StoryPharm has received funding from Horizon Europe Programme for Research and Innovation under the action Horizon MSCA Doctoral Networks, Grant Agreement No 101169114

Chair
Plants for Health in the Mediterranean Traditions
University of Salerno – Italy
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Storytelling as Pharmakon *in Premodernity and Beyond:*
Training the New Generation of Researchers and Professionals in Health Humanities

StoryPharm
Storytelling as Pharmakon

Università degli Studi di Salerno
Training in Narrative and in Literary Criticism
Resp. Scientifico Maddalena Vaccaro

The Memory and Myth of Medical Knowledge in the Premodern Era: The "Salerno Medical School" in the Euro-Mediterranean Context and Beyond

La memoria e il mito delle conoscenze mediche in epoca premoderna
La "Scuola Medica di Salerno" nel contesto euromediterra*neo e oltre*

21-24 October 2025

Short Presentation

StoryPharm Doctoral Fellows (DFs) will receive a three-day intensive training course in Narrative and in Literary Criticism. This training will be provided by UniSa's Department of Cultural Heritage Sciences (DiSPaC) in collaboration with the UNESCO chair in *Plantea Medicinales Mediterranae*, the Interdepartmental Research Centre "*Althea - A Mediterranean Institution: The Salerno Medical School*".
DFs will be introduced to the notions and methodology of Narrative and in Literary Criticism, and they will be instructed on how to use sources, data and critical skills to approach ancient and medieval sources and cultures. Furthermore, the Althea members will introduce DFs how how the "medical schools" functioned in the Middle Ages, starting with Salerno. The UNESCO Chair Holder Prof. Rita P. Aquino (Dept. Farmacy / UNESCO Chair / Althea) and Prof. Alain Touwaide (PI UNESCO Chair, Institute for the Preservation of Medical Traditions) will introduce DFs to issues directly related to the historical knowledge of medicinal plants and the practical and scientific traditions associated with their use, including insights into their application in the most recent pharmacological developments.

Provisional Programme

Day 1 –Tue, 21 October 2025: Fisciano, Università degli Studi di Salerno
Sala conferenze [Conference Room], DiSPaC

15:00

Welcome

Vincenzo Loia – UNISA
Armando Bisogno, Department Director – DISPAC
Maddalena Vaccaro, Scientist-in-charge – STORYPHARM
Adriano Amendola – PhD Course "MEM" Coordinator
Angelo Meriani – PhD Course "RAMUS" Coordinator
Rita P. Aquino, DIFARMA – UNESCO Chair *Plantae Medicinales Mediterraneae*
Giulia Savarese, DIPMED – ALTHEA Centre

15:30-16:10 Amalia Galdi / Maria Consiglia Napoli, Università degli Studi di Salerno / Althea, *Il mito e la memoria della "Scuola Medica di Salerno"*

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Day 2 – Wed, 22 October 2025: Fisciano
Sala conferenze [Conference Room], DiSPaC

9:00-9:45 Alain Touwaide UNESCO Chair Salerno / Institute for the Preservation of Medical Traditions – *Searching for Manuscripts, Understanding Medicine*

9.45-10:15 Giulia Orofino, Università degli Studi di Cassino e del Lazio Meridionale [online] – *Accessory' Illustrations in the Herbarium of Pseudo-Apuleius. Relationship to the text and function*

10:15-10:45 Stavroula Constantinou, University of Cyprus – *Narratology and Medieval Narratives*

10:45-11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00-13.00 *Reading/Working group*
Renato De Filippis, Università degli Studi di Salerno – *Natural Born Monsters. Texts on Mostruosity and Deformity from a Philosophical-Theological Point of View Between Late Antiquity and Early Middle Ages*

13.00-14:30 *Lunch Break*

14:30-15:00 Laurence M. Totelin, Cardiff University, and Andrew Griebeler, Duke University [online], *Anatomy of a mandrake root: applying narrative analysis approaches to text and images about a most special plant*

15:00-16:00 Rita P. Aquino, Università degli Studi di Salerno / UNESCO Chair Salerno / Althea, Teresa Mencherini e Tiziana Esposito, Università degli Studi di Salerno – *The Medieval skin care routine and its reflection on cosmetology of the third millenium: De Ornatu Mulierum, a trans-disciplinar approach to the text interpretation*

16:00-16:15 *Coffee break*

16:15-17:30 *Reading/Working group*
Sabrina Galano, Università degli Studi di Salerno / Althea – *Méthodologies philologiques pour l'étude des Herbiers médiévaux en ancien français*

Day 3 – Thu, 23 October 2025: Salerno, Museo Diocesano e Archivio di Stato

Museo Diocesano, Sala conferenze [Conference Room]

Welcome: Dir. Arch. Carmen Rossomando

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09:30-10:00 Maddalena Vaccaro, Università degli Studi di Salerno – *The Salerno Medical School and the Images: Methodological Perspectives*

10:00-12:45 *Working group*:
Andrea Improta, Università degli Studi di Cassino e del Lazio Meridionale / Antonino Tranchina Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II – *Illustrated Medical Narratives in Manuscripts and Painted Cycles*
10:30-10.45 / 11.45-12.00 *Coffee break*

12:45-14:00 *Lunch Break*

Archivio di Stato, Room [tbd]

Welcome: Dir. Salvatore Amato

14:30-15:00 Iolanda Ventura, Università di Bologna – *Mapping the transformation of Pharmacology during the 13th century*

15:00-15:30 *Coffee break*

15:30-17:00 *Working group:*
Salvatore Amato, Archivio di Stato di Salerno – *Documents and Other Textual Forms for the Historical-Critical Knowledge of the Salerno Medical School*

17:00 Visit to San Pietro a Corte

Day 4 – Fri, 24 October 2025: Salerno, Giardino della Minerva

Giardino della Minerva
Welcome

10:30-12:30 Luciano Mauro, Director of Minerva Garden / UNESCO Chair Salerno
Paola Valitutti, Minerva Garden
Visit to the *Giardino della Minerva* botanical garden, i.e. *Hortus Sanitatis* of the Salerno Medical School

12:30-14:30 Lunch