

Editorial

The first forms of prevention against smallpox in Europe in the 18th century, blood transfusions during military services, the story of Jewish doctors expelled during Nazism, paleopathological collections and how to preserve them at museum level are just some of the topics discussed in this issue of *Medicina Historica*.

We see a strong interest in the history of medicine from the 18th to the 20th century and above all we observe how interested the authors are in recounting unpublished aspects through specialist archival research that could really give a lot back to the historical-medical scientific community.

For example, the story of the conditions of workers in the plantations in East Sumatra between the end of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century allows us to observe and understand the efforts and curative and preventive actions introduced at that time with the aim also of eradicating infectious diseases. Of particular interest is the story recovered in the archives of the Vienna medical college which tells of the Jewish doctor Karl Moriz Menzel, hunted by the Nazi militias like many other doctors of the time, forced to abandon the place where they practiced their profession.

Not only from archival research but also from museums it is possible to investigate the pathologies in the past and in this regard the presentation of the pathological collections from the Museum of the University of Chieti offers a very interesting picture of how the display of human finds, but even animals and plants, with particular pathological signs can offer very interesting points for understanding the evolution of some pathologies in past centuries.

Even bioethics collects interesting contributions and in particular a highly topical issue, artificial intelligence and its implications about surrogacy.

Among the discussions, a topic that has always been debated in the scientific medical field, that is a logical and rational order on the association with causality, from the philosophical origin of the current Hill criteria up to the most recent discussions.

A specific piece of interesting research is one that examines how knowledge of variolation was mediated on its way to European medicine. The authors suggest that diplomats, travelers with direct experience of variolation, have contributed to the spread of this practice. They reread well-known cases such as Lady Mary Wortley Montagu and Ambassador Robert Sutton's secretary, John Hefferman. The authors also underline the importance of academic networks of the time: medical publications and early scientific journals such as *Philosophical Transactions*, *Ephemerides Academiae Leopoldinae* and *Wrocławian Sammlung von Natur-Geschichten*. They also add to the role of migrants who came to Europe as healers, traders or converts, who offered inoculations or were themselves inoculated.

These and many other topics are covered in this issue and we are very proud to see that much research comes from far away. We hope that our dissemination tool will continue to welcome articles that allow us to broaden international comparison in the field of historical medical, paleopathological and bioethical research.

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