

Ancient Texts Provide Modern Therapeutics

INSTITUTE for the
Preservation
of MEDICAL
TRADITIONS

The Institute for the Preservation of Medical Traditions

Alain Touwaide Emanuela Appetiti

CURRENT RESEARCH

Exploring centuries old medical practice for the preservation of history and future of science

In many ways, ancient medical practices differed from our contemporary ones, with a strong reliance on medicinal plants for therapeutic use. As time has passed, many remedies have been lost in the dust of ancient texts and languages. The Institute for the Preservation of Medical Traditions, lead by husband and wife team Dr. Alain Touwaide and Dr. Emanuela Appetiti, seeks to recover a whole treasure of knowledge about medicinal plants accumulated in the past. With a focus upon the Mediterranean world from the most remote antiquity up to modern medicine, the Institute discovers ancient texts, deciphers their meaning, digitizes them to increase accessibility, and perhaps most importantly, extracts relevant information. The knowledge collected is key for both a healthier nutrition and for the revival of ancient medicines that may prove to be useful for our future. It is the hope of Dr. Touwaide and Dr. Appetiti that the reintroduction of these medicines into daily life and medical practice will prevent civilization's disease, cure many benign diseases, and help treat major afflictions.

Research at the Institute builds on 40 years of pioneering activity and a wealth of scholarly resources and data accumulated over this time period. Crossing the borders of traditional academic disciplines into an unprecedented, and currently unparalleled approach, Dr. Touwaide and Dr. Appetiti are bringing together the heritage of the past to the 21st century. In so doing, information collected can be used for present day naturopathic doctors curious about new therapies, traditional providers and scientists looking...

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AFFILIATION



Smithsonian Institution

EDUCATION

- Alain Touwaide , Ph.D., 1981 , University of Louvain

AWARDS

- Innovative Individual Grant, \$1.5M, 2004 - 2008
- Election as Corresponding Member, International Academy for the History of Science, 2014
- Election as Overseas Fellow, Royal Society of Medicine, London, 2010
- Election as Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science, section on History and Philosophy of Science, 2009
- Election as Fellow, International Academy for the History of Pharmacy, 1991

RESEARCH AREAS

Anthropology, Life Science, Health IT, Immunology / Inflammatory

FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will support the Institute for the Preservation of Medical Traditions, as their staff searches through ancient books in libraries around the world and extracts relevant information about plants and natural substances to find treatments for medical conditions from the past. Donations will fund the necessary \$250K/year for two full time scientists, \$40K/year for personnel, \$25K/year for equipment, and \$10K/year for research expenses. Join in making treatments from the past relevant to our future; support the Institute for the Preservation of Medical Traditions.