



The Museum of Dental School of Athens

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The Museum

The Museum of Dental School of the National and Kapodistrian University opened its doors to the public in 2013 and is the only one of its kind in Eastern Mediterranean. It deals with the collection and study (recording, documentation, evaluation and research) of dental evidence in Greece.

The main exhibition hall includes dental instruments dated from the 19th century or older. For example, there are dental drills, tooth forceps, instruments used in operative dentistry, instruments and appliances for dental prosthesis, dental handpieces and a rare dental unit with an even more rare dental light. Also, Dental School's historical archive since 1916 is incorporated to the Museum.

At the same time, the Museum considers of equal importance the building of a dialectic relationship between the present and the past. So, exhibition islets were created in selected public areas of the Dental School complex. In this way the exhibits can be viewed on a daily basis, not only by the visitors of the Museum but also by the students and the public.



The Dental School's Historical Archive

The Museum of Dental School incorporates the historical archive of the Athens Dental School and supports the research of the archive. The rare archival material tracks the evolution of the 'Οδοντοϊατρικόν Σχολειον' (Dental School) from the very early steps of its establishment in 1916 until the early 1980s.

The documents illustrate the manner in which the first University level Dental education institution was formed, as well as its transformation over the years. In this way, the critical historical period, during which early western dentistry was established in Greece, is revealed. At the same time, unknown aspects of the University of Athens academic activity are illuminated.

The Digital Museum

The Museum of Dental School, utilizing the advantages offered by modern Internet and Multimedia Technology, has developed a Digital Museum (www.museum.dent.uoa.gr). The purpose was not only to present the exhibits but also to feature the history of Dental Education and Practice in Greece through time.

In the digital crossroads of Contemporary Technology and Dental History, individualized exploration is allowed based on digital storytelling. Thus, the website visitor can wander around and study the entire dental legislation since the establishment of the modern Greek State until the present.

One of the most ambitious programs that are running at the moment is the creation of an open, freely accessible online library for the specialist, the student, the scholar, for everyone. Already, the Museum has undertaken the digitization of Greek dental books in its possession, which are free of copyrights.

The website also presents the teaching staff in its historical entirety, wishing to pay homage to all those who contributed to the advancement of dental education in our region. The presentation is not through a cold, sterile and long list of names, but through the evolution of the overall staff per academic year, as it is recorded in the University Yearbooks. Currently, an effort is in progress so that all the graduates will be recorded, from the very first one who graduated in 1916 to the present day.



Research, Education and Distinctions

The Museum of Dental School, supports a remarkable number of research projects. Within the next two months, it has been planned to issue a monograph on 'Dentistry in the Ancient Greek World'. Another study, concerning the role of 'Iatro-synedrion' (Medical Council) in the support of the dental profession and the promotion of dental education in Greece, is already in the stage of final writing. Additionally, educational programs have been designed for schoolchildren, both for primary and secondary education. The capability of the Museum to plan and realize innovative educational courses has begun to bear fruit and also to gain distinction. The staff of the Museum recently won the 1st prize for the best Poster presentation at the 40th National Medical Conference, held in Athens (14-17 May 2014), by presenting an educational program designed and implemented for elementary students.