Luminaries in Laboratory Medicine: Otto Folin

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To the Editor

My compliments on the idea and article, Luminaries in Laboratory Medicine: Otto Folin. I would love to see this series flourish. Per your request, some ideas for individuals (and their contribution to laboratory medicine) to profile in future Luminaries articles include: K. Mullis (PCR); Tiselius (electrophoresis); Kohler and Milstein (monoclonal antibodies); Guthrie (PKU test/screening); Petri (the Petri dish); R. Koch (many bacteriology techniques/advances); Folling (PKU work, ferric chloride screening test); Bordet (complement fixation/others); Wassermann (applications of complement fixation/first syphilis test); Papanicolaou (Pap smear); Landsteiner (ABO blood groups, Rh, and other serological work); Gram (the Gram stain); Kirby and Bauer (microbiological susceptibility testing); E. Abbé (Abbe condenser and the oil immersion lens); S. Berson and R. Yalow (radioimmunoassay method); and Bergey (author of Bergey’s Manual of Determinative Bacteriology).

I believe these are key individuals who have made seminal contributions to laboratory medicine. This is my “first pass” list of potential candidates and I will come up with others. I am a medical historian and antique medical book collector. I have the first edition/original works on all of the above named individuals and would love to contribute to your effort. I know the work of the above very well, have read extensively about them, and I am very familiar with their papers. If you need any of the above named individuals are worthy of a Luminaries article, let me know. As you know, several of these individuals have already been honored with a Nobel prize for their contributions to medicine or chemistry.

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Response From the Editor-in-Chief

Thank you for your kind comments about our new series in LABMEDICINE, Luminaries in Laboratory Medicine. Clearly, all of the individuals you cite are deserving of a Luminaries article, and I gladly accept your offer to write an article on any of these individuals. Please note that this issue of LABMEDICINE contains a Luminaries article on one of the individuals you cited, George Nicolas Papanicolaou. I hope that other readers who enjoyed the first Luminaries article as much as you, and share our interest in individuals who made a significant contribution in a particular subspecialty of laboratory medicine, will be equally as motivated to submit a manuscript to LABMEDICINE heralding the accomplishments of the individual whom they consider to be a pioneer and major contributor to their particular field of laboratory medicine.

If any of the readership would like to submit a manuscript to LABMEDICINE for consideration as a Luminaries article on one or more of the individuals indicated previously in Dr. Weiss’s letter, please use the Otto Folin article1 as a template (ie, similar word length, depth, and photo of the individual being recognized) for preparing your manuscript and submit it online at http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/labmed.

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