouth Medical School as well of *Hospice or Hemlock? Searching for Heroic Compassion*. Dr. Putnam has lectured on a variety of topics in medical history and medical ethics at more than a dozen colleges, universities, and medical schools in the US and abroad. As a Fulbright Research Fellow in Hungary during the 2005-2006 academic year, she also gave lectures in German at the University of Szeged's medical school and read a paper in Hungarian to the History of Medicine Society in Budapest. She bracketed her fellowship year by presenting other papers at the conference jointly sponsored by the European Association for the History of Medicine and Health (EAHMH) and the Society for the Social History of Medicine (SSHM), in Paris, and at the conference of the International Society for the History of Medicine (ISHM), in Budapest. She has recently returned from another visit to Hungary, where she once again lectured in both Budapest and Szeged. She has been a member for several years of the Hungarian Society of Massachusetts; this is the second time she has presented some of her work before the *Tudós Klub*.

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A terem foglaltsága esetén a szomszédos, 4-231 tereben lesz az előadás megtartva.