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When I use a word . . . Medical anniversaries in 2024

My list of 63 medically related anniversaries for 2024 (events in years ending '24 and '74) includes:

• 23 births: Daniel Arnoldi, Canadian physician; Gaspard Laurent Bayle, French physician; Charles Bell, British anatomist, neurologist, surgeon, and artist; Johann Jakob Bernhardt, German physician and botanist; Paul Broca, French physician, anatomist, and anthropologist; Jean-Francois Coindet, French physician; Franz von Paula Gruithuisen, Bavarian physician and astronomer; Roger Charles Louis Guillemin, French-born, American neuroscientist; Anton Ludwig Ernst Horn, German physician; Andrew Jukes, British surgeon; Nikolai Korotkov, Russian surgeon; August Krogh, Danish physiologist; William Lattimore, American physician; Jonathan Letterman, American surgeon; Constantin Levaditi, Romanian physician and microbiologist; William George Maton, English physician; António Egas Moniz, Portuguese physician and neurologist; John Conrad Otto, American physician; Georges-Simon Serullas, French professor of pharmacy; Thomas Sydenham, English physician; Francisco Vallés, Spanish physician; Robert Watt, Scottish physician and bibliographer; Torsten Wiesel, Swedish neurophysiologist; • 14 deaths: Johann Conrad Ammann, Swiss-born physician and naturalist; Anthony Askew, English physician and book collector; William Browne, English physician; Bartolomeo Eustachio, Italian anatomist; Samuel Gottlieb Gmelin, German physician, botanist, and explorer; Oliver Goldsmith, Anglo-Irish writer, poet, playwright, and apothecary's assistant; William Hewson, British surgeon, anatomist, and physiologist; Thomas Linacre, English physician; Jacques Loeb, German-born, American physiologist; William Macewen, Scottish surgeon; James Parkinson, English surgeon, apothecary, geologist, palaeontologist, and political activist; Johann Jakob Reiske, German philologist; Earl Wilbur Sutherland, American physiologist; IJsbrand van Diemerbroek, Dutch physician and anatomist; • 4 biomedical texts published, written by Ulisse Aldrovandi, John Floyer, William Hunter, and Thomas Willis; • clinical therapies introduced by Henry Hill Hickman (anaesthesia), Franz Anton Mesmer (mesmerism), and Robert Wood Johnson with George J Seabury (surgical dressings); • observations on chemical elements by Jöns Jacob Berzelius (silicon, thorium, and zirconium), Paul-Émile Lecoq de Boisbaudran (gallium), Johan Gottlieb Gahn (manganese), and Carl Wilhelm Scheele (manganese and chlorine); • biochemical, chemical, microbiological, and physiological observations by Theodor Billroth, spouses George Frederick Dick and Gladys Henry Dick, Bernardo Alberto Houssay, Jacobus Henricus van 't Hoff with Joseph Le Bel, and Thomas Willis; • establishment of the first British medical school to train women doctors, The London School of Medicine for Women; • Nobel prizes awarded to Willem Einthoven (1924) and to Albert Claude, Christian de Duve, and George E Palade (1974).

Jeffrey K Aronson

Medical anniversaries in 2024

For the past eight years I have been charting medical anniversaries year by year,¹⁻⁸ restricting them to multiples of 50 years. The 2024 list includes anniversaries for years ending in '24 and '74:

1374

Outbreaks of so-called dancing mania reported in Germany, the Low Countries, and North-Eastern France.

1524

Death of Bartolomeo Eustachio (c.1505–1574), Italian anatomist. Author of the *Opuscula Anatomica* and the *Tabulae Anatomicae*. The Eustachian valve of the vena cava and the Eustachian tube in the ear are named after him.

Birth of Francisco Vallés (1524–1592), Spanish physician. The *Vallesia* genus of plants in the family

Apocyanaceae, including *Vallesia glabra*, is named after him.

Death of Thomas Linacre (1460–1524), English physician, first president of the College of Physicians, 20 October.

1574

Publication of *Antidotarii Bononiensis, sive de usitata ratione componendorum, miscendorumque medicamentorum, epitome* (1574) by Ulisse Aldrovandi (1522–1605).

1624

Birth of Thomas Sydenham (1624–89), “The English Hippocrates,” 10 September.

Santorio Santorio, professor of medicine at Padua and who has been called the first famous master of experimental medicine, gives up academic medicine and goes to Venice to practise medicine. In his book *Commentaria in primam Fen primi libri Canonis*

Aviscenna (Commentaries on the first part of the first book of the Canon of Avicenna) he described the first use of the clinical thermometer in the study of disease and gave the first description of a device for counting the pulse rate.

1674

Thomas Willis shows that the urine in people with diabetes mellitus is “Wonderfully sweet as it were imbued with Honey or Sugar.”

Thomas Willis demonstrates the effects of the vagus nerve on the heart and lungs by blocking its actions in dogs.

Outbreak of egotism in the old French province of Gâtinais.

Publication of *Tractatus Quinque Medico-physici* by John Mayow FRS (1641–1679), chemist, physician, and physiologist.

Publication of *Pharmaceutice rationalis sive diatriba de medicamentorum operationibus in humano corpore* by Thomas Willis.

Death of IJsbrand van Diemerbroek (1609–74), Dutch physician and anatomist, professor of medicine in Utrecht University, who wrote about treatment of the plague in *De Peste* (1646).

1724

Death of Johann Conrad Ammann (1669–1724), Swiss-born physician and naturalist. He practised in the Netherlands, where he taught deaf people to speak. He published two books in which he described his methods: *Surdus Loquens* (1692) and *Dissertation de Loquela* (1700). The former was translated from Latin into English in 1693 as *The Talking Deaf Man*.

John Floyer (1649–1734), English physician, publishes the first edition of *Medicina Geroconomica: or, the Galenic Art of Preserving Old Men's Healths, Explain'd in Twenty Chapters*.

1774

Birth of Daniel Arnoldi (1774–1849), Canadian physician, the first president of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Lower Canada.

Birth of Charles Bell (1774–1842), British anatomist, neurologist, surgeon and artist, who discovered the difference between sensory and motor nerves in the spinal cord and described Bell's palsy.

Birth of Johann Jakob Bernhardt (1774–1850), German physician and botanist. The genus *Bernhardia* (family Psilotaceae) is named after him. After his death his herbarium became part of the Botanical Garden of Missouri.

Birth of Jean-Francois Coindet (1774–1834), French physician, who introduced iodine as a treatment for goitre.

Birth of Gaspard Laurent Bayle (1774–1816), French physician, author of *Recherches sur la phthisierocapulmonaire*.

Birth of Franz von Paula Gruithuisen (1774–1852), Bavarian physician and astronomer, who developed instruments for transurethral removal of bladder stones.

Birth of Anton Ludwig Ernst Horn (1774–1848), German physician who developed mechanical devices for treating hysteria. He also published a textbook on clinical pharmacology (“practical pharmacology”), *Handbuch der praktischen Arzneimittellehre für Aerzte und Wundärzte*, in 1803.

Birth of Andrew Jukes (1774–1821), British surgeon with the East India Company; he worked in Iran and vaccinated children against smallpox in Teheran in 1813.

Birth of William Lattimore (1774–1843), American physician, better known as a politician.

Birth of William George Maton (1774–1835), English physician, Physician Extraordinary to Queen Charlotte and later physician to the Duchess of Kent, and to Princess Victoria. In 1801 he described the isolation of the active principle in Peruvian bark.

Birth of John Conrad Otto (1774–1844), American physician. He wrote several papers on haemophilia, titled “An account of an hemorrhagic disposition existing in certain families.”

Birth of Georges-Simon Serullas (1774–1832), French professor of pharmacy who first described the use of the antiseptic and disinfectant iodoform.

Birth of Robert Watt (1774–1862), Scottish physician and bibliographer. He was a founding member and the first president of the Glasgow Medical Society. His *Catalogue of Medical Books for the Use of Students Attending Lectures on the Principles and Practice of Medicine* (1812) was the catalogue of his own medical library.

Death of Anthony Askew (1722–1774), English physician and book collector, mostly of classical Greek and Latin texts.

Death of William Browne (1692–1774), English physician, president of the College of Physicians in 1765 and 1766.

Death of Oliver Goldsmith (1728–1774), Anglo-Irish writer, poet, playwright, and apothecary's assistant, best known for his novel *The Vicar of Wakefield* (1766), his poem *The Deserted Village* (1770), and his play *She Stoops to Conquer* (1771, first performed in 1773).

Death of William Hewson (1739–1774), British surgeon, anatomist, and physiologist, known as the father of haematology, who postulated that the thymus and lymph nodes make white blood cells and that the spleen turns them into red blood cells.

Death of Samuel Gottlieb Gmelin (1744–1774), German physician, botanist, and explorer, author of *Historia Fucorum* (1768), the first work on marine biology, devoted to algae.

Death of Johann Jakob Reiske (1716–1774), German philologist who, although qualified as a physician, never practised.

Isolation of manganese by Johan Gottlieb Gahn (1745–1818), Swedish chemist and metallurgist.

Carl Wilhelm Scheele discovers manganese in pyrosulite and produces chlorine from pyrosulite by reacting it with oxidised hydrochloric acid.

William Hunter (1718–1783), Scottish anatomist and physician, publishes *Anatomia uteri humani gravidi tabulis illustrata*, in which he illustrates the gravid human uterus.

Franz Anton Mesmer (1734–1815), German physician, treats a patient with hysteria using “animal magnetism,” later called “mesmerism” and finally “hypnosis.”

1824

Birth of Paul Broca (1824–1880), French physician, anatomist, and anthropologist, who described Broca's area in the brain.

Birth of Jonathan Letterman (1824–1872), American surgeon, the “Father of Battlefield Medicine.”

Death of James Parkinson (1755–1824), English surgeon, apothecary, geologist, palaeontologist, and political activist, author of *An Essay on the Shaking Palsy* (Parkinson's disease).

Jöns Jacob Berzelius (1779–1848), Swedish chemist, isolates silicon, thorium, and zirconium.

Henry Hill Hickman (1800–1830), English physician, gives CO₂ to an animal to induce sleep before amputation.

1874

Birth of Joseph Erlanger (1874–1965), American physiologist, joint recipient, with Herbert S Gasser, of the 1944 Nobel prize in physiology or medicine “for their discoveries relating to the highly differentiated functions of single nerve fibres.”

Birth of Nikolai Korotkov (1874–1920), Russian surgeon, who invented the method of measuring blood pressure by auscultation, the sounds of which are called Korotkov sounds.

Birth of August Krogh (1874–1949), Danish physiologist, who brought insulin to Denmark and, with his wife, Marie, and Hans Christian Hagedorn, founded the Nordisk Insulinlaboratorium (now Novo Nordisk); he was awarded the 1920 Nobel prize in physiology or medicine “for his discovery of the capillary motor regulating mechanism.”

Birth of Constantin Levaditi (1874–1953), Romanian physician and microbiologist, who spent his career in the Pasteur Institute studying *Treponema pallidum*, poliovirus, which, with Karl Landsteiner, he found outside the nervous system, and a wide range of infectious diseases.

Birth of António Egas Moniz (1874–1955), Portuguese physician and neurologist, who developed cerebral angiography and received the 1949 Nobel prize in physiology or medicine “for his discovery of the therapeutic value of leucotomy in certain psychoses.”

Theodor Billroth (1829–1894), German surgeon, identifies streptococci and staphylococci as causes of wound infections: *Untersuchungen über die Vegetationsformen von Coccobacteria septica*.

Paul-Émile Lecoq de Boisbaudran (1838–1912), French chemist, extracts gallium chloride from sphalerite.

Pharmacist Robert Wood Johnson (1845–1910) and George J Seabury (1844–1909), a chemist and pharmacist, invent a new kind of surgical dressing based on rubber; Johnson and his two brothers later found Johnson and Johnson.

Jacobus Henricus van 't Hoff (1852–1911) and Joseph Le Bel (1847–1930) explain the optical activity of salts of tartaric acid on the basis of the asymmetric tetrahedral arrangement of its carbon-bound atoms.

Establishment of the first British medical school to train women doctors, The London School of Medicine for Women, by Sophia Jex-Blake, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, Emily Blackwell, and Elizabeth Blackwell, supported by TH Huxley.

1924

Birth of Roger Charles Louis Guillemin, French-born, American neuroscientist, joint recipient, with Andrew V Schally and Rosalyn Yalow, of the 1977 Nobel prize in physiology or medicine “for their discoveries concerning the peptide hormone production of the brain.”

Birth of Torsten Wiesel, Swedish neurophysiologist, joint recipient, with David H Hubel and Roger W Sperry, of the 1981 Nobel prize in physiology or medicine “for their discoveries concerning information processing in the visual system.”

Death of Jacques Loeb (1859–1924), German-born, American physiologist, founding editor of the *Journal of General Physiology*, who induced artificial parthenogenesis in sea urchins' eggs.

Death of William Macewen (1848–1924), Scottish surgeon, described as the father of neurosurgery. He invented Macewen's osteotome for use in knee surgery in cases of rickets and identified Macewen's triangle, a structure in the temporal bone of the skull. He described Macewen's sign, in which percussion of the skull near the junction of the frontal, temporal, and parietal bones produces a cracked pot sound when there is separation of the sutures, as in hydrocephalus and brain abscess.

George Frederick Dick and Gladys Henry Dick report the isolation of a mannite-fermenting strain of *Streptococcus pyogenes* from a case of scarlet fever and using it to produce experimental scarlet fever.

Bernardo Alberto Houssay (1887–1971), an Argentinian physiologist, demonstrates the role of the anterior pituitary in glucose metabolism. In 1947 he won the Nobel prize for physiology or medicine, shared with Carl Ferdinand Cori and Gerty Cori, “for his discovery of the part played by the hormone of the anterior pituitary lobe in the metabolism of sugar.”

Introduction of Kleenex tissues, made from cellu-cotton, a cotton substitute, by Kimberly-Clark.

Nobel prize: Willem Einthoven (1860–1927) “for his discovery of the mechanism of the electrocardiogram.”

1974

Death of Earl Wilbur Sutherland (1915–1974), American physiologist; Nobel prize in physiology or medicine in 1949 “for his discoveries concerning the mechanisms of the action of hormones.”

Nobel prize: awarded jointly to Albert Claude, Christian de Duve, and George E Palade “for their discoveries concerning the structural and functional organization of the cell.”

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