# Knowing the past to build the Future

Physiotherapy as a science has experienced a spectacular development in recent years, thanks to the fact that it has reached an increasingly solid scientific, academic and clinical foundation. This growth has allowed physiotherapists design, develop and refine unique procedures for evaluation, diagnosis and treatment from the patients; which has not only been reflected in the clinical setting but also in the competence frameworks of Teaching, research and management.

Now, as we approach the knowledge of the historical aspects of Physiotherapy as a profession, we find that, at least in the Spanish context, such aspects are shown in a parceled manner, so that those who we have been attracted to the study of the history of physiotherapy, we have the feeling of being found chapters loose, as scraps of a historical journey that is presented to us fragmented, lacking continuity, as a Incomplete puzzle, in the absence of several pieces distributed throughout the picture, a historical journey with many loose ends, which raises not a few questions and in which we stumble upon important gaps. Maybe it It is because, as some author has pointed out, knowledge about the history of physiotherapy as a profession to that we have had access, it has been largely due, since the late eighties, to the research effort made in this field by the Teachers of the University Teaching Corps attached to the Physiotherapy Area, before the need to capture these aspects of the foundation of the discipline in the respective Teaching Projects that they had to present in the access tests to these bodies Such works were carried out individually, with great difficulties, and, in the vast majority of occasions, from very different and distant universities, without connection with each other. From these lines we want to recognize and applaud the enormous effort developed by these colleagues, who have bequeathed us very significant contributions in the knowledge of the history of written Physiotherapy in the Spanish language, despite the shortage of documentary sources and the obstacles and difficulties caused by those dates suffered to access these sources.

Currently, a stream of thought about the history of physiotherapy, which numerous physiotherapists subscribe, sustains the idea that the profession, as we conceive it today, has its starting point in Europe, when it was founded in Stockholm, by Pehr Henrik Ling, in 1813, the Royal Central Institute of Gymnastics, an institution that, among others, he trained the professionals who developed the Physiotherapy work. From this perspective, we find

With this year 2013 marks the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Physiotherapy as a profession as it has reached our days, with the logical evolution that necessarily mark the times and accelerate the concerns of the professionals who are dedicated to it.

In this sense it should be noted that in reading the articles that make up the present monograph, we find some of the keys that allow us to contemplate the picture of the historical evolution of Physiotherapy in a more complete, to follow the simile, as if some gaps in the puzzle were filled. As an example, we mention how various physiotherapeutic procedures that we now frame under the concept of Manual Therapy, were already taught at the Royal Central Institute of Gymnastics in Stockholm and practiced by professionals graduated from this institution in very early times, which without any doubt means that such procedures part of the body of knowledge of Physiotherapy and its clinical practice, far, therefore, from the sustained idea by those who consider that these are models more or less recently incorporated into Physiotherapy, coming from of other extra-professional therapeutic practices.

Similarly, we observe that the path taken by Physiotherapy in its historical evolution has been marked basically due to conflicts between professionals, some of them recurring until today, whose origin is mainly in manifest differences of opinion on the rights that each one has in the exercise of their profession and who has the power to control them. There are two processes that have combined over time and that unfortunately they are still valid today. It is, on the one hand, the attempts of subordination and, for another, of the reaffirmation in the differentiation: subordination with respect to other professions and reaffirmation in the differentiation with respect to the physiotherapist's own identity. Still today, despite the fact that laws and jurisprudence they are clearly in favor of our positions, serious attempts to subordinate the physiotherapists by a certain medical group, who, occupying relevant positions in the administration health, they rely exclusively on the exercise of power, not on the basis of reason or compliance with the law valid.

For all this, the directors of the journal Physiotherapy Issues want to contribute to the celebration of such ephemeris, the publication of this extraordinary number of special monographic character on «History of the Evolution of Physiotherapy (1813-2013) », in which the various authors expose social, cultural events, most relevant politicians and professionals that have taken place in the last two centuries, both nationally as international, which have marked the development of Physiotherapy as a profession. In this way Physiotherapy Issues It aims to contribute to the acquisition of historical awareness by physiotherapists, so that each one elaborates his future with judgment and is able to transform it, making it a conscious experience, then, to to continue moving forward and building the future it is mandatory to examine the past and know in the most rigorous way possible the role that each of the links in the chain of physiotherapy development has played. How Helmut Kohl said: "A people who do not know their history cannot understand the present or build the future."

The time has come to build the future, but for this it is essential to assume the basis and identity of the figure of the physiotherapist as an autonomous and independent professional, and move forward making use of each once again developed scientific criteria, preserving and strengthening the powerful therapeutic arsenal we have inherited, and projecting it towards new academic, research and clinical practice horizons.

At the end of this editorial, the directors of Physiotherapy Issues want to express our deep gratitude to the Jims Medical Publishing House and its Editorial Director D. José Boronat, for making it possible for this extraordinary number reach all subscribers at no additional cost.