

EDITORIAL



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History of Medicine and the Mission of a Scientific Journal

The publication of this Special Issue dedicated to the 2nd Luso-Galician Congress on the History of Medicine reflects a deliberate editorial choice of the *Jornal da Sociedade das Ciências Médicas de Lisboa* (JSCMed). Founded in 1835 and linked to one of the oldest medical-scientific societies in Europe, the Journal has long embraced not only biomedical innovation but also the historical reflection that contextualises scientific progress. A scientific journal does more than disseminate new data; it helps shape the intellectual identity of a professional community. In this regard, opening our pages to the History of Medicine is not a nostalgic gesture but an affirmation of continuity. Historical inquiry reminds us that medicine is a cumulative, culturally embedded enterprise, built upon dialogue across generations, institutions, and territories.

The Society of Medical Sciences of Lisbon has, throughout its existence, served as a forum for debate, reform, and scientific exchange. By publishing the contributions presented at this Congress – lectures, communications, and posters – we reaffirm the Journal's commitment to fostering plural approaches to medical knowledge. The diversity of themes represented in this volume illustrates how historical scholarship intersects with clinical practice, public health, medical education, and professional identity.

In an era marked by rapid technological transformation and increasing subspecialisation, there is renewed value in cultivating spaces where medicine reflects upon its own trajectory. The historical perspective strengthens critical thinking, encourages methodological rigour, and situates contemporary challenges within a broader intellectual tradition. For younger generations of physicians and researchers, it reminds us that innovation and memory are complementary dimensions of scientific culture.

This Special Issue also demonstrates the role a journal can play in connecting academic communities. By providing a durable and citable record of the Congress proceedings, JSCMed extends the impact of the meeting beyond its temporal and geographical boundaries, transforming scientific encounter into scholarly continuity.

The Editorial Board welcomes this collaboration and reiterates its openness to high-quality historical contributions that illuminate the foundations of medical science, honouring both the legacy of the Society and the responsibilities of a contemporary biomedical journal.

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