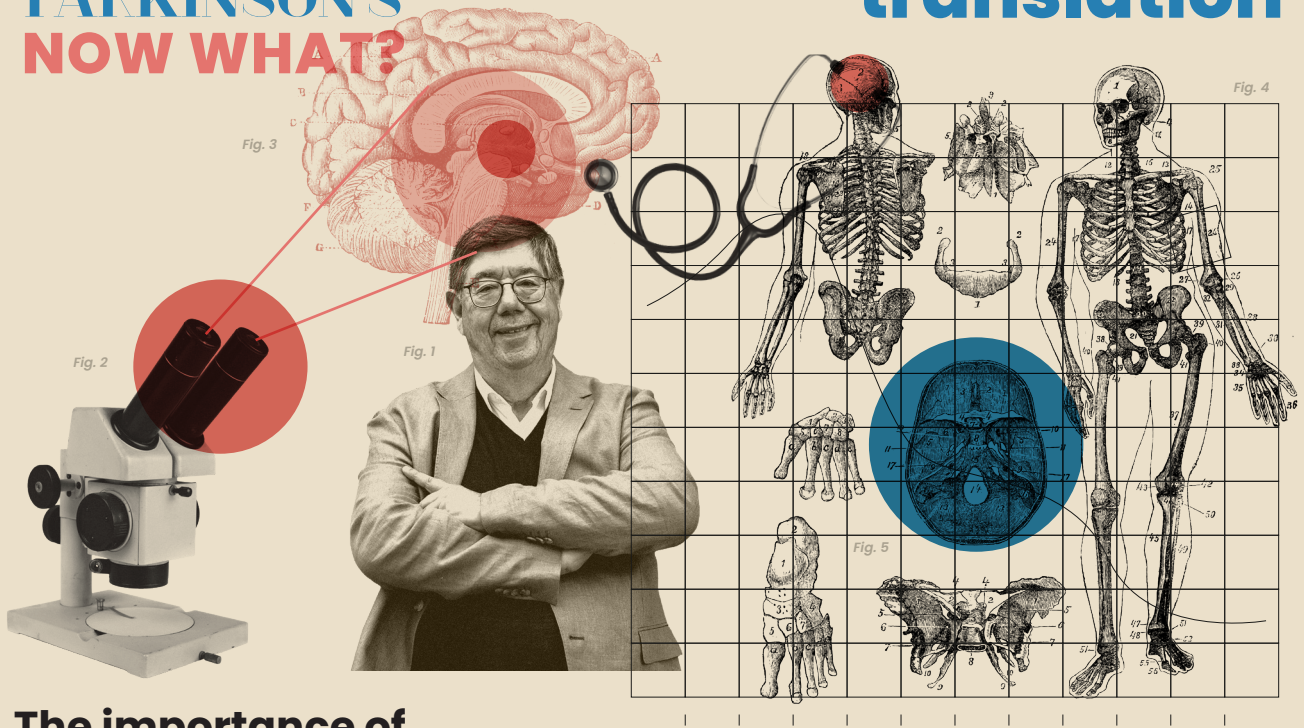


#3

I HAVE PARKINSON'S NOW WHAT?

Found in translation



The importance of translating science — in health and in sickness

It's not always easy to understand what a doctor tells us. And a Parkinson's diagnosis is no exception. Even more so for beyond its definition a lot remains to be defined: causes, symptoms, *what nows* and *what thens*. Fortunately, there's a way out. So says Carlos Fiolhais, physics professor and communicator par excellence, who has been trying to demystify science and its terms for several years now, believing that there must be a universal language between us and doctors: "Doctors must convey truth and hope. Their commitment is to do the best they can; ours is to trust them", explains Fiolhais.

Fig. 1 Carlos Fiolhais
Fig. 2 Binocular microscope, XX century
Fig. 3 Brain - Basal Ganglia
Fig. 4 Human skeleton, front and back, Trousset encyclopedia, 1886 - 1891
Fig. 5 Middle and anterior-posterior section of brain, Usual Medicine Dictionary, Dr Labarthe, 1885

A two-way street that underlines the importance of making the best use of an appointment's time: either with a symptom diary or questioning assumptions. "A few days ago, I heard a man talking about a serious illness that he had just been diagnosed with. When he asked 'What now?', the doctor's immediate response was 'Now, let's deal with it'", he recalls. And concludes: so that almost nothing is lost in translation, and everyone understands what we're saying, "when it comes to science, we must show more method than result; more spirit, than body".

Sources:
https://www.uc.pt/iii/romuloccv/presencas_no_romulo/carlos_fiolhais_bibliografia/carlos_fiolhais; <https://www.publico.pt/2021/05/22/ciencia/noticia/assim-fala-tiago-outeiro-parkinson-1963365>

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