

**COMMISSION FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF BYZANTINE MEDICAL STUDIES
(CIBMS):
Report 2024**

CIBMS: founded on August 26th, 2022, during the 24th International Byzantine Studies Congress in Venice/Padova

The most recent meeting of the Commission for the Investigation of Byzantine medical Studies took place on March 8th, 2024 (regular online meetings via Zoom for exchanging and discussing activities of the CIBMS members)

Acknowledged list of CIBMS members:

Robert **Alessi**, Paris
Petros **Bouras-Vallianatos**, Athens
Isabel **Grimm-Stadelmann**, Munich (Chair from 2022)
Christophe **Erismann**, Vienna
Anna Maria **Ieraci Bio**, Naples
Maciej **Kokoszko**, Łódź
Mario **Lamagna**, Naples
Alexandra **Papasarantopoulou**, Athens
Zofia **Rzeźnicka**, Łódź
Dionysios **Stathakopoulos**, Cyprus
Alain **Touwaide**, Washington
Danilo **Valentino**, Munich
Ilias **Valiakos**, Larissa

➔ The Commission's **main objective and first aim** is to make available and accessible as many sources of Byzantine medicine as possible.

1. Established devices (series, journals) for publishing and circulating the results of the Commission's research:

- Series *Byzantina Lodziensia* (founded by Waldemar Ceran in 1997, published by Lodz University Press): single volumes are dedicated to food history and medicine:
 - Zofia Rzeźnicka, Maciej Kokoszko, *Milk and Dairy Products in the Medicine and Culinary Art of Antiquity and Early Byzantium (1st–7th Centuries AD)*, Łódź–Kraków 2020 (Byzantina Lodziensia vol. 38).
- Series *Byzantinisches Archiv – Series Medica (BASM)*: editors: Isabel Grimm-Stadelmann and Albrecht Berger, established in 2020, published by de Gruyter):
 - I. Grimm-Stadelmann, *Untersuchungen zur Iatromagie in der byzantinischen Zeit* (publ. 2020)
 - P. Gonetz, *Antike und Byzantinische 'Compendia Medica'* (publ. 2023)
 - F. Lauritzen (ed.), *Byzantine Charitable Foundations and Medicine from Constantinople to Venice* (forthcoming)
 - I. Valiakos, Edition of Anonymus med. Cod. Laur. Plut. 75.03, ff. 33–239 (forthcoming)

- D. Valentino, Edition of the Iatrosophion Cod. Panorm. XIII C 3, ff. 121–279v (forthcoming)
- Series *Medical Traditions* (*METR*, editor: Alain Touwaide, established in 2020, published by de Gruyter)
 - S.M. Oberhelman, *Healing Manuals from Ottoman and Modern Greece* (publ. 2020)
 - A. Touwaide, *Greek Medical Manuscripts, Diel’s Catalogue*, 5 vols. (2021)
 - R.F. Canalis, M. Ciavolella, V. Finucci, *Rethinking Medical humanities* (publ. 2023)
 - F. Baldassarri, *Plants in 16th and 17th Centuries* (publ. 2023)
 - S.M. Oberhelman, *Manuscripts, Plants, and Remedies of the Ancient and Postclassical Mediterranean World across the Disciplines*, 3 vols. (forthcoming)
- Series *Medicine in the Medieval Mediterranean* (*MMM*, editor: Alain Touwaide, established in 2010, published by Ashgate, from 2016 published by Routledge, in 2022 transferred to de Gruyter):
 - C. Tsiamis, *Plague in Byzantine Times* (publ. 2022)
 - I.H. Johnston, N. Papavramidou, *Galen on the Pulses* (publ. 2024)
 - V. Koutalis, *Graeco-Egyptian Alchemy* (forthcoming)
 - M. Klemm, *Medical Anthropology in the Late Middle Ages* (forthcoming)
- Journal *Studia Ceranea* (editors: Mirosław J. Leszka et al., established in 2011, published by Lodz University Press), “food and medicine section”, publication of conference papers (annual conference *Colloquia Ceranea*)
- *Journal of Late Antique, Islamic and Byzantine Studies* (editors: Petros Bouras-Vallianatos, Marie Legendre, Daisy Livingstone, Yannis Stouraitis, established in 2022, published by the Edinburgh University Press):

The *Journal of Late Antique, Islamic and Byzantine Studies* as a hotspot for interdisciplinary dialogue aims to disseminate new approaches and methodologies that intend to transform our understanding of broader Late Antique and Medieval phenomena, such as knowledge transfer and cultural exchanges, by looking beyond single linguistic traditions or political boundaries. It provides a forum for high-quality articles on the interactions and cross-cultural exchange between the so-called Byzantine Empire and the Islamic world. Thematically, the journal also welcomes submissions dealing individually with Late Antique, Byzantine and Islamic literature, history, archaeology, and material culture from the fourth to the fifteenth century.

 - Vol. 1 (2022)
 - Vol. 2 (2023)
- Website *Byzantine Medicine* (Alain Touwaide) created and maintained by the Institute for the Preservation of Medical Traditions (IPMT): <https://medicaltraditions.org>

2. Current and most important CIBMS Projects in progress:

2.1. Online source-database as a complete inventory of all medical manuscripts available

- **(1) starting point, and first steps:** on the basis of his lifelong collection of medical manuscripts and on his 2016 and 2021 publications (*Census* and revised edition of Diel’s catalogue), Alain Touwaide has compiled a resource of Greek medical

manuscripts and currently he is working (in cooperation with the Center for Hellenic Studies of Harvard University) on its online release to share this catalogue with CIBMS

- **(2) next step (currently in preparation and progressing):** under the guidance of Robert Alessi (being the responsible developer of *ekdosis*), CIBMS members will use *ekdosis* (<https://www.ekdosis.org>) as a tool to produce xml databases of the medical manuscripts mentioned above
- CIBMS workflow takes place under the aegis of the French *Huma-Num* (<https://www.huma-num.fr>) research infrastructure and uses the database-building tools made available to researchers in the humanities and social sciences. A `git` repository has been set up by Robert Alessi to share experiences, create templates and validate the data between CIBMS members; a dedicated website (in progress, webmaster: Robert Alessi) will provide information on the development of the project.

2.2. Brill's Companion of Byzantine Medicine (eds. Isabel Grimm-Stadelmann and Danilo Valentino): in preparation under participation of all CIBMS members; the volume will offer a comprehensive 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 and linguistic aspects, 3) interactions with neighboring cultures and their medical traditions, 4) medical literature investigating the principal ways of transmission of Byzantine medical sources, namely papyri, manuscripts and printed editions, and differentiating the sources according to their typologies and authors.

3. Significant Publications by CIBMS members (a selection)

- Robert Alessi, De l'édition critique multilingue imprimée à l'édition numérique: l'autorité en question, in: Robert Alessi, Marcello Vitali-Rosati, *Les éditions critiques numériques*, [Presses de l'université de Montréal](https://www.presses.umontreal.ca/), 2023, Parcours numériques, 9782760647626. [hal-03963624](https://hal.science/hal-03963624)
- Robert Alessi, La naissance de la médecine arabe, in: Véronique Boudon-Millot, *De la Grèce à la Chine. Origines de la médecine*, Les Belles Lettres (forthcoming: <https://hal.science/hal-03311463>).
- Petros Bouras-Valliantos and Dionysios Stathakopoulos (eds.), *Drugs in the Medieval Mediterranean. Transmission and Circulation of Pharmacological Knowledge*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge 2024.
- Isabel Grimm-Stadelmann, John Zacharias *Aktouarios* (c. 1275–1330) and His Treatise On Psychic Pneuma: Critical Edition of the Greek Text with German Translation and Medical-Historical Commentary. Progress and Current Results of the Research Project, *medieval worlds* 18 (2023) 182–195.
- Isabel Grimm-Stadelmann, Bekanntes und Unbekanntes zum Kral-Xenon in Konstantinopel, *Zbornik radova Vizantološkog Instituta* 60 (2023) 1023–1040.
- Anna Maria Ieraci Bio, Un nuovo frammento greco del commento di Giovanni Alessandrino in Hippocr. epid. VI nel Vat. gr. 300, Galenos 17 (2023) 107–118.

- Maciej Kokoszko, Zofia Rzeźnicka, Krzysztof Jagusiak, Konrad Tadajczyk, Polyarchion (πολυάρχιον) w medycynie antyku i Bizancjum [Polyarchion (πολυάρχιον) in the medicine of Antiquity and Byzantium], *Farmacja Polska* 79/12 (2023) 757–765.
- Maciej Kokoszko, Zofia Rzeźnicka, How to Glow and Stay Fresh: Some Advice on Deodorants Penned by Aetius of Amida, *Studia Ceranea* 13 (2023) 477–490.
- Mario Lamagna, Uroscopia araba in greco, in: M. Cronier, A. Guardasole, A. Pietrobelli (éds.), *De Bagdad à Constantinople : le transfert des savoirs médicaux (XIe-XIVe s.). Actes du colloque international de Reims, 24-25 mai 2018* (Orient et Méditerranée 42), Leuven/Paris/Bristol [CT]: Peeters, 2023, 249–262.
- Zofia Rzeźnicka, *A Scent of Luxury, or Reading Aetius of Amida's "Libri medicinales" in a New Context*, post published on the blog: The Recipes Project: Food, Magic, Art, Science, and Medicine (<https://recipes.hypotheses.org/20748>).
- Danilo Valentino, Curar cucinando piante: i decotti vegetali dell'*anthologium iatrosophicum* del Cod. Panorm. XIII C 3, in: I. Grimm-Stadelmann, A. Riehle, R. Tocci, M. M. Vučetić (Hrsg.), *Anekdotia Byzantina. Studien zur byzantinischen Geschichte und Kultur. Festschrift für Albrecht Berger anlässlich seines 65. Geburtstags*. (Byzantinisches Archiv 41), De Gruyter: Berlin / New York 2023, 765–777.
- Ilias Valiakos, Logadios aus Memphis, ein Arzt und Sophist, in: I. Grimm-Stadelmann, A. Riehle, R. Tocci, M. M. Vučetić (Hrsg.), *Anekdotia Byzantina. Studien zur byzantinischen Geschichte und Kultur. Festschrift für Albrecht Berger anlässlich seines 65. Geburtstags*. (Byzantinisches Archiv 41), De Gruyter: Berlin / New York 2023, 779–796.

4. CIBMS: cooperations, research groups, events

- **Annual Colloquia Ceranea International Conference** (since 2019, initiative of Maciej Kokoszko): organised by the Ceraneum Centre, University of Łódź, Poland; one of the crucial elements of the event are panels devoted to the history of ancient and Byzantine medicine (head of the conference: Maciej Kokoszko, secretary: Zofia Rzeźnicka)
- **Regular Munich online Research Colloque** (Isabel Grimm-Stadelmann, during term, every fortnight) combining Byzantine Studies and Byzantine Medicine: forum for transdisciplinary exchange and discussion about current research questions focussed around the investigation of Byzantine Medicine.
- **Séminaire international** sur les controverses scientifiques dans la formation médicale (EquIHSAM, Robert Alessi and Isabel Grimm-Stadelmann): <https://www.orient-mediterranee.com/training/seminaire-international-sur-les-controverses-scientifiques-dans-la-formation-medicale-2e-session/>: recurring meetings each term

- Petros Bouras-Vallianatos, Sophia Xenophontos: International Workshop “The Medical Paratext”, 7–8 September 2022, University of Glasgow (funded by The Wellcome Trust)
- University of Łódź, Ceraneum Centre, in cooperation with the Faculty of History and Philosophy (University of Lodz, Poland): two-part series of lectures on ancient and Byzantine medicine:
Łódź Open Lecture Organization: Horizons of the humanities project, All talks were recorded and are available online: [Horizons of the Humanities](#)
 - 2022: Irene Calà (Berlin, Munich, Ulm); Laurence Totelin (Cardiff University)
 - 2023: Alain Touwaide (spring 2023):
[A. Touwaide: Being Sick, Being Treated in Byzantium. Byzantine Remedial Therapy](#)
[A. Touwaide: Medicine at the Border. Cross-cultural Exchanges in Medicine in Sicily and Southern Italy](#)

[A. Touwaide: Medicine at the Border. Cross-cultural Exchanges in Medicine in Sicily and Southern Italy \(You Tube\)](#)
 - 2023: Barbara Zipser (autumn 2023):
[B. Zipser: Treatment in Ioannes Archiatus](#)
[B. Zipser: Vision and Blindness in Ancient and Medieval Medicine](#)
 - 2023: Isabel Grimm-Stadelmann (autumn 2023)
[I. Grimm-Stadelmann: The Aktouarios John Zacharias and his Treatise on the “Psychic Pneuma”: a Byzantine “Burnout Therapy”?](#)
[I. Grimm-Stadelmann: Byzantine Medicine: Professional Interaction between Tradition and Innovation](#)
 - 2023: another panel especially devoted to dietetics and food history:

[M. Leontsini: Condiment or medicine? Capers from the Hippocrates to the Byzantine and Arab texts](#)

[G. Merianos: Humble but not insignificant: References to wine lees in Greek \(al\)chemical texts](#)

[I. Anagnostakis: Lessons from Chrysothemis: We are also what we don't eat or shouldn't or would like to eat](#)
- Ilias Valiakos: International Conference on the History of Medicine, University of Thessalia, Larissa (October 2023)
- 6 November 2023: During the III Coloquio multidisciplinario de Estudios de las Bebidas hosted by Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia (National School of Anthropology and History), Mexico the book *Milk and Dairy Products in the Medicine and Culinary Art of Antiquity and Early Byzantium (1st–7th Centuries AD)*,

by Zofia Rzeźnicka and Maciej Kokoszko was presented to the conference speakers and the audience. Link: [III Coloquio Multidisciplinario Estudios de las bebidas](#) (from 1:27:50 to 1:40:10).

5. CIBMS: Ongoing Projects, Plans and Prospects

- Robert Alessi: critical edition of the Hippocratic Epidemics, Book 2 and 4 by comparing and paralleling the Greek and Arabic tradition, together with an un index [grec-arabe-grec des mots de Hunayn dans le commentaire aux *Épidémies* 2 d'Hippocrate](#) (in preparation)
- Petros Bouras-Vallianatos: Making and Consuming Drugs in the Italian and Byzantine Worlds, 12th-15th c. (Wellcome University Award, 2019-24)
- Isabel Grimm-Stadelmann: critical edition of the twofold treatise on the psychic pneuma by the late byzantine *Aktouarios* Johannes Zacharias (in preparation)
 - contribution to the teaching programme of the Ionian University of Corfu by lecturing on “The History of Greek Medicine”, cooperation ongoing
 - regular and ongoing cooperation with the Eötvös-József-Collegium, ELTE, Budapest
 - 2024: start of cooperation with the Centro Tedesco, Venice
- Maciej Kokoszko and Zofia Rzeźnicka: ongoing Erasmus programme together with the University of Calabria, Rende (Italy) since May 2023
 - various projects (publications, workshops etc.) on food history and dietetics
- Ilias Valiakos, Edition of Anonymus med. Cod. Laur. Plut. 75.03, ff. 33–239 (in preparation)
- Danilo Valentino, Edition of the Iatrosophion Cod. Panorm. XIII C 3, ff. 121–279v (in preparation)
- regular teaching, lecturing and publishing activities by all CIBMS members

Plans for 2024–2026

- Strengthening further networking in Byzantine Medical Studies
- Progressing the online inventory of medical manuscripts
- Finalizing the Companion project
- Organising a regular and periodic (triennial) conference on Byzantine Medicine (Athens, Łódź)
- Organising training sessions on editing Byzantine medical sources
- Inspiring and supporting further publication projects