

## WELCOME ADDRESS



**Fernando Ponte  
Hernando** <sup>1</sup>  
**Honorary President  
of the 2nd Luso-  
Galician Congress  
on the History of  
Medicine**

Académico correspondiente  
de la Real Academia de  
Medicina y Cirugía de Cádiz

Physician (since 1982); Doctor  
of Medicine (1992); Doctor in the  
History of Science (2011); Doctor  
of Veterinary Medicine (2019).

Professor of the History of Medicine  
at the Faculty of Medicine of  
the University of Santiago de  
Compostela (since 2017).

Full Member (Academician)  
holding the Chair in the History of  
Medicine at the Royal Academy  
of Medicine of Galicia, and  
Elected Corresponding Member  
of the Academy of Veterinary  
Sciences of Castilla y León.

# Luso-Galician Scientific Exchange in Medicine

**D**istinguished military, academic, and civil authorities; esteemed professors and doctors; dear colleagues and friends:

It is a great honour and a profound pleasure for me to deliver the opening address of our Congress, now in its second edition, which I sincerely hope will continue for many years to come. It is also a particularly gratifying surprise, as a military physician and Ambassador of the Spanish Army Brand, who devotes a significant part of his research to the History of Spanish Military Health, that this Congress is being held here at the Hospital of the Armed Forces, home of our colleagues and brothers and sisters in Portuguese military health services.

As you will see in the accompanying exhibition, I bring a special greeting from our academic Chair of Military Medicine, mindful that ours is the only Royal Academy of Medicine in Spain to hold such a chair. He deeply regrets being unable to join us on this occasion.

With regard to the chosen topic, I shall be brief: it concerns the History of the Luso-Spanish Society of Neurosurgery (1949-1995) – its life, protagonists, and activities. It seemed particularly timely to revisit a period of joint scientific endeavour between our two countries, a subject that I proposed years ago to my first Portuguese student, now Dr. Ana Luísa Carneiro Martins, inspired by the same spirit of friendship and close relations that brings us together today.

All of this serves to commemorate the excellent relations that have long existed between the University of Porto, represented by the distinguished figure of Professor Hernâni Monteiro, and the University of Santiago de Compostela, with Professor Rodríguez Cadarso and his successors, dating back approximately one hundred years.

And how could we fail to remember other eminent Portuguese figures, friends of Spain, who attended the Galician Congress of 1929 and the subsequent Luso-Galician Congresses in Ourense and elsewhere: Professors and Doctors Almeida Garret, Armando Tavares, Sousa Pereira, Álvaro Rodríguez, and many others?

And when we speak of the University of Porto, we naturally also refer to those of Coimbra, Lisbon, Beira Interior, Évora, Aveiro, Minho, and others besides, for knowledge is universal—and it is precisely this universality that has brought us together for this act of transmission of knowledge and friendship among academics and scholars.

I shall conclude here, for an opening address, as its very name suggests, opens the doors to the intense work we shall undertake over the coming days of fraternal scientific collaboration, and I would not wish you to begin already fatigued.

Thank you very much.