The Universidad de Chile’s Medical School: 180 years in good health

The formal teaching of medicine began in Chile in April 1833 with the creation of the first medical school. It started to be taught at the Auto de Compañía School and San Juan de Dios, the nation’s first hospital, where medicine had been practiced since the sixteenth century.

The so-called Portaliano State, which ruled between 1831 and 1841, merged all the institutions that had dealt with education, science, culture, and health. They became the first model in the country, and around them, a great many of the original medical school and was one of the five schools that would give birth to the Universidad de Chile.

The government of José Joaquín Prieto, helped by the minister Tocornal, apart from giving a new guidance to the Country, gave a new guidance to those institutions and began to think in terms of the importance of medicine in the development of the nation.
1889 was a year of modernization for the school. It was indeed under the Balmaceda government (president between 1886 and ... technological industrialization recently established by the Chilean liberal governments of the late nineteenth century.

The integration of the San Vicente de Paul Hospital (the current Universidad de Chile's Clinical Hospital)...

The State School of Nursing was founded in June 1906. It was at the time the first of its kind in South Am...
In 1948, the School of Medicine suffered a setback in its institutional history. That year, a fire consumed the building.

The year 1968 was the beginning of a substantial university reform resulting from worldwide social movements aiming at making education more accessible and democratic. Three years later, the Universidad de Chile’s School of Occupational Therapy was created.

Even though the School of Kinesitherapy (nowadays known as the School of Kinesiology) has its origins in 1956, it really became part of the School of Medicine in 1972, the same year that saw the foundation of the School of Speech Therapy.

Within the school, 1972 was also marked by the consolidation of a reform whose aim was to organize four administrative offices responsible for managing the clinical fields of the following hospitals: Deformes, Van Büren and Gustavo Fricke.

After the military coup of 1973, the previous administrative structure was dismantled and replaced by a new one. The School of Medicine, with the aim of becoming a national public service, decided to develop a particular network (network of municipal hospitals) as a basis for clinical teaching aimed at students from the first to the seventh year in the program.