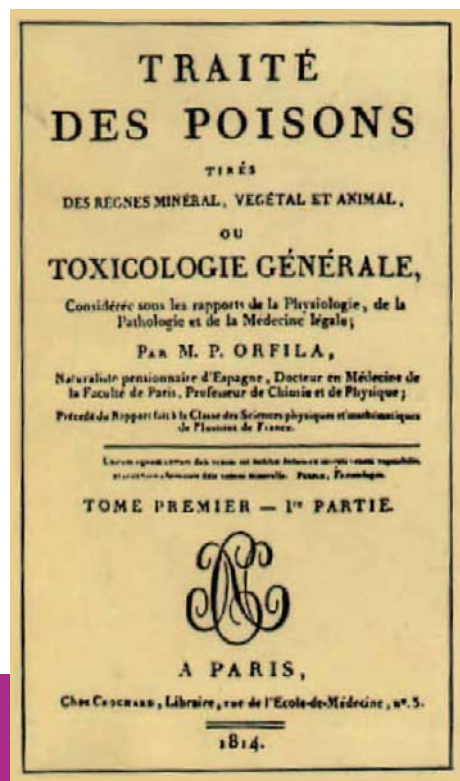


- The cost of the conference (travel from Barcelona, board, breakfast, dinner and accommodation) is 250 Euro per person.
- Stipends will be available for Ph. D. students.
- Applications (with a brief CV and reasons for attending meeting) should be sent to José R. Bertomeu Sánchez (Jose.R.Bertomeu@uv.es) before February 5th, 2004. Updated information about the meeting (registration forms, fellowships, definitive programme) can be found at the meeting web page.



Additional information can be requested from the members of the organising committee:

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The meeting is organized by:  
**Grup de Recerca Francesc Salvà**  
**Institut Menorquí d'Estudis**

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**Fundació Dr. Antoni Esteve**  
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**Xarxa Temàtica d'Història de la Ciència i de la Tècnica**  
**Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona**



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I DE LA TÈCNICA

Institut Menorquí d'Estudis

## Chemistry, medicine and crime

### Mateu J.B. Orfila (1787-1853) and his times



<http://www.uv.es/=bertomeu/orfila/>

**Second circular**  
**Maó, 19th - 20th March 2004**

19<sup>th</sup> March

**T**he meeting “Orfila i la seva època” (Orfila and his times) will be held in Maó (Minorca) on 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> March 2004. It aims to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Mateu J. Bonaventura Orfila (1787-1853), a very relevant toxicologist and chemist, and the dean of the Faculty of Medicine of Paris from 1830 onwards. Born in Maó, he studied medicine at the University of Valencia and chemistry in Barcelona, later continuing his studies in Paris. Under the protection of the chemists Vauquelin and Thenard, Orfila became a private lecturer on chemistry in the French capital. In 1819 he was appointed professor of legal medicine, and four years later he succeeded Vauquelin as professor of chemistry at the Paris Faculty of Medicine. In 1830 he was nominated dean of that faculty, a powerful and influential position within the French medical community. He died, after a short illness, in Paris on 12th March 1853.

Orfila's chief publications are *Traité des poisons, or Toxicologie générale* (1813); *Éléments de chimie médicale* (1817); *Leçons de médecine légale* (1823); *Traité des exhumations juridiques* (1830); and *Recherches sur l'empoisonnement par l'acide arsenieux* (1841). He also wrote many valuable papers, chiefly on subjects connected with legal medicine.

Starting with Orfila's work, the meeting aims to build a broader and more ambitious collective enterprise on the intersections between chemistry and medicine during the first half of the nineteenth century. For that purpose, in a two day format, the meeting will be divided into three parts: (a) Orfila and his times; (b) Medical chemistry; (c) Chemistry, Legal Medicine and Toxicology.

## FIRST SESSION

- 09.00 h. Introduction. *Introductory talks.*  
*Orfila and his times:* Àlvar Martínez-Vidal (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) and Josep Miquel Vidal (Institut Menorquí d'Estudis).  
*Orfila and his biographers:* Agustí Nieto-Galan (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) and José Ramón Bertomeu Sánchez (Universitat de València).
- 10.15 h. Coffee break.  
*Teaching chemistry for medical students: Public and private courses of chemistry in Paris during early nineteenth-century.* Antonio García Belmar (Universitat d'Alacant).  
*Building a discipline: medical chemistry in the early nineteenth century.* María José Ruiz Somavilla (Universidad de Málaga).
- 13.00 h. Lunch.

## SECOND SESSION

- 16.00 h. Medical chemistry in Paris during the nineteenth century.  
*The disintegration of plant and animal chemistry and the formation of carbon chemistry around 1830.* Ursula Klein (Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte, Berlin).  
*Organic and Biological Chemistry in a Medical Context: The Research School of Adolphe Wurtz at the Faculty of Medicine, Paris (1853-1884).* Ana Carneiro (Universidade Nova de Lisboa).
- 18.00 h. Coffee break.  
*Orfila as a dean of the Faculty of Medicine and a member of the French Academy of Medicine.* Danielle Gourevitch (École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris).  
*Orfila on the web: Paris Medical library and the digitisation of Orfila's books.* Guy Cobolet (Bibliothèque Interuniversitaire de Médecine, Paris).  
*Orfila's Socorros que se han de dar a los envenenados... (1818). A new facsimile edition.* Alfonso Ballesteros (Reial Acadèmia de Medicina de les Illes Balears).

20<sup>th</sup> March

## THIRD SESSION

- 09.00 h. Nineteenth-century toxicology: chemistry, medicine and crime.  
*The toxicology of Robert Christison: European influences and British practice in the early nineteenth-century.* Brenda White & Anne Crowther (University of Glasgow).  
*Bones of Contention: Orfila, Normal Arsenic, and British Toxicology.* Ian A. Burney (Wellcome Unit, Manchester).
- 11.00 h. Coffee break.  
*Mateu Orfila and the affaire Lafarge.* José Ramón Bertomeu Sánchez (Universitat de València).  
*Orfila and French legal medicine during the nineteenth-century.* Frédéric Chauvaud (Université de Poitiers).
- 13.00 h. Lunch.

