In this series of three lectures, I am going to be looking at medicine in London over effectively three century periods: the 17th century is the period for this evening; the 18th century is next week; and the 19th Century in two weeks' time.

But before I start, I would like to read a short poem, which some of you may know, about Gresham, and which, in many ways, gives a sense of the novelty of the College, at least as it was perceived in the 1660s. We do not know quite who...