

The Bernard Becker Medical Library
in collaboration with the
Center for History Of Medicine
presents the

35th *Historia Medica*

Thursday, January 9, 2014, 4:30 pm*
Bernard Becker Medical Library, King Center, 7th floor

**“Race, Medicine, Authorship and the
‘Discovery’ of Sickle Cell Disease, 1910-1911”**
by Todd L. Savitt, Ph. D.



The first two case histories of sickle cell disease appeared in the medical literature within three months of each other in 1910 and 1911.

In an illustrated talk Savitt tells the very divergent stories of the first sickle-cell patients and their physicians against the backdrop of a racially divided America and of a highly competitive scientific community. We see how race and class affected the discovery of SCD and how credit for one discovery went to the senior physician in charge of the case and credit for the other discovery went to a senior medical student rather than to his attending. Savitt will also tell about his own “adventures” in tracking down the identities and backgrounds of these first two SCD patients.

Dr. Savitt is a medical historian focused on African-American medical history. He has authored books and articles on topics such as: the health of slaves; use of African-Americans for medical experimentation; and, the entry of black physicians into the American medical profession. He teaches at The Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University.

* Reception to follow; free and open to the public.