



Fellows' Forum

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF PHILADELPHIA

College to Participate in Disaster Preparedness and Response Program

The College of Physicians has been selected to participate in the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts' Disaster Preparedness and Response program, funded by the William Penn Foundation.

The ultimate goal of the program is to complete a disaster preparedness and response plan tailored to the needs of the College. The Conservation Center (CCAHA) will assist College staff in the development and completion of a written plan for preventing and responding to disasters. Various sources of information will be provided to the College, including a disaster preparedness and response "yellow pages," technical leaflets, a list of CCAHA-trained local volunteers, subscription to the CCAHA 24-hour emergency hotline, and access to CCAHA on-site disaster supplies. Financial assistance will be available to purchase supplies to have on hand in the event of a disaster.

Disaster planning helps to minimize the effects of disasters such as fires, floods, and structural damage by ensuring prompt action and by creating a source of authority for the execution of emergency tasks and duties. A formal Risk Management Plan includes assessment of vulnerability, and planning for preventive measures as well as for appropriate responses to and recovery from disaster. The Plan will include all areas of the building: collections, computers, financial records, and staff and visitors. Participation in this program is especially opportune in light of proposed renovations to the building, as it will enable staff to work more effectively with construction personnel to provide efficiently for the completion of the renovations with minimal risk to collections and staff.

Key personnel involved in the planning process include Mütter Museum Collections Manager Lynn Brocklebank, who will act as Disaster Planning Coordinator; Marjorie Smink, Associate Librarian for Public Services; Kevin Crawford, Curator for Archives and Manuscripts; Leroy Green, Facilities Foreman; and Ray O'Donnell, Manager of Accounting and Information Systems. Additional staff will become involved as their expertise is needed.