

## Body and Metaphor in Ancient Medicine

1-3 May 2014

Sessions held in Breasted Hall, The Oriental Institute of the  
University of Chicago

Organized by John Z. Wee ([johnwee@uchicago.edu](mailto:johnwee@uchicago.edu))

This interdisciplinary symposium explores conceptual metaphors of the human body and how they influence knowledge about the anatomy and physiology of the body or of particular organs. While such metaphors often transcend medical texts and find their way into literary genres, the focus is on these metaphors not as ad hoc literary devices, but as enduring medical explanations in technical texts of medical theory and practice. By means of well-chosen case studies, speakers examine sources of analogies and their medical implications, as well as the limits to which metaphoric comparisons may be legitimately made. All sessions are free and open to the public.

1 May (Thursday)

Session 1

Chaired by Robert Richards (University of Chicago)

9:20 - 10am

Judith B. Farquhar (University of Chicago)

Foreign Objects: Understanding Chinese Medicine beyond Metaphor

10 - 10:40am

Rune Nyord (University of Cambridge)

Changing Bodies in Ancient Egyptian Medicine

11 - 11:40am

Janet Downie (Princeton University)

Aelius Aristides' Medical Body: A Case History from the Imperial World

11:40am - 12:10pm

Joint Panel Discussion

Session 2

Chaired by Elizabeth Asmis (University of Chicago)

1:40 - 2:20pm

Robert K. Ritner (University of Chicago)

The Inner Body in Motion: Mobile Organs in Egyptian Anatomical Speculation

2:20 - 3pm

Courtney Ann Roby (Cornell University)

Animal, Vegetable, Metaphor: The Liver and the Roots of Biological Identity in Plotinus

3:20 - 4pm

Lesley Dean-Jones (University of Texas at Austin)

Polybus' Heartless Man: Why the Vascular System of the Hippocratic Nature of Man Ignores the Heart

4 - 4:30pm

Joint Panel Discussion

2 May (Friday)

Session 3

Chaired by Michael Rossi (University of Chicago)

9 - 9:40am

Paul T. Keyser (Google, Inc., Chicago)

The Antiquity of "Blood Lines": Synecdoche, Metonymy, Medicine and More

9:40 - 10:20am

Vivienne Lo (University College London)

Water as Homology in the Construction of Classical Chinese Medicine

10:40 - 11:20am

J. Cale Johnson (BabMed, ERC Project, Freie Universität Berlin)

The Stuff of Causation: Modeling Fevers in the Babylonian Therapeutic Corpus

11:20 - 11:50am

Joint Panel Discussion

Session 4

Chaired by Janet H. Johnson (University of Chicago)

1:20 - 2pm

Donald Harper (University of Chicago)

The Metaphoric Body in Early Chinese Macrobiotic Physiology

2 - 2:40pm

John Z. Wee (University of Chicago)

Air and the Physiology of Intelligence in the Hippocratics

3 - 3:40pm

Strahil V. Panayotov (BabMed, ERC Project, Freie Universität Berlin)

Eye Disease Metaphors in Babylonian Texts

3:40 - 4:10pm  
Joint Panel Discussion

3 May (Saturday)

Session 5  
Chaired by Robert Biggs (University of Chicago)

9 - 9:40am  
Ulrike Steinert (BabMed, ERC Project, Freie Universität Berlin)  
Concepts of the Female Body in Mesopotamian Gynecological Texts

9:40 - 10:20am  
Jennifer Kosak (Bowdoin College)  
Politics and Polemics: Greek Medicine and the Male Body

10:40 - 11:20am  
Brooke Holmes (Princeton University)  
The Vegetal Body in the Hippocratics and Galen

11:20 - 11:50am  
Joint Panel Discussion

12pm  
Close of Symposium