

## CENTRE FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE SEMINAR SERIES 2012-2013

Tuesday, 23 April 2013 (Week 1)  
5.00 pm – Ramphal Building Room R.014



**Professor Mark Jackson  
(University of Exeter)**

***'Marian Dale Scott, Hans Selye and the biochemistry of life'***

On 26 June 1943, the Canadian artist Marian Dale Scott (1906-93) formally unveiled a mural that she had painted on the walls of a newly created conference and reading room in the Department of Histology at McGill University. Measuring 12 by 16 feet and entitled 'Endocrinology', the mural represented the culmination of an intense two-year collaboration between Scott and Hans Selye (1907-82), during which time Scott had immersed herself in the anatomical, histological and biochemical contours of clinical endocrinology and acquainted herself with the principal motifs of scientific investigation. Historically, the painting's significance extends beyond the merely local; it also encapsulates the aspirations, as well as the anxieties, of a generation of researchers interested in tracing the chemical pathways involved in physiological reactions to the stress of life, highlights points of articulation between the laboratory and the clinic, and testifies to the evolving inter-penetration of scientific and popular understandings of stress and disease. This paper will analyse and contextualise the mural.



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