Call for Papers

We invite scholars working on social and cultural histories of health and medicine to contribute papers that specifically address past, present or future innovation. In the Australian and New Zealand Society for the History of Medicine’s first conference since the 2020 COVID-19 global pandemic, we particularly encourage papers that address urgency and innovation related to the identification, diagnosis and management of disease in a transnational context, the health implications of climate change and environmental modification, indigenous health or the intersection of health and medicine with social issues. We are also interested to encourage dialogue between practitioners and historians where possible.

Other topics broadly related to the central theme might include:

- Medicine in public life and policy
- Healthcare and heritage
- Museums and the body
- Histories of diabetes and its treatments, including insulin
- Indigenous health and medicine
- Gender and sexualities in health
- Historical methodologies and practices (including nursing histories; hospital histories; and community health)
- The future of Medical Humanities
- Epidemics, pandemics and vaccines in history
- Telemedicine and other health communication technologies
- Medicine and technology
- Histories of disability
- Planetary health
- Trauma and resilience
The conference will feature three invited international keynote speakers, two plenary speakers/panels, and a Witness seminar marking the centenary of the discovery of insulin, situating it in the changing cultural, health and medical environments of the past century.

We seek papers (20 minutes) and panels from all periods and regions that address these themes. We particularly welcome submissions that highlight inclusivity and diversity. Submissions from scholars across the range of career stages are welcome, especially from postgraduate and early career researchers. ANZSHM offers competitive travel grants to postgraduate students to attend the conference.

Proposals for papers should be in a single Word document, including 250-word abstract and a short CV/biographical statement. Panel proposals (3 papers) are also welcomed, and should include the same information plus a statement of the panel’s aims. Send these to ANZSHM2021@newcastle.edu.au by Monday 28 September 2020 with confirmation of outcomes by 1 November 2020. Registrations will open in February 2021 and a final conference program should be available at least one month before the conference.