

**APPLICATION FOR ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION
FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF BYZANTINE MEDICAL STUDIES**

1. Distinguishing characteristics of Byzantine Medicine in difference to the Ancient Medicine; reception and continuity of Byzantine Medicine until early modern times

Byzantine Medicine to a certain degree continues the ancient medical tradition but the significant difference lies in the application of innovative focusses and questions. Its huge amount of individuality derives from the continuous critical evaluation and redaction of the traditional sources, from direct clinical and therapeutical experiences, expressive and paradigmatic case studies, important additions and innovations in the field of pharmaceutics and *materia medica*, increasing professional health care and the related institutions, and, moreover, from the ongoing transcultural scientific dialogue between physicians of many diverse cultural and intellectual affiliations. In this respect, Byzantine medicine embodies also a significant reflection of the Byzantine multicultural society being the crossing point of numerous individuals, traditions and influences. The large quantity of manuscripts containing various different groups and focusses of textual witnesses of Byzantine medical, therapeutical and pharmacological sources (large manuals and *compendia*, theoretical and medical-philosophical treatises, specific diagnostic and clinical texts, pharmacological collections, professional recipe books, *iatrosophia* and *dynamera*) still is in urgent need of scientific research through meticulous critical editions and comprehensive analyses, including the manuscripts' many codicological, palaeographical and linguistic challenges and special features. Another *desideratum* is the wide field of the development of Byzantine medical terminology and scientific language, and their various alterations which still offers a wide and in large areas still unexplored field for interdisciplinary research cooperations between Byzantinists, medical historians and linguists. Also the numerous transcultural and mutual influences require a profound transdisciplinary reappraisal as well as the far-reaching history of the Byzantine Medicine's reception in postbyzantine times, until early modern times and far beyond.

2. The applicant

Isabel Grimm-Stadelmann (Ph.D. in Byzantine Studies, *Privatdozentin* Dr. med. habil. in History of Medicine) is lecturer for Byzantine medicine at the university of Munich and a researcher at the Bavarian Academy of Sciences, where she focuses on the critical edition of the late Byzantine *Aktouarios* Ioannes Zacharias' treatise on the *psychic pneuma*. She lectures regularly at the university of Munich within the framework of a transdisciplinary teaching cooperation. Her research focus lies on Byzantine medicine and its transcultural dimension. She has published extensively in the field of Byzantine medicine and is co-editor of the series "Byzantinisches Archiv Series medica" and the "Brill's Companion of Byzantine Medicine". She also is a member of various international cooperations and research groups in the field of medical history.

3. Previous position of Medicine in Byzantine Research since Karl Krumbacher

From the beginning of Byzantine Studies, starting with Karl Krumbachers "History of Byzantine Literature", Byzantine Medicine always has played its role in the framework of Byzantine Studies – admitted, not a very significant role, but at least within the framework of the discipline and from the beginning until now occupying a subcategory of its own in the bibliography of *Byzantinische Zeitschrift*. For broadening and developing the research of Byzantine Medicine the chair for Byzantine Studies at Munich's Ludwig-Maximilians-

University played a significant role: under Armin Hohlweg's holding this position Munich became the first research center focussed in Byzantine Medicine worldwide. Against this background and in view of the great increase in interest in Byzantine Medicine over the last years (and this interest is still increasing) it would be an excellent chance to revive and take up this tradition with founding the AIEB-commission of Byzantine Medicine.

4. *Expectations of the commission's activity*

Increase in transdisciplinary cooperation and research: as mentioned before, the broad diversity of the relevant source situation makes a more intensive transdisciplinary and worldwide cooperation absolutely necessary. The commission would have the opportunity, as an umbrella organisation, to bring together research groups, develop strategies to acquire research funds, design promising modules for the promotion of young researchers (graduate seminars, stipendia etc.), organize workshops and symposia, discuss innovative and expedient possibilities of publications including the facilities of digital humanities, and, generally, to strengthen and increase the scientific networking on the field of Byzantine medicine. Since Byzantine Medicine is a very dynamic and progressive discipline, as it is unequivocally clear and lucid from the relevant sources, many traditions and motifs do not end with the fall of Byzantium but reveal a rich and equally dynamic afterlife during postbyzantine times, sometimes even up to the modern present. Against this background and taking into account the wide range of relevant sources and numerous possibilities for manifold national and international cooperations, the proposed commission of Byzantine medicine offers a great chance to visualize an extremely dynamic field of Byzantine studies that can be combined with many disciplines and which also implies currently great social relevance for our modern society, e.g. in the field of epidemiological research or the understanding, interpretation and therapy of various mental diseases, like depressions and burnout.

5. *Immediate Causes for Proposing a Commission of Byzantine Medicine*

Recently, an increasing interest in studying and editing various sources of Byzantine medical literature is becoming more and more obvious:

a) represented by an increasing number of workshops, colloques, lectures, projects and research groups. There also is to be stated an increasing interest in including topics of Byzantine medicine in university teaching (in cooperation with philological and historical disciplines, and also with archaeology, palaeoanthropology and natural sciences).

b) Preparation of Brill's Companion to Byzantine Medicine: Series: Brill's Companions to the Byzantine World; chief editors: *Privatdozentin* Dr. phil. Dr. med. habil. Isabel Grimm-Stadelmann, Bavarian Academy of Sciences, Munich and Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich and Dr. Danilo Valentino, Institute for Byzantine Studies, Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich.

The *Companion* in preparation (proposal accepted and approved by Brill, current status: contributions in progress, about 45 participants) will offer a comprehensive and interdisciplinary introduction to the Byzantine medicine contextualising its different aspects. It will contain about 50 individual chapters, structured in four main sections: 1) cultural background, 2) technical aspects, 3) interactions with neighboring cultures and their medical traditions, 4) medical literature investigating the principal ways of transmission of Byzantine medical works, namely papyri, manuscripts and printed editions, and differentiating the sources according to their typologies and authors.

c) Roundtable at the 24th International Congress of Byzantine Studies, Venice/padua, 22th–27th august 2022

Title: Innovative Approaches for Editing Byzantine Medical Literature (convenors: *Privatdozentin* Dr. phil. Dr. med. habil. Isabel Grimm-Stadelmann and Dr. Alain Touwaide; 6 participants).

d) For the communication of high-quality, innovative, and groundbreaking studies, the Commission can take advantage of some existing devices, as the following:

- Publication series *Byzantinisches Archiv – Series Medica* (editors in chief: *Privatdozentin* Dr. phil. Dr. med. habil. Isabel Grimm-Stadelmann and Prof. Dr. Albrecht Berger): Founded in 2020 the multilingual scientific series *Byzantinisches Archiv – Series Medica* is dedicated to the new and rapidly growing field of research into Byzantine medicine and Byzantine medical literature of professional use.
- Publication series *Medicine in the Medieval Mediterranean* (editor: Dr. Alain Touwaide, Institute for the Preservation of Medical Traditions) dating as far back as 2010.
- Publication series *Medical Traditions* (editor: Dr. Alain Touwaide, Institute for the Preservation of Medical Traditions), recently created;
- Recently founded *Journal of Late Antique, Islamic and Byzantine Studies* (editor: Petros Bouras-Vallianatos);
- Website *Byzantine Medicine* created and maintained by the Institute for the Preservation of Medical Traditions as a hub for new material accessible in open access worldwide.

6. Proposed (and confirmed) members of the commission

1. Prof. Dr. Robert **Alessi**, Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), France
2. Dr. Petros **Bouras-Vallianatos**, University of Edinburgh, UK
3. Assoc. Dr. Koray **Durak**, Department of History, Bogazici University, Istanbul
4. *Privatdozentin* Dr. phil. Dr. med. habil. Isabel **Grimm-Stadelmann**, Bavarian Academy of Sciences, Munich and Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich (head of the commission)
5. Prof. Dr. Christophe **Erismann**, Universität Wien, Austria
6. Dr. Anna Maria **Ieraci Bio**, Università degli Studi di Napoli “Federico II”, Italy
7. Prof. Dr. Maciej **Kokoszko**, Department of Byzantine History, University of Lodz, Poland
8. Prof. Dr. Mario **Lamagna**, Università degli Studi di Napoli “Federico II”, Italy
9. Alexandra **Papasarantopoulou**, Εθνικό και Καποδιστριακό Πανεπιστήμιο Αθηνών, Greece
10. Dr. Zofia **Rzeźnicka**, The Waldemar Ceran Research Centre for the History and Culture of the Mediterranean Area and South-East Europe (Ceraneum Centre), University of Lodz, Poland
11. Prof. Dr. Dionysios **Stathakopoulos**, Πανεπιστήμιο Κύπρου, Cyprus
12. Dr. Alain **Touwaide**, Institute for the Preservation of Medical Traditions, Los Angeles/Washington
13. Dr. Danilo **Valentino**, Institute for Byzantine Studies, Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich, Germany
14. Dr. Ilias **Valiakos**, Πανεπιστήμιο Θεσσαλίας, Larissa, Greece