

## Table of contents

Foreword <i>Jan Van den Tweel, Gabriella Nesi</i>	7
Introduction <i>Fabio Zampieri, Alberto Zanatta, Cristina Basso, Gaetano Thiene</i>	9
<b>First Part   Andreas Vesalius, 500 years later</b>	
Some notes on Vesalius and the sixteenth-century anatomy <i>Massimo Rinaldi</i>	13
Andries van Wesele (Andreas Vesalius). His ancestors, his youth and his studies in Louvain <i>Inge Fourneau</i>	31
The frontispiece of Vesalius' <i>Fabrica</i> <i>Andrea Meneghini</i>	45
Anatomical cultures based on the act of seeing <i>Gianni Moriani</i>	61
Andreas Vesalius' epistemological revolution <i>Fabio Zampieri</i>	89
The concept of cardiovascular system in the Vesalius' mind <i>Gaetano Thiene, Cristina Basso, Alberto Zanatta, Fabio Zampieri</i>	135

## Second Part | International Meeting on the History of Medicine and Pathology

### Section One | HISTORY OF MEDICINE AND PATHOLOGY

A short history of cardiac surgery <i>Ugo Filippo Tesler</i>	151
The human Thymus: from antiquity to 19 <sup>th</sup> century. Myths, facts, malefactions <i>Maria Teresa Ranieri, Mirella Marino,</i>	179
Antiquarian medical books in the 1650s <i>Vittoria Feola</i>	191
Surveillance of mortality in the General Hospital in Vienna in the 19 <sup>th</sup> Century <i>Doris Hoeflmayer</i>	213
Nineteenth century Western Europe: the backdrop to unravelling the mystery of leukaemia <i>Kirsten Morris</i>	221
History of modern medicine and pathology: “A curious inquest” <i>Pranay Tanwar, Ritesh Kumar</i>	235
The Hapsburg Lip: a dominant trait of a dominant family <i>Rafael Jimenez</i>	243
Pathologists and CHD. History of the seminal contributions of pathologists to the understanding and development of successful clinical and surgical management of congenital heart disease <i>Maximilian Buja</i>	255
The surgical treatment of cervical cancer in the 19 <sup>th</sup> century: a potted history <i>Crispin Wiles</i>	273
Laughing cannibals, mad cows, and contorted proteins: the enthralling story of prions <i>Aurelio Ariza</i>	283

<i>Tables of contents</i>	5
The first heart transplantation in Italy <i>Alberto Zanatta, Fiorella Calabrese, Annalisa Angelini, Marialuisa Valente, Gaetano Thiene</i>	297
The Republic of Dubrovnik (Ragusa) in the history of medicine <i>Zlatko Marusic</i>	309
Breast cancer and pathology – A historical perspective <i>Bethany Jill Williams</i>	315
An irreplaceable chestnut: an historical outline of prostate pathology <i>Gabriella Nesi, Raffaella Santi</i>	323
Vienna’s hidden medicohistorical treasures: the Library Josephina, Hyrtl’s collection, and Billroth’s surgical specimen <i>Roland Sedivy, Eduard Winter, Verena Hofecker, Harald Albrecht, Walter Feigl, Christiane Druml</i>	331
Princess Lilian of Belgium, a patron of cardiology <i>Raphael Suy</i>	341
The story of a Royal Heart <i>Rosa Henriques de Gouveia</i>	353
Section Two   MEDICAL BIOGRAPHIES	
Was Vesalius a victim of the Inquisition? <i>Raphael Suy</i>	365
Life and work of Hermann Boerhaave <i>Jan van den Tweel</i>	377
Morgagni, Morgan and contemporary anatomy curriculum <i>Victor Ferrari, Natalie Stokes, Fabio Zampieri, Gaetano Thiene</i>	383
Dr John Snow and the Broad Street pump: a missed opportunity? <i>Mark Hawthorne</i>	399

Rudolf Virchow and his extraordinary impact on modern medicine and pathology <i>Matthew Clarke, Kevin West</i>	407
Santiago Ramon y Cajal and António Egas Moniz – fundamentals and illusions of a Neuroscience <i>Svitlana Bachurska, Georgi Tomov</i>	413
Norman Barrett: an influential surgeon on the pathological anatomy <i>Vincenzo Canzonieri, Lara Alessandrini</i>	421
Section Three   MEDICAL MUSEOLOGY	
Turin, 1944: 3D modelling by Renato Dulbecco <i>Francesca Maletta, Caterina Marchiò, Gianni Bussolati</i>	433
Preservation of museum specimens in sealed under-vacuum bags <i>Francesca Maletta, Anna Sapino, Gianni Bussolati</i>	445
Dry preparations of anatomical lesions: historical and educational interest <i>Luca Bertero, Ezio Fulcheri, Gianni Bussolati</i>	449
Index of names	459

## Foreword

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President, Working Group History of Pathology  
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This book categorizes the lectures held during the 2<sup>nd</sup> *International Meeting on Medicine and Pathology* organized by the *Working Group History of Pathology* of the *European Society of Pathology* in Padua, Italy in 2015. Although it is not customary to publish these meetings in full, this time it was chosen to do so because of the exceptional content of the program. This content was influenced by the celebration of the 500th birth year of Vesalius (the famous Padua anatomist) and this occasion was used to highlight his role in anatomic research. The first part of the book (500 years from Andreas Vesalius) is therefore dedicated to the importance of Vesalius work. It gives a splendid description on the life and work of this brilliant man who shaped anatomy.

The second part contains a variety of papers on the history and medicine and pathology, such as several papers about historical aspects of cardiac disease (congenital disorders, heart transplantation, famous people affected by heart disease) and lectures about historical medical collections and other issues.

The third part contains interesting medical biographies about persons who had an enormous impact on medical thinking e.g. Norman Barrett, Herman Boerhaave, Giovanni Battista Morgagni, John Morgan, Santiago Ramon y Cajal, and John Snow.

The main editors of this very interesting compilation, Fabio Zampieri and Gaetano Thiene, deserve a lot of praise for the enormous effort to forge all contributions into a well-organized whole. The result is a book that is not only very instructive, but also very enjoyable to read and is suitable for physicians, medical historians and scholars in these disciplines.



## Introduction

*Fabio Zampieri*<sup>1</sup>, *Alberto Zanatta*<sup>1</sup>, *Cristina Basso*<sup>1</sup>, *Gaetano Thiene*<sup>1</sup>

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This book reports the proceedings of the 2015 meeting of the *History of Pathology Working Group* of the *European Society of Pathology* (ESP), held in Padua, Italy, on June 4-6, 2015. The meeting had the purpose of promoting history of medicine, particularly related to the centenary tradition of Padua medical school, captivating the interest of young researchers.

The *Working Group* is composed of European pathologists, pathologists in training and PhD students interested in the history of their discipline. The historical studies concern the development of pathology as scientific method for the understanding of morbid processes and the investigation of historical objects such as anatomical specimens preserved in European medical museums.

The Unit of Cardiovascular Pathology and the Unit of Medical Humanities of the Department of Cardiac, Thoracic and Vascular Sciences of the University of Padua organized the meeting, proposing as principal issue of the symposium the history of Padua medical school. In 2014 occurred the 500th anniversary from the birth of Andreas Vesalius (1514-1564), student and then professor of Anatomy at Padua University from 1537 to 1543, founder of modern human anatomy. The first part of the meeting was exclusively dedicated to that extraordinary figure of this physician and scientist. It is worth mentioning that, other than anatomy, also modern physiology and pathology were founded at this University. William Harvey (1578-1657) graduated in medicine in Padua in 1602 and in this University, as pupil of the famous anatomist and surgeon Hieronymus Fabricius (1537-1619), collected the fundamental insights for the discovery of blood circulation, which radically changed the course of human physiology. Giovanni Battista Morgagni (1682-1771) taught anatomy in Padua for almost sixty years (1715-1771) and he published *On the Seats and Causes of Diseases Investigated by Anatomy* in 1761, which can be considered the cornerstone of anatomo-clinical method and the dawn of pathology as a new discipline.

Finally, 2015 marked also the 30 years from the first Italian heart transplantation, performed by Vincenzo Gallucci (1935-1991) during the night of November 14, 1985. The Institute of Pathology of Padua University hosts a collection of about 3000 hearts affected by the most different conditions, which can be defined as one of the hugest collection of this kind in the world. The Institute hosts also a Museum of Pathology with a spectacular assortment of teratological specimens. The meeting represented a valuable occasion for promoting the knowledge of these important collections.

This symposium was designed for introducing and promoting the history of medicine, and the history of Padua medical school, in a promising international network with many opportunities of cultural exchanges and collaborations. The University of Padua is honored to promote at European level the study of the history of medicine and the knowledge of the role of Padua medical school in the development of scientific medicine. This meeting want to be a guiding project in view of future congresses planned by the *Working Group* in other European institutions, with the scope of permanently promoting the study and teaching of history of medicine as a fundamental part not only in the training of young pathologists and physicians, but also in the continuing education of doctors.