

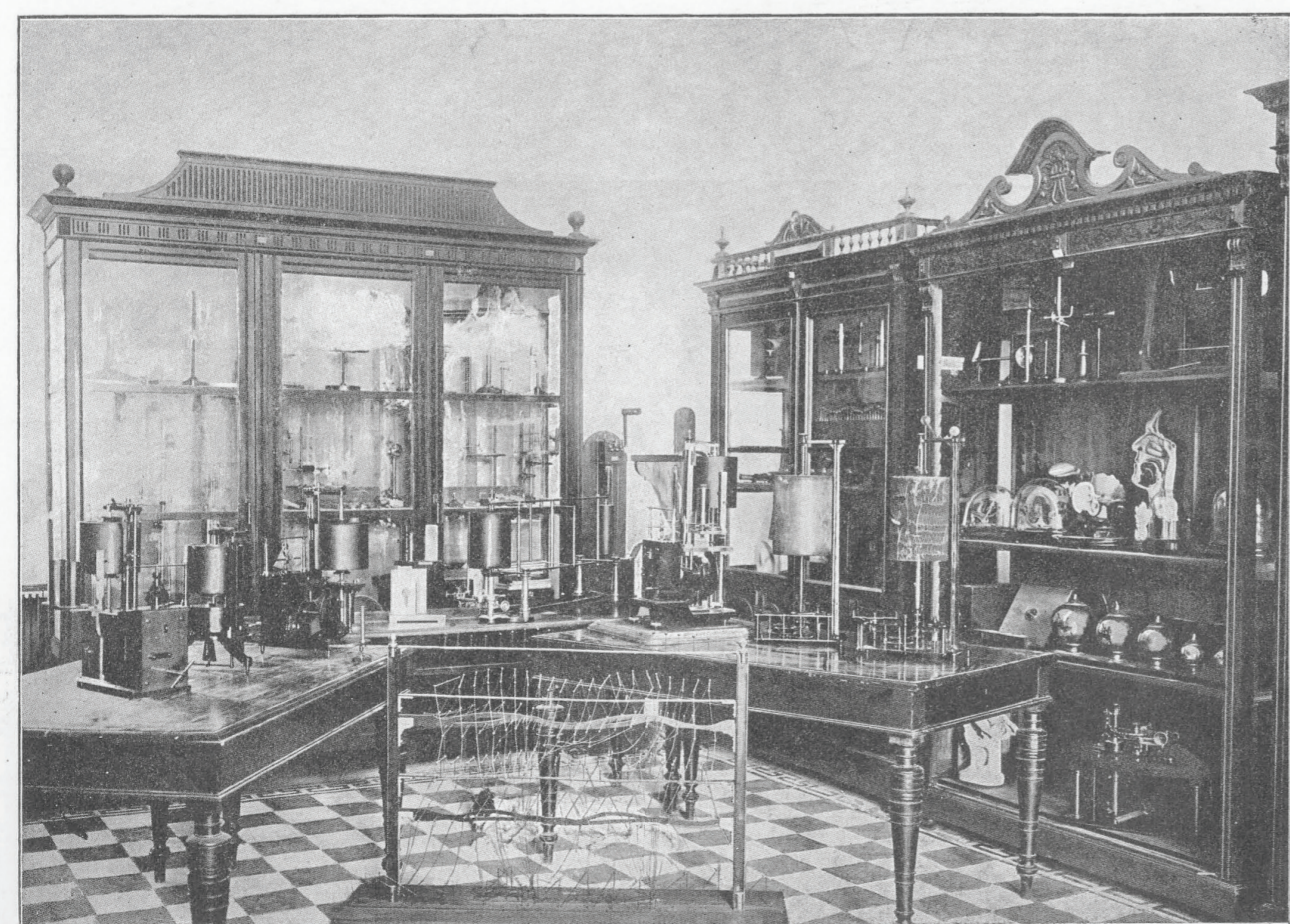
THE MUSEUM OF PHYSIOLOGY "GEORGIOS KOTZIAS"

Flora Zarani × Panagiotis Lazos × Panagiotis Lembessis,
Polyxeni Gaitanari × Panagoula Angelogianni × Anastassios Philippou

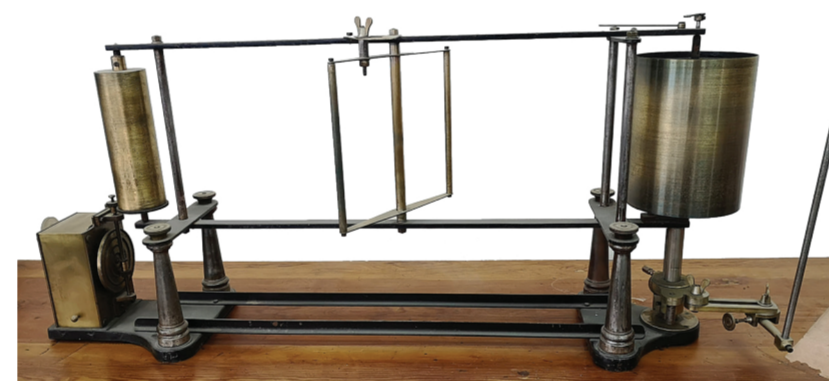
THE LABORATORY OF PHYSIOLOGY AND THE MUSEUM'S HISTORY

The establishment of the Laboratory of Physiology at the University of Athens dates back to 1884, when Mr. Rigas Nicolaides was appointed Professor of Experimental Physiology in the School of Medicine. Nicolaides initially used the instruments he had acquired himself in Germany to equip the laboratory. Later he managed to purchase instruments for tutoring medical students with funding from the University Senate. All the historical instruments in the Museum come from the "Laboratory of Experimental Physiology - Physiologion" (photo 1).

The Museum of Physiology belongs to the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA). It was established in 2020 and is housed in the Department of Physiology, Medical School, NKUA. The Museum comprises a wide selection of historical instruments of Physiology (more than 200 instruments and scientific implements) as well as the historical archive of Georgios Kotzias (photo 2), a famous physician and neurophysiologist who won the American Lasker Prize, the highest honor in medicine, in 1969.



Φυσιολογίον. — Αίθουσα των όργάνων (Όργα των ανακρινών διά την έπιδείξιν των φαινομένων της γενικής λειτουργίας).



↑ A paper kymograph, made by L. Castagna, Wien.
04



↑ A model of the organ of Corti in the mammalian cochlea of the ear, made by W. Petzold, Leipzig.
05

MISSION AND PLANS

The Physiology Museum (photo 3), serves educational and research purposes, supporting the development of basic and applied biomedical research. The Museum's mission is to meet the tutoring and research needs of the Faculty of Medicine, to cooperate in every possible way with other museums, research centers and academic institutions, to participate in educational and research programs that contribute to the dissemination of scientific knowledge and experience, to organize scientific lectures, workshops, seminars, conferences and other scientific events and to propagate academically derived knowledge to the general public.

← 01

The Physiology Laboratory – Physiologion as presented in the Album of the academic year 1923–24 of the University of Athens. The photo shows the instrument room of the Physiologion containing devices for the demonstration of muscle function phenomena. Part of the present Physiology Laboratory still deals with the physiology of muscles.

02 →

Georgios Kotzias, the famous physician and neurophysiologist (1918–1977) after whose name the physiology museum was named.



← 03

The entrance to the Physiology Laboratory as it is today. Some of the Museum's exhibits are displayed in the cases.

THE MUSEUM'S COLLECTION

The Museum includes, among others, items that someone could see in an experimental physiology laboratory in the last quarter of the 19th century – early 20th century, such as ymographs (photo 4), myographs, induction coils, galvanometers, rheotoms, Helmholtz's resonators, plethysmographs and models of sense organs (photo 5).

The instruments come from a variety of well-known European manufacturers, such as E. Zimmermann (Leipzig), Wilh. Petzold (Leipzig), Bock–Steger (Leipzig), Baird & Tatlock (UK), C.F. Palmer (UK), Secretan (Paris), Johann Kruscich (Prague) and L. Castagna (Vienna).