

Timeline of Sentinel Events

1993 1994 Collated collected poems to publish

1995 After not finding a publisher, I learned HTML programming and put poetry on a web site. Called program “Hygeia” after the Greek Goddess of Health and Healing.ⁱ

1996 After seeing how the Internet enabled this program to reach in kind families throughout the world, I became interested in access issues and the *digital divide*ⁱⁱ. I incorporated the Hygeia Foundation, Inc. as a 501-c-3 non profit organization, obtained a U.S. Trademark for the use of *Hygeia* in this capacity and directed the mission of the Hygeia Foundation to narrow the digital divide by placing Internet Kiosks in medically underserved communities to provide access to the stories and poems on Hygeia.

1997 Several Kiosks were placed in service, the first being at the Women’s Center, Yale-New Haven Hospital. A media event and press conference was held as this was the first use of Kiosk/Internet Technology for this purpose.ⁱⁱⁱ

1997 Article appeared in Connecticut Section of New York Times and was picked up by Editor at Greenwood Publishing Group. Greenwood interested in having me write a book.

2001 Parenthood Lost^{iv} Published; Multiple high profile interviews CBS, ABC, Discovery Channel, and ultimately NBC Today Show.

2002 Finalist Stockholm Challenge-An International Competition for Web-based initiatives that are concerned with narrowing the Digital Divide.

2003

- a. Finalist Stockholm Challenge-An International Competition for Web-based initiatives that are concerned with narrowing the Digital Divide. Developed concept for “Get...Care” based on the idea that I wanted my work not only to help families receive information, solace and comfort when their babies die, but to function proactively to influence maternal and child health and work to prevent pregnancy losses and complications by facilitating access to healthcare facilities for vulnerable, disenfranchised and medically indigent families.^v
- b. Presentation made to NEXT Business Forum-New Haven
- c. Invited to present the “Get...Care” program (Get the Healthcare you Deserve”) at the World Congress on the Internet in Medicine-Health on the Net Foundation-in Geneva, Switzerland, December, 2003.

2004

- a. “Get...Care” program introduced to New Haven. Yale-New Haven Hospital becomes 1st. Hygeia Affiliated Institution to License the program. Hygeia Passbooks distributed to:
 - i. Fair Haven Health Center and local Merchants

- ii. Planned Parenthood New Haven
- iii. School Based Health Centers-High Schools
- iv. Apt Foundation, New Haven
- v. New Haven Library-Pending
- vi. Shop Rite West Haven-Pending
- vii. Domestic Violence Centers-Pending
- b. Contacts made with Yvonne Freeman and Ronnie Lowenstein^{vi} SECME; The Education Technology Think Tank; Ministry of Health-Bahama's
- c. Dr. Berman elected to Board of Directors of First-Candle/SIDS Alliance
- d. Hygeia becomes founding member of International Stillbirth Alliance
- e. Dr. Berman on Steering Committee of First International Congress on Still Birth, September, 2005, which will bring families, health professionals and researchers from around the world together in one forum to share knowledge and experiences.
- f. Department of Health and FIMR organize Fund Raising Event for Hygeia to help low income families bury and memorialize children
- g. Hygeia introduces 2 programs to educate health professionals:
 - i. ***Seminars in Perinatal Loss and Bereavement***-developed for the Ob-Gyn Residents, Medical Students and Support Staff at Yale-New Haven Hospital in the management of Perinatal Loss, but now to be expanded to all who care for patients who have died or are critically ill.
 - ii. ***The Ephemeris Project***-(<http://ephemerisproject.com>) to promote and provide a venue of introspection and self-expression among medical students, physicians, and other healthcare professionals to better serve them to participate in effective and compassionate care of their patients. Presentation made to Yale Medical School Clinical Clerkship meeting(Dr. Herbert Chase and Peggyt Bia) and to House Staff Residency Committee(Dr. Rosemarie Fisher)-both considered a worthwhile program and we will be working together to incorporate this into curriculum.

2005

- h. Dr. Berman presents Ephemeric Project at MedNet, 2005, Prague.

2006

- i. Dr. Berman presents work at International SIDS Conference, Yokohama, Japan, June, 2006
- j. Ten Connecticut parents, committed to advancing the mission of Hygeia begin working with Dr. Berman on development of business plan.
- k. 2006 First major Fundraiser to establish Office and Headquarters
- l. June, 2006 Hygeia Foundation moves into Office in New Haven
- m. March, 2007 Parent Board members become Certified Bereavement Counselors
- n. March, 2007 Second Major Fund Raiser-Proceeds to be used to implement programs of Perinatal Bereavement support and education



o. Article in Hartford Courant and Dr. Berman:

<http://www.courant.com/business/hcunwind0401.artapr01.0,3234311.story?page=3&coll=hc-headlines-business>

ⁱ Hygeia is cited in the Hippocratic Oath : "I swear by Apollo the physician and Æsculapius, and Hygeia..."

¹ The digital divide is the gap in making use of opportunities available from the digital revolution due to insufficient access, capacity, and content. People are social creatures and society is a network of social relationships. Humanity is a complex system that throughout history has evolved as a networked, knowledgeable society. We must use the tools of Information Management for sustainable development in all its dimensions to ensure social cohesion, economic growth and sustainability and environmental compatibility. We thus must remain very attentive to the digital divide. Yet disparities occur and these disparities may mirror one another in both health care access and access to digital technologies; i.e. the Internet

ⁱⁱⁱ New Haven Register, Connecticut Post, WTNH, WFSB

^{iv} Parenthood Lost

Healing the Pain after Miscarriage, Stillbirth, and Infant Death

Written and Edited by Michael R. Berman, M.D.

Bergin & Garvey Trade. Westport, Conn. 2000. 224 pages

LC 00-029257. ISBN 0-89789-614-9. H614 \$24.95

^v "Founded as a program to comfort families who have endured the tragic loss of a child, what Hygeia® is now about is to use the knowledge and experience, influence, status, responsibility and intellectual property that is the M.D. Degree to help women in need and their families find and obtain basic Maternal and Child Healthcare, support, comfort, and hope. When applied in synergy with the power of the Internet so as to establish and maintain global, in-kind caring communities (of which thousands now belong at Hygeia), there develops a sense of "belonging" to those in need with which can come respect, dignity and self esteem further improving, I surmise, well being and health."

^{vi} <http://www.secme.org>; <http://www.et3online.org/>