

Introduction/*Intro*

Drugs are at the centre of a complexly entangled web of science, politics, economics and culture. They are the product of scientific innovation, and are usually brought to the bedside by private companies, following regulations issued by national and international authorities. These regulations are in turn the product of health policies usually reflecting local cultures and ideologies. As such, drugs are extremely interesting for the historians willing to look at the development of cultural spaces (such as the single countries or the European community) and at the effects of politics on scientific innovation. In historical perspective, Europe after WWII became a political and ideological battleground. The onset of Cold War affected in many ways drug circulation and pharmaceutical innovation, mirroring the locally dominant socio-political paradigms, and Europe was soon divided in two blocs. This division strongly influenced the development of pharmaceutical research and development, though we may hardly think of a black and white picture. As a matter of fact, each country had its own approach to the drugs issues, and international contingency affected public policy, circulation of ideas and technologies, as well the availability of the drugs themselves. The papers collected in this issue of *Medicina nei Secoli* have been presented at the international workshop “Drugs And Cold War. Science, Standards And Politics In Europe”, held in Rome on 29-30 November 2012. The meeting resulted in an original contribution to the historical understanding of the creation of national and international standards in drug research and production, shedding some light on the many and diverse facets of scientific and technological innovation in the wider context of politics and society. The main focus was on the interaction of local and international processes, and how the several and diverse contexts declined in different ways the

ideological paradigm they were endorsing. Drugs, far from being a “neutral object” acquired political and ideological qualities. A pill could be the result of an ideological and religious frame. The frames heavily depended on local context, so that we need to complicate the picture of the Cold War scenario. Drugs in this respect are a powerful tool, since as a commercial commodity they sometimes crossed political boundaries: political allies could be commercial enemies and *vice versa*. National approaches shall be transferred within the international context, and the European supranational context was actually the space where interaction between different actors took place, eventually generating innovative solutions. The European dimension has been discovered as a very useful perspective on the history of drugs and their standards. An historiographical point is drawn from all the papers collected here: the need to integrate top-down and bottom-up approaches in reconstructing global history. While on the historical side, it has been highlighted the cooperation and collaboration that the political competition entailed. Scientific intelligence has been claimed as an important object for future research. Alas, it has been pointed out that it is still lacking an in-depth analysis of trans-national and global institutions and initiatives, such as the World Health Organization and the global players in the global pharmaceutical market.

Europe after WWII is thus a very apt environment to look at how the diverse political climate had influenced drug development, manufacturing, and circulation; and even more so if the Cold War is drawn into the picture. Cold War could be used as a connection between local politics and international diplomacy, with single countries trying to find a balance between external pressures – both Western and Eastern – and internal needs. In the general scenario of Cold War, super-powers’ confrontation took several shapes, as widely documented by many historians. Science and technology were obviously part of the strategies deployed by US and SSSR, and strongly contributed

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to define the “West” (as William I. Hitchcock put it¹). Differences in how science and technology was developed and used by the two blocks has been described extensively, and though only little attention has been paid to drugs in the Cold War context, medicaments have been an integral part of the low-intensity conflict.

The workshop also provided important insights into the transition of pharmaceutical sector from a local dimension to a global perspective, being the Cold war a powerful transition mechanism pushing all the stakeholders to act on national and international level at the same time. In this respect, it will be useful in the future investigate the matter beyond the Western boundaries.

As organizer of the workshop and editor of this special issue, I wish to thank all the participants to the workshop (see the program attached) and the European Science Foundation – DRUGS Research Networking Program for the generous support. I am also grateful to Joanna Baines for the careful copyediting of the whole issue.

Mauro Capocci

1. HITCHCOCK W.I. *The Marshall Plan and the creation of the West*. In: LEFFLER M.P. and WESTAD O.A. (eds.), *Cambridge History of the Cold War*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2010, vol.I, pp. 154-174.

DRUGS AND COLD WAR.

SCIENCE, STANDARDS AND POLITICS IN EUROPE

29-30 November 2012

Unit of History of Medicine, Sapienza University of Rome

29 November

9 - 9.15: **Welcome**

9.15 - 9.45: **Introduction** (Mauro Capocci, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy)

OPENING LECTURE

9.45 - 10.30 **Robert Bud** (Science Museum, UK): “Between Porton and Prague: what circulated in an age of biological warfare management?”

Session 1: Before and after the iron curtain: the construction of the East through pharmaceuticals

Chair: Daniele Cozzoli (UPF, Spain)

11.00 - 11.45 **Slawomyr Lotysz** (University of Zielona Gora, Poland): “Penicillin production and policy in post-WWII Poland”

11.45 - 12.30 **Agata Ignaciuk** (University of Grenada, Spain): “The circulation of oral contraceptives in the Polish 1960s and 1970s”

Session 2: Cold War and May 1968: drugs and addiction/abuse

Chair: Gilberto Corbellini (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy)

14.00 – 14.45 **Magaly Tornay** (University of Zurich, Switzerland): “Political substances – Psychotropic drugs and the health care consumer in Cold War Europe”

14.45 - 15.30 **Alexandre Marchant** (ENS, France): “Controlling the dark side of the drugs revolution”: political management of drug abuse in France (1960s-1980s).

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Session 3: Regulation

Chair: Mauro Capocci (Sapienza – University of Rome, Italy)

16.00- 16.45 **Maria-Jesus Santesmases** (CSIC, Spain): “Antibiotics, the post-Spanish civil war and post-WWII and the black market”.

16.45 – 17.30 **Anne-Kveim Lie** (University of Oslo, Norway): “The use of drugs have their origin in primitive and magic ideas”: Drug regulation in the Scandinavian welfare state 1938-1964.”

30 November

Session 4: Drug manufacturing in Southern Europe

Chair: Maria-Jesus Santesmases (CSIC, Spain)

9.30 – 10.15 **Daniele Cozzoli** (Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain): “The Danish organization of Antibiotics production in Italy, France and Spain. The case of Lovens Kemiske Fabrik (1947 - 1958)”

10.15 – 11.00 **Francesco Taroni** (University of Bologna, Italy): “Motives and after-effects of the non-decision of producing penicillin in Italy”.

11.00 – 11.45 **Sophie Chaveau** (University of Lyon, France): “The French paradox? National policy of drugs and foreign stakeholders.”

11.45 – 13.00 **Final Discussion**

Chair: Simone Turchetti (University of Manchester, UK)



