Welcoming Guide

A Journey through CSMBR Activities and Events 2026









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

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Dear Guest,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to Pisa and to the Centre for the Study of Medicine and the Body in the Renaissance.

Whether you are joining us for the first time or are a returning participant, we are delighted to have you with us at the Domus Comeliana, where history and knowledge come together in a unique venue.

Over the next few days, we hope you will enjoy the diverse discussions, collaborative atmosphere, and exchange of ideas that are at the heart of our work. I encourage you to engage, ask questions, and take full advantage of the chance to connect with fellow scholars from different backgrounds and fields.

In the following pages, we have provided you with some guidelines to help you make the most of this experience in Pisa, along with the perks and opportunities available to our members.

So, welcome again, and I look forward to fruitful and inspiring conversations!

Fabrizio Bigotti



Humanism is at the heart of everything we do.

At the CSMBR, we believe in the intrinsic value of studying the past to enhance our understanding of the present. We are committed to the rigorous study of the medical and scientific traditions from antiquity to the early modern period, with a special focus on their impact on the Renaissance.

Our approach is interdisciplinary, bringing together scholars from a range of fields to foster dialogue and collaboration.

We value the role of translation, communication, and cultural exchange in the transmission of knowledge, and strive to make our research accessible to a global audience.

We actively prioritise the continuity of scholarship, encouraging the exchange of ideas between generations, ensuring that the wisdom of the past informs the innovations of the future. Inclusivity and open dialogue are key to our mission, as we work to bridge the gap between historical scholarship and contemporary challenges in medicine and the humanities.





A Garden of Ideas

Discover Our Distinctive Approach to Cultivating Knowledge



The Centre for the Study of Medicine and the Body in the Renaissance (CSMBR) fosters a unique approach to knowledge that bridges historical scholarship with a commitment to interdisciplinary research.

At our core, we foster an environment where the study of pre-modern medicine is not seen in isolation but is interwoven with broader cultural, philosophical, and scientific narratives.

This comprehensive view is rooted in a belief that the evolution of medical thought is inseparable from the intellectual, metaphysical, religious, and socio-political currents that contributed to its emergence.

One of our distinctive characteristics is our emphasis on the continuum of knowledge across generations.

By connecting contemporary scholarship with the works and methodologies of past scholars, we highlight the importance of historical continuity in understanding medical practices and theories. This perspective not only honours the contributions of early pioneers but also inspires new interpretations that reflect the interconnectedness of various disciplines, including philosophy, natural history, and the visual arts.

Our research initiatives place significant focus on the Mediterranean as a crucible of knowledge exchange.

We recognise this region as a nexus where diverse traditions met and were transformed, facilitating the transmission of medical and scientific knowledge between East and West. By studying this dynamic interchange, we shed light on the shared and contested spaces that contributed to medical progress, revealing a more nuanced history of medicine.

Finally, we are committed to incorporating modern digital tools and methods to enhance the accessibility and analysis of historical texts and artefacts.

Through the integration of digital humanities, we provide researchers with innovative avenues to explore and present

their work, ensuring that historical insights remain relevant and engaging to a contemporary audience.

This blend of rigorous scholarship, interdisciplinary reach, and forward-thinking methodologies defines our distinctive approach to the study of medicine and the body in the Renaissance.





At the CSMBR we are committed to fostering academic growth by offering a range of grants and fellowships that support scholars at various stages of their careers.

Santorio Fellowship for Medical Humanities & Science
The Santorio Fellowship is designed to support young scholars
eager to participate in CSMBR events, such as summer schools.
Awarded every two years, it provides travel grants to Master's
students and early career researchers (PhDs and Postdocs
within three years of their viva) with strong interests in
the history of medicine and medical humanities. Recipients
become affiliated with the centre as Santorio Fellows and are
encouraged to actively engage in our scholarly community.

Santorio Global Fellowship

This fellowship offers PhD students the opportunity to study at one of the CSMBR's funding institutions for a period between two and four months. Running annually, it is accessible only to students of CSMBR funding institutions.

Santorio Award for Excellence in Research

The Santorio Award provides recipients with a monetary grant, a medal an invitation to deliver the Santorio lecture in Pisa and the opportunity to publish their research in the prestigious PSMEMM series (Springer).

Santorio Residential Fellowship

The Santorio Residential Fellowship is part of the CSMBR–ZRS cooperation and is hosted at ZRS Koper, on the Slovenian coast It supports scholars working on topics related to the history of science, medicine, and technology in the Mediterranean world.

Research Development Grant

The Research Development Grant enables CSMBR members to independently organise events at the Domus Comeliana in Pisa, encouraging multidisciplinary approaches and covering activities related to the history of medicine, science, technology, and ideas, including philology.

VivaMente Grant

The VivaMente Grant supports scholars participating in our annual 'VivaMente' conference, which explores intersections of medicine, philosophy, and the humanities. This grant assists with travel and accommodation expenses, enabling participants to present their work and engage with an international community of experts in the field.

Comèl Grant

The Comel Grant is meant to support young scholars willing to partake in the events organised by the centre, either online or in person. It is named after Marcello Comèl (1902-1996), founder of the Institutio Santoriana Fondazione Comel, a versatile polyglot and an early supporter of the wider integration of the European research community.

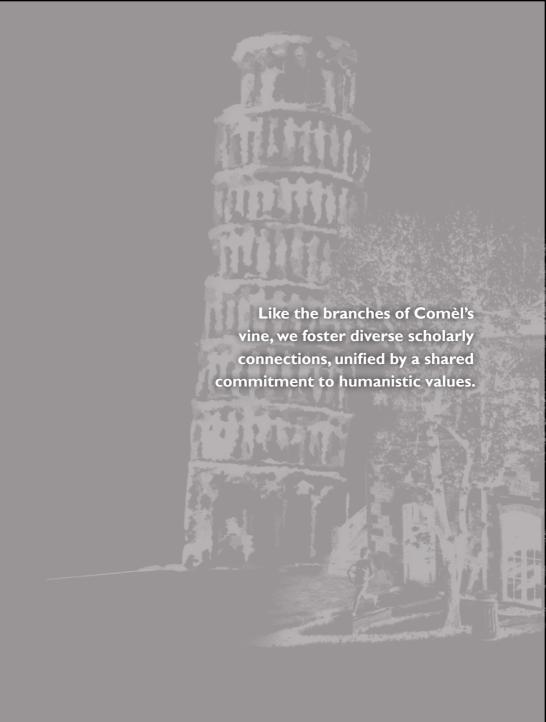
These initiatives reflect our dedication to nurturing the next generation of scholars, fostering a culture of academic excellence that bridges historical inquiry with modern research practices.





Members' Perks

Explore the Benefits and Opportunities of Our Memberships



The symbol of CSMBR membership is the vine leaf, a nod to the centre's rich heritage and its profound connection to the history of the Domus Comeliana.

Where the *Sala degli Ulivi* now stands, there once thrived an orchard and vineyard that Prof. Marcello Comèl, the founder of the Fondazione Comèl, preserved as part of his vision for the site. When the vineyard eventually ceased to exist, he encapsulated its legacy within the structure of the building. This symbol serves as a reminder of the centre's roots and its dedication to growth and expansion.

Like the intertwining vines and tendrils of the vineyard, we strive to create an academic community that extends in all directions, fostering connections across diverse fields of scholarship. Yet, just as the branches remain bound together, our community is unified by a fundamental commitment to humanistic values.

This cohesiveness ensures that while our research and dialogue may branch out into various disciplines, it is

underpinned by a shared dedication to exploring the history of medicine and its broader cultural and philosophical implications.

In keeping with our commitment to supporting scholars, CSM-BR membership offers a range of thoughtful benefits designed to enrich the academic experience. With two levels of membership—junior and regular—we provide tailored support to assist young scholars in their professional development.

Members gain access to a variety of travel grants and funding schemes, which help facilitate participation in conferences, workshops, and research activities.

In addition, members receive a 20% discount on all titles within the *Palgrave Studies in Medieval and Early Modern Medicine* (PSMEMM) series, enabling them to expand their personal and institutional libraries with essential scholarly works at a reduced cost. Online events hosted by the CSMBR also come with a 20% discount, making participation in lectures, webinars, and conferences more accessible.

For those attending in person, members benefit from a 10% discount at affiliated hotels and restaurants, enhancing the experience of visiting Pisa and engaging with our vibrant academic community.

These perks are just a token of our commitment to fostering an inclusive, well-supported network that promotes ongoing learning and professional development.

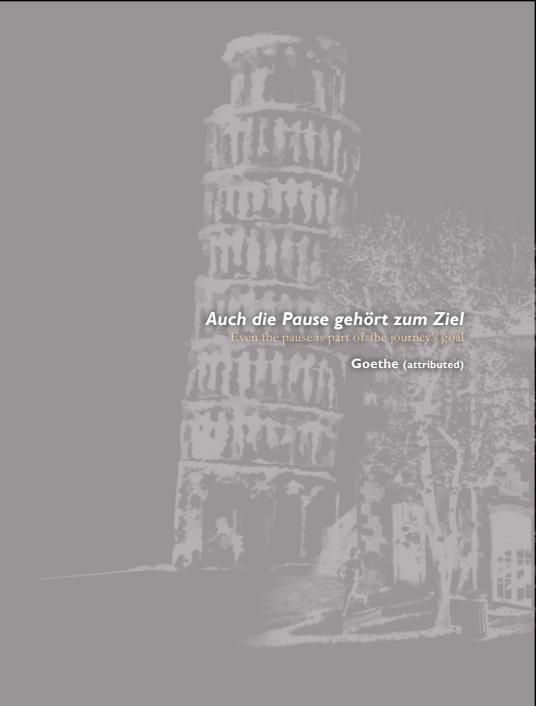






Lodging in Pisa

Have the Most Relaxing Stay at Our Affiliated Hotels and B&B



Casa San Tommaso

Centrally located and affiliated with the CSMBR, Casa San Tommaso is a charming hotel situated just a few steps (less than 10 minutes) from the iconic Leaning Tower and Piazza dei Miracoli.

Exclusive Benefits for CSMBR Members

CSMBR members enjoy an exclusive 10% discount. A promotional code to redeem this benefit will be provided upon joining and must be added to the online reservation.

Contact Details

Address: Via San Tommaso, 13, 56126 Pisa, Italy

Phone: +39 050 830 702

Email: info@santommasopisa.com

Website: https://www.santommasopisa.com/













You & Me - Bed and Breakfast

You and Me Bed and Breakfast offers a comfortable and welcoming stay along the Lungarno in Pisa, approximately 10–15 minutes on foot from the Domus Comeliana and Piazza dei Miracoli.

Exclusive Benefits for CSMBR Members

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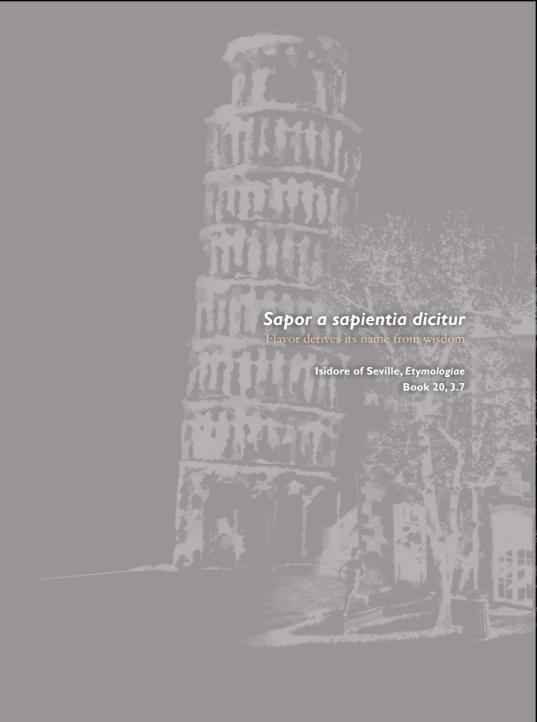






Sapor...Sapientia!

Taste the Best of Pisa at our Affiliated Restaurants and Wineries.



Osteria In Domo

This pitoresque restaurant offers an authentic taste of Tuscan cuisine. Osteria 'In Domo' combines the rich flavors of local ingredients with a warm and welcoming atmosphere, making it the perfect dining choice during your stay in Pisa.

Exclusive Benefits for CSMBR Members

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Centre for the Study of Medicine and the Body in the Renaissance

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Our activities are supported by

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

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