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EXETER



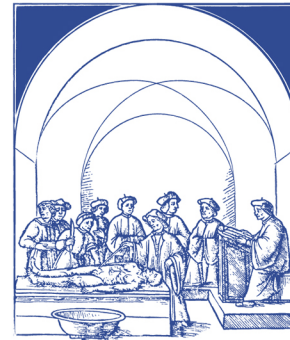
UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
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STUDIO FIRMANO
PER LA STORIA DELL'ARTE MEDICA E DELLA SCIENZA



PSMEMM
Palgrave Studies in Medical & Early Modern Medicine



CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF
MEDICINE AND THE BODY
IN THE RENAISSANCE

CSMBR
ONLINE
EVENTS

PRINCIPLES BEYOND ORDINARY PRACTICE

11

NOVEMBER

2021

5.00 pm CET

A NEW PICTURE OF ISAAC NEWTON'S CHYMISTRY

WILLIAM ROYALL NEWMAN • Indiana University Bloomington

Thanks mainly to the scholarship of Richard Westfall and Betty Jo Teeter Dobbs, a widely received narrative emerged over the last generation on the subject of Isaac Newton's alchemy. Although the positions of Westfall and Dobbs were not verbatim identical, the net result of their approach was a claim that Newton's alchemy was a largely theocentric pursuit that contributed to his science by allowing for a rebaptizing of magical sympathy as gravitational attraction. Additionally, the

two American scholars downplayed any interest that Newton may have had in medical alchemy, the chymiatry of the post-Paracelsian period. My recent book *Newton the Alchemist* presents a very different picture. From my perspective, Newton's alchemical research was dominated by goals that were neither religious in orientation nor directed at solving the problem of gravity. In addition, I have found evidence that

Newton had a serious interest in iatrochemistry, a fact overlooked by previous scholars. The present talk will give an overview of these recent discoveries and show how they alter the "standard narrative" of Newton's alchemy.

The event is free to attend but registration is required at <https://csnbr.fondazionecomel.org>