THE EARLY MODERN RECEPTION OF GALEN'S 'SIMPLE MEDICINES' AND 'ON THE POWERS OF FOODS'

A New Assessment of Galen's Pharmacological Theory

This conference will discuss in detail how Galen's *Simple Medicines* has changed by 1500, and why. One reason for change was new cultures into which the text had been introduced. Another was practical requirements for drug descriptions as opposed to medical theory, which led to a double manuscript tradition, and less focus on Galen's experimental method. Such requirements also caused extra material to be introduced, especially from the tradition of Dioscorides. New plants too were incorporated into the system, such as tomatoes. The conference will allow the participants to analyse precisely how Renaissance writers had moved from Galen's understanding, and where they had not. The conference is open to external attendees as well as to students. Speakers will explore questions of what a quality, a humour, and a substance is – in antiquity and in the Renaissance – and to establish what the understanding of them should now be, in the light of contemporary research and methods.

online conference
6-7 APRIL 2022

organised by
John Wilkins & Allen Grieco

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