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INTRODUCTION

R. VAN HEE
VESALIUS EDITOR-IN CHIEF

It is with great pleasure that I welcome the online publication of this Special Issue of '*Vesalius. Acta Internationalia Historiae Medicinae*'.

The Congress Vice-President, Maria do Sameiro Barroso, has done an enormous job in collecting some of the best papers of the Congress into a volume, which touches on various aspects of the history of Portuguese and World medicine.

The result is an icon for Portuguese medical health practitioners, and for the medical-historical community at large.

The reader will find subjects ranging from diagnoses of diseases to medical or surgical treatment along with medical assistance, patient care in the hospital context, bringing up the diaspora of health practitioners and travel advice. Moreover, interesting aspects of medical-historical education and medical art are discussed. Not the least do important Portuguese physicians and surgeons attract particular attention.

The result is a widespread but coherent overview of subjects, covering not only Portuguese but also international medical care.

As editor of *Vesalius*, I am proud that this volume will be distributed to all members of the *International Society for the History of Medicine* and will be available for other historians with interest in Portugal-related medicine.

OPEN CEREMONY SPEECH

GERMANO DE SOUSA
PRESIDENT OF THE 46TH ISHM CONGRESS

- Your Excellency the President of the Portuguese Republic
- Distinguished Minister of Health
- Distinguished President of the Portuguese Medical Association
- Distinguished Chairman of the Scientific Board of this Medical School
- Dear Colleague Dr. Carlos Viesca, Illustrious President of the ISHM
- Distinguished guests
- Dears Colleagues
- Ladies and Gentlemen

In the name of the Organizing Committee of this Congress and as his President, I sincerely thank the high patronage and presence of His Excellency the President of the Portuguese Republic, Professor Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, at the opening session of this Congress, which honours this act in a special and superior way, and represents a fundamental stimulus to us.

As a man of culture, no one better than you, Sir, understands the importance of these historical matters to the present and future of Medicine and health care professions. I am confident Sir, that your presence means support, allow me to say, in drawing due attention to the historians of Medicine and related health professions whose functions and importance are so often poorly understood.

Thank you so much.

I thank the presence of our Minister of Health, Professor Adalberto Fernandes. His keen interest in the History of Medicine and Health, in general, has recently been well demonstrated by the fundamental support he gave to the National Health Museum with his kind help and will, surpassing the various vicissitudes that always impeded its development.

Thank you, Minister.

I also thank the presence of my colleague Dr Miguel Guimarães in his capacity as President of all Portuguese Doctors. His support honours this Congress.

Professor Miguel Xavier, President of the Scientific Board of this Faculty of Medical Sciences, thank you for hosting us in this School and this space, one and another so full of references to World History of Medicine.

Dear Dr Carlos Viesca, illustrious President of the International Society for the History of Medicine, I thank you for choosing our country for this 46th ISHM Congress.

I hope this meeting fulfils the high quality of the previous Congresses of the Society over which you preside.

Distinguished Guests, thank you for your kind presence.

Dear fellows

Ladies and Gentlemen

This Congress is an affirmation of a moral and cultural obligation: to preserve the History of Medicine and health professions, the history of the art of healing and preventing health, this "Ars Longa" made profession by Hippocrates 2500 years ago. Furthermore, it is an honour for the Organizing Committee and me, that the 46th Congress of the International Society for the History of Medicine takes place in Portugal, precisely the country where five centuries ago, in giving new Worlds to the World, the Discoveries came up with news of never known phenomena, American or Asian flora and fauna and diseases never known before.

The Discoveries allowed Garcia de Orta, a great physician of the Renaissance who practised medicine in Portuguese India to write the Colloquium of the Simple, a treatise on Botany and Medical Matter in which he corrected inaccurate information conveyed by classic authors of antiquity who wrote about the subject, facing the errors that were copied and perpetuated blindly by doctors and medical school across Europe up to that time.

"Do not frighten me with Dioscorides or Galen, for I will say no more than truth and what I know," wrote Orta, reporting what he saw and experienced, unequivocally affirming the primacy of experimentalism for the first time in medical history. After Orta the spirit of experimentalism was gradually imposed throughout Europe, and was followed by many of the most renowned and enlightened Portuguese Jewish physicians who had to face religious persecutions which led them into European exile. However, as all of you will see in your free time, Portugal is not only or even principally history. It is a modern and progressive country, with warm and kind people, worth to be known better.

So, on my behalf and of the Organizing Committee, I warmly welcome all the colleagues and other attendants of this Congress, especially those who came from other countries, hoping that you much enjoy this Congress, wishing all of you a wonderful stay in Portugal and this beautiful town of Lisbon.

Thank you.

THE 46TH ISHM CONGRESS - LISBON: ISLANDS OF VIVID MEMORIES

MARIA DO SAMEIRO BARROSO
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE 46TH ISHM CONGRESS

From 3-7 September 2018, the Lisbon Nova Medica School was on the top of the world of History of Medicine, welcoming prominent researchers for a unique exchange of ideas, knowledge and experience.

Lisbon, founded and named by Ulysses as Ulissipo or Olissipo, according to an ancient legend, still carries traces from both indigenous and Roman healing cults and from the appeasing and healing hand of Aesculapius, among vestiges of Jewish and Arabic settlements. Still exhaling its glory as capital of a great maritime empire, leading the trade of Eastern products and exotic *materia medica* at the Age of Discoveries, Lisbon shared its emblematic places and warm hospitality with the bountiful supplies of lecturers and delegates from all over the world.

Delegates from the following 35 countries conveyed their fruitful insights, diversity and expertise: Argentina, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, China, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Marocco, Mexico, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, UK and USA, bringing together a multi-string dialogue of innovative research assessing and revitalizing forgotten or still vivid and inspiring memories of outstanding people and themes in the History of Portuguese and worldwide Medicine.

In the first part of his speech delivered in Portuguese, the President of the Congress put forward the founding lines and framework of this noteworthy international meeting:

“The deepening of the so-called “small history”, meaning the history of everyday life, the history of a science or of a particular sector of society makes the great History more noticeable and clarified. As Auguste Comte stated in his *Cours de Philosophie Positive*, “you do not get into knowing a science completely until you come up to its history”.

These are some of the reasons for this 46th Congress of the International Society for the History of Medicine, which aims to deepen and reinforce knowledge in all areas comprising the history of medicine, health and related professions.

Therefore, in the programme plenary and keynote lectures, free communications and posters do figure covering the most varied aspects concerning numerous countries and continents with particular emphasis to themes in the History of Portuguese Medicine and Health. So, as you can see, from Garcia da Orta to Egas Moniz, many and several are the Portuguese themes and figures covered in the vast program that will be filling the five days of our

meeting, which I hope you will appreciate with interest.

The Congress included a Round Table on History of Nephrology, a joint organization with the International Society of the History Nephrology (ISHN) coordinated by Athanasius Diamandopoulos, past President of the ISHM, and a Round Table on Portuguese Tropical Medicine, coordinated by Isabel Amaral.

The selection of presentations for these Proceedings was not an easy task, which we tried to resolve by inviting the authors from plenary, keynote lectures and requesting chairpersons of round tables, oral presentations and posters to evaluate the quality of the presentations.

From 249 received abstracts, 189 in total were presented, and from the selected, 21 have been accepted to this volume.

The topics range from *Materia medica*, History of Surgical Instruments, Portuguese Jewish medicine, Epidemics, Medicine, Art and Religion, Medical Assistance, Toxicology, Great Medical Personalities, Arabic Medicine, History of Nephrology, Portuguese Tropical Medicine and Teaching of History of Medicine.

The first essay by Carlos Viesca and Mariablanca Ramos de Viesca goes straight to one of the most relevant topics raised by a Congress taking place in Lisbon. Putting forward the two physicians that mediated the first contact with the *materia medica* brought from the East and Western Indies, brought together the discovery of new worlds and the commerce set forward by Portugal and Spain, the two great maritime powers of the time: Garcia de Orta (c.1501-1568) and Nicholas Monardes (1515-1594), curiously noting that both physicians had also dedicated to the commerce of exotic medical substances.

Moving to the end of the Age of Discovery, Maria do Sameiro Barroso presented the most emblematic creation of Jesuit Portuguese exotic pharmacy: the Goa Stone. Going deep into the myths surrounding the most respectful and expensive medical therapeutic *mirabilia*, Barroso brought up a new view. By analyzing the ingredients in the light of current chemical knowledge, thus shedding an accurate light on their composition and possible therapeutic effects, she contextualized the creation of this marvellous artificial stone in the framework of the mythic, magical, empirical knowledge of the time.

Asparagus the diuretic, a renal ambassador from Greece to Iberia, also attractively framed in travelling and *materia medica*, was presented by Athanasius Diamandopoulos, focusing on its use as food and medicine, bringing up Iberian traits, thoroughly analysing mythical, historical, therapeutic and artistic aspects.

The history of surgical instruments highlighted by the Portuguese tools and ancient books from the library of the Museum of History of Medicine Maximiano Lemos in Oporto was delivered by the Museum Director, Amelia Ricon Ferraz, honouring prominent figures of Portuguese History of Medicine, such as the medical historian Maximiano Lemos, the patron of the Museum.

From a different perspective regarding the Portuguese medical historians when viewing the Jewish medical diaspora, Kenneth Collins presented a thorough overview

of the persecution of the Portuguese Jew physicians compelled to fly to Goa and European cities after the establishment of the Inquisition in 1479, and the flourishing of Portuguese medical culture out in Salonica, Amsterdam and London. Art and anatomy, closely intertwined, mainly since Vesalius, was a fascinating topic presented by Laura and Alfredo Musajo-Somma. By bringing together innovative material, a Christ anatomical wax model, the authors framed *ceroplastica* (wax model) tradition in Italy and religious relics, overviewing a whole set of models used as devotional bodies, fortifying faith.

Martins e Silva brought up a prominent figure of Portuguese Public Health, Ricardo Jorge (1858-1939), Municipal doctor in Oporto dealing with an outbreak of bubonic plague. He diagnosed the condition and isolated *Yersinia pestis* in the lab but he had to face public misunderstanding of the correct public health measures he implemented. The inhabitants, and in particular, the trade and industry associations of Oporto were more concerned with the economic consequences of the blockade than with the course and spread of the epidemic. Ricardo Jorge had to flee to Lisbon where his name figures in the most important Portuguese Public Health institution, the National Health Institute Doutor Ricardo Jorge.

Challenging diagnosis were also attractive topics, presented at the Lisbon Congress. Davide Viggiano et al. brought up the history of the discovery of primary oxaluria, a rare hereditary condition of the metabolism, characterized by damage of the kidneys (kidney stones) and the eyes (retinal oxalosis), identified after the discovery of oxalic acid in the 17th century to which Portuguese and Spanish researchers contributed.

Federica Rotelli fully overviewed the importance of exotic plants in European botany in Italian pharmacological collections from the eighteenth century related to the University of Bologna, a leading medical school since the Middle Ages. She also focused on the dangers and challenges when using new and unknown substances requiring new expertise, challenging the Hippocratic-Galenic model of humourism.

Travelling has inspired an interesting approach. Zsuzsanna Csorba presented a little-known facet of health guides for travellers in the medieval Islamic, putting forward relevant information from the time in the advice given to travellers.

The emergency of Toxicology and Forensic Science along with the incapability to provide accurate laboratory methods of identifying poisons was pointed out by Claire Cage. Poisons, such as arsenic, cause symptoms that may resemble natural diseases, as was the case. That was the reason why arsenic was largely employed.

Identification of diseases in art is a form of retrospective diagnosis, enabling the perception of diseases when unknown to doctors, which was the case of a dwarf from ancient Egypt displaying signs of Pott disease, presented by Veronica Papa et al.

To rescue Professor António da Silva Pereira from oblivion, Catarina Janeiro presented the master of neurovascular diseases, nominated to the Nobel Prize, and creator of the current portography method, calling the attention to his remarkable contribution to the first angiograms.

Sinziana Ionescu brought up Dr Sophia Ionescu, the first neurosurgeon in Romania, famous from her skill, bringing innovations especially in the fields of spine and brain surgery.

Medical doctors committed to political and social causes are not infrequent. Carmen Perez Aguado et al. presented the remarkable case of Walter B. Cannon, eminent Professor of Physiology, living in the USA, who supported the Spanish Democracy during the Spanish Civil War and after.

In Spanish colonial Argentina, the role of medical assistance provided by religious institutions was the choice of Jaime Elías Bortz et al., surveying the Hospitable Brothers of Saint John of God who also lead hospitals in Portugal and Spain but made invisible in Argentina in colonial time.

Tropical medicine as an emerging field during the Portuguese colonial empire was presented by Isabel Amaral, closely surveying the history and internationalization of the School of Tropical Medicine created in Lisbon, pointing to the contribution of generations of prestigious researchers.

The last four chapters present interesting reports on Portuguese History of Medicine and Teaching of History of Medicine. Disclosing prominent medical personalities was the choice of Rui Carvalho and Hugo Rodrigues, bringing forward an overview of Dr Cunha Bellem, Army Chief Surgeon in the final 19th-century, establishing Tactical Medic Training and Simulation, as adopted in other European countries.

Medical assistance in the context of religious institutions was the subject chosen by António Miguel Santos by studying the archive of the Brotherhood dos Clérigos in Oporto, underlining its charitable traits and providing medical care, hiring the best physicians of the time, held in great esteem and honour.

Finally, Tatiana Sorokina presented the implementation of Teaching of History of Medicine in Moscow, creating a fruitful interchange with other European universities and writing guide books, and N. Papavramidou et al. presented the creation of a first joint programme of History of Medicine in an initial cooperative programme with students of Anthropology.

We hope these essays are inspiring, leaving insights for further studies, and that the last two chapters boost the implementation of the Teaching of History of Medicine in Medical Faculties all over the world. Such topics will be particularly welcome in upcoming congresses.