

Call for Papers

6th Annual Meeting of the Working Group “Marburg Dialogues on Ancient Healing Arts”

Date: June 18–19, 2027

Venue: Landgrafensaal of the State Archive Marburg

Deadline: February 1st 2027

Organizers: Tanja Pommerening, Nils P. Heeßel

Dear colleagues and friends of ancient medicine,

after another successful meeting of the Working Group “**Marburg Dialogues on Ancient Healing Arts**” (MGAH, German abbreviation) last June, we would now like to cordially invite you to the **6th annual meeting** on the **18th and 19th June 2027**. We would like to encourage you to actively shape the conference. There are two ways in which you can do this:

Present your current research or PhD project related to “Ancient Medicine” as a **20-minute talk** followed by **20 minutes for discussion**. We would especially like to encourage early career researchers to apply with a presentation.

Alternatively, you can open our 90-minute **discussion session** with a **10-to-15-minute input presentation** on a current, controversial topic in the history of pharmacy or medicine. Last year’s discussion session, for example, focused on the topic ‘Healing Atmospheres. The Influence of Perceived Experience on the Ancient Healing Arts’. After an introduction to the topic, we split up into smaller groups to discuss the questions that have been raised, before coming together for a final plenary discussion.

As the forthcoming meeting is being organized as part of the 500th anniversary celebrations of Philipps University Marburg, the meeting will be held under a theme: **‘Diversity in the Healing Arts: Medical Knowledge between Practice, Tradition and Institution’**. We invite you to explore the tension within ancient medicine between practice, tradition and institutional authorization. The question guiding this discussion is concerned with the process by which medical knowledge emerged, was transmitted, and subsequently legitimized – a process that transpired not only within the confines of early schools and academies, but also in the broader context beyond these institutions.

If you would like to contribute a **20-minute presentation**, please send us your proposed title by e-mail. Please add an **abstract of about 300 words**, outlining the research question and the expected results of your project. If you are interested in submitting a proposal for a **10 to 15-minute input lecture**, please also send us your proposal for a discussion topic by e-mail and attach a description of your **thesis or topic with the questions to be discussed (about 300 words)**. The languages of presentation are **German and English**.

Please send all proposals by **February 1st 2027** to Marta Chervinka (ag-mgah@staff.uni-marburg.de), who is also available to answer any questions. Further information can be found on our **website**: <https://www.uni-marburg.de/en/fb16/igphmmr/marburg-dialogues-on-ancient-healing-arts>. The final program will be published in spring 2027.

Moreover, we are pleased to announce that the public keynote lecture will be delivered by **Prof. Dr. Philip van der Eijk** (Humboldt-University of Berlin).

We are looking forward to welcoming many participants!

With best regards from Marburg,



Prof. Dr. Tanja Pommerening



Prof. Dr. Nils P. Heeßel



Marta Chervinka