Efraim Lev, B.A., M.Sc., Ph.D.

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Efraim Lev, B.A., M.Sc., Ph.D., is an Associate Professor at the Department of Land of Israel Studies, University of Haifa. Presently he serves as the Head of the Department of Humanities and Arts at the Technion, Israel. Professor Lev studied at Bar-Ilan University and was trained both as a historian and as a field biologist, and therefore his academic work has always had a strong interdisciplinary focus. He won the British Council Chevening and Koret Foundation Post-Doctoral awards (1999-2000); and was granted a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the Wellcome Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL, London, and Edelstein Center, Hebrew University, Jerusalem (2000-2001).

Professor Lev participated in dozens of conferences and workshops around the world, gave many international seminar talks and won various prizes including “Levkovitz” Foundation for Research Students in the History of Medicine (Tel Aviv University—1998), Amos fellowship, President House and Yad Hanadiv fellowship (Jerusalem—1999), Dr. Moses Einhorn prize for the research of Hebrew language and Medical literature (Tel-Aviv—2003) and the Overseas Visiting Scholar grant, St. John’s College, Cambridge (2003-2004 and 2011-2012). Professor Lev was the chairman of the Israeli Society for the History of Medicine and Sciences (2001-2003) and is now the National delegate to ISHM (International Society of the History of Medicine). He was a Research Associate at the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at University College London and at the Genizah Research Unit at Cambridge University Library.

His recent research focus is on ethno-pharmacology and the history of medicine in the medieval Middle East, with particular emphasis on the medical documents in the Cairo Genizah (11th-13th century). In his project, “Medicine of the Genizah People,” he created a carefully planned framework of research teams that reconstructed the medieval inventory of the practical materia medica of the Genizah community, and studied and published its original and practical prescriptions, list of drugs, and medical notebooks. Professor Lev published 10 books and more than 80 refereed articles and chapters.

For the 2012 George Urdang Medal the international committee selected Professor Efraim Lev for his book, Practical Materia Medica of the Medieval Eastern Mediterranean According to the Cairo Genizah (Brill, 2007). Dr. Lev has published extensively on ethnopharmacology and history of medicine and pharmacology in the Levant, and is also author of Medicinal Substances in Jerusalem from Early Times to the Present Day (Archaeopress, 2003).

Practical and Theoretical Medicine in Medieval Eastern Societies: The Case of Cairo Genizah

Tuesday, September 9, 2014
2:30-3:30 p.m.
2006 Rennebohm Hall
777 Highland Avenue, Madison, WI

Reception to follow.