Irish, pauper patients and the American maternity hospital, 1860-1913

featuring Ciara Breathnach, Ph.D.
Lecturer in History, University of Limerick, Ireland
2013-2014 Women in Medicine Fellow

Wednesday, May 7, 2014, 4:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.
Lahey Room, Countway Library
Harvard Medical School
10 Shattuck Street, Boston, MA

Refreshments Provided
Please RSVP to ContactCHoM@hms.harvard.edu

About this lecture: Women in Medicine Fellow, Dr. Ciara Breathnach, will discuss her research using the archives of the New England Hospital for Women and Children (established 1862), held at the Countway Library’s Center for the History of Medicine.

Dr. Breathnach is a Lecturer in the Department of History at the University of Limerick, Ireland, and has published on Irish socio-economic and health histories in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Breathnach’s research focuses on how the poor experienced, engaged with and negotiated medical services in Ireland and in North America from 1860-1912. It builds on her wider studies on the family unit and the social history of medicine in Ireland and will help to advance her hypothesis that the rural Irish female was slow to medicalize, not only for socio-economic reasons, but also for reasons of personal agency. Using evidence from archival records, her research aims to show that Irish women continued to present as a problematic group long after the ethnic associations with cholera and typhoid outbreaks of earlier decades had dissipated.

For more information, visit the Center for the History of Medicine’s Blog: