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32 George Street, Kingston ON | [museum@kgh.kari.net](mailto:museum@kgh.kari.net) | (613) 548-2419

For Immediate Release  
October 25, 2012

**“Half gods, good Surgeons may be called”  
Free public lecture at Museum of Health Care**

(KINGSTON, Ont.) –Samantha Sandassie will describe her research on early modern surgery at a free public lecture presented by the Museum of Health Care, November 14, 2012 at 7:00pm at the Museum of Health Care, 32 George St. Q&A and refreshments will follow.

Samantha Sandassie will explore the process of surgical professionalization over the course of the 17th century in England. Using sources as diverse as guild records and prose fiction, Sandassie’s talk will focus on the ways surgeons sought to increase their occupational and social credit. It will illuminate ways in which surgeons crafted carefully their professional identity and carved out their niche in medical practice.

“Early modern medicine - and especially surgery - did not enjoy the cachet it does today,” says Sandassie. “Indeed, historians have stated that it was probably healthier to avoid seeking medical care than submit oneself to the 17th century surgeons’ ministrations. Yet, it is surgery’s growth in this period that laid the foundations for its present prestige.” she adds.

Samantha Sandassie is a doctoral candidate in the Department of History at Queen’s University. Her research interests range broadly from environmental to medical history, but her main focus of study is the history of surgery in early modern England.

Other Museum of Health Care programs this autumn include “A Healthy Dose of Horror” with Dr. Greg Baran on October 27th held at the Museum (32 George St.), and the launch of our newest online exhibit “Fighting for Breath: Stopping the TB Epidemic,” December 6, 7pm at the Museum (32 George St).

More information about Museum of Health Care programs and events can be found at [www.museumofhealthcare.ca](http://www.museumofhealthcare.ca).

**Event title:** “Half gods, good Surgeons may be called”

**Location:** Museum of Health Care at Kingston, 32 George St.

**Date & Time:** Wednesday, November 14, 2012, 7-9pm

**Cost:** Free admission

**Contact:** Phone at 613-548-2419 or e-mail [museum@kgh.kari.net](mailto:museum@kgh.kari.net)

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**Contact:** Jenny Stepa, Museum Manager and Program Director or Diana Gore, Communications and Finance Coordinator

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