

CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF
MEDICINE AND THE BODY
IN THE RENAISSANCE

INSTITUTIO SANTORIANA
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University
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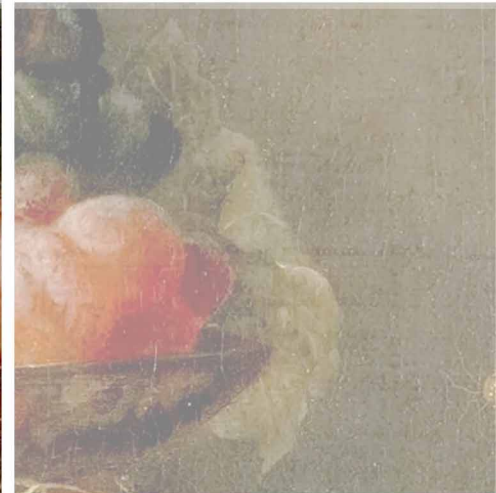
Julius-Maximilians-
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UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PARMA



STUDIO FIRMANO
PER LA STORIA DELL'ARTE MEDICA E DELLA SCIENZA



CSMBR
ONLINE
EVENTS



THE WONDERS OF GASTROSCIENCE IN RABELAIS

8
OCTOBER
2024
5.00pm CEST



A FEW GALENIC SALVOS FROM THE RENAISSANCE

GUIDO GIGLIONI • University of Macerata

Neuroscience is a philosophical enterprise that cannot completely sever its ties with Descartes's physics. By contrast, Galen's science of natural faculties has been gradually banned and forgotten by neuroscientists. Now that our knowledge of gastrointestinal biome has reached a level of sophistication previously simply

unimaginable and that the neural network regulating the intestinal tract has become familiarly known as the 'second brain', it may be worth recovering some aspects of the Galenic legacy. I intend to do this by exploring and commenting upon some Galenic loci in *Gargantua and Pantagruel* by Rabelais, one of the most

brilliant doctors operating during the Renaissance. Anatomy is central in *Gargantua and Pantagruel* and such notions as food, growth, digestion and natural faculty are an integral part of Rabelais's neo-Galenic project.