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REVIEW ARTICLE

The neurological work of Artur Galcerán i Granés (1850-1919)

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Abstract

Introduction: To analyze the neurological work of Artur Galcerán i Granés (Girona 1850-Barcelona 1919) founder of the Society of Psychiatry and Neurology of Barcelona in 1911.

Methods: We performed a literature search using MEDLINE from the keywords "Galceran Granés" and "Society of Psychiatry and Neurology of Barcelona", using the doctoral thesis of M. G. Fabregas Camps: "History of Neurology in Catalonia. From 1882 to 1949" and original historical bibliographical sources of the Library of the Academy of Sciences *Mèdiques de Catalunya i Balears*.

Results: Artur Galcerán i Granés was a disciple of the school of psychiatry of Dr. Joan Giné i Partagàs. His highlighting neurological work was: 1) "Some static and dynamic inferences about the brain, which may serve to clarify the concept of localization", 2) "Treatment of epilepsy" and 3) "Neuropathology and General Psychiatry". He was editor of "Archivos de Terapéutica de las enfermedades nerviosas y mentales" and "Anales de la Sociedad de Psiquiatría y Neurología". He was director of the mental asylum in Sant Boi of Llobregat and Pere Mata of Reus. In 1911 he founded the first Catalan and Spanish neurological society in Barcelona.

Conclusions: The neurological work of Artur Galcerán i Granés is remarkable and significant. He was the founder of the first Catalan and Spanish neurological society: The Society of Psychiatry and Neurology of Barcelona in 1911, the forerunner of the Catalan Society of Neurology.

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PALABRAS CLAVE

Galcerán i Granés;
Historia;
Neurología;
Sociedad de Psiquiatría

La faceta neurológica del Dr. Artur Galcerán i Granés (1850-1919)

Resumen

Introducción: Analizar la faceta neurológica que es poco conocida de Artur Galcerán i Granés (Girona 1850-Barcelona 1919), fundador de la Sociedad de Psiquiatría y Neurología de Barcelona en 1911.

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y Neurología
de Barcelona;
Sociedad neurológica

Fuentes: Se efectúa una búsqueda bibliográfica mediante MEDLINE sin límite de fecha a partir de las palabras clave: "Galceran Granés" y "Society of Psychiatry and Neurology of Barcelona", utilizando también la tesis doctoral de M. G. Fabregas Camps: "*Història de la Neurologia a Catalunya. De l'any 1882 a l'any 1949*", y de fuentes bibliográficas históricas originales de la Biblioteca de la Acadèmia de Ciències Mèdiques de Catalunya i Balears de Barcelona.

Desarrollo: Artur Galcerán i Granés se denominaba "neurólogo y mentalista". Discípulo de la escuela de Psiquiatría de Joan Giné i Partagàs. Su obra neurológica fue notable, destacando: 1) "Algunas inducciones sobre estática y dinámica del cerebro, que pueden servir para el esclarecimiento del concepto de localización"; 2) "Tratamiento de las epilepsias", y 3) "Neuropatología y Psiquiatría generales". Dirigió "Archivos de Terapéutica de las enfermedades nerviosas y mentales" y "Anales de la Sociedad de Psiquiatría y Neurología". Fue director del sanatorio mental de Sant Boi de Llobregat y de Pere Mata de Reus. Fundó la primera sociedad neurológica catalana y española en Barcelona en el año 1911.

Conclusiones: La faceta neurológica de A. Galcerán i Granés es remarcable y significativa. Fue el fundador de la primera sociedad neurológica catalana y española: la Sociedad de Psiquiatría y Neurología de Barcelona en el año 1911 precursora de la Societat Catalana de Neurologia.

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Introduction

Dr. Artur Galcerán i Granés was born in Girona in 1850 and is a consolidated figure in Psychiatric history books.^{1,2} However, even though he founded the Society of Psychiatry and Neurology of Barcelona in 1911, we know little about the neurological side of this author.

We performed a search of the literature directed at analysing and highlighting the neurological side of Dr. Artur Galcerán i Granés regarding the aspects of care, research and teaching. Up until now, we have seen only his psychiatric

side academically and his significant contribution to neurology has not been properly highlighted or mentioned.

Development

We performed a literature search using MEDLINE with no date limit from the keywords "Galceran Granés" and "Society of Psychiatry and Neurology of Barcelona"; a search using the doctoral thesis of Marta Gloria Fabregas Camps, "*Història de la Neurologia a Catalunya. De l'any 1882 a l'any 1949*"

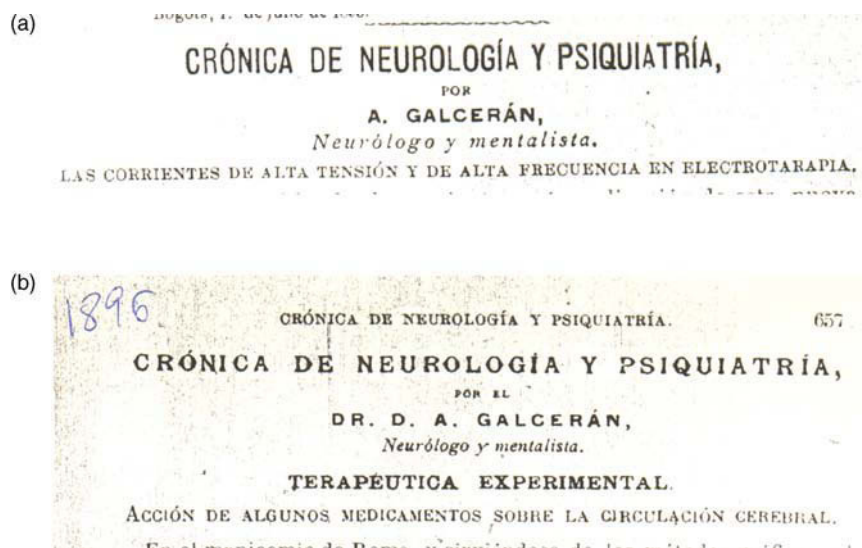


Figure 1 Dr A. Galcerán i Granés was called a neurologist and mentalist. Articles referring to electrotherapy¹⁹ (1a) and to drugs that have an effect on cerebral circulation¹⁸ (1b).

(History of Neurology in Catalonia. From 1882 to 1949), presented in 1992 at the Universitat Autònoma of Barcelona";³ and used original historical bibliographical sources chosen from the bibliographical search of authors at the Library of the Academy of Sciences Mèdiques de Catalunya i Balears in Barcelona. We obtained the following results:

Forerunners to neurology in Cataluña

Dr Bartomeu Robert i Yarzabal (1842-1902), a renowned internist of his era, was the first doctor who stressed the potential importance that neurology could have as its own speciality, differing from psychiatry⁴⁻⁶ and helped Dr Lluís Barraquer Roviralta (1855-1928) to set up the first Neurology and Electrotherapy clinic at the Hospital de la Santa Creu in Barcelona in 1882. It was the first department in Cataluña and Spain that was dedicated to treating nervous system

diseases.^{7,8} Later he would also found the Neurological Clinic at l'Hospital del Sagrat Cor, where he acted as a consultant.⁹ In that same year, for the first time in history, Charcot would get the first professorship in neurology at the "Clinique des Maladies du Système Nerveux" in Paris.¹⁰

Dr. Barraquer Roviralta was a contemporary of Dr. Galcerán i Granés

Dr. A. Galcerán i Granés was a contemporary of Dr. Lluís Barraquer Roviralta, founder of Catalan and Spanish clinical neurology.^{7,8} When Barraquer Roviralta founded the first Neurological and Electrotherapy Clinic (whose doctors were called "electrical doctors") in Barcelona in 1882, Galcerán i Granés was 32 years old. We should remember that during that historical era, many forerunners of modern neurology also had solid psychiatric training, as at that time neurology

CRÓNICA DE NEUROLOGÍA Y PSIQUIATRÍA,			
POR EL			
DR. GALCERÁN,			
Médico neurólogo y mentalista.			
ETIOLOGÍA NEUROPÁTICA.			
En reciente trabajo publicado en el último número del <i>Boletín del Manicomio de San Baudilio de Llobregat</i> , he procurado hacer, si no el total balance, por requerir una erudición que no poseo, cuando menos un resumen de las enfermedades nerviosas y mentales que de una manera demostrada reconocen como única causa la infección, probando con ello que la etiología neuropática sigue, de algún tiempo á esta parte, derroteros bien definidos, despojándose de los nebulosos ropajes del empirismo, que más que adornarla, la ocultaban, para vestir en la actualidad, siquiera sea de prestado, la esplendente aureola de la ciencia experimental.			
En aquella mi excursión por los dilatados dominios de las causas morbosas que directamente perturban el sistema nervioso, encontré, en medio de otros particulares más ó menos bien probados, los siguientes, á todas luces incontestables en punto á relación de causa y efecto entre los elementos patógenos específicos y las neuropatías:			
1.º Meningitis agudas.			
Delirio agudo vesánico.	Pneumococo.	} Regis Chevalier-Lavaure.	
Manía general aguda.	Estreptococo.		
Confusión mental aguda simple, alucinatoria ó psico-sensorial.	Estafilococo.		
Reblandecimiento agudo.	Colibacilo.		
Demencia melancólica y primitiva aguda.	Bacilo tífico.		
	Id. tuberculoso.		
2.º Parálisis general, Sifilis			Goldsmith, 33 7/100.— Ascher, 34 7/100.—Ziehen 43. — Cullerre, 42. — Jacobson, 44. — Bier- serenger, 49. — Bur- khardt, 50. — Golds- tein, 50. — Erb, 52. — Fischer, 60. — Mierze- jewski, 60. — Oebeke, 62. — Thomsen, 62. — Bounet, 66. — Cuyllitz, 73. — Reinhardt, 73. — Snell, 75. — Mendel, 75. — Jespersen, 77. — Rohmel, 77. — Rumpf, 78. — Mac-Dowal, 80. Regis, 80. — Fournier, 80. — Anglade, 81.

Figure 2 "Neuropathic Aetiology" according to A. Galcerán i Granés.¹⁷

and psychiatry were one single speciality.¹¹⁻¹³ Dr Galcerán i Granés would cultivate both facets of neurology and psychiatry during his professional career.

Dr. Galcerán i Granés and the Society of Psychiatry and Neurology of Barcelona

During the final third of the 19th century, there was an economic, artistic, social, linguistic, political and also scientific-medical awakening in Barcelona: it is a period known as the *Renaixença* (Rebirth). This was the moment that the idea of training for different specialities was mentioned for the first time, a process that would culminate at the start of the 20th century with the founding and consolidation of different medical societies.^{3,14,15} It was due to this that the Society of Psychiatry and Neurology of Barcelona was formed. Its statutes were published on 3rd January 1911 in the prestigious journal *Gaceta Médica Catalana* on pages 118-119.¹⁶ The new society was presided over by *Artur Galcerán i Granés* who was mentioned as being a “neurologist and mentalist” in its publications (figs. 1 and 2).¹⁷⁻¹⁹ He had studied medicine in Barcelona and graduated in 1875. He was a disciple of the school of psychiatry of Joan Giné i Partagàs. The members of the first Board of Directors were: Francisco de P. Xercavins i Rius (vice-president), Odón Moles Ornella (secretary), Esteban Conill Mataró (vice-secretary), Pedro Farreras Sampere (“archivist”), Pedro Ribas Pujol (treasurer) and Manuel Saforcada (“accountant”). Martí Julià and Rodríguez Morini also collaborated.

The society's address was Ponda de la Universidad, number 4, entresuelo, in Barcelona. The duration for the elected duties was two years. In Article one Section three, it is stated that the new society's aim is literally: “*To try to develop teaching in Psychiatry and Neurology, and create Professorships, Laboratories, Museums, Clinics and Dispensaries that correspond to the aforementioned*

specialities”. In Article 8 we can read the text: “*One of this Society's main aims is to achieve the constitution of other similar ones throughout Spain, and that they associate themselves with this one, forming a federation of societies*”.¹⁶

The neurological side of Galcerán i Granés can be seen in some of his main publications:

- 1) “*Some static and dynamic inferences about the brain, which may serve to clarify the concept of localisation*”, published in the journal *Independencia Médica* in 1883 and 1884.³
- 2) “*Neuropathology and General Psychiatry*”.²⁰
- 3) “*Treatment of epilepsy*”.³
- 4) Genetic classification of nerve dermatosis (fig. 3).²¹

He also published many articles in the journal *Gaceta Médica Catalana*, the most prestigious Spanish medical journal of the time, which celebrated its 1,000th edition in 1919 and which had previously been a prize-winner at the Universal Exhibition of Barcelona in 1888. Galcerán i Granés was also the editor of “*Archivos de Terapéutica de las enfermedades nerviosas y mentales*” and “*Anales de la Sociedad de Psiquiatría y Neurología*”.³

Some conferences that he gave had an impact, such as the following: “*When can you diagnose the localisation of central nervous system diseases?*” He presented this together with Francisco de P. Xercavins at the Medical Science Congress in Barcelona in 1890.³

Artur Galcerán i Granés was director of the mental asylum Sant Boi de Llobregat and afterwards of Pere Mata de Reus. He died in Barcelona in 1919.

Medical and social events that occurred during the presidency of Artur Galcerán i Granés

In 1911 *Hörlein i Hauptmann* discovered “*luminal*,” an anticonvulsant drug that led to a great advance in care and therapeutic handling of epilepsy. In 1913, Sigmund Freud

Naturaleza.	Genesis.	Lesion nerviosa.	Sitio.	Lesion Cutánea.	Dermatosis.
Dermatosis vasculares activas.	Excitación nervio-vascular.	?	Region vascular.	Dermatitis difusa. Dermatitis concreta profunda. Dermatitis concreta superficial. Dermatitis hipertrófica.	Eritemas Epinitide. Urticaria. Pénfigo. Dermatitis esfoliativa. Pénfigo foliáceo.
			Region papilar.	Dermatitis localizadas hipertróficas.	Prúfigo. Liquen.
Dermatosis tróficas activas.	Excitación del sistema nervioso, sensitivo y motor	Neuritis intersticial. Esclerosis y pigmentación de los ganglios. Neuritis parenquimatosa.	Capa Granulosa y de Malpigio. Capa de Malpigio. Dermis. Id.	Dermatitis exudativa profunda y concreta. Distrofia dérmica, con heterotopia del pigmento. Dermatitis generativa escamosa. Epidermitis destructiva concreta.	Zona. Vitiligo. Ictiosis. Ectima.
Dermatosis tróficas degenerativas	Id.	Degeneración de los cuernos anteriores y de las columnas de Clarko. Esclerosis de los cuernos posteriores. Neuritis parenquimatosa.	Dermis. Id. Id.	Dermatitis crónica con generación embrionaria y degeneración granulosa consecutiva. Dermatitis hipertrófica general y difusa. Totus substantia.	Lepra. Pelagra. Mal perforante. Úlceras. Gangrenas. Escaras.

A. GALCERÁN.

Figure 3 Genetic classification of “*nerve dermatosis*” according to A. Galcerán i Granés.²¹

founded the first Analytical Psychology School, and in Catalunya they hosted the first Metges Congress in Catalan.

In 1914, Barraquer Roviralta publishes a paper on semiology of peripheral nervous system in the prestigious "Nouvelle Iconographie de la Salpêtrière". During this same year, the Mancomunitat de Catalunya (Community of Catalonia) is created, the First World War begins and Barcelona has a terrible outbreak of typhoid fever.³

Evolution

Dr. Galcerán i Granés was president of the Society of Psychiatry and Neurology of Barcelona from the time it was started in 1911 until 1915, when Dr *Martí i Julià* (1860-1917) took over the position. This society would be renamed "*Societat Catalana de Psiquiatria i Neurologia*" in 1934 and was chaired by Dr *Belarmino Rodríguez Arias*, until the society was dissolved at the start of the Spanish Civil War.^{22,23} In 1941, the society was reconstituted, calling itself "*Asociación de Neurología y Psiquiatría*" and chaired by Dr *José Córdoba Rodríguez*; the "*Asociación de Ciencias Neurológicas*" chaired by Dr *Lluís Barraquer Bordas* appeared in 1968. Finally, in 1973 (chaired by Dr *Agustí Codina Puiggrós*), it would change to its current name of "*Societat Catalana de Neurologia*", a name that will no longer be modified.²²⁻²⁵

Conclusions

Artur Galcerán i Granés' neurological facet is remarkable and significant. He was the founder of the first Catalan and Spanish neurological society: The Society of Psychiatry and Neurology of Barcelona in 1911, the forerunner of the Catalan Society of Neurology.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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