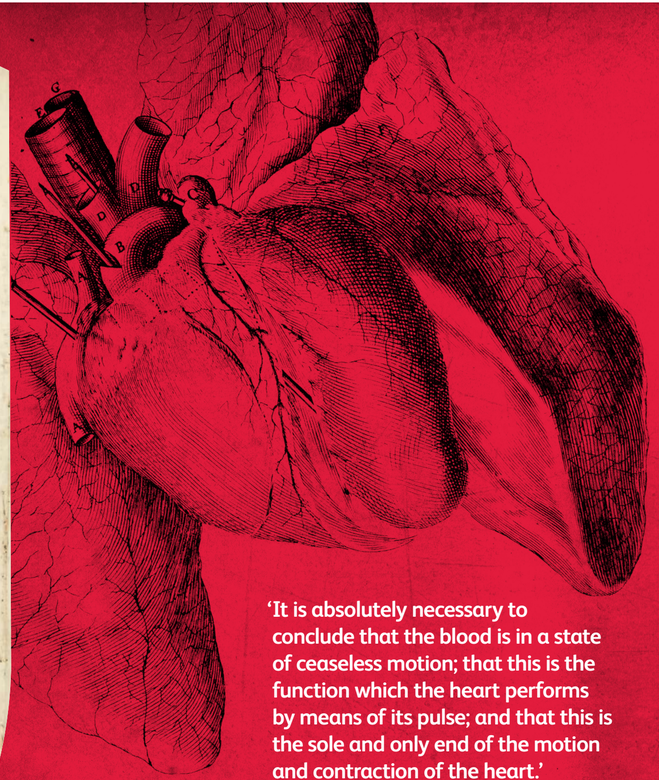
William Harvey's Doctor of Medicine Diploma Granted to Harvey by the University of Padua on 25th April 1602.



'It is absolutely necessary to conclude that the blood is in a state of ceaseless motion; that this is the function which the heart performs by means of its pulse; and that this is the sole and only end of the motion and contraction of the heart.'
– William Harvey

Ceaseless motion:
William Harvey's experiments in circulation
19 January – 26 July 2018

Free entry

@RCPmuseum #WilliamHarvey

Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrews Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LE

Usual opening hours: Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm, please note that opening times may vary – check online before your visit.

Library, Archive and Museum Services
Tel: +44 (0)20 3075 1543
Email: history@rcplondon.ac.uk
www.rcplondon.ac.uk/WilliamHarvey

Step-free access. Closed: weekends, public holidays and for RCP ceremonies – see website for details.

Groups of six or more can visit the RCP by appointment only. Please email and we'd be delighted to advise you. The RCP is a busy conference venue and only groups led by RCP staff can explore the building.

Location: 5-minute walk from Great Portland Street and Regent's Park underground stations; 10-minute walk from Warren Street underground station.

Royal College of Physicians

ACCREDITED MUSEUM

Exhibition team

Kristin Hussey, Pamela Forde, Katie Birkwood, Natalie Craven and Matthew Wood

Contributors

The Royal College of Physicians; the National Portrait Gallery; the Royal College of Surgeons; the Science Museum; the British Cardiovascular Society; Worcester College, University of Oxford; and Wellcome Collection

With thanks to: Chocolate Films, Spectrum Drama, Professor Ludmilla Jordanova and Professor Andrew Cunningham

1518
2018

Royal College of Physicians

Ceaseless motion:
William Harvey's experiments in circulation
19 January – 26 July 2018

An exhibition exploring the life, work and legacy of revolutionary anatomist William Harvey – the physician who revealed the secrets of blood circulation

rcplondon.ac.uk/WilliamHarvey
Regent's Park, London NW1 4LE

Free entry

William Harvey (1578–1657) was an anatomist and physician who had an insatiable curiosity about the inner workings of all living creatures. Harvey lived through an extraordinary age of scientific revolution, to which he contributed his own discovery about the heart and blood circulation.

Within his London home, Harvey conducted countless experiments and observed the beating hearts of many animals, including dogs, eels, crows and even wasps. As an anatomist, he was able to dissect the bodies of hanged men, in the anatomy theatre at the Royal College of Physicians (RCP).

In 1628, after 10 years of painstaking solitary research, Harvey at last published his discovery in a book known as *De motu cordis*. His idea that blood is pumped around the body by the heart in a state of ceaseless motion proved highly controversial to some people, as it challenged 1,500 years of established scientific and medical belief.

Harvey encouraged his fellow physicians 'to search and study out the secrets of nature by way of experiment'. His legacy of curiosity, research and discovery has had a lasting impact on the practice and science of medicine.

This exhibition places William Harvey at the heart of the RCP as it celebrates its 500th anniversary.

www.rcplondon.ac.uk/WilliamHarvey

The life of William Harvey

The Royal College of Physicians

William Harvey had a strong connection to the RCP. From attending his first meeting in 1603 until his death in 1657, Harvey played an active role in college life. He held several senior posts, including treasurer, and was later offered the presidency, but he turned it down due to his old age.

In his later years Harvey donated money to the RCP to build a new museum and library, which would house the books and curiosities from his own collections that he donated to the RCP. Sadly, the building and most of the books and items were lost in the Great Fire of London in 1666. Harvey's demonstration rod and portrait, which were rescued from the fire, are on display in this exhibition.

A physician in the 17th century

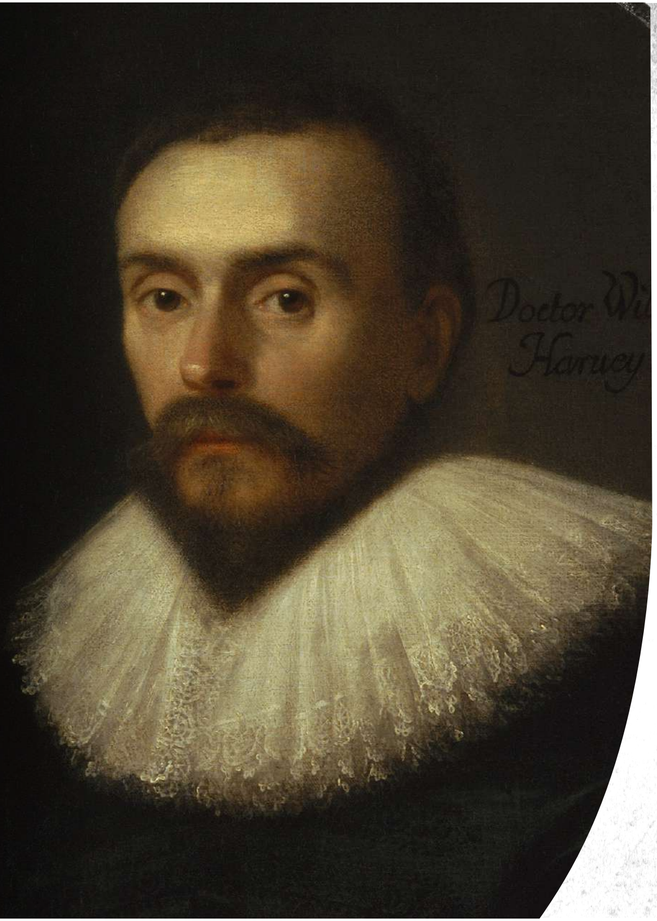
Harvey's services were in demand in 17th century London. As well as having his own private practice, Harvey was the physician-in-charge at St Bartholomew's Hospital, a physician to King James I and later the physician-in-ordinary to King Charles I.

Harvey was a loyal subject to King Charles I. He dedicating his book *De motu cordis* to the King and remained loyal to him throughout the years of the Civil War. Such was the King's trust in Harvey that he was allowed access to the King's deer for his experiments and he was even made responsible for the safety of the King's children during the battle of Edgehill in 1642.

Medical science

In 1628, Harvey published a book entitled *An anatomical exercise on the motion of the heart and blood in living beings.* The book – known commonly as *De motu cordis* – was the culmination of 10 years of tireless research, observation and experimentation. Harvey's findings challenged over 1,500 years of medical theory which accepted that blood was made continuously in the liver and consumed by the internal organs. It would take decades for Harvey's theory of blood circulation to be accepted.

Harvey made a donation to the RCP 3 years before his death, to make sure that his legacy of scientific experimentation was kept alive. The donation was to pay for an annual oration that would encourage members of the RCP '… to search and study out the secrets of nature by way of experiment'. The Harveian Oration is still being delivered 364 years later, encouraging members and fellows of the RCP to continually push the boundaries of medical and scientific knowledge.



Exhibition highlights

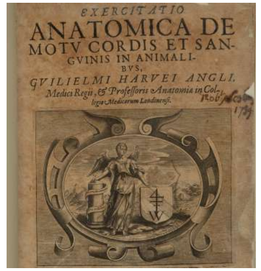
William Harvey's demonstration rod

This rod is one of the few surviving personal items of William Harvey, as most were lost in the Great Fire of London in 1666. He used this rod during the anatomy lessons he gave as the RCP's Lumleian lecturer from 1616 to 1656. Harvey would have used this rod to point at important areas of the bodies that he dissected when he began publicly discussing his theory on the circulation of the blood.

Whalebone and silver, c.1616, accession number X280

Exercitatio anatomica de motu cordis et sanguinis in animalibus, by William Harvey, 1628

This is a rare first edition of William Harvey's most famous and important work *De motu cordis*. The first edition was a small 68-page book that was published cheaply in Frankfurt, perhaps because Harvey feared that no publisher in London would agree to print such a controversial book. The book was dedicated to King Charles I and the president of the RCP, Dr John Argent. It was within this book that William Harvey first put his theory of blood circulation into print.



Accession number 22888