



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
& HUMAN SERVICES

# Meat, Medicine, and Human Health in the Twentieth Century

A workshop.

Sponsored by

The National Library of Medicine

Institut de Recherche sur les Sciences et la Technologie (IRIST, EA 3424),  
at the Louis Pasteur University, Strasbourg

The Medical Faculty at the Louis Pasteur University, Strasbourg  
Maison InterUniversitaire des Sciences de l'Homme-Alsace (MISHA)

**Principal organizers**

David Cantor, Christian Bonah, and Matthias Dörries.

**Co-organizers**

Elizabeth Fee and Paul Theerman.

Held at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland  
14<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> November 2006



## **Introduction**

Public health messages about meat can be quite confusing. On the one hand, meat and meat products have been blamed for many of the health problems of modern society. Diets high in meats have been cited as causes of cancer, heart disease, and obesity. Meat-eating has been central to debates about outbreaks of BSE, typhoid, foot-and-mouth disease, and most recently public anxieties about avian flu. It has also raised more general concerns about food preparation and preservation. On the other hand, however, meat and meat products have also been portrayed as essential to the body's ability to maintain health and resist disease. They have been central to dietary regimens such as the Atkins diet, and have provided the basis for a number of therapeutic interventions, such as liver extract in anemia. This workshop aims to explore the many different uses and meanings of meat in the twentieth century, and what these tell us about diet and nutrition during this period.

Meat provides a particularly valuable focus for understanding the history of diet and nutrition in the twentieth-century. Debates about the healthiness or otherwise of meat and its derivatives are often intertwined with broader cultural concerns about the appropriate treatment of animals, the morality of meat-eating, anxieties about modern farming, processing and preservation methods, and worries about the influence of commercial, advocacy and political interests on nutrition policy and dietary habits. This meeting will explore the many different perspectives on meat and health from those of vegetarians, health activists, and animal activists to those of the meat industry, policy makers, and regulators. In so doing, it also seeks to show how debates about the healthiness or otherwise of meat provide a lens onto broader cultural attitudes towards diet and nutrition in the twentieth-century.

## **Location**

Conference Room D, Building 45, NIH Campus.  
(For exceptions see p. 11)

# PROGRAM

## **DAY 1**

14<sup>th</sup> November 2006

Coffee, tea,  
light refreshments  
8.00–9.00 am

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

14<sup>th</sup> November 2006

9.00–9.30 am

**Donald Lindberg**  
**Elizabeth Fee**  
**Paul Theerman**  
**Christian Bonah**

**National Library of Medicine**  
**National Library of Medicine**  
**National Library of Medicine**  
**Institut de Recherche sur les Sciences et la  
Technologie**

## **AIMS OF THE WORKSHOP**

14<sup>th</sup> November 2006

9.30–10.00 am

**David Cantor**  
**Christian Bonah**  
  
**Matthias Dörries**

**National Cancer Institute**  
**Institut de Recherche sur les Sciences et la  
Technologie**  
**Institut de Recherche sur les Sciences et la  
Technologie**

Coffee  
10.00–10.30 am

**SESSION 1**  
**MEAT, MARKETS, AND HEALTH**

14<sup>th</sup> November 2006  
10.30 am—12.30 pm

**Chair**

Elizabeth Fee (National Library of Medicine)

**Speakers**

Jeffrey Pilcher (University of Minnesota)

Is Refrigerated Meat Wholesome? Mexico Confronts the Chicago Meatpacking “Jungle”

Roger Horowitz (Hagley Museum and Library)

“That Was a Dirty Job!” Technology and Workplace Hazards in Meatpacking over the “Long” Twentieth Century

Donald D. Stull (University of Kansas)

Michael J. Broadway (Northern Michigan University)

What’s Meatpacking Got to Do with Worker and Community Health?

**Commentator**

Christian Bonah (Institut de Recherche sur les Sciences et la Technologie)

Lunch  
(*on your own*)  
12.30–1.45 pm

**SESSION 2**  
**CRITIQUES OF MEAT**

14<sup>th</sup> November 2006

1.45–3.30 pm

**Chair**

John P. Swann (Food and Drug Administration)

**Speakers**

Arouna P. Ouédraogo (INRA-CORELA, Paris)

The “New Vegetarians” and the Invention of Healthy Eating in France

Michael Sappol (National Library of Medicine)

Vegetarianism in the Golden Age of American Carnivory

**Commentator**

Rima D. Apple (University of Wisconsin)

Coffee

3.30–4.00 pm

**SESSION 3**  
**MEAT AS THERAPY**

14<sup>th</sup> November 2006

4.00–5.45 pm

**Chair**

Paul Theerman (National Library of Medicine)

**Speakers**

Susan Lederer (Yale University)

Treat with Meat: Protein, Palatability, and Pernicious Anemia in the 1920s and 1930s

Naomi Pfeffer (London Metropolitan University)

Medicines, Meat, and Markets

**Commentator**

Matthias Dörries (Institut de Recherche sur les Sciences et la Technologie)

Reception  
National Library of Medicine  
6.00–8.00 pm

## **DAY 2**

15<sup>th</sup> November 2006

Coffee, tea,  
light refreshments  
8.00–9.00 am

## **SESSION 4**

### **MEAT AND DISEASE I**

15<sup>th</sup> November 2006  
9.00–11.00 am

#### **Chair**

Philip M. Teigen (National Library of Medicine)

#### **Speakers**

David Cantor (National Cancer Institute)  
Meat, Modernity, and Cancer Control in the Early Twentieth Century

Jean-Paul Gaudillière (CERMES/INSERM, Paris )  
Food, Drug, Regulation and Expertise: The “Meat and DES” Debates in France  
and in the United States

Kiheung Kim (University College London)  
Self-Referentiality of Prion: Constructing Prion Concept in the 1980s

#### **Commentator**

Toine Pieters (Vrije Universiteit Medisch Centrum, Amsterdam)

Coffee  
11.00–11.30 am



**SESSION 5**  
**MEAT AND DISEASE II**

15<sup>th</sup> November 2006  
11.30 am—1.30 pm

**Chair**

Patricia Tuohy (National Library of Medicine)

**Speakers**

Delphine Berdah (CERMES/CNRS, Paris )

Sanitary Policy as a Way of Controlling Cattle Diseases in France and Great Britain, 1850-1950

David Smith and Norval Strachan (University of Aberdeen)

Poultry, Poisoning, Policy, and Politics: Trends in Poultry-Related Salmonella and Campylobacter Food Poisoning 1980–2005

Abigail Woods (Imperial College, London)

Defining Risk: Biological Products as a Vehicle for Foot-and-Mouth Disease, 1909–1930

Keir Waddington (Cardiff University)

Dangerous Cows: Bovine Tuberculosis, BSE and Health

**Commentator**

Volker Hess (Charité-Universitätsmedizin, Berlin)

Lunch  
(*on your own*)  
1.30–2.30 pm

**SESSION 6**  
**CONCLUDING DISCUSSION**

15<sup>th</sup> November 2006  
2.30–3.30 pm

**Summary of the themes of the workshop.  
Future plans.**

**Moderators**

**David Cantor**  
**Christian Bonah**

**Matthias Dörries**

**National Cancer Institute**  
**Institut de Recherche sur les Sciences et la**  
**Technologie**  
**Institut de Recherche sur les Sciences et la**  
**Technologie**

Dinner:  
*(By invitation only)*

Persimmon  
7003 Wisconsin Avenue,  
Bethesda, MD 20815

<http://www.persimmonrestaurant.com/>

6.30 pm (cash bar)

7.00 pm (dinner)

## Workshop Information

### How the sessions will work:

- Each author has 5-10 minutes to provide an overview of his or her pre-circulated paper
  - Co-authors count as one author! 5-10 minutes total for each coauthored paper; not 5-10 minutes each author.
- Each commentator has 20 minutes for his or her commentary
- General discussion and responses will take up the remainder of the session.

Each session will begin with the author overviews. The commentary will follow, after which the chair will open discussion to the floor. Authors may respond to the commentary at this point.

Questions will not be allowed before the general discussion – excepting minor points of clarification, at the discretion of the chair.

### Locations:

Most of the workshop sessions will be held in Conference Room D, Building 45 on the main NIH Campus. Building 45 is also known as the Natcher Building.

The exceptions are:

- |    |               |                              |
|----|---------------|------------------------------|
| a) | The reception | National Library of Medicine |
| b) | The dinner    | Persimmon, Bethesda          |

## Visiting the NIH

The NIH has changed in recent years. It is no longer the open campus it once was. A new security fence surrounds the grounds. Cars are searched at the entrances, and guards will ask to see a government-issue photo ID (passport; US driver's license) before you enter. Please allow sufficient time to pass through the various security checkpoints.

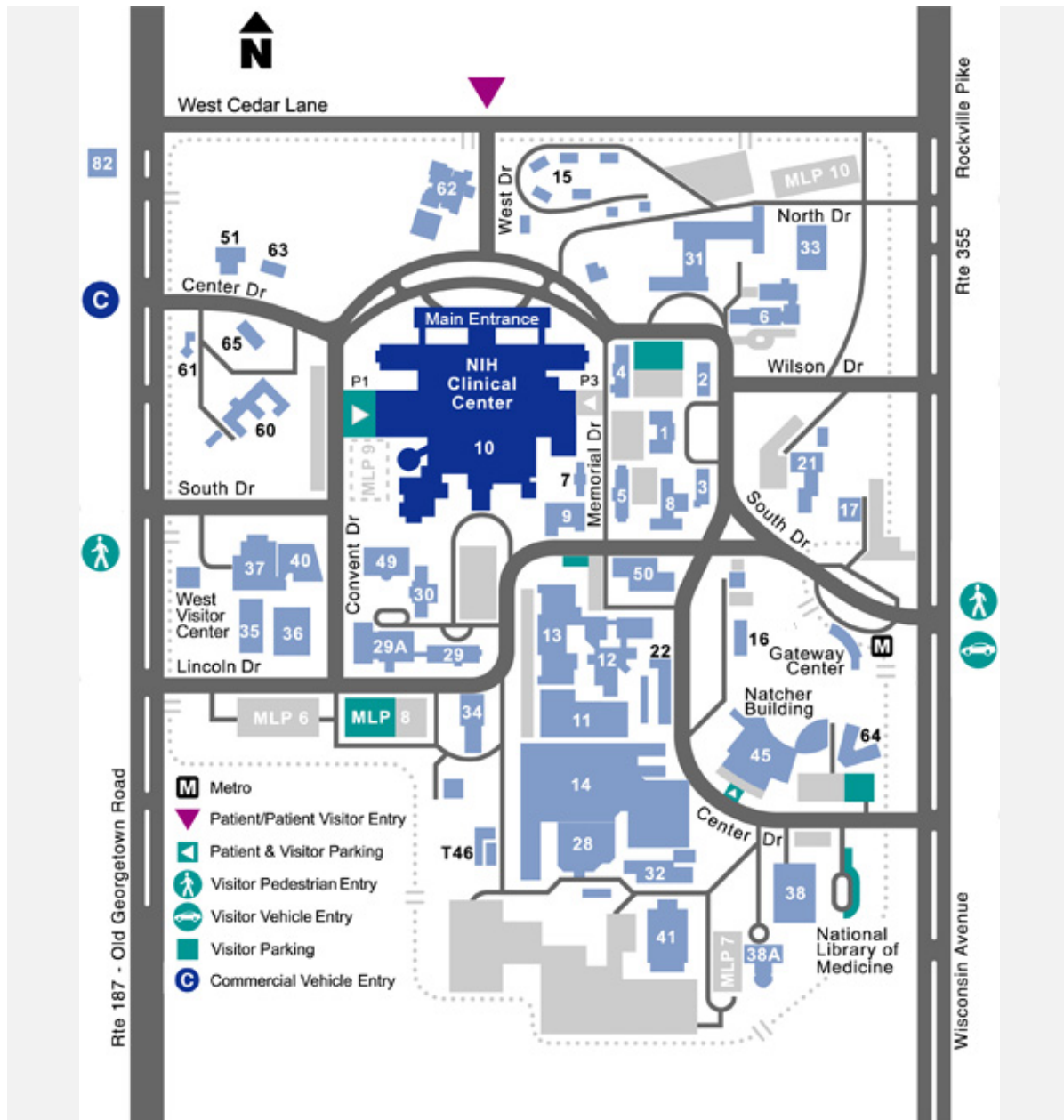
The easiest way to get to NIH is via the Metro (Medical Center on the Red Line) or by bus or on foot. Drivers should enter the campus by the South Drive entrance from Rockville Pike. See the map overleaf (p.13) for visitor parking areas. Visitor parking is very limited. Metro access is recommended.

For the most recent information please use the following websites

NIH security information is available at  
<http://www.nih.gov/about/visitorsecurity.htm>

Travel information is available at:  
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/about/visitor.html>  
<http://www.nih.gov/about/visitor/index.htm>

# NIH Campus Map



## Acknowledgments

The organizers would like to thank Ba Ba Chang, Sandy Taylor, Christie Moffatt, and Meghan Attalla at the Library for their support of this workshop. They would also like to thank Catherine Douvier, who developed the workshop website.

## Organizers

**David Cantor** works as a historian for the National Library of Medicine and the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland. His recent publications include articles on the [Vernacular Meanings of Hope in 1950s America, \(\*J. Hist. Med.\*, 61, 2006, 324-368\)](#) and [Henry Lynch, Heredity, and Cancer Control, 1962-1975, \(\*Med. Hist.\*, 50, 2006, 279-302\)](#). He is the editor of [Reinventing Hippocrates](#) (Ashgate, 2002), the guest editor of a special "cancer" issue of the [Bulletin of the History of Medicine](#) (Spring 2007, forthcoming), and series editor (edited collections) of [Studies in the Social History of Medicine](#) published by Routledge for the Society for the Social History of Medicine.

**Christian Bonah** studied medicine, history, and history of science in Strasbourg, Freiburg, Berlin and Boston. He was a research fellow at the Université Louis Pasteur (ULP) in history and philosophy of science 1993-1997, postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University 1997-98, maître de conférences at the ULP 1998-2005, since 2005 full professor and chair for the history of medical and life-sciences at the ULP and member of the Institut Universitaire de France (IUF). His main research fields are the history of medical education in Europe, history of therapeutic agents in the 20th century, history of human experimentation, history of medical court trials.

**Matthias Dörries** is professor for history of science at the [Université Louis Pasteur in Strasbourg](#). His most recent publication is an edited volume on Michael Frayn's play '[Copenhagen](#)' (Berkeley, 2005).

**Elizabeth Fee** is chief of the History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine, at the National Institutes of Health. She trained in the history and philosophy of science at Cambridge and Princeton Universities. After obtaining her PhD, she taught at the State University of New York at Binghamton before joining the faculty at the Johns Hopkins University where she remained until 1995. She has published widely in the history of medicine and public health, including the recent [Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature: an Exhibition by the National Library of Medicine](#) (2002) co-authored with Susan E. Lederer and Patricia Tuohy.

**Paul Theerman** is head of Images and Archives at the NLM. In that capacity he oversees programs in archives and manuscripts, prints and photographs, and historical audiovisuals, and in new digital ventures based on those collection. His own work focuses on bringing new collections into the Library, and in promoting the Images and Archives collections through public programs and products. Theerman has a Ph.D. in history, and his own historical interests lie at the intersection of science, technology, medicine, and public culture.

Revised: 9 November 2006