



FIRST FACULTY  
OF MEDICINE  
Charles University



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

## HEALING PLACES IN THE ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL WORLD

22 – 25 SEPTEMBER 2020

INSTITUTE FOR HISTORY OF MEDICINE AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES  
FIRST FACULTY OF MEDICINE  
CHARLES UNIVERSITY  
PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

### FIRST CIRCULAR

This symposium, the sixth in the series of collaborations, aims to bring together scholars of different disciplines and specialisations who are interested in the formation and evolution of places or spaces for healing in the pre-historic, ancient and mediaeval worlds, their relations with the religious and rational spheres and also how we are able to identify them today from the archaeological, osteological and textual record. Discussion will be led by three or four invited keynote speakers.

### LOCATION

The symposium will be held at the First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University. The conference venue will be the building of the Institute for History of Medicine and Foreign Languages (U Nemocnice 4, Prague 2). Full details of accommodation possibilities, registration fees and other practical arrangements will be available by the end of February 2020 for those who have provisionally registered.

### PAPERS, POSTERS AND WORKSHOPS

Other than the keynote speakers, twenty minutes will be allocated to each paper plus ten minutes discussion. The language of the symposium will be English. There will be unlimited space for posters (size A0, c. 120 x 85 cm) on any topic related to the themes. Posters will be formally presented at a time reserved for this during the symposium. In case of considerable amount of the paper proposals, some authors might be asked to present their topics as posters. We also invite proposals by those wishing to organise specialist workshops within any theme of the symposium.

### GENERAL PROGRAMME

Tuesday 22nd c. at 14:00 till Friday, 25th September 18.00 – presentation of papers and posters; visit of the Ana-

tomical Museum of the Institute of Anatomy, the historical collections of the Institute for History of Medicine and Foreign Languages and the Medical Museum of the National Medical Library.

Saturday 26th September – excursion to the historical centre of Prague.

#### SOCIAL PROGRAMME

Tuesday 22nd September evening – informal meeting and dinner (paid by the individual participants) in the “House of Beer” restaurant (or similar pub close to the conference venue)

Thursday 24th September evening – official Conference dinner in any restaurant in the historical centre of Prague, not far from the conference venue (possibly paid by the organizers – in case of getting a special Charles University funding)

Saturday 26th September – excursion to the historical centre of Prague (free; guided by the organizers)

#### AIM OF THE CONFERENCE

The identification of structures and places associated with the practice of curing or evidence for the worship of deities believed to prevent and protect from or heal illness, further enrich the reconstruction and understanding of medical practice in the past. The aim of the conference is to bring together scholars of different disciplines and specializations who are interested in in-patient and clinical care and therapy in all aspects and forms such as cabinets, private, valetudinaria, temples and holy places, asklepieia, and xenodocheia, from prehistory up to medieval times.

We welcome a wide spectrum of papers presenting different perspectives incl. an interdisciplinary approach, as well as case studies.

#### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Some outstanding scholars will be invited to be the keynote speakers or hold an evening lecture. Details 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 15th March 2020.

#### ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Prof. Assoc. Tomas Alusik, PhD. (First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University)

Professor Robert Arnott (Green Templeton College and Division of Medical Sciences, University of Oxford)

Mag.Dr. Rupert Breitwieser (Altertumswissenschaften, Universität Salzburg)

#### CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION

Provisional Registrations/  
Further Information

Prof. Assoc. Tomas Alusik, PhD.  
Charles University

Email: [alusikt@gmail.com](mailto:alusikt@gmail.com)