

# Medicine, Evidence and Emotions, 50 Years on...

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15th International Balint Congress  
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The International Balint Federation



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A common organization of:



Portuguese Association  
of General Practitioners



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## Introduction

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Following the tradition initiated in 1998 with the 11th International Balint Congress in Oxford, we here present the Book of Proceedings of the 15th Congress, taking place for the first time in Lisbon, the historic and ancient capital of Portugal.

This year and during this Congress, we are commemorating the 50th anniversary of the first edition of Michael Balint's book, *The Doctor His Patient and the Illness*. Inspired by that event, we chose as the general theme for our meeting, *Medicine, Evidence and Emotions, 50 years on...* Responding (more or less...) to the proposed guide-line, a series of communications arrived in Lisbon in due time (almost all...). They were carefully read by a Scientific and Organizing Committee and the difficult choice concerning their presentation in the plenary sessions dictated that seventeen reports will be presented and six others shall be included in the book to be read beyond the sessions.

Surely, it was not an easy task to harmonize the creativity of all those who sent their texts with the specific needs of the organization of the plenary sessions. We would like to express our deep recognition to the international members of the Scientific Committee, namely to Heide Otten, Henry Jablonsky, John Salinsky and Paul Sackin. Without them, the content of our Congress would risk sinking down, as it happened many years ago to numerous Portuguese sailors and their hopes...

*Medicine, Evidence and Emotions...* is a hard challenge for modern doctors in their demanding and strenuous practices.

*50 years on...* is the special remembrance that the breakthrough discoveries and revolutionary concepts that Michael Balint brought to the general practitioner's work have to be read and practiced in accordance with a handful of new needs, experiences and organizational settings.

Welcome to the 15th International Balint Congress!

Welcome to a careful and fruitful reading of the documents included in this book!

Jorge Brandão