

Imaging and historical initiatives

THE EDITORS
PELVIPERINEOLOGY

Pelviperineology is pleased to announce two initiatives, a section on images and videos and a historical section. In a sense, these two seem contrary to each other. The first reflects the imperative of conveying important concepts to “time poor” readers. The 2nd is delving into a past era, where virtually any medium besides the written word did not even exist. The remarkable technology initiated by Apple’s iPhone has converted every practitioner of the pelvic floor into a cameraman. It has brought the consulting room and the operating theatre into real time. It is just a matter of pulling out the iPhone, placing it onto “video” mode and start filming. The next step, a very simple one, is to put the images onto something like Youtube, which makes them even more accessible. The phone images are surprisingly good, certainly sufficient for teaching purposes, which is the objective of the section.

Of course images, videos from a proper digital camera are always to be preferred. Such “instant” offerings unfortunately have little value unless they are accompanied by a scientific analysis and argument. Therefore Pelviperineology has defined two types of imaging for this section, a short version to outline a point and a more comprehensive longer version which sets out to explain a concept or procedure. Both will, where possible, be subjected to comments, either invited, or preferably, from our readers.

The historical initiative is intended to introduce medicine from another era. It encompasses a broad spectrum, from a time early last century where Galenic remnants remained, the pre-antibiotic and even where relevant, the post-antibiotic era.

Pelviperineology is honoured to have the first contribution in this section from Dr Jose M Gil-Vernet, himself a distinguished Urologist, writing about his grandfather, Salvador Gil Vernet (SGV).

In Salvador’s time, medical doctors were classically trained in Ancient Greek and Latin. Indeed, in many universities, expertise in Latin was a compulsory entrance subject. The tools doctors of that era had to investigate were understandably very limited, anatomy and the deductive logic mode of thinking inherent in these ancient languages. This methodology is evident on reading this short summary of Salvador’s Lifetime work. Indeed, it is encapsulated in Gil Vernet’s famous statement, that an answer was required to the question of “*what is it for.*” SGV also stated “*Precise, almost mathematical knowledge of anatomy is a highly fertile source of surgical applications, suggesting new techniques and helping perfect and simplify existing surgical methods, making them less mutilating and more benign and, in short, raising surgery to the rank of true science.*”

In later issues, we hope to present some of SGV’s magnificent drawings and descriptions and to show how even today, some are highly relevant to the understanding of structure and function of the pelvic floor.