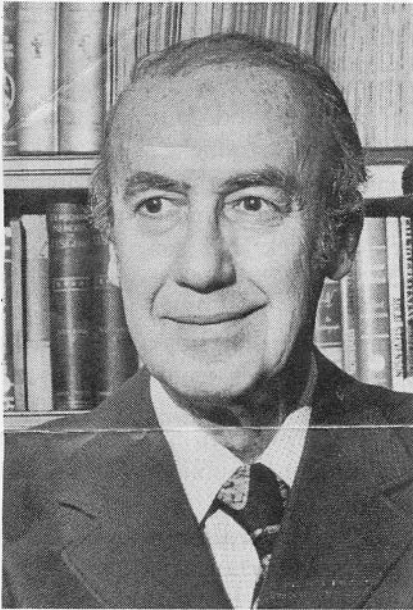


Who's Who in MMS



SAMUEL BACHRACH, MD
Editor, Worcester Medical News

ON THANKSGIVING DAY 1973, *The Worcester Telegram* asked Samuel Bachrach, MD, to write an article on the theme, "What is right with America." His provocative essay, "Tomorrow's America: Wiser, Alert and Informed" was a mirror of Dr. Bachrach himself. No one was really surprised that the article was written well for he is the Editor-in-Chief of the *Worcester Medical News* and previously was publisher and editor of *The Adage*, a national magazine devoted to the interests and problems of the elderly, from 1962 to 1967.

Social concern for the elderly developed naturally from his practice of internal medicine, mainly concerned with geriatrics and arthritis. He started the Arthritis Clinic at The Memorial Hospital, Worcester, in 1949 and became Director of the Clinic in 1952, a position which he still holds.

In 1956 he was appointed Chairman of the Committee on Aging of Community Services of Worcester. The country was starting to awaken to the fact that the elderly population was increasing and its problems were not being met. Worcester had the largest percentage of elderly in the state but there were few services being offered to them.

With Sam's usual persistence and unstinting effort, needed programs came into being. He not only dreams, he makes dreams come true. The Housing Authority was persuaded to build a high rise apartment building with a community room for the elderly within walking distance of the downtown shopping area. Today Worcester has many of them and is still building more.

He was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Worcester Public Library in 1964 and served as president from 1969-1970. During his term as president he actively investigated how the mural triptych which had graced the walls of an old Worcester post office building could be returned to Worcester to be installed in the Public Library. The mural had been painted during the Great Depression by the winning artist in a competition held at that time.

Rescued a Mural

Later, as an active member of the Friends of the Worcester Public Library, Sam was chairman of the committee that rescued this mural, which had been taken down and preserved in a national archives of art for public buildings. A community fund raising drive helped to pay the expenses for installing the mural on the walls of the Worcester Public Library. The mural depicts in a solid manner the integral relationship between agriculture, industry, business and community life in central Massachusetts.

His interest in books and poetry led to the founding of the Worcester County Poetry Assn., Inc. He served as its first president from 1970-1972. As a result, Worcester now has an annual series of nationally recognized poets reading their works; grants from the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities; and special poetry classes in the public schools. That too could make another story.

Sam has so many interests it is almost impossible to relate them all. I'll just quickly mention some of the positions he has held. Medically, he was president of the New England Rheumatism Society and has served on many committees of the Massachusetts Medical Society and the Worcester District Medical Society. Politically, he was elected in 1972 to the Democratic City Committee; back in the forties he was president of the Worcester Chapter of the United World Federalists. In 1963 he went to Washington as a member of the Medical Committee

for Human Rights, and also in 1963 he went to Selma, Alabama for the Civil Rights Movement.

Socially, he was President of the Probus Club; and board member of the Worcester Craft Center. The list of civic organizations he supports would overrun a page.

Sam Bachrach was born in New York City but moved to Maynard, Mass. when he was one month old. At Maynard High School he was a star football player. At the University of Maine he boxed, played center on the varsity football team, and majored in chemistry. He graduated from Tufts University School of Medicine in 1938. At that time, Dean A. Warren Stearns, MD, was placing emphasis on training for general practice and especially practice in New England.

Pathology Resident

This was the era of the depression. Sam's first appointment was as a resident in Pathology at the Rhode Island Hospital. The pay was a bottle of beer a day because someone had left a fund for that purpose. Then on to The Memorial Hospital in Worcester as a House Officer...no beer.

He had been in the Army Reserve Corps since medical school, and was called to active duty for supposedly one year in 1940. Pearl Harbor came and the one year duty became over five years of duty. From being a first lieutenant at Fort Adams, Newport, R. I., to his transfer to the Army Air Force School of Aviation Medicine, he had many varied responsibilities.

While at the medical school in Orlando, Florida, he organized the Field School of Chemical Warfare. Then, he went on to Europe as Group Surgeon with the 19th Tactical Air Force, which was part of General Patton's Division and the Free French support across France, to Belgium, and on into Germany. In August 1945 he was discharged as a lieutenant colonel, and he continued to be active in the Army Reserve until his retirement. As a retired officer he remains active in Reserve affairs.

Following discharge from the Army, he took post graduate courses at Harvard, Tufts, and the New York Institute of Physical Medicine. In 1947 he started private practice in internal medicine in Worcester and was appointed to the staff of The Memorial Hospital.

His interest in post graduate medicine continues. He holds the appointment as associate in Clinical Medicine at the University of Massachusetts

Medical School, Worcester. He was a member of the original class of the Post Graduate Series at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston and has continued in the course through the present time.

Sam was married in 1938. He and his wife, Lilyan, have four children and four grandchildren. His daughter, Barbara Scolnick, graduated from Radcliffe College, received a M.A. in Library Science from Simmons College, and is married to Dr. Edward Mark Scolnick. His son, Robert, graduated from M.I.T., with a PhD in Solid State Physics from Illinois, and is doing research at Xerox Labs in Palo Alto, California. His son, Benjamin, received a B.S. and PhD in Mechanics from Cornell, and is now working at Ford Research Laboratories in Dearborn, Michigan. Liz — their bonus as they call her — is an honor student in public high school. Both sons are married. Robert's wife, Virginia Galton Bachrach, is a Harvard Medical School graduate, also, and is a pediatrician. Sam's wife is an artist in her own right, and is nationally known as a professional enamelist.

Creative Cook

Sam's hobbies are as many as his activities in the community. He collects — books, stamps, Lincolnia prints, handcrafts. In 1968 he went to Haystack School in Deer Isle, Maine. While his wife studied etching, he took the course in Creative Cooking. Lilyan says that though they enjoy the complicated dishes he makes, she wishes they had concentrated more on cleaning up after cooking. He bicycles, he gardens, he hooks rugs, he reads.

Sam has a philosophy that physicians must be a part of the community and involve themselves in community efforts. As he wrote in his article in the *Worcester Telegram* last Thanksgiving: "We are dedicated to humanitarian values; we would go to the aid of people in need of help as we have done many, many times. This is what I think is good with America." This too, is a summary of Samuel Bachrach, MD.

His day is a full one. He makes teaching rounds with the House Staff and may instruct second year medical students in Physical Diagnosis at the University of Massachusetts. He carries on the long tradition of seeing patients in the Arthritis Clinic at The Memorial Hospital. The evenings are devoted to editorship of the *Medical News*, community projects, and political affairs. He is respected for those humanitarian qualities that he himself declares are "what is right with America."

Charles I. Brink, II, MD