



Ralph Sweet Members' Choice Award winners Alison Burke and Cassio Lynn for "Ritratto del Cuore (Portrait of the Heart)" JAMA. 2012;308(17):1718-1719. © American Medical Association.

In This Issue:

Feature Columns:

Presidential Address..... 1

**Copyright Reform -
The Top 5 Reasons
YOU Should Care 6**

Award Winners7

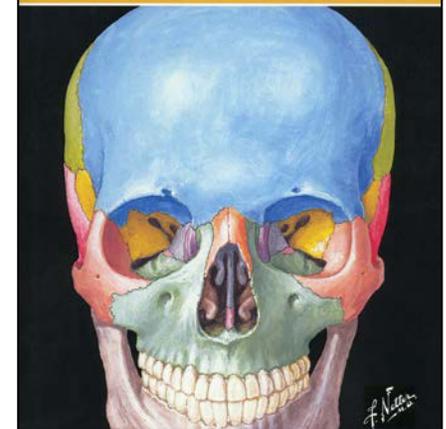
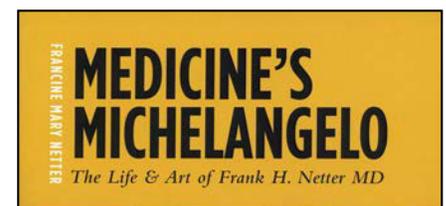
**In Memoriam -
Nancy Grahame Joy 15**

**AMI Meeting
Reflections 16**

Book Review 18

Events & Notices 19

and much more...



Check out Wendy Beth Jackelow's interview with Francine Mary Netter, daughter of medical artist Frank Netter, and read her review of Francine's new biography "Medicine's Michelangelo." See page 18 for the full article!

Government

Presidential Address

by Christine Young, CMI, FAMI, AMI President 2012 – 2013

Presidential addresses are curious moments in each AMI meeting. They have been parting farewell speeches, opening addresses, and mid-meeting luncheons. Each was fitting to the year it was presented, and in hindsight, told volumes about the presenter.

I spend a good deal of my working life researching challenging scientific

questions about new biopharmaceuticals, creating storyboards and writing medical animation scripts, carefully counting each word, calculating seconds. Let's leave no one guessing... in my professional life I am a down to earth practical sort; embracing business, a little philosophy, and a little history so as not to repeat the

(Cont. on page 3)

Medicine's Michelangelo—The Life & Art of Frank H. Netter, MD: Book Review and Interview with Francine Mary Netter

Review by Wendy Beth Jackelow

This fall marks the publication of the first comprehensive biography of famed medical illustrator, Dr. Frank Netter by his daughter Francine Mary Netter. *Medicine's Michelangelo—The Life & Art of Frank H. Netter, MD*, is a thorough and fascinating account of how Dr. Netter became a medical artist and how he changed medical education with the use of his extraordinary illustration and communication skills.

Although he seemed destined to become an artist from the start, Frank Netter honored his mother's wishes to pursue a more reputable career and enrolled in medical school after her death. He continued to draw and paint, however, in order to better grasp the complex medical concepts he was learning at NYU medical school. Ironically, it was his ability as an artist and not his medical training that allowed him to support his family during the depths of the Great Depression. Dr. Netter worked extremely hard his whole life in his pursuit of art as a means of education and worked directly with many of the most prestigious figures in medicine. Despite all his own fame and high profile connections, Dr. Netter always took his role as medical artist seriously. He knew that not only would his illustrations teach, they would allow medical professionals to see their patients as complete people and not just a bundle of symptoms.

In recognition of the opening of the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University and *Medicine's Michelangelo*, it is a great privilege to have the author, Francine Mary Netter, answer a few questions about her book and her father.

Q Wendy Jackelow: *This is the first full-length biography about your father, Dr. Frank Netter. What brought about your decision to undertake such a daunting project?*

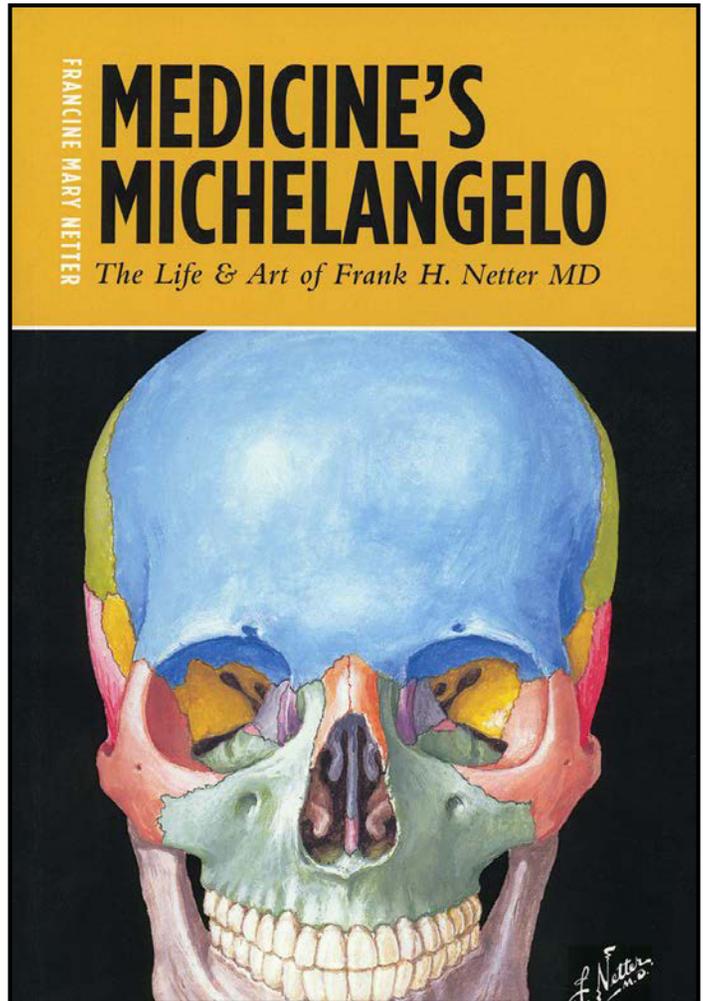
A Francine Mary Netter: When my father died in 1991, two or three people suggested I write his biography. But I had young children then, and it was not until 2004 that I began writing

Medicine's Michelangelo. This is the first biography of Frank Netter, and it was always to be a biography, not a memoir or a eulogy. I began by sorting through the many boxes of papers that had come to me from Dad's studio, and there found that he had left a rich collection of autobiographical notes. I conducted hundreds of interviews of his family, friends and colleagues. Of all of the doctors I could locate who had contributed to the Netter

publications, some very distinguished people, not one turned me down for an interview. They loved him so much and were all so encouraging that I should create this portrait of the man behind the art.

Q *W: There were hundreds of interviews and much research involved in telling your father's story. How long did it take once you began work?*

A *F: I began laying out the book and doing research in 2004. I went through many drafts even before submitting my manuscript to my publisher. But to tell you the truth, finding the right publisher for this project was also a lot of work. And Quinnipiac University Press is the perfect fit for this book. So, the short answer is that it took ten years from concept to publication.*



Q *W: Were there any particular difficulties or concerns in writing about your father's life, especially when you were so close to the subject of your book?*

A *F: Oh, yes, during the first draft especially, some of the passages were especially emotional for me. I am so close to the subject.*

Q *W: I found it astonishing that your father actually made more money as an artist than as a medical doctor at the time. Do you think that he still would have gravitated to medical illustration even if he had made a better salary as a doctor?*

A *F: He would have done something in art, I am sure. It could have been fine art, illustration or even cartoons. He knew many cartoonists at the Society*

of Illustrators, and many fine artists as well. He would have continued making pictures.

Q *W: The field of medical illustration has changed dramatically in the last 20 years or so with the rise of digital technology. How do you think your dad would have responded to these new techniques such as 3D illustration and animation?*

A *F: I think he would have found them very interesting as mediums. He always said that good illustrations can be made in any medium. It is the message of the illustration that is important. Each artist must find the medium in which he can best produce an original work that conveys the message. In his art, Frank Netter depicted the essence of the thing, not just the lines and shadows. The*

painting he did in consultation with Dr. Paul Dudley White, for example, shows a man coming out of a restaurant, into the snow, climbing the steps to the sidewalk, dropping his briefcase, dropping his cigarette—all the precipitating factors of a heart attack. Yet here is a real person, grasping at his chest, his face distorted in pain. Yes, there is the masterful brushwork, but it is the message of that picture that people remember.

Q *W: By all accounts, your father was a very nice and humble man even with all his recognition and fame. What do you think kept him so grounded?*

A *F: Netter moved in both the glamorous New York art world and intellectual medical circles, lunched at the Society of Illustrators with the likes of Norman Rockwell and Rube Goldberg, and at*

the great teaching hospitals consulted with hundreds of medical experts, including Drs. Michael DeBakey, C. Everett Koop, Albert Sabin and Paul Dudley White. He lived in opulent homes: a penthouse on Park Avenue, a gilded age country estate on Long Island and an ocean front mansion in Palm Beach. He enjoyed very much that the medical profession appreciated his work and was glad he had been able to make a contribution. But Frank Netter never thumped his chest and never looked down on anyone. He was doing what he loved—making pictures.

Medicine's Michelangelo—The Life & Art of Frank H. Netter, MD by Francine Mary Netter will be available in October 2013.

Events, Notices, Upcoming Contests & Deadlines

Edited by Jennifer Belanger

IMI Conference 2013 (Institute of Medical Illustrators)

October 4-5, 2013, Leicester, England
<http://www.imi.org.uk/document/imi-conference-2013>

SONSI (Southern Ontario Nature and Science Illustrators) 2013 Presentation Day

October 19, 2013
Central Public Library, Oakville, ON.
Space is limited for this one-day event. Presentations include “Bird Illustration” with Kathryn Chorney, and “Illustrating the Neuroanatomy of the Great Hammerhead Shark” with Dine Pulerà, “The Unexpected Challenges of Interpretive Sign Illustration” with Emily S. Damstra, and “Anyone Can Draw a Dinosaur – But Should They Be Allowed To?” with Hall Train. <http://sonsi.ca/>

Visual Connections New York 2013

October 23, 2013
The Altman Building, New York, NY.
Visual Connections visual media expos offer a unique opportunity to discover new sources of visual media, meet the people you only speak to and email, and network with peers in the industry. <http://www.visualconnections.com/NY2013/index.php>

Ophthalmic Photographer's Society 44th Annual Meeting and Education Program

November 15-19, 2013
InterContinental Hotel, New Orleans, LA.
<http://www.opsweb.org/?page=AnnualProgram>

Medicine's Michelangelo: The Life & Art of Frank Netter, MD.

October 25, 2013
UIC Molecular Biology Research Building Auditorium, University of Illinois, Chicago, IL.

Lecture and booksigning by Frank Netter's daughter, Francine Netter Roberson. RSVP by October 15 to Elise Krikau ekrikau@uic.edu.
<http://illinois.edu/emailer/newsletter/40633.html>

American Society of Botanical Artists 16th Annual International

September 20 - November 22, 2013
Horticultural Society of New York, New York, NY.

Exhibition features 45 artworks from US and international artists, with botanical illustration workshops available October 16-18, and November 15.
<http://www.asba-art.org/exhibitions/16th-annual>

Bone & Blood: Structural Bodies in Motion

September 28- October 12, 2013
Squid3 Gallery, Chicago, IL.
Presented by Street Anatomy, this exhibition explores the connection between our bodies, blood, bone, and motion.
<http://streetanatomy.com/2013/08/19/bone-and-blood-structural-bodies-in-motion-gallery-show/>

Vancouver Aquarium Ocean Art Online Exhibition

October 1 - 31, 2013
Artists are invited to submit original artwork and photography under the theme “Humans and the ocean are inextricably interconnected.” Contact the Vancouver Aquarium at publicprograms@vanaqua.org for more information.
<http://www.vanaqua.org/experience/events/annual-and-upcoming-events/ocean-art-exhibition>

Medical Illustration Source Book No. 27

Artwork deadline: February 3, 2014
Contact: Serbin Communications admin@serbin.com or 805-963-0439



The Association of
Medical Illustrators

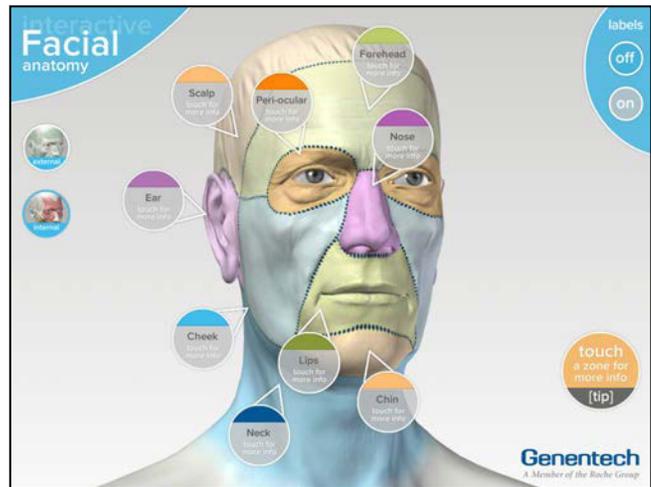
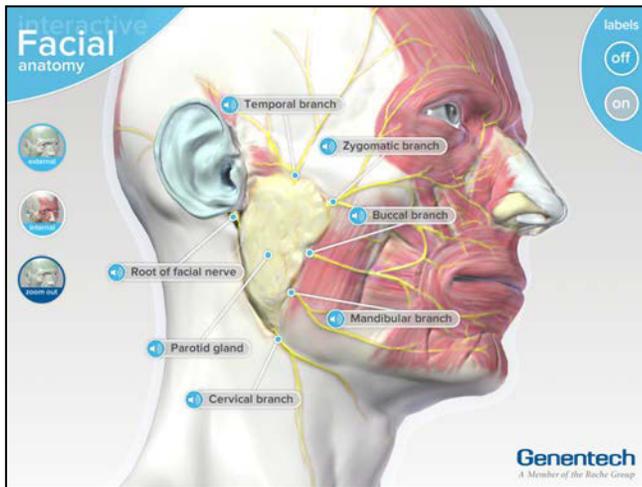
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New Media Members' Choice Award Winner iSO-FORM LLC for "Interactive Head and Neck Anatomy"