

WILEY DIGITAL ARCHIVES ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS

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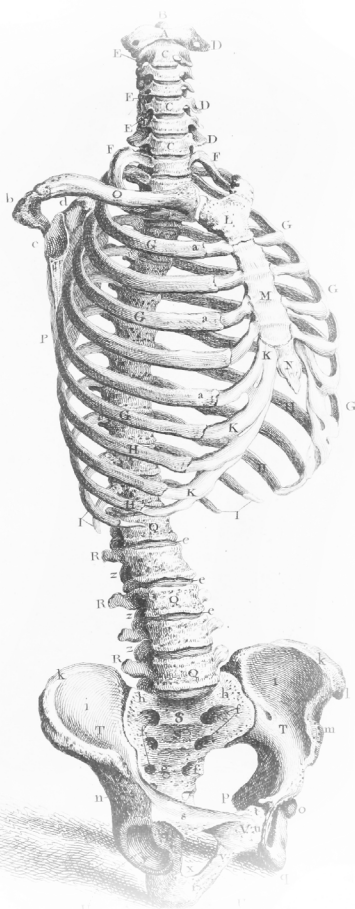


Image from the Royal College of Physicians

SEVEN CENTURIES OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) was founded in 1518 in response to a critical need for standards in the practice of medicine. It is the oldest medical college in England, and a leading professional membership body for physicians, with 37,000 members and fellows worldwide.

The College works to improve public health by influencing the way healthcare is designed and delivered, promoting good health, preventing disease and enabling physicians to fulfill their potential.

Centuries after its founding charter, the Royal College of Physicians continues to play a pivotal role in setting and raising medical standards, and improving the health of the global population.

FROM FOLKLORE TO MODERN PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY

Spanning seven centuries from 1205 through 1980, the Royal College of Physicians archive reflects the history and development of the modern practice of Western medicine, documenting the interactions of the medical community with government leaders and the general public.

From early folk medicine to current public health systems, and from some of the first malpractice cases, to the establishment of modern standards of medical practice, this archive covers the development of medical research and education, as well as the formation of specialized fields of medicine as we know them today.

***Explore primary sources documenting
the history of Western medicine
between 1205 and 1980.***

INSIDE THE ARCHIVE

The Royal College of Physicians archive contains two million pieces of content covering a broad range of topics, from bioethics and anatomical studies to neurology and botanical research. The collections include:

William Harvey's letters from Treviso, Italy in 1636, **while in quarantine**, – a measure taken to curb the spread of the plague – something that Harvey regarded as “a very unjust affront.” The Harvey collection also includes papers and diaries on his revolutionary theory on the circulation of blood, which he developed from 1582 to 1592 while lecturing at the College.

The diaries and letters of **Edward Jenner**, the father of immunology, as he developed a **smallpox vaccine** from a cowpox pustule.

Centuries of **folk medicine** practice as shared in self-treatment “recipe” books, passed down from generation to generation, and used by family “healers” at a time when access to professional medical care was limited to the very wealthy.

Letters and papers written by the first female practitioners, including **Elizabeth Garrett Anderson**, the first woman to qualify in Great Britain as a physician and surgeon.

THEMES

Domestic Medicine and Healers	Nomenclature of Diseases
Drug and Vaccine Development	Medicine and Policy
Folklore and Medicine	Non-Western Medicine
Health and Economics	Pandemics in History
Healthcare and Medicine	Post-Traumatic Stress
Laws and Regulations	Disorder Discovery and Diagnosis
Herbal Medicine	Public Health and Policy
	World Health

WILEY DIGITAL ARCHIVES

Wiley Digital Archives is the only archival program dedicated to the History of Science and its connections to society and culture. We restore, digitize and catalog millions of rare, primary source materials from some of the world's most influential scientific societies and universities. Our platform is purposely designed to power research, support teaching, and foster learning.

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SUBJECTS

Anatomy and Anatomical Studies	History of Vaccination
Biology	Medical Humanities
Biomedical Science	Medical Science and Research
Bioethics	Medieval Studies
British History	Military Medicine
History of Medical Treatments	Pharmacology
History of Medicine and Mental Health	Public Health

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