



# OSHER@Dartmouth

Discovering the new. The provocative. The timeless.



Photo by Darla Bruno

## Fall 2018 Newsletter

### Study Leader Profile: Iain Sim

**H**ave you ever looked forward to a Treasurer's Report? Not likely, unless the treasurer in question is OSHER@Dartmouth's Iain Sim. And, if you can make columns of numbers interesting, imagine what his courses are like...

Though Iain's father was an accountant, he freely admits that he's never been able to get his mind around double-entry bookkeeping and, although born and raised just down the road from the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon, London, he doesn't play tennis.

He does, however, know a fair amount about microbiology. A

product of the British education system, he was on the academic track after passing the much-feared 11+ exams at the end of 5th grade, and after his Ordinary Level exams at the end of the 10th grade, he was expected to be university-bound. For the final two years of high school, his course load consisted almost entirely of Chemistry, Physics, Botany, and Zoology and, looking back, he states that



he often wishes that he'd been more exposed to the arts and humanities. The British system fostered concentrated specialization, this at a time when all university education was public and, therefore, fully funded by the government, and only 2% of Britons went to university. Further exams led to his acceptance at the University of Birmingham where he received his Bachelor's degree in biological sciences and a Ph.D. in microbiology.

It was also during his university days that he joined a microbiology expedition to northern Norway where he met a fellow Birmingham student, Caroline Walker. Despite the

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### President's Corner



We've had a busy and productive few months, and I want to share some of the highlights from your organization. We successfully passed the new bylaws, which affect how OSHER@Dartmouth is governed. We are hopeful that they will streamline our day to day operations and allow the flexibility we need for the future. You can find them at [osher.dartmouth.edu](http://osher.dartmouth.edu), or easily pick them up at the office at any time.

By the time you read this, we will have completed another outstanding Summer Lecture Series. This year, we focused on some of the issues dividing our nation, and offered suggestions

for paths to agreement. If you missed any or all of these sessions, you can purchase DVD's of each one through the office. You can also visit [catv8.org](http://catv8.org), which hosts links to many of our special lectures and past SLS. We also have our very own YouTube channel; visit [osher.dartmouth.edu](http://osher.dartmouth.edu) and click the red YouTube link at the bottom of the page.

Perhaps the most exciting news has been progress toward a "New Home" for our offices and classrooms. Beginning in January, the college appointed a committee to address ways to help make the golf course more financially sound. After many meetings and public forums, the committee has submitted its recommendation to the college to relocate the clubhouse to a new site on Route 10, and to make

it a year-round facility to house golf activities, a banquet room and space for weddings, reunions, and community activities. It would also house space for OSHER@Dartmouth classrooms and offices, and offer parking for as many as 200 cars. While it is very early in the process, we are delighted that we are included in the planning and that the proposed drawings appear flexible to our needs. The next step will come in September, when the college's Board of Trustees will discuss and hopefully approve the plan. We will share more information as it happens. We have decided not to occupy "interim space" in Lebanon, as this would distract from what appears to be a very promising opportunity.

- John H. Sanders, Jr., M.D.  
President

*Study Leader Profile (cont.)*

frigid temperatures, things must have warmed somewhat as they've now been married for 48 years.

After leaving Birmingham he accepted a position in High Wycombe, U.K., with G.D. Searle & Co., a company famous for the first female birth control pill, "The Pill," and NutraSweet, among other products. Searle made the decision to go out of virology after Iain had been there for nine years and, in 1984, he was looking for a senior position in what was then a very tough job market in Britain. He was offered two positions overseas; one in Paris at the Pasteur Institute, and the other with Hoffmann-La Roche (Roche), as head of virology, at their U.S. headquarters in Nutley, NJ. He describes himself as coming to the U.S. "as an economic refugee from Margaret Thatcher's Britain." "A legal migrant," he hastens to add.

In the early 1990s Iain made a transformative career change from research to "drug development," the latter being the process by which a new drug is brought to market. Drug development was going truly global at that time, and it led to assignments in Tokyo, Japan, Palo Alto, CA and Basel, Switzerland.

In the 1980s AIDS was arguably the most feared contagion in the world, and Iain played a key role in the development of Roche's antiretroviral drugs. This was also a time of extreme controversy over the speed with which new drugs, then being tested for efficacy and safety, were being brought to market. The most prominent group, ACT UP, staged huge protests at Roche headquarters and at meetings in NYC where

Larry Kramer, the group's leader, disrupted both corporate meetings and scientific conferences demanding that drugs - still in the test phase - be released immediately. In 1995 the FDA approved a course of treatment using Roche's protease inhibitor, saquinavir, and within two years deaths from AIDS in the U.S. dropped from 50,000 to 18,000 annually, saving 32,000 lives in its first year in the U.S. alone. (Many years later Iain would sit in the audience of a Dartmouth College discussion group where Larry Kramer was the featured guest.)

It was while leading the Xeloda project for Roche that Iain became aware of how an individual's genetics - their genome - could affect how a drug worked. (Xeloda was a drug discovered in Japan for breast and later colorectal cancer that directly attacked cancer cells.) With some of these experiences in mind, Iain taught his first OSHER@Dartmouth course, "The Human Genome Project," in 2012.

Mergers, acquisitions and divestitures in the pharmaceutical industry brought Iain to Grantham, NH, late in 2001. He accepted the position of Vice President for Program Management and Development Operations at Coley Pharmaceutical Group in Wellesley, MA. The company was named after Dr. William B. Coley (1862-1936), an orthopedic surgeon and early cancer researcher. Coley observed that certain cancer patients who were suffering from infections unrelated to their cancer showed remarkable remission of their tumors. He developed a course of treatment using bacteria known as Coley's toxins, and successfully treated a number

of cancer patients. Although never proven effective in his lifetime, modern discoveries in immunology have shown Coley to be ahead of his time in his practice of targeted therapy. Today he is considered the "Father of Immunotherapy." Iain's course on "Cancer Genetics Revealed: The Promise of Revolutionizing Treatment" was offered in 2014.

Working at Coley Pharma in Wellesley meant leaving home in Grantham at 4:00 AM on Monday and not returning until Friday night. It's hardly surprising that, faced with this commute, Iain happily promised Caroline that when she had finished decorating their newly constructed home in Hanover he would retire. They both did.

The ethics of genetic research has always concerned Iain. He came to understand the desperation of those with terminal illnesses and their desire to try something, anything, that might offer the promise of a cure, regardless of where that drug stood in the testing protocols. He has led two ethics related courses: "Designer Genes: Prospects and Ethics of Human Bioengineering" (twice in 2016), and "21st Century Genetic Technologies: For Better, For Worse?" this past spring.

Noting that a common bit of advice to aspiring writers is "to write about what you know," he has stuck with science, except for a break when he taught another subject familiar to him, "Margaret Thatcher: Conservative Revolutionary" in 2015.

He continues to be astounded by the wealth of talent within the OSHER@Dartmouth community and the generosity of those talented peo-

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Treasurer's Report

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2018

The fiscal year for OSHER@Dartmouth runs from July 1 to June 30, mirroring that of Dartmouth. The fiscal year began with an exceptional roster of speakers for the 2017 summer lecture series which drew in record attendance for the seven week series. We especially appreciate the underwriting support of the series provided by several local companies and organizations. The curriculum of courses were again well attended, with the summer term growing in popularity. The revenue from our Osher endowment allows us to offer other lectures, movies and discussions at no cost to members, an appealing menu of activities that attracted a growing number of members.



**4,498**  
at 2017 Summer  
Lecture Series



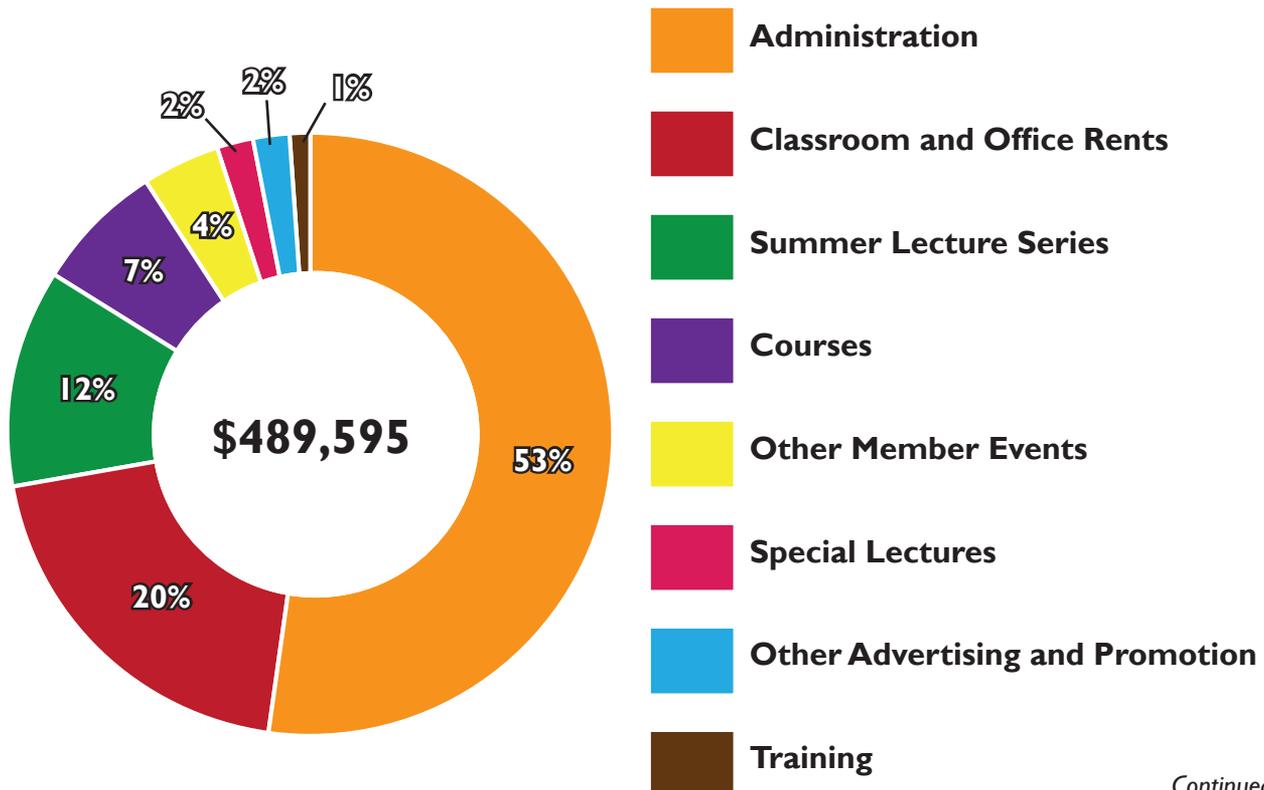
**3,045**  
in Classes



**1,684**  
Members

Expense:

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 expenses were \$489,595, 99% of budget. Putting all the events together requires considerable efforts from our dedicated staff. Consequently, Administration remains our largest item of expense. Second are rents for DOC House, offices at 7 Lebanon St and for various classrooms throughout the Upper Valley. Other contributors include expenses incurred in delivering the summer lecture series and our four terms of courses.

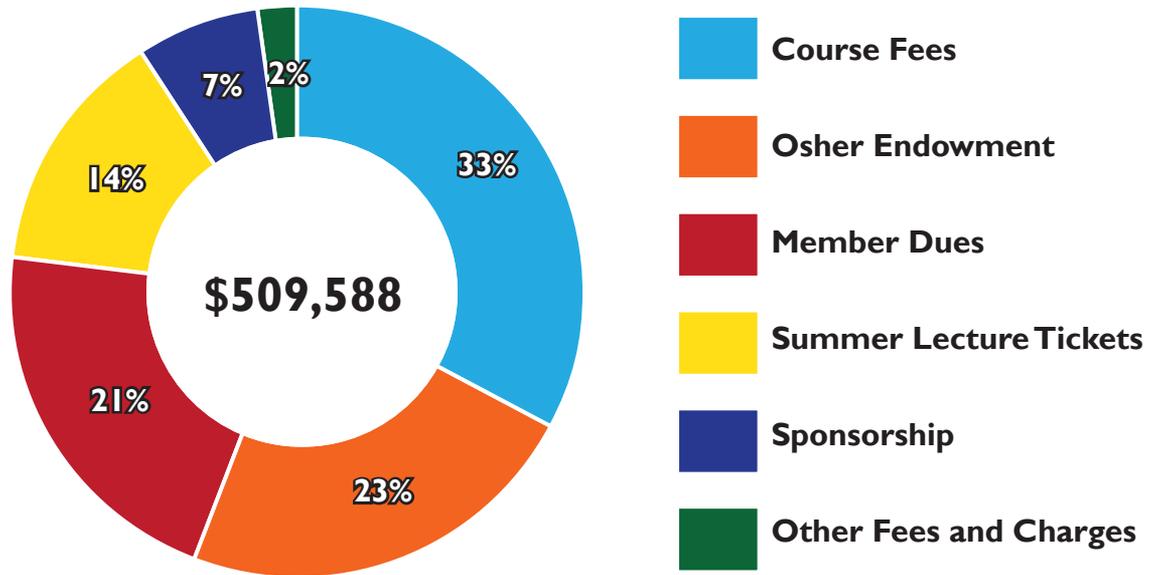


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Treasurer's Report (cont.)

**Revenue:**

OSHER@Dartmouth was on budget with \$509,588 in revenue in the fiscal year. Major contributors were fees from members for courses and distributions from the Osher endowment. Other major contributors were member dues and the sale of tickets for the summer lecture series. In addition, nine entities provided underwriting or sponsorship of our events. We are very grateful for this community support.



**Reserve Funds:**

Excess cash remaining at year-end from our general operations is transferred to an interest-bearing operating reserve account. We plan for a balance in revenue and expense at the end of each fiscal year. In fiscal year 2018 we had a positive cash surplus at year-end. This was possible in part as a result of applying \$8,440 of Osher endowment distributions carried forward from past years to offset certain eligible expenses. A cash excess of \$19,992, equivalent to 4% of total revenue, was transferred to the operating reserve. The Osher account (distributions carried forward from past years) finished the year at \$1,487.

Operating Reserve	\$225,698
Friends of Osher	\$72,397
Memorial Gifts	\$11,410
Osher Account	\$1,487

In addition to our operating reserve we have the Friends of Osher fund. Thanks to the great generosity of members we received \$36,343 in donations, a record for our annual appeal. We spent \$9,028 on new classroom equipment and for a preliminary architectural design of possible new office and classroom space. The Memorial Gifts fund received one donation; no funds were withdrawn.

- Iain S. Sim  
Treasurer and Chairman, Finance Committee



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## 2018 Fall Term September 5 - November 16

### Tech Café Dates

Need help with your laptop or mobile device? Have a question about registration or downloading course materials? Stop by and get answers!

- Thur., Sept. 27..... 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm
- Tues., Oct. 9..... 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
- Thur., Oct. 25..... 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm
- Tues., Nov. 6..... 9:30 am - 11:00 am
- Thur., Nov. 15..... 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

No appointment necessary. Sessions listed here take place at the DOC House, 10 Hilton Field Rd., Hanover.

### Lisa's Corner



### The Importance of Our Study Leaders

OSHER@Dartmouth offers a wide range of courses which fall under any number of categories, including history, science, watercolor, playing Mah Jongg, watching movies, and writing memoirs. We offer courses for all interests! We would not be able to offer such an appealing selection of courses without the hard work and dedication of our Study Leaders. In light of their importance, and based on the interest of members to know more about these vital volunteers, staff member Laura Belback recently launched a new addition to our website featuring OSHER@Dartmouth Study Leader Profiles. Please take a look by visiting [http://osher.dartmouth.edu/study\\_leaders/biographies/](http://osher.dartmouth.edu/study_leaders/biographies/). This new page includes Study Leader biographies, photos, and comments from members who have participated in one or more of that Study Leader's classes.

We are always striving to improve our programs by offering courses our members request. This requires promoting more courses and finding new Study Leaders. If you are interested in submitting a course proposal, please contact Lisa King at [lisa.l.king@dartmouth.edu](mailto:lisa.l.king@dartmouth.edu) or by calling 603-646-1054. The deadline for spring term proposals is November 1, 2018.

- Lisa King,  
Program Manager