



MART/APRIL

31 ► 04

2025

BIP

MEDICAL HUMANITIES

ERASMUS+ PROGRAM

Venue

Sofia, Medical University-Sofia

Target group: **Students and staff**

Partner Universities:

School of Medicine, University of Crete - Greece

Philipps-Universität Marburg, Institut für Geschichte
der Pharmazie und Medizin – Marburg, Germany

Romanian-American University, Bucharest – Romania

University of Social and Medical Sciences in Lublin - Poland



Erasmus+



Objectives of the BIP:

1. Introduction to Medical Humanities and its application in modern education at medical universities
2. Presenting the benefits from uniting of medicine and art/humanities in favour of better care for people's health
3. Sharing the results and good practices about the implementation of Medical Humanities in the education of medical students
4. Presenting the diverse and rich nature of the content of the Medical Humanities through lectures and workshops

Presentation:

- Humanities share with medicine the focus on people. Medical Humanities unite them and give a unique outlook and idea of human conditions, diseases and sufferings as well as perception of one's own personality, professionalism and responsibilities towards oneself and others (colleagues and patients).
- Born at the end of 20th century, Medical Humanities is a multidisciplinary field integrated into the curriculum of a number of medical universities and colleges around the world. It brings together the humanities (theory of literature and the arts, philosophy, ethics, history and theology), the social sciences (anthropology, psychology and sociology) and the arts (literature, theatre, cinema, music and visual arts).
- Medical Humanities represent an approach through which the arts and humanities can offer more efficient health care than simply improving medical education. It offers different ways of thinking about human history, culture, behavior and experience that can be used to dissect, critique and influence health practices and priorities.
- Medical Humanities can also help medical practitioners consider professional issues from more than one perspective.



MEDICINA GRATIA ARTIS

Medicine, as Hippocrates says, is an ART. An art that connects the patient with his doctor and in this way brings social relations into the world of healing.

The doctor is a mediator between two levels and two "realities", so his role is also dual. Explaining the patient's condition, the doctor performs a double function - by decoding the symbols (symptoms), he:

- 1) connects the world of the hidden/unknown and the real world and
- 2) unites the patient's split personality (as a physical and spiritual entity), thereby resolving the body-soul dichotomy.

In other words, medicine is an art of attitude and humanity, which heals by the knowledge and skills of the doctor. But the art that shapes man as a social creature through communication (word, image, harmony or symbols) can not only heal, yet also change the organism at the cellular level. The human genome changes and develops thanks to art, which helps us both to be healthy and to become better and better (the theory of "gene-cultural co-evolution").

To Medical Humanities goes also the credit of understanding that there are many factors that can assist in the healing process. And these are to be offered by the humanities and arts.





Methods and outcomes:

In order to achieve its aims, the BIP will combine lectures, workshops, cultural events and discussions. To share their knowledge and expertise and invited specialists from different European universities working on the field of Medical Humanities as well as members of the AMH (Association for Medical Humanities).

The outcomes are provisioned to be as follows:

- Expanding the volume of existing medical knowledge about processes and phenomena with the help of Medical Humanities
- A basis for introduction/implementation of a new discipline into the training of future medical personnel and this is namely Medical Humanities. Going into the world of art and literature helps develop skills of observation, analytical reasoning and empathy. That is why the introduction of Medical Humanities in the students' programs at different universities will help the general development of students, not just their professional skills.
- Thanks to Medical Humanities the future medical personnel will be able to develop a) their imagination (knowledge of symbols), b) ability to interpret data, c) skills to carefully observe and interpret the "language" of the patient, d) empathize with patients and e) build personal and professional values.
- With the help of Medical Humanities can also be enforced medicosocial research on the correlation between the biological and social functions of man and society; the influence of the main social phenomena and the environment on the human health and diseases as well as research related to optimizing the organization and management of medical science, practice and education.



PRELIMINARY PROGRAM



21 March 2025 – online meeting

6 study hours x 45 min

1. Presentation of the BIP to the participants: program, how to get around, Q&A
2. Participants introduce themselves, so that to know each other on meeting in person
3. Virtual lecture by **Natacha Klein Käfer**, Assistant Professor - University of Copenhagen, Centre for Privacy Studies
4. Home assignment for the participant in connection to the field of Medical Humanities



31 March 2025**8.30-9.00** *Registration desk and coffee***9.00-9.30 Welcome by the Medical University**

Prof. Dr. Boycho Landzhov, PhD – Rector of the MUS

Prof. Dr. Alexandrina Vodenicharova, PhD – Dean of the Faculty of Public Health

"Prof. Tzecomir Vodenitcharov, MD, PhD, DSc"

9.30-10.00 Presentation of the participating universities**10.00-11.30 Introduction to Medical Humanities:****Education, knowledge and uncertainty - why learning about the humanities is imperative in better medical and health practice.**

Dr Jennifer Patterson, University of Greenwich, President of AMH

11.30-11.45 *Coffee break***11.45-12.15** Introduction to Bulgarian Language and culture (part 1)**12.15-13.15** Introduction to Bulgarian Language and culture (part 2 - Let's dance together)**13.15-14.00** *Lunch***14.00-14.30 Implementation of Medical Humanities as a regular subject into the program of the Medical University – Sofia**

Prof. Dobryana Sidjimova, PhD Med, PhD Phil, Head of Department of Language Training And Student Sports - Medical University - Sofia

14.30-15.30 The legacy of Hospitallers' order in medicine

D. Mandradjiev, Chancellor of the Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus in Bulgaria

15.30-15.45 *Coffee break***15.45-16.45 Ideologies of 'care' - an introduction**

Dr Jennifer Patterson, University of Greenwich, President of AMH

19.00 Unofficial meeting with some food and drinks for building up networks**1 April 2025****8.30-9.30 Hippocratic Ethics: Is the Hippocratic Oath Relevant to Modern Medicine?**

Prof. John Tsiaoussis, MD, PhD, Head of Museum of Medicine - School of Medicine, University of Crete

9.30-10.30 Ethical ambiguity of medical research on human subjects before consent

Doç. (TR) Dr. Rainer Brömer, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Institut für Geschichte der Pharmazie und Medizin

10.30-10.45 *Coffee break***10.45-11.45 Introduce AI and generative AI**

Prof. Andrei Luchici, Romanian-American University, Bucharest

11.45-12.45 Medicine and Literature in the AI era

Dr Vassiliki Kampourelli, Scientific and Teaching Staff, Museum of Medicine - School of Medicine, University of Crete

12.45-13.30 *Lunch***13.30-14.30 Positioning the self (roles-based workshop)**

Dr Jennifer Patterson, University of Greenwich, President of AMH

14.30-18.00 Tour of Sofia and visit to the Archeological museum

2 April 2025**8.30-9.00 The values of the history of medicine**

Dr Lisetta Lovett BSc. DHMSA.MBBS. FRCPsych
Hon. Senior Lecturer, School of Humanities, Keele University

9.00-10.00 The Marseille plague of 1720

Dr Lisetta Lovett BSc. DHMSA.MBBS. FRCPsych
Hon. Senior Lecturer, School of Humanities, Keele University

10.00-11.00 Addressing stigma in health care: the role of ancient and modern literature in physicians' death awareness

Dr Vassiliki Kampourelli, Scientific and Teaching Staff, Museum of Medicine - School of Medicine, University of Crete

11.00-11.15 Coffee break**11.15-12.15 Medical Humanities and GTE (History, Theory, and Ethics of Medicine): What happens when we transfer a concept from one language community (English) to another (German)?**

Doç. (TR) Dr. Rainer Brömer, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Institut für Geschichte der Pharmazie und Medizin

12.15-13.15 Cultural challenges: uncovering syphilis

Dr Jennifer Patterson, University of Greenwich, President of AMH

13.15-14.00 Lunch**14.00-15.30 What does history tell us about attitudes towards suicide? (presentation with discussion)**

Dr Lisetta Lovett BSc. DHMSA.MBBS. FRCPsych
Hon. Senior Lecturer, School of Humanities, Keele University

15.30-16.30 The roles of Narrative Medicine and Greek tragedy in medical practice

Dr Vassiliki Kampourelli, Scientific and Teaching Staff, Museum of Medicine - School of Medicine, University of Crete

16.30-16.45 Coffee break**16.45-17.45 Workshop on how to use AI to study historical texts**

Prof. Andrei Luchici, Romanian-American University, Bucharest

19.00 Visit to the Opera of Sofia

3 April 2025**8.30-9.30 Narrative medicine and empathy: ancient Greek and modern pathographies**

Dr Vassiliki Kampourelli, Scientific and Teaching Staff, Museum of Medicine - School of Medicine, University of Crete

9.30-11.00 Relationships between Drs and their patients', based on Casanova's anecdotes (presentation with discussion)

Dr Lisetta Lovett BSc. DHMSA.MBBS. FRCPsych
Hon. Senior Lecturer, School of Humanities, Keele University

11.00-11.15 *Coffee break*

11.15-12.45 Close reading. Text analysis and sustainability (workshop)

Dr Jennifer Patterson, University of Greenwich, President of AMH

12.45-13.30 Lunch

13.30-14.30 Some thoughts on the history of medicine between the Mediterranean, the Middle East, and Europe: What is it to us today?

Doç. (TR) Dr. Rainer Brömer, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Institut für Geschichte der Pharmazie und Medizin

14.30-16.00 Workshop on how to use AI to study images (paintings)

Prof. Andrei Luchici, Romanian-American University, Bucharest

16.00-16.15 *Coffee break*

16.15-17.15 The dynamic interweaving of Medicine and the Humanities at the Museum of Medicine (University of Crete)

Prof. John Tsiaoussis, MD, PhD, Head of Museum of Medicine - School of Medicine, University of Crete

19.00 *Official dinner*

4 April 2025**8.30-9.30 Alternatives - what alternatives in medicine?**

Doç. (TR) Dr. Rainer Brömer, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Institut für Geschichte der Pharmazie und Medizin

9.30-10.30 Herbs for doctors - an introduction

Dr Jennifer Patterson, University of Greenwich, President of AMH

10.30-11.30 Anatomy & Renaissance art

Prof. John Tsiaoussis, MD, PhD, Head of Museum of Medicine - School of Medicine, University of Crete

11.15-11.30 *Coffee break*

11.30-12.30 The functional anatomy of vision & painting

Prof. John Tsiaoussis, MD, PhD, Head of Museum of Medicine - School of Medicine, University of Crete

12.30-13.30 Art and Pathology

Dr Vassilka Nikolova, PhD Med, MA Classics, Senior Lecturer in Medical Terminology and Medical Humanities, Department of Language Training And Student Sports - Medical University - Sofia

13.30-14.15 *Lunch*

14.15-15.00 Results from the students' responses to the questionnaires

15.00-15.30 Distribution of certificates

15.30-16.00 *Coffee + sweets to say Good bye*



Questions?

If you have any questions,
please get in touch with us.



Vasilka Nikolova, PhD
Department for language and sport
Senior lecturer

● v.nikolova@deos.mu-sofia.bg
● +359 879 175935



Chief. Assist. Prof. Svetlin Georgiev, PhD
Faculty of Public Health
"Prof. Tzecomir Vodenitcharov, MD, PhD, DSc"
● erasmus@foz.mu-sofia.bg for staff
● incoming.erasmus@foz.mu-sofia.bg for students
● +359 884 18 18 88



Erasmus+