

Editorial

In the transition from the ancient wisdom of traditional medicine to the exciting universe of artificial intelligence, *Medicina Historica* aims to embark, in this new issue, on a journey through the epochs and challenges that have shaped our approach to healthcare, sparking profound reflections.

Also in this issue, the history of medicine is told through the biographies of professionals who made significant contributions to medicine. The figure of Cesare Magati (1579-1647) is presented by highlighting his revolutionary contribution in wound care. The analysis of the epistolary documents between Magati and his mentor, Flaminio Rota (155-1611), provides an intimate insight into these enlightened minds of the past.

The aim of *Medicina Historica* is to present unpublished stories that come from unexplored archives, as in the case extracted from the private collection of Enrico Rosmini in Milan. An illuminating discovery has emerged from the private collection of Enrico Rosmini in Milan: the “Rovatti” dossier, full of correspondence from the Pio Istituto dei Rachitici, which sheds light on the treatments intended for children suffering from skeletal deformities during a crucial period of transition towards a modern medical practice.

An intriguing narrative of the 19th century comes from Venezuela. José María Vargas is presented not only for the contribution he made to Venezuelan medicine but also for his political commitment to humanitarian causes.

And with other unpublished documents the figure of Ernesto Cacace (Naples, 1945), founder of Nipiology, has been presented by illustrating the contributions in the field of medicine.

Today, like yesterday, medicine is also characterized by apparently distant positions but which in reality agree in highlighting the demand for reliability of medical care.

In this issue on the one hand, we read the strategies of the Thinnun Nabawi medicine, or the medicine based on Islam, which consider crucial the faith and therapy to achieve holistic health and which is characterized by herbal remedies.

On the other hand, the association between treatment and artificial intelligence is analyzed and in particular the machine learning tools for medicine which aim to guarantee increasingly personalized and effective therapeutic responses.

But we must not forget how much our health is first and foremost conditioned by the surrounding environment. Our gaze today goes towards the island of Nias thanks to the contribution of Professor Junaidi who shows the direct connection with the marshy climate of the island and the spread of skin diseases, various endemic diseases, such as smallpox, cholera and dysentery. These conditions caused an increase in population mortality on the island of Nias during the 19th century.

The themes covered in this issue allow us to understand how complex the history of treatments is and how much we still have to recover from the study of unexplored historical medical archives and from the comparison of knowledge so distant in time and space. Finally, the spontaneous question arises as to whether artificial intelligence and the transfer of acquired medical scientific knowledge can contribute to keeping alive that particular human intuition, born from experience and geared towards discovery, in the medicine of tomorrow.

Marta Licata
Editor in Chief