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Medical Anniversary

ANDREAS VESALIUS – 1 JANUARY 1514

Andreas Vesalius (1514–64) was born in Brussels and was educated at Louvain and eventually in Paris where he studied medicine. He was a notable international lecturer, visiting Padua, Bologna and Pisa, where his public dissections earned him well-merited fame. He became personal physician to Emperor Charles V and Philip II of Spain. In June 1543 the first edition of his *De humani corporis fabrica* was printed in Basle. It is beautifully illustrated. A fine woodcut title page shows a bearded Vesalius dissecting a female at Padua in about 1540 before attentive onlookers. A naked model indicates the importance attached to surface markings and an articulated skeleton emphasises the importance of osteology. The presence of an ape and a dog underline the value of comparative anatomy.

He undertook a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and died on the island of Zante. – DG James