Pediatric Society Collections

In keeping with its mission to document and preserve the history of child health care, the Pediatric History Center (PHC) is currently maintaining the archives of the American Pediatric Society and the Society for Adolescent Medicine.

American Pediatric Society

The American Pediatric Society (APS) was founded in 1888 to provide a forum for discussion of pediatric care and clinical issues. Job Lewis Smith, MD, was instrumental in conceptualizing and organizing the APS and served as its second president, after Abraham Jacobi, MD.

At the time of its founding, national pediatric associations were nearly non-existent. Over the years, the APS has grown in membership and diversity. Its annual scientific meetings afford a unique opportunity for pediatricians to exchange information about research and clinical issues.

As one of the oldest pediatric organizations still active in the United States, the history of the APS is an important part of the history of the health care of children. For more information about its archives, the following book is recommended:


Society for Adolescent Medicine

Established in 1968 by representatives of adolescent clinics throughout the United States and Canada, the goals of the Society for Adolescent Medicine (SAM) were to improve the quality of adolescent health care through the encouragement of research, creation of medical services, and improved training of adolescent health care providers.

During its relatively brief history, SAM has accomplished much. Advocacy efforts have been directed toward a variety of issues related to adolescent health. In the late 1970s, the *Journal of Adolescent Health* was initiated. A great deal of effort was devoted to the issue of subspecialty certification, culminating in the board examination for adolescent medicine.

Though it is still a “young” organization, SAM recognizes the importance of preserving its institutional history and that of its specialization. The article cited below provides another source of information about the history of SAM:


To learn more about the Pediatric History Center and its collections, please contact us by either of the following:

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