The History of TB and the American Lung Association

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TB History

• By the mid 18th and early 19th century, it has been estimated that 1 out of every 4 people alive in Europe eventually died of TB

• Didn’t know etiology

• Effected the culture dramatically

• The White Plague

• No effective cure
TB History

“Tuberculosis is a social disease with a medical aspect.”
Sir William Osler
1849 – 1919

Close contact and sharing of living space
Poorly ventilated
Prolonged period of time
March 24, 1882

Robert Koch discovers the tubercle bacillus, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the organism that causes tuberculosis.

(Nobel Prize – 1905)
Public Health Efforts

• Beginning the appreciation of contagious nature of condition
• Public Health Nurses
• Patients treated in TB Sanatoriums
Edward Livingston Trudeau

To address an epidemic of Tuberculosis or “White Plague”...

...The National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis is born.
1905

The American Sanatorium Association established
1906

Historical Background

- The double barred-cross was used by the Crusaders during the Middle Ages and was the emblem of the French House of Lorraine, became the NASPT’s emblem in 1906.
- This became the emblem of those who crusaded against the White Plague.
- NASPT became the National Tuberculosis Association in 1918.
- NTA registered the double-barred cross as its trademark in 1920.
1907

First Christmas Seal campaign launched

First Christmas Seal
“Put this stamp with message bright
On every Christmas letter;
Help the tuberculosis fight,
And make the New Year better.
These stamps do not carry any kind of mail,
but any kind of mail will carry them.”

Emily Bissell buys first Christmas Seal
- First stamps sold for a penny each at Wilmington Post Office
- Special message on envelopes of stamps
• Help from Philadelphia paper and endorsement from President Roosevelt help raise $3000.
Year two...

Christmas Seals go nationwide.

- Design by Howard Pyle
- Millions printed
- $135,000 raised
1915

The Modern Health Crusade:
A School Health Curriculum
Outreach

PREVENT DISEASE

CARELESS SPITTING, COUGHING, SNEEZING, SPREAD INFLUENZA and TUBERCULOSIS

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION
1940 First effective drug therapies for TB

1948 Start of the medical research and teaching fellowships award program
EVERY THREE MINUTES SOME ONE
IS DYING FROM CONSUMPTION
IN THE UNITED STATES
10,000 PEOPLE DIED FROM IT
IN NEW YORK CITY LAST YEAR
INTERNATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS EXHIBITION

OPENED ON
NOV. 30
DAILY 10 A.M.
TO 11 P.M.
SUNDAYS
1 TO 5 P.M.

The great exhibition recently shown at Washington
Be sure you do not Miss This Unusual Opportunity
of Seeing the Wonderful Fight Made by the Nations
AGAINST THE GREAT WHITE PLAGUE

ADMISSION FREE

What You should know about Tuberculosis
FIGHT TUBERCULOSIS
with MODERN WEAPONS
Christmas Seals help fight Tuberculosis
Tuberculosis
EARLY DISCOVERY, EARLY RECOVERY

Danger Signs
- too easily tired
- loss of weight
- indigestion
- cough that hangs on

Let your doctor decide

Supported by the National, State, and Local Tuberculosis Associations of the United States
1950

Mary Ellen Avery discovers the cause of RDS

Programs expanded to include all lung diseases

1959
Rest heals Tuberculosis

The sanitorium is the best place to get well. It provides:

- Good food, fresh air, sunshine
- Education, entertainment
- Medical and nursing care
- X-ray
- Physical therapy
- Laboratory
dental care

“Healthy looks” can hide TUBERCULOSIS

the X-RAY will show it before you know it

Christmas Seals Fight Tuberculosis

American Lung Association
COVER coughs and sneezes

Better health for all citizens is the aim of this poster, distributed by your local Tuberculosis association with the help of your Christmas Seal contribution. Christmas Seals fight TB and other Respiratory Diseases.

Published by the National Tuberculosis Association
1955 CHRISTMAS

GREETINGS 1955
Celebrity Involvement
A Beautiful Picture?  So is this. It shows a healthy chest. But... The picture can change. Have a chest X-ray once a year. Prove you have a healthy chest. An X-ray can show early TB.
TB Skin Tests
1960s & 1970s
1980s

- Advocacy
- ALA research discovery of cystic fibrosis gene

1990s

American Lung Association stands up for clean air and against Big Tobacco.
1996-2016

Expands Research Commitment to Asthma and Lung Cancer
Our Mission:
To save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease
Achieved through:
Research, Advocacy, Education
In the 1870s, Asheville was a small town and not very accessible. Dr. H. P. Gatchell, one of the pioneers of treating tuberculosis in Asheville, published a pamphlet promoting the advantages of the Asheville climate for health seekers.
It was entitled Western North Carolina--
Its Agricultural Resources, Mineral
Wealth, Climate, Salubrity and Scenery.
Dr. Gatchell opened The Villa, a sanitarium exclusively for tuberculosis patients, in the area that is now the Kenilworth neighborhood. This was the first tuberculosis sanitarium in the United States preceding the Trudeau Sanitarium in New York.
After Gatchell's departure, Dr. Joseph Gleitsmann, a German born and trained doctor, arrived in Asheville to establish the Mountain Sanitarium for Pulmonary Diseases located on North Main Street (now Broadway Street).
A mutual benefit society, the Pickford Tuberculosis Sanitarium opened in 1896 in Southern Pines, North Carolina with a specific mission: to treat African Americans with tuberculosis
"The Brexton," was run by various women during the first decade of its operation. In 1906, St. Joseph's Hospital operated a sanitarium for tuberculosis patients out of the building, run by the Sisters of Mercy.
B rexton Boarding House

Photo courtesy of City Development, City of Asheville, North Carolina
During the time the hospital owned the house, it added sleeping porches and two engaged three-story porches to the building. These porches provided plenty of sunlight and soothing mountain air, believed to provide tuberculosis patients with natural therapeutic medicine.
The Ottari Sanitarium was built by a prominent osteopathic physician, Dr. William Banks Meacham, in 1912.
Ottari Sanitarium
Photo courtesy of City Development, City of Asheville, North Carolina
The Ottari Sanatorium was to be "the finest private sanitarium ever built" with "persian rugs, silk draperies, mahogany furniture and a glass aquarium with fish."
Like many people after the stock market crash of 1929, Dr. Meacham lost his property to the bank.
One of Asheville's greatest promoters was Dr. S. Westray Battle who came to Asheville in 1885 and turned out to be, perhaps, the most influential doctor to come to the area.
Dr. Karl Von Ruck, along with Battle, was very influential in creating Asheville as a center for tuberculosis care. Von Ruck arrived in Asheville in 1886 and opened the very successful Winyah Sanitarium two years later.
Karl Von Ruck House
Photo courtesy of City Development, City of Asheville, North Carolina
In addition to treating tuberculosis patients, Von Ruck also studied the disease. After the discovery of tuberculin in 1890, the microbe that causes tuberculosis, Von Ruck focused his studies entirely on developing a vaccine.
Dr. J. E. Brooks refused to accept that North Carolina citizens infected with the lung disease had no other option than to stay home and wait to die.
As a state legislator in 1907, Brooks secured an appropriation of $15,000 to purchase land and build a sanatorium, and an additional $5,000 for maintenance.
The site chosen for the sanatorium is in present-day Hoke County between Aberdeen and Raeford. The fear of spreading the infection led to its construction some distance from the nearest town.
The North Carolina State Sanatorium was the parent of the state sanatorium system, which grew to include Western North Carolina Sanatorium near Black Mountain in 1937, the Eastern North Carolina Sanatorium in Wilson in 1942, and Gravely Sanatorium in Chapel Hill in 1953.
The town where the first state sanatorium was located bore the name Sanitorium until 1948. At that time, it was renamed McCain in honor of Dr. Paul P. McCain who had served as superintendent and medical director from 1924 to 1946.
By 1930, Asheville bragged 20 tuberculosis specialists and 25 sanitaria with a total of 900 beds. But with the rise of state care and the depressed economy, the market for the private sanitaria had dwindled.
The hospital at Oteen had a 1,000-bed sanitarium and provided care to veterans at no cost. In 1937, the State opened a sanitarium offering care at the rate of 50 cents to $1.50 a day, which was by far the cheapest care available.
Historic postcard of the Oteen Veterans Administration Hospital Historic District

*Photo courtesy of City Development, City of Asheville, North Carolina*
During the 1930s and 1940s the sanitariums and boarding houses for tuberculosis patients closed with just a few remaining into the 1950s.
In 1973, the State Sanatorium became McCain Hospital. With the increasingly low incidence of tuberculosis, the hospital was transferred to the Division of Prisons in October 1983. Today it serves as a minimum custody health care center for male inmates.