Peer into the past, present, and future of medicine at the world’s largest medical library, the National Library of Medicine (NLM). Experience high-tech wonders like virtual cadavers, along with a video presentation, virtual and interactive ancient manuscripts, data center and reading rooms, and a demonstration of NLM’s vast online resources.

The tour will visit the Library’s extensive underground stacks, and (weather permitting) its herb garden, healing totem, and the Tree of Hippocrates. Then, it will take a trip back in time with an overview of the NLM History of Medicine Division and its rich holdings, which include manuscripts dating from the 11th century, western books from the cradle of printing, historical videos, films, prints, and photographs. Special items include the 1953 article in Nature, in which Watson and Crick describe the double-helix structure of DNA, the 1968 Nobel Prize medal awarded to NIH scientist Dr. Marshall Nirenberg, and NLM’s oldest holding, Razi’s The Comprehensive Book on Medicine (Kitab al-Hawi fi al-tibb), handwritten in Arabic and dated 1094. Expect other surprises!

NOTE: The tour will begin at the NLM Visitor Center, on the first floor of the tall Lister Hill Center (Building 38A), not the main Library (Building 38).