

FOOD AND HOSPITALS: An Historical Perspective

**Brussels, Belgium
Friday 26 - Saturday 27
April 2013**

CONFERENCE DETAILS

Venue: University's Brussels Office

BELGIUM

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An international conference hosted by the History of Medicine Unit, University of Birmingham, and The Free University of Brussels (VUB). Sponsored by the **Society for the Social History of Medicine** and the Wellcome Trust

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While contemporary grumblings about hospital food have become the quintessential hospital complaint, it is undeniable that a clean, warm bed, rest and the provision of food and drink, rather than medicines and therapies have always greatly increased hospital patients' chances of recovery. Indeed diet has from the time of Galen been a central part of medical therapy. However, even if central to the day-to-day routine of hospitals, workhouses and asylums, food and drink continue to be overlooked in historical accounts of hospitalisation. This conference aims to foreground the role of food and drink in health care institutions in the past.

Food and drink were crucial to hospital and asylum expenditure from medieval to modern times, not unusually comprising one half of medical institutions' annual budgets. Drink and diet naturally varied with country, region and locality. The organisers of this conference are interested in exploring broad geographical perspectives and associated fads, prejudices and phobias. The acquisition, preparation and use of foodstuffs were also managed by diverse groups, sometimes lay or clerical, as well as medical, including doctors, nurses and dieticians. Dietary needs and preferences of patients also varied with age, gender, race and religion, while meals were often augmented or restricted in line with diagnosis and discipline. Views concerning the role of food and drink in recovery also shifted significantly, both in earlier centuries, and more recently with the rise of the nutritional sciences.

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DAY ONE
FRIDAY 26 APRIL 2013

1) 9:15am-9:30am

Welcome & Introductions:

Dr Jonathan Reinarz

2) 9.30am – 11am

Chair ~ Chris Bonfield

Veronique Pitchon (Strasbourg),
'Preparation and Distribution of Food and
Medicine in an Arabic Hospital during the
Medieval Period'

Susan Edgington (London), 'Food in the
Hospital of St John of Jerusalem c. 1180'

3) 11.30am – 1pm:

Chair ~ Carole Rawcliffe

Ana Rita Rocha (Coimbra), 'The Diet of
Lepers in a Medieval Leper House'

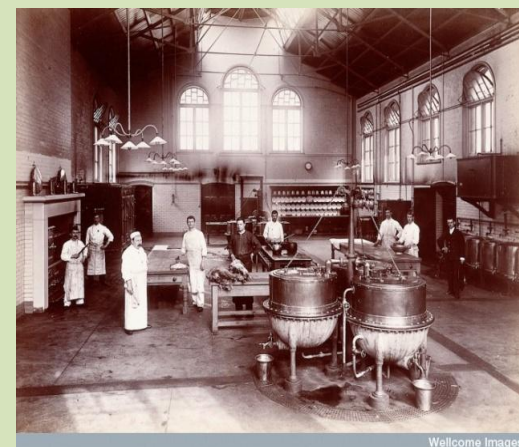
Teresa Huguet-Termes (Birmingham), 'In-
House Preparation and Distribution of Food
at the Hospital of Sant Llatzer in Barcelona,
c. 1379-1395'

4) 2.30pm – 4pm

Chair ~ John Henderson

Fritz Dross (Erlangen-Nurnberg), 'Feeding
Confraternity'

Laurinda Abreu (Evora), 'The Portuguese
Experiences in the Artificial Infant Feeding
– The Case of the Hospital de Todos os
Santos'



5) 4.30pm – 6pm (parallel session)

Chair ~ TBC

Sue Hawkins (Kingston) and Andrea Tanner
(Fortrum & Mason), 'The Many Functions
of Food in British Children's Hospitals
before the Great War'

Lawrence Weaver (Glasgow), 'Paediatrics in
the Paris Hospitals'

Chair ~ TBC

Savannah Williamson (Houston), 'Slavery,
Malnutrition and Diet in the Antebellum
Hospital'

Ilaria Berti (Genova), 'Slaves' Health and
Food in a Jamaican Sugar Cane Plantation
Hospital'

6) 8.00pm – 9.00pm

KEYNOTE: Allen Grieco (Harvard)

Diet in Renaissance Hospitals

DAY TWO

SATURDAY 27 APRIL 2013



7) 9.00am – 10.30am

Food and the Asylum: TBC

Shilpi Rajpal (Delhi), 'Diet Related Struggles inside the Asylums'

8) 11.00am – 12.30pm (parallel session)

Chair ~ TBC

Jeremy Boulton (Newcastle), *et al*, 'Food, Drink and the Georgian Workhouse'

Alistair Ritch (Birmingham), 'The Controversial Use of "Intoxicating Liquors" in New Poor law Workhouses'

Chair ~ TBC

Barry Doyle (Huddersfield), 'The Provisioning of Hospitals in Early Twentieth-Century England and France'

Johanna Conterio (Harvard), 'Patient Perspectives on Nutrition and Health at Institutions of Preventative Medicine in the USSR, 1920s – 1930s'

9) 2.00pm – 4.30pm

Chair ~ TBC

Steven King (Leicester), 'Super Foods, Institutions and Patient Perceptions of Health in Twentieth-Century Britain'

Susan Lederer (Wisconsin), 'American Hospitals and Commercial Suppliers'

10) 5pm ~ General Discussion:

Peter Scholliers, Vrije Universiteit Brussel