

## EDITORIAL

### History of Medicine: Medicine or History?

History of Medicine: History or Medicine? What is the meaning of this question? The history of medicine has two important parts: one is its historical impact, discussing history, and the second part is medicine, discussing medical issues. Also, there are many other related fields like archeology, linguistics, traditional medicine, etc. that are involved in medical history. Therefore, it is clear that history of medicine is a multi-disciplinary major. But which major is the main one and other disciplines help it? Does the history of medicine belong to medical sciences or social sciences? Worldwide, the major of history of medicine is classified both as a medical major in schools of medicine (ex. John Hopkins University) and as a History major in social sciences schools (mostly as a division of history of science). Therefore, it is a conflict and both disciplines, medical and social sciences claim to be the owner of this major. Also, there are different research methods in social sciences that try to define medical history studies according to them. I do not aim to analyze and criticize these methods. There is no doubt that they are valuable methos

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help to improve our knowledge of the history of medicine. But when all the investigations could be meaningful that we can understand the medical definitions. All the investigations depend on the understanding of medical terms. Ex. History of migraine is meaningful when we can understand this terminology during the history in medical sciences. If you can not define migraine, you can not define its history. Therefore, all other disciplines in medical history investigations help to medicine discipline, as the main core of history of medicine to clarify its history.

On the other hand, the main audience of history of medicine is medical society. It could form and improve the identity of this society. Therefore, the first target society for the history of medicine is medical society. It could be applicable for them more than other disciplines.

Therefore, it could be concluded that the major of history of medicine is a multidisciplinary field that many disciplines including medical sciences, history, archeology, art, traditional medicine, geography, linguistics, etc. are involved in forming its investigations. But the main core of this major is medicine and other disciplines could help to complete and improve it and it is better to establish this major in the medical schools and universities.

#### **Conflict of Interest**

None.

