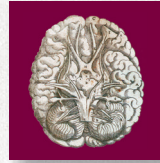




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**ABSTRACTS  
OF THE 24TH MEETING OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY  
FOR THE HISTORY OF  
THE NEUROSCIENCES**

8–11 July, 2019  
Vilnius, Lithuania



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# Neurological Observations in Andrew Sniadecki's *Theory of Organic Beings*

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The first volume of Andrew Sniadecki's (1768 - 1838) *Theory of Organic Beings* was written in Polish and published in Warsaw in 1804. It was translated into German and French. The whole three volumes of the work in Polish were published in Vilnius in 1838. Sniadecki's study is considered one of the earliest works on physiological chemistry, the chemistry of life – a precursor of modern biochemistry. It's a synthetic work of broad sweep. The text which was probably used for lectures is divided into chapters and numbered paragraphs. The first volume is devoted to establishing the general principles and foundations upon which his theory of life is based. The second and third volumes deal with the physiology and chemistry of various body parts and organ systems as well as human behavior, social and physical anthropology. In this presentation, I will focus on the third volume where Sniadecki describes "the life of nerves" and "the theory of nerves".

Sniadecki was well-qualified to produce such a comprehensive work. He studied at the University of Pavia, where he became acquainted with the most progressive ideas in the natural sciences and experimental physiology as well as with the new chemistry associated with the oxygen theory of Lavoisier, the experimental work of Antoine Fourcroy, and the chemical nomenclature of Claude Berthollet. He learned how chemistry and the physical sciences could be applied to the life sciences and to medicine. He also spent two years at the University of Edinburgh attending the chemistry lectures of Joseph Black (1728 - 1799).