German Influences on Wellness, Health, and Pharmaceuticals in America

October 29–30, 2026

Memorial Library, Room 126, 728 State Street, Madison
and live streamed

PROGRAM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.
Welcome

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Patrick Donmoyer, Director, Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center, Kutztown University
Die Braucherei*: Ritual Healing Traditions Among the Pennsylvania Dutch*

10:45 –11:45 a.m.
Rae Blanchard, Project Archivist, Drexel University College of Medicine Legacy Center
Constantine Hering, MD: German Immigrants and the Impact of Homeopathic Medicine in the United States

LUNCH

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Melanie Lorenz, PhD, Independent Scholar, Basel, Switzerland
The German American Midwife: Transplanting Paraprofessional Midwifery to Nineteenth-Century St. Louis

2:15 – 3:15 p.m.
Katie Williams, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Division of Genetics and Metabolism, University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Medicine and Public Health; La Farge Medical Clinic/Center for Special Children
Serving Families from the Plain Communities

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Alison Efford, Associate Professor of History, Marquette University
Training Future Mothers: Turners and Girls' Physical Education in the Late Nineteenth-Century United States

10:15 – 11:15 a.m.
Scott Anderson, PhD, Lecturer, Department of Dance, University of Wisconsin–Madison *Contrology and Culture: How German Ideas About the Body Shaped Joe Pilates — and American Wellbeing*

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Annette Hofmann, Professor of Sports Studies, Ludwigsburg University of Education (Germany)
Hydrotherapy, Naturopathy and Physical Activity: Benedikt Lust and the Transfer of Kneippism from Germany to the U.S.

LUNCH

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
Gregory J. Higby, PhD, Senior Academic Curator, American Institute of the History of Pharmacy, University of Wisconsin–Madison
Louis Lotz, Edward Kremers, and the German Apothecary Tradition in Wisconsin

2:45 – 3:45 p.m.
Mark L. Louden, Professor of Germanic Linguistics, University of Wisconsin–Madison
Max Kade and the Story of Pertussin

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Exhibit and Tour of the Max Kade Institute Library
432 East Campus Mall, Madison

The symposium has been made possible thanks to generous support by the **Max Kade Foundation, New York**. It is cosponsored by the **American Institute of the History of Pharmacy;** the **Department of German, Nordic, Slavic+ at the University of Wisconsin–Madison**; and by the **Friends of the Max Kade Institute**.