

Special Issue

History of Thoracic Surgery

Message from the Guest Editors

The history of general thoracic surgery is always present and influences our way of thinking, decision-making, and innovation. Video-assisted and robotic chest surgery, which rely on artificial intelligence-supported imaging, are based on a 150-year evolution in thoracic surgery. Progressive ideas, heated debates over new concepts, the construction and deconstruction of dogmas, obstacles, controversies, and even misconceptions are paving the way to where we are now. This rich heritage commands our attention and is in constant need of care. The 2023 Mons meeting of the Royal Belgian Society of Surgeons offered a unique opportunity to reflect on the history of thoracic surgery in various parts of the globe, as well as our art. The picture is admittedly incomplete, but it strives to be as honest as possible while avoiding selection bias.

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