

Tkach, Colleen

From: Inform
Subject: EM: DNS Seminar Announcement - Friday Feb 27

From: Lauran Soto

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL SCIENCES SEMINAR ANNOUNCEMENT:

*At the Altar of Medicine: Medical Secrets in Medieval and Renaissance
Altarpieces*

Jeremy Wasser
Associate Professor (Emeritus) of Veterinary Medicine
Texas A&M University &
Director and co-founder, galerie PLUTO

Friday, February 27, 2026

12:15 PM - 1:15 PM

[Join the Seminar on Zoom](#)

Medieval and Renaissance altarpieces found in churches throughout Europe and in museum collections worldwide, represent some of the most beautiful and profound examples of religious art. What may not be obvious, is that along with a great deal of religious symbology many altarpieces also bear direct or indirect representations of disease. Some, like the magnificent early 16th century Isenheim Altar painted by Matthias Grünewald, can be said to be principally about medicine. The Isenheim Altar and others like it were specifically commissioned for display in monasteries belonging to hospital orders or in hospital chapels. Many other altarpieces allude to issues of medical morbidity and mortality if you know where to look and how to interpret the signs!

We will also focus on less well-known altarpieces created by both southern and northern European artists that contain overt or hidden medical meanings and associations. Some of these also contain serendipitous illustrations of physiology and disease. Discover the imagery and symbology that was used to transmit a medical message in these works of art and learn why the artists and those who commissioned the altarpieces wanted these messages embedded in them. You will never look at an altarpiece in quite the same way again!

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Department of Natural Sciences
Seminar Series

***At the Altar of Medicine: Medical
Secrets in Medieval and Renaissance
Altarpieces***



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Associate Professor (Emeritus)
Veterinary Medicine
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For more information, contact Pete Chandrangsu (pchandrangsu@natsci.claremont.edu)

Best,
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