

## **Press Release: September 5, 2011**

S. Karger AG, Medical and Scientific Publishers  
Allschwilerstrasse 10, 4009 Basel, Switzerland

# English Translation of Key Medical and Art Opus Ahead of 500-Year Anniversary

## Andreas Vesalius - De Humani Corporis Fabrica

Karger Publishers is publishing a translation of this book, known in English as *On the Fabric of the Human Body*, with original commentary on and comparisons between both the 1543 and 1555 editions of the work. Thanks to sponsorship from the State of Kuwait, this masterpiece of the Renaissance is being made accessible and current for science – and, indirectly, the city of Basel.

Andreas Vesalius (1515–1564) was one of the founding fathers of modern anatomy. At the age of 28, he published in Latin an atlas of anatomy containing illustrations that are still known to every student of medicine and most students of art, as well. A second version, revised by Vesalius himself, was published 12 years later.

In Vesalius' time, Basel was at the heart of the world of the printing arts. Basel printer Johannes Oporinus had printed and published both versions, 700 pages long even in the book's large format. Vesalius himself guided the printing process. During that time, he also held a colloquium on anatomy that resulted in the preparation of a skeleton that can still be seen today at Basel's Museum of Anatomy.

Daniel Garrison and Malcolm Hast, two professors from Northwestern University in Chicago, have worked for more than 20 years on the English translation of the *Fabrica*, together with a small team. They have compared each version word for word and added comments clarifying any deviations between versions, and have applied the common anatomical nomenclature, - *Nomina Anatomica*, that is still used today. In addition, they extracted and highlighted elements of the texts and illustrations that will be salient for all readers, whether specialists or interested laypeople.

This English-language edition will be produced in A3 format (297mm X 420 mm), comprising approximately 1,400 pages and weighing about 14 kilograms. A concept with details including a color scheme will help guide readers through the immense work and the translators' commentaries in a clear and simple way.

Such an ambitious project would not be possible with funding only from public sources or the private sector. But financial support from the State of Kuwait will allow Karger, an internationally active biomedical publisher based in Basel, the means to produce this meaningful work.

The Minister of Health of Kuwait, Dr. Hilal Al-Sayer, handed the check for this contribution to the *Fabrica* translation to Basel publisher Thomas Karger on Sept. 5, 2011. Dr. Al-Sayer said of this generous support: "Our main mission is to highlight Kuwait's contribution to the world in different areas of culture and academia. Our motive for sponsorship is purely altruistic in order to expedite the publication of this noble work."

Karger Publishers will issue the translation in no more than two years, in time to commemorate the 500<sup>th</sup> birthday of Andreas Vesalius in 2014.

For more information, please contact:

Stephan Mester, Corporate Communications  
s.mester@karger.ch  
S. Karger AG, Allschwilerstrasse 10,  
4009 Basel, Switzerland, +41 61 306 1415