

PhD-candidate: Patrick L. Zawadski:

Title: Analysis and contextualisation of the work and life of the pharmacologists W. Wiechowski, E. Starkenstein and G. Kuschinsky with particular focus on their contribution to modern pharmacology

Status: PhD-dissertation thesis

Faculty: 1st Faculty of Medicine of the Charles University in Prague

PhD supervisor: Prof. PhDr. Petr Svobodný, PhD.

The history of the German pharmacology in Prague belongs to one of the most astonishing developments within the medical research in Bohemia and Moravia/Czechoslovakia, which gained a wide contemporary recognition worldwide. Therefore both the outstanding personalities and the research programme(s), including interdisciplinary inputs and outputs, have been investigated historically. However, until recently not an integrated approach, which would offer more comprehensive overview, occurred. This is the aim of the given PhD dissertation project of Mr. P.L. Zawadski, which must be welcomed.

In this extensive analysis he demonstrates especially informed acquaintance with the existed literature as well as detailed handling with the available archival sources kept by a variety of archives both in the Czech Republic and abroad. Also the scale of the usage of contemporary scientific production, especially in the field of pharmacology, is more than convincing.

This is of great importance in authors's attempts to describe and analyse the interdisciplinary developments and/or achievements connected with the personal biographies or social micro-history if we will use such a term. From a more limited point of view of history of medicine, it would be undoubtedly interesting to know more details about the role of E. Starkenstein in integrating the than historical knowledge into his understanding of pharmacology.

Although the structure of the work might be in some details called un-orthodox, it is satisfactory. Especially the integretaion of the parts of the Results, Summary and Conclusion, presented separately in the 'Summary of dissertation' might be reasonable. The formal errors occur, however, these are minor.

From a conceptual point of view, it would be relevant to know, if there are some overlaps of 'multiple case studies' with 'prosopography' or even older concept of the so-called scientific schools? Also the somewhat exclusive 'qualitative' worth of the interview (primarily a method of the oral history) should be illuminate, especially if it is available only for one of the followed persons, but not for the others.

The given PhD dissertation lies without a doubt above the average of the present production. It enriches the history of medicine not only in the Czech case, but also in wider European context. Therefore it fully qualifies the author as a PhD candidate.

Prague, May 2, 2023