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BABYLONIAN MEDICINE IN FOCUS

ASPECTS OF CURRENT RESEARCH ON MEDICAL
CUNEIFORM TEXTS

Wednesday, September 20th, 2017, at 5:15 p.m.

Semitic Museum, Room 201
6 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, MA

In this talk, I present my current research on Mesopotamian medical texts, which focuses on the corpus related to women's healthcare. I discuss concepts associated with female reproduction in gynecological texts of the 2nd and 1st millennia BCE, concentrating on ideas of anatomy and the physiology of sexual reproduction marked by conception, gestation and birth. I then present an overview of therapeutic approaches encountered in the gynecological texts. Finally, I offer a few conclusions concerning the position and organization of gynecological material within the broader serialized corpus of the 1st millennium BCE medical therapeutic texts as attested in the Assur Medical Catalogue and the Late Babylonian tablets from Uruk.