

# **A New Modern Textbook of Graeco-Latin Medical Terminology for Students of General Medicine and Dentistry**

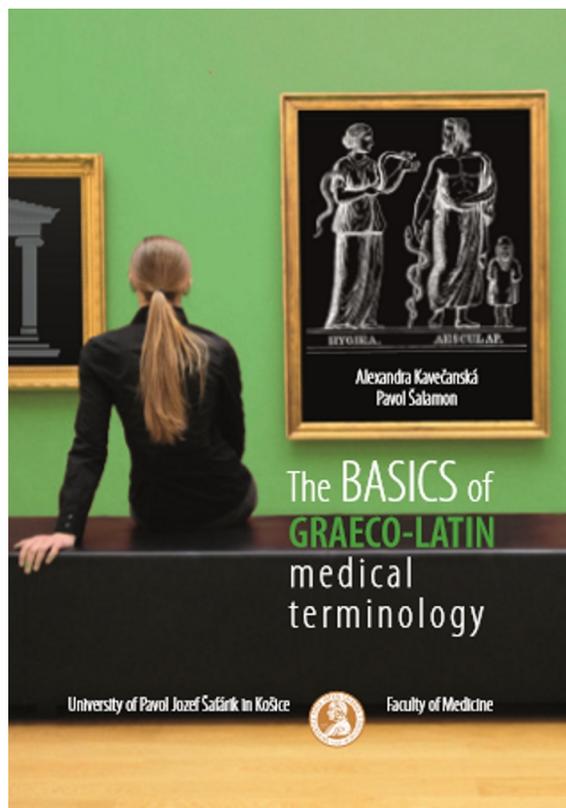
Tomáš Hamar

**KAVEČANSKÁ, Alexandra – ŠALAMON, Pavol: The Basics of Graeco-Latin Medical Terminology. Košice: EQUILIBRIA, 2017. 322 pp. ISBN 978-80-8152-516-2**

The increasing number of international students studying at Slovak universities represents a positive signal of the growing quality of university education in Slovakia. The most attractive study programs for international students include the ones preparing their attendants for medical professions: Above all, General Medicine and Dentistry. The alpha and omega of high-quality education in the medical field is excellent knowledge of professional terminology in this area of expertise, the basis of which is a terminological apparatus having its roots in ancient Greek and Latin. It is therefore pleasing that a work has been published the purpose of which is to didactically process current medical terminology for the needs of future doctors and dentists. *The Basics of Graeco-Latin Medical Terminology* was written by a pedagogically experienced team of authors, whose primary goal was to offer a smooth and efficient path to the acquisition of medical terminological apparatus for first-semester students.

The textbook is divided into four main sections. The first section of the textbook is a comprehensive Introduction to Medical Terminology. It introduces the students to the Latin alphabet, the proper ecclesiastical pronunciation of Latin which is widespread and applied in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. It is also the section of the textbook that provides an extensive explanation to why Latin and Greek languages are the building stones of medical terminology. The second section comprises 13 units – 11 units explain new grammatical, syntactical, and lexical issues, two units (Unit 9 and 13) contain repetitions. Further practice for self-study and feedback is provided by the additional exercises with keys to the exercises in the third section of the textbook. Additional chapters in the third section of the book are Grammatical Charts (Latin & Greek), Latin Numerals, Standard Prescription Phrases, Abbreviations and their Meanings, Names of Chemical Elements – Acids, Oxides, Peroxides, Hydroxides, and Latin and Greek Component Elements of Drug Names. The fourth section contains the Latin-English Dictionary and English-Latin Dictionary.

The individual units are structured upon a specific, time-proven scheme: They comprise a grammatical part followed by exercises aimed at consolidating and au-



tomating the newly acquired knowledge, further vocabulary, and, finally, a section entitled Latin Proverbs. The grammatical part is articulated and well structured, with bright colours highlighting the fundamental grammar rules. The book introduces certain innovative approaches to the explanation of the declension system of Latin nouns, which can be seen as an improvement. As seen in a number of other Latin textbooks for non-linguists not all grammatical cases are presented here: Dative and vocative are omitted. The novelty lies in the order of the memorised cases, i.e., not categorised by tradition but by the importance of individual forms of the words to future users of medical terminology, and the sequence of cases is therefore as follows: Nominative, genitive, accusative, and ablative. The section dedicated to exercises is sufficiently extensive, and its attractiveness is boosted by a copious amount of didactical illustrations, especially from the field of human anatomy. The vocabularies provided after each lesson are an indispensable tool for students of non-philological studies to prepare them for the individual seminars. The textbook closes with a comprehensive Latin-English Dictionary, a stan-

dard component of books of this kind. A very innovative idea, however, was also to create an English-Latin dictionary – thus, the textbook will also prove useful to students after having completed the Terminology Course. In addition to pure parallelism, the vocabulary often contains a medical definition of a given term, as well – especially in cases where the Latin term entirely or partially coincides with the English term. The section dedicated to Latin proverbs does not contain parallel phraseological units in English, leaving the teacher to interpret them for students and increasing his importance in the teaching process. The book encompasses a broad set of medical terms required to become an active professional in the medical field, and because of the full range of medical Graeco-Latin terminology, it is more apt to render the terminological preparation of future doctors extended over two semesters instead of one. And for this very reason, this textbook is undeniably suitable for medical faculties having already extended their terminology courses to be taught over two consecutive semesters.

The authors devoted their time not only to verify the contemporariness and widespread professional use of the individual terms of contemporary anatomical and pathological terminology, but they also invested their time and effort to verify and indicate the lengths of vowels in all Latin words contained in the textbook using macrons. All the above factors, as well as the fact that the textbook is the result of critical terminological work with modern lexical resources, render this publication a genuinely excellent aid for all aspiring doctors in international medical university programmes both in Slovakia and all European countries.

## **Autor**

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Autor pôsobí ako vedúci Katedry jazykov na Farmaceutickej fakulte UK v Bratislave. V pedagogickej činnosti sa primárne venuje výučbe latinskej odbornej terminológie pre slovenských i zahraničných študentov Farmaceutickej fakulty, okrem toho dlhodobo vyučuje na Lekárskej fakulte UK predmet Latinská lekárska terminológia. Ďalšími oblasťami jeho pedagogickej praxe sú odborná jazyková príprava z nemeckého jazyka pre budúcich farmaceutov a lekárov a výučba slovenského jazyka ako cudzieho jazyka pre komunikačné potreby budúcich odborníkov v oblasti lekárskeho vied. Vo výskumnej činnosti je zameraný predovšetkým na výskum odbornej latinskej lekárskej a farmaceutickej terminológie a mapovanie vybraných kapitol z dejín farmácie na území Slovenska.

## **Bionote**

PhDr. Tomáš Hamar, PhD., Head of Department of Foreign Languages, Faculty of Pharmacy, Comenius University in Bratislava, specialises in Latin pharmaceutical and medical terminology, history of medicine and pharmacy, theory of terminology and teaching of modern languages for special purposes.