

## Chair from the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Lisbon

In February 2013, the National Museum of Natural History and Science began an intense collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Lisbon, located at the Hospital of Santa Maria, for the preservation of its important historical heritage. The ongoing work includes the permanent loan of collections to the Museum, coupled with support to collections located in the Faculty.

The first collections that entered the Museum include objects from the medical doctor and professor José David Ferreira (1929-2012), Director of the Cellular Biology Laboratory of the Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian's Biology Centre (1966-1993), Director of two institutes of the Faculty of Medicine – the Institute of Histology and Embryology (1979-1999) and the Institute of Anatomy (1993-1999) –, and Vice-Rector of the University of Lisbon (1997-2002).

Among several instruments and teaching material on permanent loan, such as slides, photographs and memorabilia, furniture items from David Ferreira's office also entered the Museum's collections.

David Ferreira's chair is February 2015's Object of the Month. The chair has a wooden structure and arms and backrest upholstered with green leather, displaying similar typology to chairs designed by architect João Simões (1908-1995) in the early 1950s for the Council Room of the Faculty of Medicine. The wooden curved arms are graceful and elegant.

The chair is representative of the development of Design in Portugal, according to the purposely-created furniture for new public buildings of the time – simple and clean lines with clear hierarchy identification through materials and shapes. At the Faculty, new furniture coexisted with used furniture brought from previous facilities at Campo de Santana.

The Faculty of Medicine gradually transferred to new facilities in the Teaching Hospital (today called Hospital of Santa Maria) after its inauguration in April 1953. Old photographs from the time of the inauguration show identical chairs in the Faculty's Aula Máxima (today called Aula Magna, which has been renovated).

