

This talk will offer a critical overview of the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century pharmacological world of the Ottoman “new medicine” (*tıbb-ı cedīd*). From the 1660s onwards, Ottoman physicians began to translate early-modern European medical sources and adapt medical ideas and theories based on chemical methods that stood out from the works of the ancients (e.g. Galen, Avicenna). This emerging corpus created fertile ground for lively discussions in Ottoman medical scholarship, which went hand in hand with the application of new curative substances, imported from various parts of the world, including, but not exclusive to the Americas. I approach these moments of critical translation and adaptation from lived aspects of medical practice, which are overlooked in current scholarship in the history of medicine that restricts the material to the intertextual domain of books and ideas. Using a range of archival sources (e.g. recipe books, pharmacological encyclopedias, palace inventories, travelogues), I argue that for physicians and other medical professionals, this new medical discourse was not considered mere exotica. Rather, novel cures and substances alongside their implementation (including, therefore, the newly-adapted apparatuses) were quickly incorporated into everyday medical practices, which would lay the groundwork for incorporation of chemical methodologies into both scholarly and popular medicine.