



# Newsletter

## Of Ibn Sina Academy

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Ibn Sina Plaque  
(Preserved in the Museum of IAMMS)

**Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Science**

**ALIGARH, INDIA**

## IAMMS ACTIVITIES

### An Appeal for Raising Funds for Ibn Sina Academy

*(Following appeal was made for general public and posted on various networks. For record, it is being reproduced.)*

"We would like to draw your kind attention towards the establishment of Ibn Sina Academy in Aligarh (Uttar Pradesh).

Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, a retired Professor and ex-Dean, Faculty of Unani Medicine, has established Ibn Sina Academy through his personal efforts and contributions on the outskirts of the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh.

The Academy is an independent trust registered under Indian Trusts Act, 1882 (No. 19062). The primary aim and objective of the Academy is to promote research studies of the works of physicians and scientists belonging to medieval period and to encourage and sponsor original research in the fields of history of Islamic medicine & sciences, and heritage of Indian Muslims. In order to realize some of its above-mentioned aim, the Academy is engaged in publishing its quarterly Newsletter (NISA) and books.

The Trust has a rich collection of rare books on medieval medicine and sciences along with other subjects of Urdu literature, i.e., Ghalibiat, Aligarh and Sir Syed. The Trust so far is an individual effort. The Trust has an ambitious programme to establish a medical & cultural museum, expansion of the present library and research division of Islamic sciences. The community of scholars residing adjacent to the AMU Campus is convinced of the objectives of the Ibn Sina Academy. They would welcome that the Academy grows further.

We the undersigned appeal to the public, philanthropists and our Old Boys & Girls for a generous contribution for the development, growth and running of the Academy.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Padam Shri Professor Mohd Shafi (Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Geography, AMU, Aligarh).

Professor Yasin Ansari (Former Principal, Engineering College), Prof. S. M. Razaullah Ansari (Presently, President of International Commission for History of Astronomy), Dr. Abdul Latif (Dept. of Ilmul Advia), Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman (Dept. of Pharmacology), etc."

### Guest lecture

A guest lecture by Dr. Munibur Rahman was arranged on November 10, 2002 at Ibn Sina Academy. The topic of his lecture was *Islamic Studies in the United States of America*. Dr. Rahman is a Professor Emeritus at Oakland University (Michigan, USA)

### Our Distinguished Visitors

Dr. Munibur Rahman (Professor Emeritus at Oakland University, Michigan, USA), Dr. Haneme Idrizi (Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Springfield Illinois, USA), Dr. Syed Abdul Qader Hashmi (Tehran, Iran), Mrs. Khadija Hashmi (Tehran, Iran), Mrs. Zahra Hashmi (Tehran, Iran), Mrs. Ashraf Sharif (Tehran, Iran), Dr. Iqbal Rashid Siddiqi (Karachi, Pakistan), Dr. Khawaja Piri (Iran Cultural House, New Delhi), Mr. Tariq Sultan (Hyderabad)

### Selected Correspondences / Messages

Dr. Iqbal Rashid Siddiqi, a renowned scholar of Pakistan and son of Prof. Rashid Ahmad Siddiqi (former Professor of Urdu, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh) visited the Ibn Sina Academy on November 2, 2002. He admired the establishment and academic facilities of Ibn Sina Academy and wrote the following remark in the Visitors Book: "An unforgotten experience for a humble lover of books and manuscripts – full of delight and wonder"

### Suggestions For Ibn Sina Academy

Dr. Haneme Idrizi (Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Springfield Illinois, USA), E-mail dated 3.12.2002

"---- I thought your Library was amazing. I am telling all my friends about it. I am sure with the expansions it will be even better. Has the library a website? If not that might be a nice way to introduce it to the rest of the world. Thanks!

Dr. Razi Raziuddin (Scientist, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland.

USA). E-mail dated 4.12.2002

"---- Seems that the Academy is quite active in inviting scholars and publishing some old works. The Academy would be better served if it focuses only on the contributions of old School of Medicine (Abu Ali Sina and followers), and critically evaluate the pluses and minuses vis-a-vis the modern medicine.

Incorporating Urdu literature, Ghalib and Sir Syed into Academy's focus of interest does not make any sense. It is not a requirement to include Sir Syed in every discipline of life that I believe and suggest. It goes with the list of illustrious names. I think, there should be more members from the scientific/ medicine community than literature

Finally, if the Academy is serious in perusing its goal(s) of establishing a real big institution of serious research in this discipline, then the proposal focused with "core elements" of the Academy in a rationale way could be sent to us, here in the U.S.A., where it can be put on many nets/web-sites that are run by many Indians."

#### Individual Activities of Members of IAMMS

*Prof. S. M. Razaullah Ansari* was invited to participate in the *Brainstorming Session on Historiography of Science in India*, organised and sponsored by Centre for Studies in Civilizations (Tughlakabad, New Delhi) on November 23, 2002. Prof. Ansari presented his paper on "The Role of Cross-Cultural Encounters in the Development of Exact Sciences in Medieval India".

*Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman* attended the following:

- (1) Pharmacovigilance into the Future Conference held under the aegis of International Society of Pharmacovigilance (earlier European Society of Pharmacovigilance) at Amsterdam, The Netherlands during October 16-19, 2002 and presented a paper, entitled, Adverse Drug Reactions of an Herbal drug due to Mis-identification: A Case Report. He also participated at the Pre-Conference Training Course.
- (2) Indo-US Workshop on Problem Based Learning in Medical Education held under the aegis of Medical Education Unit at J. N. Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University (Aligarh), November 21, 2002.
- (3) 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Indian Pharmacological Society at Defense Research & Development Establishment (Gwalior) from November 26-29, 2002.

During the conference, he presented a paper on "Adverse Drug Reaction of an Herbal Drug". The same reaction has now been reported on a website meant for herbal ADR Monitoring: <http://medherb.com/board/?topic=topic2&msg=117>

*Dr. Tajuddin*, and *Dr. A. Latif* (Dept. of Ilmul Advia, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh) attended the World Ayurveda Congress 2002 at Kochi (Kerala) on November 1-4, 2002. They presented their papers. The titles are respectively: "A Scientific Study of Nutmeg (*Myristica fragrans*) as an Aphrodisiac", and "Education and Research Methodology in Indian System of Medicine: A Need for Reform and Revitalization".

*Dr. Nisar Ahmad* (P.G. Scholar, Dept. of Ilmul Advia, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh) attended national seminar on Tibb-e Nabavi at Hyderabad on October 12-13, 2002. This conference was held under the aegis of International Institute of Islamic Medicine & Unani Medicine Development Academy. Dr. Ahmad presented a paper, entitled, Physical & Spiritual Diseases of Heart and Their Remedies in Tibb-e Nabavi. Recently, he has also joined International Society for History of Islamic Medicine (ISHIM) as its life member.

*Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman's* interview profile appeared at the Member Spotlight Column of the Science Advisory Board Homepage: <http://www.scienceboard.net/community/memberSpotlight.asp?spotid=36> (Based in Arlington, VA, USA).

#### Research Papers and Books of the Members of IAMMS

Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, Interaction with China and Central Asia in the Field of Unani Medicine. *History of Science, Philosophy and Culture in Indian Civilization*, Vol. III Part 2 (India's Interaction with China, Central and West Asia), Ed. A. Rahman, Centre for Studies in Civilizations, PHISPC, New Delhi, 2002, pp. 297-314

S. M. Razaullah Ansari (Ed.), *Science and Technology in the Islamic World* (Proceedings of the XX International Congress of History of Science, held in Liege, July 20-26, 1997), Vol. XXI of the Series: De

Diversis Artibus. Brepols Publishers, Turnhout, Belgium, 2002.

S. Ziaurrahman & K. C. Singhal, Students' Perception to Problem-Based Learning. *Indo-US Workshop on PBL in Medical Sciences*. Sponsored by Southern Illinois University School of Medicine Springfield (Illinois USA) and Chatrapati Sahuji Maharaj Medical University (Lucknow India), November 18-20, 2002, pp. 24-27

K. C. Singhal & S. Ziaurrahman, Stevens Johnson Syndrome induced by Amantadine, *Rational Drug Bulletin*, Vol. 12, No. 1, 2002, pp 6-7

S. Ziaurrahman, Stamp on Col. R. N. Chopra (a filler), *Indian Journal of Pharmacology*, Vol. 34 (2002), pp 255.

## CONGRESSES/ CONFERENCES HELD

### Asian Medicine: Nationalism, Transnationalism and the Politics of Culture

A conference called Asian Medicine: Nationalism, Transnationalism and the Politics of Culture was held at the University of Pittsburgh during November 14 - 16, 2002. Details may be seen at the conference website: <http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/asianmedicine>

## REPORT OF THE CONFERENCES/ SEMINARS

### International Society of Pharmacovigilance Conference at Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

International Society of Pharmacovigilance is devoted to developing its activities on a worldwide basis towards drug safety in clinical practice. Its aim is to promote the use of all types of information and methodology in providing optimal drug treatment for patients. The Society is not only for clinical pharmacologists, the pharmaceutical industry, epidemiologists and regulators, but also for practising clinician and other health professionals who have an interest in better ways and knowledge that will help them treat patients.

For the first time a *combined session* was held in

conjunction with the *annual meeting of National Centres* collaborating in the WHO International Drug Monitoring Programme. The WHO meeting was held in Amsterdam immediately prior to the ISoP Conference. The Conference also arranged a Pre-Conference Training Course. 52 countries participated in the conference. Out of which 122 papers were read and discussed during 11 different sessions.



[Dr. Anwar H. Siddiqui (Amsterdam), Dr. S. Ziaur Rahman & Prof. K. C. Singhal (Aligarh) at Zaanse Schans, near Amsterdam (The Netherlands)]

### List of Indian Participants:

1. Prof. K. C. Singhal, Department of Pharmacology, J. N. Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh-202002
2. Dr. Sandeep Agarwal, Dr. Nawal Kishore Hospital and Research Centre, Department of Oncology, 4/11-H Bagh Farzana, Civil Lines, Agra-282002
3. Prof. Neelima Kshirsagar, Dean & Professor, Dept of Clinical Pharmacology, GS Medical College & KEM Hospital, Parel, Mumbai-400012
4. Prof. S. K. Gupta, Department of Pharmacology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Ansari Marg, New Delhi
5. Dr. V. Deven Parmar, Ranbaxy Lab Ltd., Plot No. 20, Sector 18, Gurgaon-122001
6. Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Department of Pharmacology, J. N. Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh-202002

### World Ayurveda Congress-2002

The much awaited and propagated World Ayurveda Congress had a spectacular opening on November 1-4, 2002 at Kochi (Kerala). The conference was held

at the sprawling grounds of Dhanwantri Nagar and was inaugurated by Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Mr. Shatrughan Sinha. Other eminent personalities present at the occasion included Mr. O. Rajagopal (Union Minister of State for Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation), Health Ministers from states of Punjab, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Rajasthan. Delegates from more than 40 countries participated in the congress.

The World Ayurveda Expo and Herbal Trade Fair also took off to a colourful start at Ernakulam. The fair was inaugurated on the 30th October 2002 by Mr. O. Rajagopal. The function was presided over by Mr. Annasaheb M. K. Patil (Union Minister of State for Rural Development). The fair witnessed a heavy turnout of visitors and managed to attract more than 2 lakh visitors. The conference site created an atmosphere of ancient India with huge posters with illustrations of different aspects of Ayurveda like surgery by Shushruta, medical practice by Charaka, Vagbhata and other scholars of Ayurveda. After a whole day of discussions on various aspects of this science the evenings were colourful with cultural programs.

### World Conference on 'Abdul 'Ali Birjandi

A World Conference on "Allāma 'Abdul 'Ali Birjandi, a Mathematician and Astronomer of 16<sup>th</sup> Century AD", was held in the city of Birjand (Iran), during May 26-28, 2002.

The Conference was very well organised by Prof. Ali A. Pouyan, the Chairman of the Organising Committee. There were 39 oral presentations, distributed in two parallel sessions. They covered various aspects and interests of al-Birjandi and also of his times. The break-up of the papers is as follows: Astronomy-5, mathematics-9, geography-2, history-4, general-2, literature-1, and 16 dealing in general with Birjandi's writings, including studies of his 4 particular works. To mention is also a useful catalogue of Birjandi works in manuscript form, extant in Iranian Libraries, prepared by Ms. Fariba Afkari ( Librarian, Tehran University). In this connection, it may also be added that Prof. S.M.R. Ansari, in his Keynote

address at the Inaugural Session enumerated the manuscripts of Birjandi's works in India, citing the number of copies of each as an indicator of the importance and popularity of al-Birjandi in India and discussed the significance of a few Birjandi's works in the development of exact sciences in Medieval India.

Nizāmuddīn bin 'Abdul 'Alī bin Muhammad Hussayn Birjandi (d.ca. 1528) was a well known scholar of his times, his comprehensive knowledge of 16<sup>th</sup> century Islamic exact science was recognised by his contemporaries, for instance, the Timurid historian Khwānd Mir (d. 1498, author of *Tārīkh Ḥabīb ul-Siyar*), Hājji Khalifa (d. 1525) Birjandi lived in Hirat, and later was appointed its *Shaykh al-Islam*. He is known to study Islamic exact science under famous teachers, for instance, Sayfuddin Taftāzāni, and Mansūr Kāshāni, whose father was the pupil of Jamshid Kāshāni, also his assistance, when Ulugh Beg's observatory was being founded and *Zij-i Ulugh Beg* (ZUB) was being compiled. It is therefore not surprising that Birjandi wrote a commentary on ZUB, and also commentaries on the most famous astronomical treatises of his times; namely, Tūsi's Memoir on Astronomy (*Tadhkirah fi 'Ilm al-Hay'at*), marginal notes on a famous commentary on Chaghmini's Astronomical Treatise, and also a commentary on Tūsi's recension of Ptolemy's *Almagest*. To his credit 18 writings have been listed by his biographers, the majority of which are commentaries or adaptations of famous works. According to "Bio-Bibliography of Muslim Mathematicians and Astronomers", by G. P. Matvievskaya and B. Rosenfeld (Moscow, 1983), his scientific writings can be classified as follows: Astronomy -13, mathematics-2, astronomical geography-3. He wrote both in Arabic and Persian. Quite significant is also the fact that a *Sanskrit translation* of the eleventh chapter of Vol.2 of Birjandi's *Commentary on Tūsi's Memoir (Tadhkirah)* was carried out by Nayanasukhopādhyāya about 1730, by the order of Raja Swai Jai Singh II (1686-1743) in Jaipur (India). This chapter deals with the Tūsi couple and its application to lunar theory. In passing we may comment that Tūsi couple (after E.S. Kennedy) is a rolling device to eliminate the problem of non-uniform circular motion of Ptolemaic

astronomy.<sup>1</sup> In his Commentary, Birjandī did not confine himself to Tūsī's Treatise, but also utilised a work of Qutubuddīn Shīrāzī, another astronomer of Tūsī's team at the Marāgha Observatory.<sup>2</sup> The fact that at Raja Singh's court in 17<sup>th</sup> century India the non-Ptolemaic works of Marāgha School were available and were studied (in Sanskrit translation) is an indicator of at least some critical thinking on the part of Jai Singh and his Muslim consultants. This is also corroborated by Jai Singh's later acquisition of European astronomy by him.

As mentioned above, this World Conference was organised extremely well. S.M.R. Ansari (Aligarh) was the only delegate from India. Other delegates from abroad were from Tajikistan and Afghanistan, besides a large number of Iranian delegates. It is hoped that the organisers will be able to publish full Proceedings of this important Congress in the near future.

The city of Birjand is situated in Eastern Iran and south of the Khorasan Province. The centre of the city is 59° 13' east and 32° 53' North. Its altitude is 1470 meters above the sea level. Its name is found in Iranian ancient myths and legends. It was probably founded by the legendary epic hero Sam Ibn Nariman.

The organisers of the Conference also arranged visits to various places and buildings of historical and architectural importance, particularly mosques and schools. The participants were also taken to a traditional gymnasium (*Zōrkhanah Amir 'Arab*) in Birjand, besides entertained by a musical evening.

Last but not the least, I acknowledge with great pleasure my gratitude for the invitation and full support by the Organising Committee of the Congress. Thanks are also due to Prof. Ali A. Pouyan (Birjand) and my dear friend Dr. Saeed Banihashemi (Tehran) for their friendly care of me.

1. For a brief discussion of this problématique, see S.M.R. Ansari, 'An Essay Review on Saliba's edition of al-'Urdī's *Kitāb al-Hay'ah*', *Studies in History of Med. & Science*, Vol. 13, New Series, 1994, pp. 269-280, esp. pp. 271-272.

2. For details, see *Arabic Astronomy in Sanskrit*, by T. Kusuba and D. Pingree, Brill, Leiden, 2002.

## FORTHCOMING CONGRESSES/ CONFERENCES

### International Congress on the History of Science

The 22nd International Congress on the History of Science will take place in China in 2005. The preparatory secretariat is housed at the Institute for the History of Natural Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 137 Chao Nei Street, Beijing 10001, People's Republic of China (Fax: 86-10-6401-7637). Web site: www.22-ichs.ihns.ac.cn

### New Approaches to Ancient Science & First Year Life Sciences

A Three-year Colloquium of the American Philological Association in New Orleans (LA, USA) is being organized in January 2003 under the aegis of 134th Annual Meeting of the American Philological Association (APA).

This three-year colloquium has been designed with the aims of shedding new light on ancient science, enabling established and emerging scholars to share their views with one another, and giving this exciting branch of classics more prominence at the APA meetings. The organizers invite researchers from a wide range of disciplines: classics, history, and philosophy of science, but also political and economic history, archaeology, psychology, to examine ancient science from their own varied perspectives.

In its first year the focus of the Colloquium will be on the life sciences in antiquity, a domain that has long commanded the attention of leading scholars and has recently been the scene of intense and fascinating debates. Among the issues open for discussion are: methods of investigation within ancient zoology, botany, anatomy, physiology, and bio-chemistry; polemical discourse within these fields; theoretical biology vs. practical biology; social factors that caused the life sciences to change over time; reception in Islamic and Christian cultures; connections between human medicine and biology; connections between biology and fields such as physics and mechanics; the relationship between the inner structures of scientific explanation and the rhetoric of scientific discourse.

For details contact: Philip Thibodeau, Department of Classics, 221 Park Hall, University of Georgia, Athens GA 30602-6203. Email: pthib@arches.uga.edu. Or visit the website at [www.pitt.edu/~tmpst26/APA2003.html](http://www.pitt.edu/~tmpst26/APA2003.html)

### **The "Identité Culturelle des Sciences et des Philosophies Arabes: Auteurs, Oeuvres et Transmissions"**

The 6th International Colloquium of Société Internationale D'histoire des Sciences et des Philosophies Arabes et Islamiques (SIHSPAI) will be held from January 14-18, 2003 at Namur and Brussels (Belgium).

### **The Scientific Revolution in Multicultural Perspective**

The conference is to be held on April 7-8, 2003 as the culminating event in a three-year program of post-doctoral fellowships ("Scientific Exchanges Between Islam & Europe 1300-1800"), funded by the Rockefeller Foundation at The University of Oklahoma in Norman (OK USA).

Recent scholarship on the origins of the Scientific Revolution has included discussion of intercultural exchange as a precondition and binding element of the period—a debate that has led to a reexamination of the essential nature of this transformation. But how would one know what is essential? Historians make these judgments all the time in their acts of selection and emphasis, but these decisions are often implicit rather than explicit. This conference will be devoted to trying to determine what historians (both of science and of other disciplines) believe to be essential to the scientific revolution as a way of exploring the relative importance of other cultural contributions to modern science.

Further information (including the program) can be found at the program's website <http://www.ou.edu/islamsci/multiscirev.htm> or by contacting Professor F. Jamil Ragep, Department of the History of Science, The University of Oklahoma, 601 Elm, Room 622, Norman, OK 73019. Tel: 405-325-2213; fax: 405-325-2363; email: [jragep@ou.edu](mailto:jragep@ou.edu).

### **The International Symposium on the History of Arabic Science**

The 8<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on the History of Arabic Science is scheduled to be held from May 2003

at Alexandria (Egypt). For further information please contact: Prof. Dr. Aladine Lolah, Director, Institute for the History of Arabic Science, Aleppo University, Aleppo (Syria)

### **The European Association for Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology Congress**

The 9th European Association for Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology (EAVPT) International Congress is scheduled to be held from July 13-18, 2003 at the Lisboa Congress Centre, in Lisbon, Portugal. All correspondence by mail or fax sent to the attention of the chairman, Prof. Eduardo Marques Fontes, Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária, Secção de Farmacologia e Toxicologia, Rua Prof Cid dos Santos, Polo Universitário do Alto da Ajuda, 1300-477 LISBOA, PORTUGAL.

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Web: [www.fmv.utl.pt/eavpt2003/congress.htm](http://www.fmv.utl.pt/eavpt2003/congress.htm)

### **International Society for Herbal Medicine**

International Society for Herbal Medicine (ISHM) was established in 1988 under the president-ship of Dr. N. Singh, a renowned researcher of medicinal plants. The main aim of this society is academic research on plants particularly of medicinal value. Under the able chairmanship of Dr. N. Singh, two congresses namely one national congress in 1993 and another international congress on Biotechnological Developments in Medicinal substances of Plant and Marine Origin in 1995 were successfully held.

The Second World Congress on Biotechnological Development of Herbal Medicine will be held on February 20 to 22, 2003 at National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Lucknow. All interested scientists are cordially invited to participate. For further details about the congress, please contact: Dr. N. Singh (Organizing Chairman World Congress) E-mail: [dmsingh\\_uim@rediffmail.com](mailto:dmsingh_uim@rediffmail.com)

### **Annual Meeting of Indian Academy of Neuroscience**

20<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of Indian Academy of Neuroscience is scheduled to be held in February 21-23, 2003 at Udaipur. For detail,

contact Prof. M. Bhatnagar, Organizing Secretary, Department of Zoology, Mohan Lal Sukhadia University, Udaipur (Rajasthan). Phone: 91-0294-2413955 Ext. 250 (O), 91-0294-2441250 (R). E-mail: mbhatnagar@yahoo.com

### **International Conference on Role of Free Radicals and Anti-Oxidants in Health & Disease & II<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of SFRR-India**

International Conference on Role of Free Radicals and Anti-Oxidants in Health & Disease & II<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of SFRR-India is being organized under the aegis of SFRR-India/Asia & in Collaboration with International Society for Free Radical Research, UNESCO-MCBM and Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi on February 10-12, 2003 at Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj Medical University (Upgraded King George's Medical College, Lucknow. For detail, contact Dr. A.A. Mahdi, Organizing Secretary, Department of Biochemistry, Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj Medical University (Upgraded King George's Medical College), Lucknow-226003, India. Tel.: +91-522-257576 (Off), Fax: +91-522-247824, 257539. E-mail: biokgmc@rediffmail.com, sfrr\_india@rediffmail.com

### **Annual Conference of Society of Pharmacovigilance, India**

The second annual conference of the Society of Pharmacovigilance, India (SOPI) is scheduled to be held under the presidentship of Prof. K. C. Singhal (Aligarh) from March 1-2, 2003 at Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute, University of Delhi (New Delhi). The meeting will be a unique scientific exercise in that experts from the academia, industry and regulatory bodies will participate and interact on a common platform. Several eminent speakers of national and international repute will talk on different areas of pharmacovigilance.

For registration and other details, please contact: Prof. A. Ray, Org. Secretary, Dept. of Pharmacology, Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute, University of Delhi, New Delhi - 110007. E-mail: arunabha14@yahoo.co.in

### **Prof. Mahadeva Lal Schroff Centenary Commemorative Lecture**

The Director and the Academic Community of National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), SAS Nagar, Punjab is arranging Prof. Mahadeva Lal Schroff Centenary Commemorative Lecture on "Hall Mark in the Genesis and Evolution of Modern Pharmacy in India". The lecture will be delivered by Prof. S. N. Sharma (Emeritus Professor, Hamdard University, New Delhi) on January 6, 2003 at 11.45 hrs at the NIPER Convention Centre. Mr. Prafull D. Sheth, President, Indian Pharmaceutical Association, will preside over the function. For further information, contact Director, NIPER, Sector - 67 Phase 10, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali), Punjab - 160062. Tel. 0172-214682-87 Ext. 2017 (Off)

### **Professor M.L. Schroff - A Brief Biography**

Professor Mahadeva Lal Schroff (1902-71), the titan and icon of the twentieth century pharmacy, was a great visionary. He founded pharmaceutical education at the Banaras Hindu University and distinguished as an organizer and promoter of the pharmacy profession.

At the BHU pharmaceutical education made a beginning in 1932, with the regular B.Pharm. course starting in 1937 and institution of M.Pharm. in 1940. He was also instrumental in the organization of pharmaceutical education at Birla College, Pilani (1949-50), University of Saugar (1959-60) and Jadavpur University (1964-68).

He successfully organized the pharmacy profession. He founded the United Provinces Pharmaceutical Association in 1935, which changed to Indian Pharmaceutical Association in 1939. He also formed the Indian Pharmaceutical Congress Association in 1948. He was founder editor of the Indian Journal of Pharmacy and the Indian Pharmacist.

Mahadeva Lal studied at Cornell University, earning A.B. Hons. in Chemistry in 1926, and obtained M.S. in Chemistry (1927) from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. On return home before joining the BHU in 1932, he participated in the 1930 Salt Satyagraha Movement and underwent imprisonment.



Professor Schroff became a towering personality of the profession of his time. He was vice president (1949-54) and the first elected president (1954-60) of the Pharmacy Council of India. It was during his tenure that in 1955, the PCI endorsed the recommendation of the Pharmaceutical Enquiry Committee for Central Institute of Pharmacy and the Council embarked upon a quarter of century long (1955-80) struggle for its establishment. The pharmacy profession's dream institution eventually took shape as the NIPER in 1991.

Professor M.L. Schroff stands out for greatness of his achievements. He will continue to be remembered as father of modern pharmacy.

(Adopted from article by Professor Harkishan Singh in the *Pharma Times*, November, 2002)

## NEW PUBLICATIONS: NEWSLETTERS & JOURNALS

### Early Modern Medicine Newsletter

The Bibliothèque Interuniversitaire de Médecine (Paris) is pleased to announce the creation of the *Early Modern Medicine Newsletter*, a bibliographic and online newsletter made by the history of medicine department of the library in collaboration with the Centre d'Études Supérieures de la Renaissance (Tours). This database completes the *Ancient Medicine Newsletter*, which concerns ancient and medieval medicine, and the series called *Medic@*, which offers ancient medical texts in digitalized form. This project aims to collect articles, books and dissertations described in the main medical history periodicals as well as humanities. This newsletter also offers a possibility to announce conferences and seminars. It is available in the Bibliothèque Interuniversitaire de Médecine's web pages at: <http://www.bium.univ-paris5.fr/bmitn>

### Indilinga: African Journal of Indigenous Knowledge Systems

The first issue of the *Indilinga: African Journal of Indigenous Knowledge Systems* was launched on the 2nd of March 2002 at the 4th African Renaissance International Conference in Durban, South Africa. The

second issue will have as theme "research methods for indigenous knowledge systems". For more information, contact the editor: Queeneth Mkabela. Private bag x10, Isipingo, 4110 South Africa (Fax: 27-31-90 93 011; E-mail: [nmkabela@hotmail.com](mailto:nmkabela@hotmail.com)).

## WEBSITES

### International Association for Science and Cultural Diversity (IASCUD)

IASCUD launched its website in October 2002. The book "Science and Cultural Diversity: Filling a gap in the History of Science", edited by Juan Saldaña can be downloaded from IASCUD's website: <http://iascud.univalle.edu.co>

### Indigenous Knowledge World Wide (IKWW)

The *Indigenous Knowledge World Wide Newsletter*, published by NUFFIC (PO Box 29777, 2502 LT The Hague, The Netherlands) is also available online [www.nuffic.nl/ik-pages/ikww](http://www.nuffic.nl/ik-pages/ikww)

### Sites related to History of Pharmacy

<http://unitproj.library.ucla.edu/biomed/spice/index.cfm>  
<http://www.islamset.com/heritage/pharmacy/pharmacy.html>  
<http://www.lindsaydrug.com/newhist.htm>  
<http://armypharmacy.org/history.htm>  
<http://www.cis.um.edu.mt/~phcy/symp98/JohnJosephBorg.html>  
[http://www.maghrebmed.com.tn/aviscenna/histoire\\_ph.asp](http://www.maghrebmed.com.tn/aviscenna/histoire_ph.asp)  
<http://www.nsa.org/softdrinks/History/history.html>  
<http://www.pharmacy.wisc.edu/ahp/>

## NEWS ITEMS

### NEW POST / APPOINTMENT

#### New research position in the History of Medicine (Lecturer in the History of Medicine)

The School of History and Archaeology (rated 5A and 5A in RAE 2001) seeks to make an appointment in the history of medicine (any field in medieval or modern history). The post is available from 1 August 2003 subject to the receipt of a Wellcome Trust University Award, which must be applied for by the successful candidate, and will become permanent following the

end of the Award, subject to a satisfactory performance review.

The candidate should have a PhD or be very near completion, and after the first three years in which he will be able to concentrate on research, he will undertake teaching, research and routine administration. Further details of the School can be found at the website: [www.cardiff.ac.uk/hisar](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/hisar)

#### **Senior Curator for Thackray Museum, Leeds**

The award winning Thackray Museum in Leeds is the leading museum of the history of medicine in the North of England. This is an exciting opportunity to play a leading role in the development and dissemination of the museum's collection, information resources and academic research programme. You will be dynamic and have a sound knowledge of collections management with proven managerial skills and ability to deliver projects. For further details contact: Thackray Museum, Beckett St. Leeds LS9 7LN (Tel. 0113 2444343; E-mail: [info@thackraymuseum.org](mailto:info@thackraymuseum.org))

collection of archives and manuscripts, approximately 20 million items, is the largest of its kind in the United States. The manuscript collection includes the personal and professional papers of many prominent American physicians, especially those who practiced and conducted research in the New England region, and who were associated with Harvard Medical School.

The Countway Library serves as the institutional archives for the Harvard Medical School, Harvard School of Dental Medicine, and the Harvard School of Public Health. The printed, manuscript, and archives holdings are complemented by an extensive print and photograph collection and the collections of the Warren Anatomical Museum. Established in 1847, the museum houses an exceptional collection of medical artifacts, pathological specimens, anatomical models, and instruments.

The Francis A. Countway Library Fellowship in the History of Medicine provides a stipend of up to \$5,000 to support travel, lodging, and incidental expenses for a flexible period between June 1, 2003 and May 31, 2004. Besides conducting research, the fellow will present a seminar or lecture at the Countway Library and submit a report on the results of his/her residency. The fellowship proposal should demonstrate that the Countway Library has resources central to the research topic. Preference will be given to applicants who live beyond commuting distance of the Countway. The application, outlining the proposed project (proposal should not exceed five pages), length of residence, materials to be consulted, and a budget with specific information on travel, lodging, and research expenses, should be submitted, along with a curriculum vitae and two letters of recommendation, by January 31, 2003. The appointment will be announced by March 31, 2003. Applications should be sent to:

Thomas A Horrocks, Associate Director for Special Collections and Joseph Garland, Librarian, Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine, 10 Shattuck Street, Boston, MA 02115. E-mail: [jack\\_eckert@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:jack_eckert@hms.harvard.edu). Website: <http://www.countway.harvard.edu/rarebooks>

### **FELLOWSHIP**

#### **The Francis A. Countway Library Fellowship in the History of Medicine, 2003-2004**

The Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine is pleased to offer an Annual fellowship to support research in the history of medicine. Established in 1960 as a result of an alliance between the Boston Medical Library and the Harvard Medical Library, the Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine is the largest academic medical library in the United States. The Countway Library maintains a collection of approximately 700,000 volumes. Its Rare Books & Special Collections department holds 250,000 books and journals published before 1920, including 802 incunabula. The department's printed holdings include one of the most complete medical periodical collections, an extensive collection of European medical texts issued between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and excellent holdings of pre-1800 English and pre-1900 American imprints. The book collection is strong in virtually every medical discipline and is particularly rich in popular medicine, medical education, public health, Judaica, and travel accounts written by physicians. The Countway's

## DOCUMENTATIONS

**Zillur Rahman Library of IAMMS**

Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman is a man of avocation. On one hand, he is a great bibliophilic and on the another hand, he is a philanthropist, a scholar of repute and an expert in Islamic/Unani Medicine. He established his personal library-cum-museum in early sixties. After the establishment of Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences (IAMMS) in 2000 AD, this Library and Museum have become a part of IAMMS (Trust).

The library of IAMMS at present houses one of the most precious and valuable collection of manuscripts, books, special numbers of magazine, paintings, postal stamps, coins and specimens of oriental calligraphy. The collection is now being raised. Many scholars and generous contributors are now furnishing the library with books, periodicals and rare novelties.

The Library has several thousand books in Arabic, Persian, Urdu and English on a variety of subjects like History of Medicine and Sciences, Unani/ Islamic Medicine, Ilmul Advia/ Pharmacology, Religion, Urdu Literature with special reference to Ghalib, Aligarh and Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, besides thousands of bound volumes of periodicals.

The library consists of over 400 manuscripts. Most of the manuscripts are very rare and some are unique. Especially the copies of the Holy Quran are extremely beautiful specimens of the art of calligraphy. A few illuminated copies of the Holy Quran having beautiful frontispieces and embellished borders are so alluring, and eye-catching that any one who looks at them is dazzled, and stands spell-bound in wonder.

The library owns the significant contribution of M/S Rex Remedies Pvt. Ltd. (New Delhi), Anjuman Tarruqi Urdu Hind (New Delhi), Nawab Ibn Saeed Khan Chattari (Aligarh), Hakim Aslam Siddiqui (Aligarh), Prof. Munibur Rahman (Aligarh), Prof. Riazur Rahman Khan Sherwani (Aligarh), Prof. Ather H. Siddiqui (Aligarh), Prof. Razaullah Ansari (Aligarh), Prof. Iqbal A. Ansari (Aligarh), Prof. Aslam Qader (Aligarh), Dr. M. Shamoos Israili (Aligarh), Prof. Mohd. Ahmad (Bhopal), Mr. M. Habib Khan (New Delhi), Dr. Umar

Samar Khan Chattarvi (Aligarh), Mr. Syed Afzal Hussain Tabassum (Aligarh), Mr. Mir Hafeez Ali (Sahaswan), Mufti Mashoodul Islam (Aligarh), Thakur Mahendra Kumar Singh (Lodha, Aligarh), Mr. Tariq Sultan (Hyderabad).

**New Arrivals/Addition to the Zillur Rahman Library**

1. Collection of Qazi Abdul Ghaffar (Donated by his grandson Tariq Sultan)
2. Collection of Mr. Syed Afzal Hussain Tabassum, (Donated by his son S. Zahid Jamal)
3. *Traditional Medicine and Materia Medica*, 2002 Vol. 1, Ed. M. Mosaddegh & F. Naghibi, published by Traditional Medicine and Materia Medica Research Centre, Shaheed Beheshti University (Tehran, Iran)
4. *History of Science, Philosophy and Culture in Indian Civilization*, Vol. III Part 2 (India's Interaction with China, Central and West Asia), Ed. A. Rahman, Centre for Studies in Civilizations, PHISPC, New Delhi, 2002
5. *Science and Technology in Islamic World*, edited by S. M. Razaullah Ansari, Brepols Publishers, Turnhout, Belgium, 2002.

**The African Mathematical Union Commission on the History of Mathematics in Africa**

The African Mathematical Union Commission on the History of Mathematics in Africa (AMUCHMA), formed in 1986, has the following objectives:

- A. To improve communication among those interested in the history of mathematics in Africa;
- B. To promote active cooperation between historians, mathematicians, archaeologists, ethnographers, sociologists, etc., doing research in, or related to, the history of mathematics in Africa;
- C. To promote research in the history of mathematics in Africa and the publication of its results, in order to contribute to the demystification of the still-dominant Eurocentric bias in the historiography of mathematics;
- D. To cooperate with any and all organizations pursuing similar objectives.

The main activities of AMUCHMA are as follows:

- A. Publication of a newsletter;
- B. Setting up of a documentation centre;
- C. Organization of lectures on the history of mathematics at national, regional, continental and international congresses and conferences.

## The Contribution of Institute of Islamic Studies Tehran-McGill Universities to Ibn Sina Studies

Dr. Mehdi Mohaghegh (Tehran, Iran)

After returning from Montreal, where I taught Islamic philosophy and theology from 1965 to 1968, I established an Institution in Tehran affiliated to both Tehran and McGill Universities for editing and publishing texts with translations or introductions either in English or French. From the early stages of Islamic philosophy we started with works of al-Farabi and Ibn Sina. We felt it would be advisable to introduce Ibn Sina's logic, philosophy, and medicine. Therefore we included in our edition of *Logic and Language* two works by Ibn Sina:

### 1. *Risalat fi Ta'iqiq al-Ma'ud 'al Jadali*

Ibn Sina in this treatise deals with the problem of analogy and raises certain criticism on the validity of analogy (*al-Qiyas*), which in logic is called (*al-Tamthil*). It is probable that expositions such as this opened the way for the rejection of analogy by some schools of Jurisprudence.

### 2. *Ajwiba 'an al-Mas'alat al-Ghariba al-Ishtirakiya*

In this treatise he answers twenty questions in logic, which were asked by his contemporaries in order to examine him. The most important problem dealt with is the various kinds of conditional prepositions and with which of them one reaches a right conclusion.

### 3. *Sharh Qasida Asrar al-Hikma*

This treatise is written by al-Lawkari a pupil of Bahmanyar who was a pupil of Ibn Sina. The author who was under the direct influence of his master and master of master tries to explain several logical problems in the logical thought of Bahmanyar and Ibn Sina in order to make them easy to understand by students.

12 The above three treatises have been published in a collection of logical works in Tehran in 1974 entitled *Logic and Language* under the editorship of M. Moheghegh and T. Izutsu in the Wisdom of Persia Series, No. 8.

Now we continue with the works on philosophy:

### 4. *al-Mabda' wa al-Maud*

This work, which has been published for the first time, is one of the most important works of Ibn Sina in which he deals with the first source of the world namely God, his unity and his attributes also his first effusion, as well as the eternity of human souls.

### 5. *Bayan al-Haqq bi Daman al-Sidq*

This book has also been written by al-Lawkari. The author declares that since the philosophy of the two Masters, namely al-Farabi and Ibn Sina was very difficult for students of philosophy he decided to summarize and make it easy to understand. This work has been edited by I. Dibaji and published in Islamic Thought Series No. 2, Tehran 1993.

### 6. *Jum'i Jahan Nomy*

This work is a Persian translation of *al-Tahsil*, the famous book of Bahmanyar, the pupil of Ibn Sina. The author tries to solve philosophical problems, which appear in *Kitab al-shifa* of his master. It has been edited by A. Nourani and M.T. Daneshpazuh and published in the Wisdom of Persia Series No. 15, Tehran 1983. It seems that the translation has been done either by Bahmanyar himself or by one of his contemporaries.

### 7. *Al-Ax'ala wa al-Ajwiba*

This work by Abu Rayhan al-Biruni contains ten questions which were submitted to Ibn Sina, and sent to him from Khwarazm. These questions are based on those problems mentioned by Aristotle in *al-Sama' wa al-'Alam* on

physics. When Ibn Sina answers the questions, again Abu Rayhan raises certain objections to them, than al-Masumi, the pupil of Ibn Sina defends his master against Abu Rayhan. This work has been edited by M. Mohaghegh and S. H. Nasr, and published in Islamic Thought Series No.3, Kuala Lumpur, 1995.

8. *Sharh al-Hakayat min Kitah al-Shifa*

Many scholars have played attention to the Metaphysics of Ibn Sina's *Kitah al-Shifa*, but the most comprehensive commentary is that of Naraqī, the eighteenth century compiler. The author solves a lot of difficulties, which were in al-Shifa, and makes the book easy to understand for students of philosophy. This work has been edited by M. Mohaghegh and published in the Wisdom of Persia Series, No. 34, Tehran, 1986.

9. *Al-Hukumat*

This is the work of Ibn Sina in which he rejects the idea of those who believed that there had been a beginning for the past. Farid al-din Ghilani, who had discussion with Fakhr al-din Razi in Samarqand on the same problem, has written a book under the title of *Huduth al-Alam* in which he rejects Ibn Sina's *al-Hukumat*. It seems that Ghilani follows al-Ghazzali on the problem of the origination of the world. *Al-Hukumat*, *Huduth al-Alam* and the discussions of Ghilani with Razi were edited by M. Mohaghegh and published in Wisdom of Persia Series, No. 43, Tehran, 1998.

We end this paper with some medical works, belonging to the school of Ibn Sina.

10. *Danishnamah*

This is the oldest medical compendium written in Persian verse. The author is not known, but the language shows that he had been from the Khurasan region. The style of the book shows that the author had been under the direct influence of Ibn Sina.

11. *Miftah al-tabib*

The author, Ibn Hindu, was pupil of Ibn al-Khammar and the later was a pupil of Ibn Sina. The Arabic text together with a summary translation in English and Persian has been done by M. Mohaghegh, published in the History of Science in Islam Series, No. 1, Tehran, 1982.

*Finally I have to mention that the present author has written many articles on Ibn Sina, published in different scholarly Journals. I hope these efforts for the introduction of this great scholar is appreciated by the "Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Sciences" Aligarh, India, and that it would lead the way for further mutual cooperation between our two institutions.*

The three-year term of the office bearers of Ibn Sina Academy is coming to an end on March 2003 after the successful completion. In the light of Article-(5) described in the Byelaws, the President is empowered to nominate two Vice Presidents, one General Secretary, one Joint Secretary, one Treasurer and five members of the executive council for the next 3 years renewable term. Members (honorary, life and ordinary) and well-wishers are requested to suggest names for the next team of IAMMS.

## Memories of the Past



Lt. to Rt. Prof. S.M.R. Ansari, Prof. S. Zillur Rahman and their friend at Saragoza, Spain 1993.



Lt. to Rt. Hakim S. Zillur Rahman, Hakim Abdul Hanneed, Mr. Rajesh Pilot and Prof. Rashiduzzafar at an Ifaar Party (Hamdard University, N. Delhi)

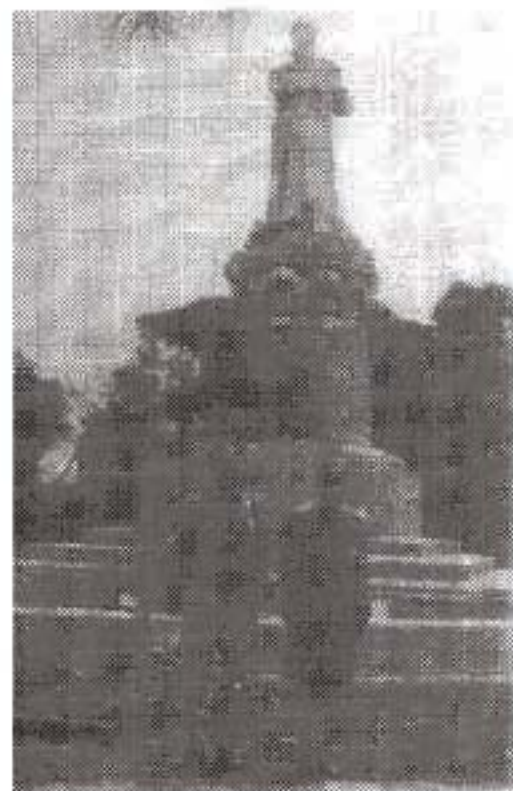
14



Rt. to Lt. Prof. S. Zillur Rahman, Mr. S. Hashim Ali (Vice-Chancellor, AMU) and Prof. M. Qayamuddin (Principal, AK Tibbiya College)



Rt. to Lt. Dr. Abid Raza Bedar (Director, Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna), Prof. S. Zillur Rahman and Mr. S. Farrakh Jalali



Rt. to Lt. Prof. S. Zillur Rahman and Dr. Amulya Kumar Bag (History of Science Section, INSA, New Delhi) at Saragoza, Spain 1993.



## Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

I wish to become a member of the Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences. I have read the objectives and bye-laws of the academy and agree to abide by it.

1. Name:

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4. Are you actively engaged in work concerning history of medicine & sciences:

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Signature

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(2) All the payments be made either in cash, or a demand draft in favour of 'TREASURER IAMMS' and should be sent along with this form completely filled and mailed to the treasurer. Please add Rs. 30/- for outstation cheques.

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For queries or details, visit the website: [www.ibnsinaacademy.com](http://www.ibnsinaacademy.com) or e-mail us: [editor\\_nisa@ibnsinaacademy.com](mailto:editor_nisa@ibnsinaacademy.com)

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Please send all Newsletter correspondence to:

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[www.ibnsinaacademy.com](http://www.ibnsinaacademy.com)

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Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman, President IAMMS, Aligarh, delivering lecture during XIX Intl. Cong. of History of Science (Zaragoza, Spain)



Prof. S. Z. Rahman standing inside the Masjid-e-Cordoba (Spain)