

DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC (IN ENGLISH)

The project creates a combined historical and bio-pharmaceutical sciences team aimed at restoration of medicaments used in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (sixteenth to the eighteenth century) and analysis of the active compounds and biologically active substances in the reconstructed preparations. The subject of historical research will be Old Polish diaries, letters and private notes, which will be searched for information concerning use of medicaments. Therapeutics mentioned in the source material will then be identified and described in detail by referring to early modern medical prints (formularies, compendia, manuals). Thus obtained prescription, developed and interpreted by a joint group of scientists will be the basis for a detailed restoration of old medicines. Following the information found in historical sources, a group of pharmacists and biotechnologists will attempt to reconstruct and then make laboratory analysis of identified therapeutics. The cooperation of the two groups of researchers in the framework of a joint team is to ensure the verification of the correctness of drug reconstruction process with taking into account the historical context of the early modern medicine and its methods.

Ongoing research will contribute to a better understanding of early modern medicine and medical background of the doctor-patient relationship. An important aspect of the project is also an opportunity to learn the actual biological activity of the former pharmaceuticals, which will allow to gain wider perspective of the methods of treatment used in the past and their impact on the patient.