Elaine Leong

PROJECT OVERVIEW
The early modern household was the centre of the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Not only was the pre-modern household a social, economical, political and intellectual hub, it has also been identified as the location for a range of knowledge production and scientific activities. Historians of medicine have established the early modern household as one of the main sites offering care both to maintain health and to alleviate sickness. The active patients of early modern England often combined home-based medical care offered by their family and friends with commercially available medical services. While the existence of medicine within the domestic sphere is undisputed, there is, as yet, not an in-depth study on the topic. This project is the first major study of household medical knowledge and practices in early modern England.

PROJECT AIMS
- To locate home-based medicine within larger narratives of medical economies and healthcare systems.
- To situate household medical and scientific knowledge and knowledge production practices within wider contemporary frameworks.
- To reassess the role played by gender in medical activities within the domestic sphere.

OUTPUTS
This project will result in: a monograph, *Treasuries of Health: Medical Practice and Knowledge in Early Modern England*; an edited volume, *Secrets and Knowledge in Medicine and Science 1500-1800*; articles in *the Bulletin of the History of Medicine* and *the BBC History Magazine*; and a website ‘Recipes, Remedies, Receipts’.