

## **MEDICAL COLLECTION UNIVERSITIES**

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The aim of this work is to show different medical collections or university museums in the Spanish university and their influence in academic community. Medicine is a science that needs different techniques and tools for development of their work. The use of new technologies and the constant advance of them mean that some of these objects are left out of the new needs that society requires. Even, once these objects become obsolete or useless, they are preserved. They become then a heritage value in medicine's history. To understand this type of pieces we must put them against a context in order to grasp its historical character and frame its technological transformation over the years.

In the university media, this medical heritage has played a fundamental role as a didactic tool for the training of future specialists in medicine. Medical collections become a didactic material for the formation of students, allowing illustrating case studies, working tools and other materials that have contributed to the history of medicine.

In Spain there are six medical history museums that are used as resources to research: Library and historical museum doctors of the institute of history of science and documentation "López Piñero" in Valencia University (1); Cajal Museum; the Cajal Legacy in the City of Arts and Sciences in Valencia; National museum of science and technology; the Basque museum of the history of medicine "Jose Luis Goti"; and the museum of the history of medicine in Catalonia in Barcelona. Furthermore, we can find other examples: Infanta

Margarita medicine museum and the Military health Collection Museum, both in Madrid. Just two out of these eight examples are related to university heritage. However, if we enhance our search for other scientific collections in Spanish universities, we will find a variety of museums related to medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and sanitary instrument of health science in general.

The Complutense University of Madrid has six museums ( *Anatomy museum Javier Puerta*, *Antropology Museum professor Reverte Coma*, *Hispanic pharmacy museum*, *Odontology museum Luis de la Macorra*, *Optical museum and Veterinary museum*) and five university collections, (*Historical collection of drugs*, *Vegetal Histology Collection Gomez Pamo*, *Mineralogy collection*, *Models and murals for teaching botanic collection and the Herbarium pharmacy faculty*) being the biggest amount of scientific heritage reaching approximately 205,000 pieces. The museum of the University of Valladolid has an important Biomedical Science collection which has a thousand items inventoried corresponding to pieces of anatomy, medicine and pharmacy. However, Paco Pastor, responsible for the museum since 1986, told us that there can be four times more objects than what is catalogued at the moment. The museum of the University of Murcia has a small medical collection, some of them used for the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis and X-ray apparatus. The University of Sevilla preserves a series of scientific instruments, and we can find skeletons, pharmacy instruments and medicine. The University of Granada has a “Dental Museum” since 1986 at the Dentistry Faculty (2), which was an initiative of Professor Guirao Pérez. This space will allow knowing a set of a dentist’s clinic, a general room with devices from different times, and a workshop with items related to prosthesis. Moreover, in Granada there are other collections related to medicine: wax, terracotta and cast collection, medicine collection, scientific instrumentation museum and pharmacy history museum. All information has been collected at [www.patrimonio.ugr.es](http://www.patrimonio.ugr.es). To bring this entire heritage to society, the University of Granada organizes some activities to teachers and researchers, such as a workshop with a guided visit to the collections. Moreover, since 2017, this university has developed some temporal exhibitions fostering a dialogue between contemporary art and university heritage. The first example was “The weight of the soul. Physiology of life and death”. As an innovation, the University of Granada has opened a new exhibition space to show in a monthly basis a piece in the hall of the *Real Hospital*. The first piece has been a “*triaca magna*” from the pharmacy history museum “Jose María Suñé Arbussá”.

All this material forms a very specific heritage as a research resource for medicine, with the aim of continue to research and create science for the

present and the future. In my opinion, university museums need to work hard at becoming destination on campus for student and faculty, even the communities, school, etc. Unfortunately, in Spain scientific and technological heritage have not the same status as artistic and architecture heritage enjoy. In the future this situation would change thanks to communication activities as they are being better known.

#### REFERENCES

1. Scientific collection in University of Valencia: [On line:10/04/2018] In: [http://hicio.uv.es/Expo\\_medicina/](http://hicio.uv.es/Expo_medicina/)
2. <https://patrimonio.ugr.es/bienes/museo-dental/> [On line: 03/05/2018]