



FIRST FACULTY
OF MEDICINE
Charles University



PARIS
LODRON
UNIVERSITÄT
SALZBURG

International Symposium

**PREHISTORIC, ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL MEDICINE: NEW
PERSPECTIVES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE
TWENTY FIRST CENTURY**

21st – 24th September 2022

Institute for History of Medicine and Foreign Languages
First Faculty of Medicine
Charles University
Prague, Czech Republic

**CALL FOR PAPERS
FIRST CIRCULAR**

This interdisciplinary symposium, the sixth in the series of collaborations and originally planned to be held in September 2020, aims to bring together scholars of different disciplines and specialisations who are interested in various aspects of medicine in the prehistoric, ancient, and medieval world as broadly defined. Participants are encouraged to present a wide spectre of papers from new research projects, both from the field and laboratory-based, together with more theoretical and/or methodological approaches, as well as new methods and their applications. Interdisciplinary topics are especially welcomed. Discussion will be led by three invited keynote speakers.

AIM OF THE SYMPOSIUM:

The last few decades have brought new advances in scientific methods and possibilities of research and interpretation of new data. It also allows for the re-evaluation of old traditional perspectives related to the archaeology and history of medicine from the oldest prehistory until the end of the medieval period.

The history and archaeology of medicine of the periods in question is an interdisciplinary specialisation with a broad spectre of sources. These include archaeological sites and artefacts, human skeletal remains, texts and iconography, thus combining subjects and research methods from the humanities, medical and natural sciences. The symposium aims to bring together scholars from these various backgrounds and different perspectives.

Papers presented at the conference can address, but are not limited, to the following topics:

- Methodologies and techniques, theoretical viewpoints, as well as applications of new scientific methods as applied to the research
- The evidence for the practice of medicine, such as medical interventions, surgery and remedies
- The challenges in the recognition of medicine in the archaeological record
- The preventive aspects of the use of medicine, such as the care of the sick or personal hygiene and their identification in the archaeological record
- The social and religious aspects of healing
- Healers and practitioners
- Healing places
- The state of health of the populations in the periods in question
- Excavation or survey reports of the sites focused or related to the medical practice

We welcome a wide spectrum of papers presenting different perspectives including interdisciplinary, for example, bioarchaeological approaches, as well as case studies. Please feel free to discuss your topic with us.

For the conference programme, the papers will be grouped into the three main chronological periods: 1) Prehistory; 2) Antiquity; and 3) the Medieval world.

LOCATION:

The symposium will be held at the First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University, with sessions held in the Institute for History of Medicine and Foreign Languages (U Nemocnice 4, Prague 2).

Full details of recommended accommodation and other practical arrangements will be available by the end of May 2022 for those who have registered.

In the event of a continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic, the symposium will be held in hybrid or completely online form, through a standard videoconference software (such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams). The organisers will inform all participants in good time, if this change is necessary.

PAPERS, POSTERS AND WORKSHOPS:

Other than the keynote speakers, twenty minutes will be allocated to each paper, plus ten minutes for discussion. The language of the symposium will be English. There will be unlimited space for posters (size A0, 120 x 85 cm), on any topic related to the themes. Posters will be formally presented at a time reserved for this in the symposium programme. Should there be more papers submitted than there is time on the symposium programme, the organisers reserve the right to ask some authors to present their topics as posters. We also invite proposals by those wishing to organise specialist workshops within any theme of the symposium.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME:

Wednesday 21st September c. 14:00 till Saturday 24th September 18.00 – presentation of papers and posters; visit of the Anatomical Museum of the Institute of Anatomy, Stomatological Museum of the Department of Stomatology; the historical collections of the Institute for History of Medicine and Foreign Languages and the Medical Museum of the National Medical Library.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME:

Wednesday 21st September evening – informal meeting and dinner (paid by the individual participants) in the restaurant close to the symposium venue.

Thursday 23rd September evening – official Symposium Dinner in a restaurant in the historical centre of Prague, not far from the symposium venue.

Sunday 25th September – excursion to the historical centre of Prague (free; guided by the local organisers).

SYMPOSIUM FEE:

The symposium fee of €70, includes admission to the symposium, abstracts of papers and posters, the symposium programme, all refreshments during the breaks and the Symposium Dinner. The fee is to be paid by the end of June 2022.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Three leading scholars are being invited to be the keynote speakers or hold an evening lecture. Their names and lecture topics will be specified in the second circular.

REGISTRATION:

Offers of papers, posters and workshops and provisional requests to participate should be sent to the email address below by **3rd May 2022**.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE:

Prof. Assoc. Karel Cerny, PhD. (First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University)
Prof. Assoc. Tomas Alusik, PhD. (First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University)
Dr. Andrej Shbat, MA, PhD. (First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University)
Lucie Buresova, BA, MA, MSc. (First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University)
Professor Robert Arnott (Green Templeton College, University of Oxford)
Mag.Dr. Rupert Breitwieser (Altertumswissenschaften, Universität Salzburg)

SYMPOSIUM ADMINISTRATION

Provisional Registrations/ Further Information:

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