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About Thomas Linacre:

This journal takes its name from Thomas Linacre (ca 1460 – 1524), an eminent English physician and clergyman. He first attended the monastery school of Christ Church, Canterbury, where he came to the attention of William Selling. Selling was England's first advocate of the "New Learning", which flourished during the Renaissance. From there, Linacre went to All Souls College, Oxford and there was elected fellow. It was at Oxford that Linacre began his studies of Greek.

Henry VII sent Selling to the Papal Court as his ambassador. Linacre accompanied the ambassador and spent the next ten years in Italy. While in Rome, Linacre continued his studies of Greek and Latin as a classmate of Giovanni de' Medici, who was later to become Pope Leo X. In Padua, Linacre obtained his M.D. degree.

He returned to London to translate, teach, and practice medicine. He set about translating Galen from Greek into the more widely understood Latin. Both Erasmus and Thomas More were among his students of Greek.

In 1509, Linacre was appointed court physician to Henry VIII. In 1518, he established the Royal College of Physicians, the first time physicians were licensed. The Royal College still exists to this day.

In 1520, Thomas Linacre resigned his post to become a priest.