The Soma Weiss Student Research Day

This day honors the memory of Soma Weiss, MD (1899-1942), an inspiring teacher and physician at HMS and an ardent supporter of student research. Soma Weiss was born January 27, 1899 in Besterce, then a part of Hungary. He immigrated to New York in 1920 and graduated from Cornell Medical College in 1923.

Soma Weiss came to Harvard Medical School in 1925 when he was appointed assistant at the Thorndike Memorial Laboratory and Research Fellow in the Department of Medicine. He rose rapidly, demonstrating his great ability as an investigator, teacher, administrator, and clinician. Within four years, Dr. Weiss was appointed Assistant Professor of Medicine. His medical capabilities, his diplomatic handling of difficult situations, and his amicable personality led to his appointment as Director of the Second and Fourth Medical Services at Boston City Hospital in 1932. In this position, he took charge of the fourth year medical students, winning their admiration and affection. One of the important contributions he made to teaching was in his development of the Clinico-Pathological Conference at the City Hospital. His own bi-weekly Pharmacological-Therapeutic Conference gave the students unusual insight into the use of drugs.

Soma Weiss possessed all the qualifications necessary for the great clinician. He was a master of observation. His ward rounds were excellent; while conducting them, he never neglected the patients, the students, or the visiting physicians. He kept them all in proper balance while he dominated the whole. He wisely insisted that clinical work must be the basis for the study of disease.

Soma Weiss became the second Physician-in-chief of the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in 1939. He died January 31, 1942 from the rupture of a congenital intracranial aneurysm. In the intervening years, his generous spirit, his eager and able services for the Hospital, his great abilities as a physician, investigator, and teacher, left an indelible imprint on the many students he mentored.

Harvard Medical School wishes to thank the Weiss family for their support of the annual Soma Weiss Student Research Day.
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Welcome
Jeffrey Flier, MD, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Caroline Shields Walker Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School
Robert Weiss, Son of Soma Weiss, MD

Introductions
Patricia A. D’Amore, PhD, Charles L. Schepens Professor of Ophthalmology, Director of Research, Schepens Eye Research Institute, Director of the Howe Laboratory, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Institute; Chair, Faculty Committee on Scholarship in Medicine

Student Speakers
Aaron Deutsch (London) - Non-additive effects of HLA genes in five common autoimmune diseases
Pranoti Hiremath (Peabody) - Identifying early changes in myocardial microstructure in hypertensive heart disease
Bennett Lane (Holmes) - Association of head and neck surgical outcomes with surgeon and hospital financial incentives
Ivana Viani (Cannon) - Dr. Vesna Bosanac: Ethical decisions in times of war

Awarding of Poster Prizes
Elizabeth D. Hay Prize for Basic Science Research
Judah Folkman Prize for Clinical / Translational Science Research
Charles Janeway Prize for International Research or Service
Robert Ebert Prize for Health Care Delivery Research or Service
Leon Eisenberg Prize for Medicine in Society Research