

## Call for Papers

International and interdisciplinary Conference

# „Body and the Medicine of the Ancient World“

**Date:** July 1.–2., 2017

**Place:** Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (Institute for History, Theory and Ethics of Medicine of the University Medical Center Mainz, Am Pulverturm 13)

**Deadline:** January 18, 2017

**Organizers:** Marietta Horster, Tanja Pommerening, Livia Prüll (IAK Alte Medizin)

In today's perspective, the human body is perceived not only in its biological, but also in its social context and as historians of ancient medicine, we are open to views about its condition and value as well as culturally influenced views about its shape and function. As well as this, the body and its optimisation (genetic, operative, dietary) and aesthetics, is the subject of much discussion in the media, in the context of technical innovations and the development of a pluralistic society.

At this year's workshop, we will examine the sources from the ancient world to look at the themes of "norm" body, old body, stigmatised body and bodies of gods and heroes by referring to the following questions:

- (a) How did doctors and writers refer to the healthy body?
- (b) What is the definition of a healthy body in different ancient medical traditions from the Orient to Egypt and from earliest times to late antiquity?
- (c) Which (not always ideal) body images are transmitted by gods and heroes and how is this connected to the people?
- (d) Are there physical disabilities or externally visible aspects deviant from the norm that stigmatise people in Egyptian, Mesopotamian, Greek, Roman, Jewish or Early Christian society?
- (e) Is the value of a body measurable? For instance by its performance and functioning?
- (f) Were people once obliged to cooperate with a healer to sustain their (healthy) body? What right of self-determination over their body has the individual?

We are pleased to receive offers of papers on the theme of the meeting. **Papers on other subjects within the scope of ancient medicine are, of course, still very welcome.** Papers are to be limited to 20 minutes, with 10 minutes for discussion. A panel with a series of papers, lasting 90 minutes, would also be welcome.

Please send your offer of papers or panels to Nadine Gräßler ([graessle@uni-mainz.de](mailto:graessle@uni-mainz.de)) until **January 18, 2017** including an abstract (c. 300 words) which clearly describes your research question and outcomes. For postgraduate students and young researchers, there is a possibility to claim travel expenses following the successful acceptance of your paper. The final program will be released at the end of February.

You will find further information also on our homepage: <https://www.iak-alte-medizin.uni-mainz.de/>.