

4th international congress on ancient thermalism



PROGRAMME

THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF ROMAN HEALING SPAS

INVESTIGATION, PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THERMAL HERITAGE

26-28 MAY 2025 - VICHY (FRANCE)

Amphithéâtre Georges FRÉLASTRE
Pôle universitaire de Vichy
1 avenue des Célestins

MONDAY 26TH MAY

8:00 – Welcome reception for participants

9:00 – Official inauguration

SESSION 1. Studying ancient healing spas: a new look at old data and interpretations in the light of recent research

- **Massif Central – France**

9:20 – Veni Bibi Vichy. Current state of archaeological knowledge on ancient thermal spas in Vichy (France): thermal baths that do not always reveal their source – **Lise AUGUSTIN ROLLAND, Simon BARATON, Lara FLEURY, Rodrigue GUILLON, Benjamin MICHAUDEL, Gabriel ROCQUE**

9:40 – Ancient thermalism in Vichy (France): the excavations around the Hospital Spring – **Benjamin MICHAUDEL**

10:00 – Should Vichy (France) be considered as the Aquis Calidis mentioned and depicted on the Peutinger Table? – **Bertrand DOUSTEYSSIER**

10:20 – Discussion

10:40 – Coffee break

11:00 – The ancient thermal baths of Évaux-les-Bains (France): new releases from the northern part and new data – **Frédéric MÉTÉNIER**

11:20 – The “thermes sud” of Nérès-les-Bains (France) in the light of 19th century excavations and the more recent studies – **Carlotta FRANCESCHELLI**

11:40 – [Poster] Thermal baths, Nérès-les-Bains (France) – **Marie-Laure THIERRY**

11:50 – [Poster] Bourbon-l’Archambault (France): from ancient thermal baths to today’s spa area – **Gabriel ROCQUE**

12:00 – Discussion

12:20 – Lunch break

13:30 – The thermal baths of Royat/Chamalières (France), data review –
Hélène DARTEVELLE

13:50 – Thermal baths of Aquae Segetae/Moingt (France) – **Christian LE BARRIER**

14:10 – [Poster] The AQVAE project. The Aix-les-Bains spa in Roman times (France):
Documentary review, study and valorisation of a remarkable heritage site –
Sébastien NIELOUD-MULLER, Aldo BORLENGHI, Fabien THEVENON,
Luc BERTHAUD, Lorine BOUHADJEB, Barbara CHAPEL

14:20 – The Aix-les-Bains baths complex (France) –
Lorine BOUHADJEB, Clément MANI, Sébastien NIELOUD-MULLER

14:40 – Discussion

15:00 – Coffee break

15:20 – [Poster] Thermal water in daily life, uses, choices and requirements:
Bourbonne-les-Bains (France) – **Claire SERRANO**

15:30 – [Poster] One fake to fool them all. Promoting modern thermalism through
the use of antiquity and forgery in Luxeuil-les-Bains (France) –
Marie-Anaïs JANIN, Nicolas DELFERRIÈRE

15:40 – [Poster] Votive altars as a testimony of the medical benefits of thermal
springs in the Central Pyrenees (France) during the Roman period –
Frédéric BAUDUER

15:50 – Interpreting bathing establishments: curative baths outside spas? –
Anne-Laure FOULCHÉ

16:10 – [Poster] The Antiquaille thermal baths in Lyon (France) –
Tony SILVINO, Alain BOUET

16:20 – Discussion

16:40 – Break

18:00 – Conference open to the public
« *Le thermalisme antique, dans le monde romain et à Vichy* » –
Silvia GONZÁLEZ SOUTELO, Lise AUGUSTIN ROLLAND

20:00 – Dinner offered for the speakers

TUESDAY 27TH MAY

8:30 – Coffee reception

- **International**

9:00 – Healing me softly with gods: Pleasure, satisfaction and healing in the late antique thermal bath Banja BANSKO (Strumica, Republic of North Macedonia)

– **Vane P. SEKULOV, Anita VASILKOVA**

9:20 – The baths of the governor's palace of Pannonia Inferior: a private thermal bath? (Budapest, Hungary) – **Gabriella FÉNYES**

9:40 – Aquae Flavianae (Algeria): a millenary heritage – **Paola ZANOVELLO**

10:00 – [Poster] The healing spas of Baden-Baden (Germany) revisited: 179 years of archaeological research – **Jessica PREIB**

10:10 – [Poster] Aquae Balissae (Croatia): history of discoveries and collections from the 18th–20th centuries – **Berislav SCHEJBAL**

10:20 – Discussion

10:40 – Synthesis of session 1

11:00 – Coffee break

SESSION 2. Studying ancient healing spas: new tools, new approaches

11:20 – A geoarchaeological approach to hydrothermal carbonate deposits from Roman baths in Jebel Oust (Tunisia) – **Julien CURIE, Christophe PETIT**

11:40 – [Poster] Carbonate deposits from the thermal waters in Vichy (France) – **Rodrigue GUILLON, Antoine SCHOLTÈS, Gérard VERNET, Simon BARATON, Benjamin MICHAUDEL**

11:50 – “It's the water, stupid!” How to read the history of a healing spa from its hydrotechnical facilities (Baden, Switzerland) – **Andrea SCHAEER**

12:10 – Managing sacred waters at Bagno Grande in San Casciano dei Bagni (Italy): research and perspectives within an archaeological multi-layered thermo-mineral site –

Mattia BISCHERI, Chiara FERMO, Emanuele MARIOTTI, Marco PACIFICI

12:30 – Discussion

12:50 – Lunch break

14:00 – Votive devotion and trade networks: Analysing a relief dedicated to the nymphs from Aquae Calidae in Roman Thrace (Bulgaria) – **Mariya AVRAMOVA, Vasiliki ANEVLAVI, Walter PROCHASKA, Petya ANDREEVA**

14:20 – Beyond wellness. Geography of the thermo-mineral waters in central Italy from a long-term perspective: management and valorisation – **Filvio COZZA, Jacopo TABOLLI, Edoardo VANNI**

14:40 – The thermal landscape of the Central Sredna Gora Microregion, Bulgaria, in the Roman Period – **Mariya AVRAMOVA**

15:00 – Thermascape: a proposal to analyse thermalism from pre-Roman times to the present day from a spatial point of view – **Laura GARCÍA JUAN, Silvia GONZÁLEZ SOUTELO**

15:20 – Discussion

15:40 – Coffee break

16:00 – In the ruins of Baiae (Italy): Ancient walls viewed in present-day light – **Matthias NIEBERLE**

16:20 – See Naples and die: Bones and burials at ancient healing spas – **Jens KOEHLER**

16:40 – Pools and circular structures in Roman spas. A proposal for an architectural analysis – **Juan Diego CARMONA BARRERO, Silvia GONZÁLEZ SOUTELO**

17:00 – Discussion

17:20 – Synthesis of session 2

17:40 – General meeting and discussion about the archaeological thermal network

WEDNESDAY 28TH MAY

8:30 – Coffee reception

Special posters session. The legacy of antiquity and thermalism today

9:00 – Guided tour “History of the waters in Vichy; 2000 years of thermalism”

11:00 – Way back to university

11:30 – [Poster] Reinterpreting the Roman curative baths to promote the spa towns of the Massif Central (France) – **Léa LEMOINE**

11:40 – [Poster] Roman thermal heritage: A shared legacy of Europe’s historic thermal towns – **Simone ZAGRODNIK**

11:50 – [Poster] Ancient reflections on the West Bohemian spa triangle (Czech Republic) – **Zbyněk MACHÁT, Karel KŮT, Lubomír ZEMAN**

12:00 – [Poster] ‘Letting what is distributed become common property’. Citizens’ initiative as a model for the revival of communal urban bathing traditions (Baden, Switzerland) – **Marc ANGST, Kathrin DOPPLER**

12:10 – [Poster] Thermal heritage preservation for future generations: insights from Georgia – **Khatuna SAGANELIDZE, Lela POTSKHVERASHVILI**

12:20 – Discussion

12:40 – Lunch break

SESSION 3. Preserving, restoring and promoting thermal heritage: challenges and strategies

13:50 – Studying and promoting vanished remains: the Mont-Dore curative spa complex (France) – **Élise NECTOUX, Lise AUGUSTIN ROLLAND, Titien BARTETTE, Jonathan BOINÉ, Pierre BOIVIN, Claire BROSSARD, Yves CONNIER, André-Marie DENDIEVEL, Bertrand DOUSTEYSSIER, Éric FAYET, Laura FOULQUIER, Patrice FOURNET, Claire MITTON, Fabrice MÜLLER, Daniel PARENT, Jean-François PASTY, Hervé RICHARD, Dominique TARDY**

14:10 – From discovery to reclamation: the chaotic history of the ancient spa at Aquae Sextiae/Aix-en-Provence (France) – **Nuria NIN, Stefania GUIDUCCI**

14:30 – Archaeology of thermalism in Sicily (Italy), from historiography to new strategies for enhancement – **Maddalena BASSANI**

14:50 – From the Roman thermal spa Aquae Iasae to the modern spas of Varaždinske Toplice (Croatia): history of hydrology, medicine and the use of thermal springs – **Dora KUSAN SPALJ, Nikoleta PEROK**

15:10 – Discussion

15:30 – Coffee break

15:50 – Re-imagining thermal spaces: The case of Terme di San Calogero in the Aeolian Islands (Italy) – **Alba BALMASEDA DOMÍNGUEZ**

16:10 – Not just a Museum but an experience (Montegrotto Terme, Italy) – **Chiara DESTRO, Elena GRIGGIO, Tiziana PRIVITERA**

16:30 – Caldes de Montbui (Spain): A case study of the evolution of Roman thermal heritage over the centuries – **Isidre PINEDA MONCUSÍ, Carme GERMÀ VILA, Anna MONLEÓN ESTERLÍ**

16:50 – Discussion

17:10 – Synthesis of session 3

17:30 – General conclusion of the congress

