

Preface

This volume arose from the 2017 Crete/Patras *Ancient Emotions* II Conference on *Medical Understandings of Emotions* which took place at the University of Patras. The event and the present volume, including thoroughly revised versions of the papers read at Patras, address an under-explored topic, i.e. medical conceptualizations of ancient emotions. In view of emotions' predominance in modern medical practice — health psychology is a sub-field of clinical psychology — and the epidemic of mental diseases, such as depression and anxiety disorders, in Western societies, the topic of this volume is pertinent to modern concerns about health in the societies we live in. Equally importantly, our desire to explore medical conceptualizations of emotions was prompted by our curiosity about the possible similarities or differences between ancient and modern medical discourses, the definition of pathological emotions, and the ways in which ancient patients experienced and expressed sentiments caused by suffering and pain. The editors of this volume hope that contributors' discussion of emotions in the doctors will enhance our understanding of the ways in which ancient cultures construed the category emotion and that it will shed fresh light on issues which are pivotal to the study of ancient emotions, such as the implications of the mind/body dichotomy, the possible interfaces between professional and folk understandings of sentiments or the relationship between ancient medicine and philosophy.

During the volume's production, which partly coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic, we have accrued several debts. We are grateful to the volume's contributors for their collegial spirit and their patience. We also want to extend our thanks to the Departments of Philology of the Universities of Crete and Patras for their support. Last but not least, we want to thank warmly the general editors of the Trends in Classics series, Professors Montanari and Rengakos, for making this volume and the sub-series *Ancient Emotions* possible.

G.K.

D.S.

