



53RD HISTORIA MEDICA ON THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF FRANKENSTEIN

FRANKENSTEIN, THE VITAL FORCE, AND ELECTRICITY

October 6 (Thurs.)
 4:30-6:00 p.m.
 King Center (7th floor,
 Becker Medical
 Library)
 Sponsored by
 the Center
 for the History Of
 Medicine, The
 Program in Medical
 Humanities, and
 The 18th-Century
 Interdisciplinary
 Salon

In 1816, 18-year-old Mary Shelley took up Lord Byron's challenge to his friends vacationing on Lake Geneva to see who could write the best ghost story. She triumphed with her book, *Frankenstein: or the Modern Prometheus*, which would become the defining creation myth and horror story of the Modern Era.

Underlying her gruesome tale was the burgeoning science and promise of medical electricity. Our two esteemed scholars will examine how advances in electricity and the search for the life force formed the background for Mary Shelley's masterpiece of gothic horror.

Stanley Finger, PhD
 Professor Emeritus of Psychological and Brain Sciences, Washington University
On the Science Behind Frankenstein

Paola Bertucci, DPhil
 Associate Professor of History and the History of Medicine, Yale University
The Spark of Life: Electrical Experiments and the Human Body Before Frankenstein