

PARIS

Delphine Berdah, Maurice Cassier, Jean-Paul Gaudilliere, Ilana Lowy

Areas of specific research focus

Research on the history of pharmaceuticals conducted at Cermes have focused on the following issues for which special competencies have been developed:

- 1) The organization and transformation of the biological and medical sciences in the 20th century and their mobilization in competing forms of therapeutic innovation, with a special emphasis on the relations between the industrialization and the “molecularization” of therapeutic agents
- 2) The postwar history of clinical practice and public health, especially the rise of risk as boundary category and target of preventive intervention
- 2) The legal and administrative status of drugs and biological resources, with a special interest in issues at the interplay between scientific, judicial and economic practices, i.e. questions of intellectual property and market construction
- 3) The evaluation and uses of therapeutic agents, in particular the 20th century rise of standardization in the clinic associated with guidelines and “evidence-based medicine”
- 4) The interplay between the history of medicine and the history of agriculture originating either in the circulation of materials, expertise or drugs
- 5) The impact of globalization on drug development and regulation, focusing on new patterns of invention, production, and access in emerging countries

Current research projects and working groups

Trajectories of biological drugs (plant extracts, hormones and antibiotics) in 20th century France and Germany.

Medicine of risk, medicine at risk: the prevention and management of gynecological cancers after World War II.

The property of life: changing patterns of drug appropriation in 20th century Europe and United States (in collaboration with D. Kevles at Yale University and P-B Joly, TSV, Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique)

The fault, the accident and the risk: public controversies, judicial practices, and the regulation of therapeutic agents (in collaboration with C. Bonah and A. Rasmussen, Strasbourg University)

The farm and the clinic: veterinary expertise and animal health in 20th century France and Great-Britain (in collaboration with A. Wood, Imperial College, London)

Global pharmaceuticals: drug innovation and drug access in Brazil. The case of Aids therapies (in collaboration with M. Correa, Instituto Oswaldo Cruz, Rio)

Psycho-pharmaceuticals, the transformation of psychiatry and the birth of “mental health” after 1945 (in collaboration with A. Ehrenberg and P-H Castel, Cesames, CNRS-INSERM, Paris)

Future prospects:

From advertisement to scientific marketing: physicians and the pharmaceutical industry in 20th century France and Germany. (in collaboration with V. Hess and U. Thoms, Charité, Berlin)

Herbal medicine, traditional knowledge and drug development in India (in collaboration with the Institut Français de Pondichéry)

Research facilities for the Postgraduate/Postdoctoral Program

Archives

In addition to the collection of Bibliothèque Nationale, the Paris site of the Archives Nationales gathers the collections of records originating from the public administrations (Ministère de l'intérieur, Ministère de la santé et des affaires sociales) related to a) health policies ; b) the legal status and regulation of drugs ; c) research in the state research agencies (CNRS, INSERM, INRA...) ; d) reimbursement, prices, and the economy of the sector

Valuable records may also be found at: 1) the Pasteur Institute archives (more on the research than the production side) ; 2) the archives of Assistance Publique de Paris and its various hospitals (administration and unevenly preserved clinical records) ; 3) Académie Nationale de Médecine (personal files + minutes of committees) ;

Information:

Main issue is the very limited access to company and industrial archives.

For Postgraduate/Postdoctoral Students:

Archives Nationales + Archives de l'Institut Pasteur

In addition to the above mentioned Bibliothèque Nationale, very important collections of scientific and medical documents are easily accessible at the libraries of a) Pasteur Institute ; b) Bibliothèque Inter-universitaire de Médecine ; c) Bibliothèque de Pharmacie ; d) Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle. In addition to Cermes' own library, secondary sources in history of science and medicine are available at 1) EHESS ; 2) Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie.