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Editorial



A New Medical History Journal

This is the first issue of the *European Journal for the History of Medicine and Health* (EHMH), a new platform of scholarly research and exchange in the vibrant, diverse and expanding field of history of medicine and health. The intention of the journal is to offer a platform to scholars interested in all possible aspects of the history of medicine and health. The journal is a joint undertaking of the Swiss Society for the History of Medicine and the European Association for the History of Medicine and Health. It is a continuation of *Gesnerus: Swiss Journal for the History of Medicine and Science*, which was published between 1943 and 2020.

The Swiss Society, founded in 1921 by Henry E. Sigerist, has always responded to the changing needs of its community. Today, this means transforming *Gesnerus* into a European journal, very much in the Swiss tradition of bringing together and bridging various perspectives. In doing so, it is supported by the Dr. Markus-Guggenheim-Schnurr Foundation and both the Swiss Academy of Sciences and the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences. The European Association is quite a bit younger than the Swiss Society. It was founded in 1989 as a network of European historians of medicine and it aims at fostering research and international exchange in the history of medicine and health. From the beginning, the Association was intended to forge extra-European connections, both in terms of the topics it addressed and in terms of its membership.

The cooperation between these two learned societies is directed towards creating a journal for the whole community of historians: historians of medicine, historians of health, historians of nursing and others – including sociologists, philosophers and demographers – working on all aspects of the history of medicine and health. The ‘European’ in the title refers to the regional origin

and setting of the journal, rather than imposing a geographic limitation of its subject matter. The journal means to reflect the cultural and academic diversity found within Europe and all over the world. The *EHMH* welcomes submissions from all regions and covering all eras of the history of medicine and health, including social history, cultural history, the history of ideas, material studies, science and technology studies, microstudies, ethnological and environmental approaches.

The concept 'Europe' has many meanings and connotations, and this has implications for the perspective and approach to any given topic. We asked several members of the new journal's Editorial Board to give their ideas about what a 'European' perspective might imply. We also solicited the views of colleagues from different countries working on different periods and topics with different conceptual and historiographical approaches. Our intention was to offer a variety of individual reflections by scholars on the idea of Europe, the aims and scopes of the History of Medicine and its languages, methods, topics and approaches. We present these commentaries, together with position papers offering regional, global and methodological perspectives, to complement our ideas for the journal in order to make it a truly joint academic endeavor from the start. The journal will strive to take up and follow their ideas and those of future readers.

On a formal note: the journal will publish original articles, review articles, invited articles, book reviews and perspectives, including regional or national focus articles on the history of medicine and health, and editorials. Perspectives are articles that give a personal opinion or reflection on methods, topics, (regional, local, global) developments or approaches to the history of medicine and health. Interspersed with our regular issues, we will also publish special issues on selected topics. For the evaluation of submissions, the editors will use a double-blind peer review system. The language of the journal will be English. We contemplated an opening out to other languages as well but decided to use the *lingua franca* of science in order to offer our content to the widest possible community of scholars. That said, we will consider preliminary submissions in any European language. These pre-submissions will be evaluated and reviewed for a possible full submission. On (provisional) acceptance, authors will be encouraged to have their texts translated into English, after which a full peer-review process will follow. Authors of accepted manuscripts will be offered the opportunity to publish the vernacular version of their text on the journal's website, while the published article will have an English abstract, alongside an abstract in the original language.

We are looking forward to your submissions and hope that the journal may contribute to a thriving of the field of the history of medicine and health in Europe and all over the world.

Vincent Barras

Lausanne, Switzerland

Heiner Fangerau

Düsseldorf, Germany

Vasia Lekka

Athens, Greece

Joanna Nieznanowska

Szczecin, Poland

Hubert Steinke

Bern, Switzerland