



ABSTRACTS FOR SHORT GLAM PRESENTATIONS – FRIDAY 11TH JULY 2025

Catherine Storey

Honorary Archivist: Royal North Shore Hospital, St Leonards NSW

A mysterious bundle

A bundle wrapped in old discoloured newspapers, tied with string, sat in a corner of the basement at RNSH. Intrigued by this mysterious package when I took over the archives, I unwrapped the sheets to reveal a collection of miscellaneous documents. I determined that these were the returned subpoenaed exhibits of the Scobie Enquiry into RNSH in 1939, overlooked for over 70 years.

The Scobie report was big news – the scandals played out on the front pages of all of the Sydney newspapers for months. The Enquiry, conducted by the Justice Scobie, looked into all of the misdeeds and mismanagement which had surfaced in the preceding few years. The recommendations from the report had extensive and important ramifications for the future of the institution. This bundle, when reunited with all of the other material which we hold in our Hospital's archives, such as newspaper clippings, Board minutes, annual reports is the essence of our archives – the raw material which allows us to form a contemporaneous vision of the day to day events which have shaped our Institution.

Rebecca Lush

Integrated Pathology Learning Centre – University of Queensland

Specimens as Storytellers

In 2025, the Integrated Pathology Learning Centre (IPLC) is commemorating 100 years of its collection. This presentation highlights one of the earliest specimens acquired—a liver segment showing hepatic tuberculosis, a condition that arises when tuberculosis spreads from the lungs. This specimen was chosen for its historical significance and its power to tell stories. By examining it, we can explore how its educational value has evolved over time. Its continued relevance reflects the broader role of the museum in bridging past and present, demonstrating how pathology collections remain vital tools for learning, interpretation, and connection across generations of medical education.

Elizabeth Milford

Archivist: Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

Anatomy transfigured – the work of 16th century anatomist and surgeon, Matteus Realdo Colombo

The 16th century was an important turning point in the history of anatomy and several anatomists made significant contributions to its study. Matteus Colombo was a contemporary of Vesalius but history has tended to laud Vesalius rather than his one time student and critic. However, Colombo also produced an anatomy book, albeit 16 years after Vesalius' *De Fabrica*. This paper seeks to outline the significant anatomical contribution made by Colombo and to discuss how human civilization tends to forget that 'progress' is an evolving process with many contributors

Helen Laffin

Curator and Heritage Collections Co-ordinator: Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

Prototype design and model for prosthetic arm, Dr Benjamin Rank Collection.

Many interweaving stories and themes underlying this object.

Jacqueline Healy

Director, Museums, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne

2 medical chests, 2 healing traditions

In 2015 the Medical History Museum expanded its collection policy to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art to reflect the healing traditions of Australia's first nations people. These medicine kits represent cultural diversity and different healing traditions. The Faculty Museums of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences at the University of Melbourne seek to embrace this approach across its three museums through the inclusion of First Nations perspectives.