Largely as a result of Richardson's sympathetic biography,⁸ Snow has often been portrayed as a kind of angelic savior who single-handedly rescued London from the scourges of cholera and brought anesthesiology out of the dark ages. Contemporary scholarship has done much to dim Snow's halo by revealing many of his shortcomings, including weaknesses or errors in some of his theories and methods. Nevertheless, most Snow researchers continue to recognize him as a significant medical pioneer.

One of the more balanced assessments of Snow's multiple legacies is summarized in the final chapter of the well-regarded book *Cholera, Chloroform and the Science of Medicine: A Life of John Snow*⁹ written by an interdisciplinary team of scholars from Michigan State University with contributions by a British anesthesiologist. Snow's most important legacy with regard to anesthesiology is perhaps bringing scientific principles to the emerging discipline, which, according to the authors, "guide inhalation anesthesia to the present day."⁹ Regarding epidemiology, the authors indicate that Snow's sound scientific approach "helped to pave the way for the great sanitary triumphs that massively reduced infectious disease mortality during the twentieth century."⁹

Though Snow has made many other contributions to medicine, these should be reasons enough to remember Snow on this sesquicentennial of his passing.

William A. Oleckno HSD

Distinguished Teaching Professor
Emeritus
School of Nursing and Health Studies
Public Health and Health Education
Programs
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Ill.

REFERENCES

1. UCLA Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health. *John Snow*. Los Angeles : The Department. Available: www.ph.ucla.edu/epi/snow.html (accessed 2008 Mar 24).
2. The John Snow Archive and Research Companion. Available: <http://matrix.msu.edu/~johnsnow/index.php> (accessed 2008 Mar 24).
3. Ramsey MAE. John Snow, MD: anesthetist to the Queen of England and pioneer epidemiologist. *Bay-*

lor University Medical Care Proceedings 2006;19:24-8. Available: www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/article-render.fcgi?artid=1325279 (accessed 2008 May 13).

4. Shephard DAE. John Snow and Research. *Can J Anaesth* 1989;36:224-41.
5. Paneth N. Assessing the contributions of John Snow to epidemiology: 150 years after removal of the Broad Street pump handle. *Epidemiology* 2004;15:514-6.
6. Oleckno WA. *Epidemiology: concepts and methods*. Long Grove (IL): Waveland Press; 2008.
7. Snow J. *On the mode of communication of*

cholera. 2nd ed. Available: www.deltaomega.org/snowfin.pdf (accessed 2008 Mar 28).

8. Brown PE. Another look at John Snow. *Anesth Analg* 1964;43:646-54.
9. Vinten-Johansen P, Brody H, Paneth N, et al. (with David Zuck). Snow's multiple legacies. In *Cholera, chloroform and the science of medicine: a life of John Snow*. New York: Oxford University Press; 2003.

Dr. Oleckno is the author of 2 textbooks on the fundamentals of epidemiology.

Lifeworks

Where art and genetics meet

From a leaping frog to a kaleidoscope swirl, the images submitted to a first annual digital art contest and e-exhibit were hugely varied, offering intriguing interpretations of the place where visual art and genetics meet (<http://genomealberta.ca/vote.aspx>).

In all, works from 25 artists worldwide were submitted to the contest, which was sponsored by Genome Alberta and Genome Canada, in conjunction

with the 2008 GE3LS International Symposium. More than 800 online viewers cast votes, with the final decision being made by a panel of 4 judges, including 3 academics in medicine and art, and a vice president from Genome Canada.

Four prizes were awarded: 3 for the main contest, and an additional Genome Canada Select Prize, which was limited to Canadian entries. — Barbara Sibbald, *CMAJ*

DOI:10.1503/cmaj.080806
Courtesy of Genome Alberta

Stuart Lanctôt Kinmond, *Genomics Unleashed* (2008). Digital image. The third prize (\$500) winner, from Ottawa, Ontario, explains: "In time, genetic science may enable us to remediate many problems: ill health, environmental threats, energy depletion, etc. It will also be used and abused, unleashing unimagined benefits and problems. *Genomics Unleashed* suggests the potential impact of this new science; from nucleotides to galaxies, all the universe may someday be affected and manipulated."

Courtesy of GenomeAlberta

Nirit Zer Evyatar, 26-6-06 (2008). The first prize (\$1000) winner is from Tel Aviv, Israel. She writes that the digital print is “created from a scan of my own and my partner’s chromosome test results. Made while I was pregnant, it portrays my future son’s imaginary genotype, while telling a story of a couple’s relationship, involving love, control, fear and ego.”

Courtesy of GenomeAlberta

Gilbert Croteau, *Genomosaic* (2008). Croteau of Montréal, Quebec, won both 2nd prize (\$500) and the Genome Canada Select Prize. He writes: “This photo mosaic is composed of hundreds of small photographs of plants forming a matrix of a larger photo of an orchid, *Acanthephippium papuanum*. Thus, the more you enlarge the mosaic the more you distinguish the individual plants (see inset), suggesting that there are common genes in the plant kingdom.”