**The Transmission of Medical Practices from Cuneiform Inscriptions to the Babylonian Talmud: *u-le-tzayyreih ba-ḥalala’ de-bei tzav’ar be-nira barqa’***

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Recent decades have seen the development of a new avenue of research—led by Mark Geller—for the study of talmudic medicine: looking to cuneiform inscriptions for the source of certain medical texts in the Babylonian Talmud. Studies have demonstrated parallels between the diverse terminology and medical practices appearing in the Babylonian Talmud, and those appearing in the corpus of cuneiform medical texts.

In this lecture I will focus on the parallels between two collections of prescriptions for fever, one appearing in BT Shabbat 66b and the other in the cuneiform tablet BM 42272. While not identical, these two collections contain very similar treatment motifs. Among the many motifs appearing in the tablet is the use of an artifact. I will show that this artifact can help us understand an unclear talmudic medical practice “*u-le-tzayyreih ba-ḥalala’ de-bei tzav’ar be-nira barqa’*.”