

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
WESTERN RESERVE STUDIES SYMPOSIUM

## BUILDING A MEDICAL COMMUNITY IN THE WESTERN RESERVE

October 12-13 2001

Allen Memorial Medical Library  
Ford Auditorium

### The Art and Science of Medicine: A Humanities Approach

David R. Anderson

In ancient Pergamum in western Asia Minor (today Bergama in Turkey) there was an exquisitely beautiful Asclepium devoted to the cult of healing. Though now in ruins, the archaeological remains of this famous medical center speak eloquently, if silently of a tradition of medical care that existed from the fourth century B.C.E. Modern tourists are ushered, as once patients were carefully led, down a long tunnel, the ceiling of which has openings through which calming and soothing words were whispered to those seeking care and restoration to health.

Pergamum serves us today as an analogy of one of the important directions which medical care in northeast Ohio has taken for the past decade. Directed by Professor Carol Donley of Hiram College and Professor Martin Kohn of the North East Ohio Universities College of Medicine, The Center for Literature, Medicine and the Health Care Professions, housed in a historic Greek Revival house on the Hiram College campus, has sought to bridge the historic gap, traced by C.P. Snow in his book *The Two Cultures* nearly fifty years ago, between science and the humanities. They have accomplished this through a series of important seminars and publications which address ways in which the insights of literature and the arts can be used to aid in the understanding and healing of illness.