



Newsletter

Of Ibn Sina Academy

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Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences

ALIGARH, INDIA

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paid a visit to the Ibn Sina Academy on 27.3.2004.

IAMMS ACTIVITIES

Accreditation of Ibn Sina Academy for Research & Development in the Fields of Indian Systems of Medicines & Homeopathy

Dr. Sangeeta Goel, Director, Ayurveda Yoga Unani Siddha & Homeopathy (AYUSH) in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt of India, New Delhi in her letter dated February 12, 2004 informed the President of Ibn Sina Academy about the final decision of the Ministry to grant accreditation to the Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences for a period of three years. Ibn Sina Academy is now entitled to apply to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for any project on research & development in the fields of Indian Systems of Medicines & Homeopathy.

The Academy acknowledges here its gratitude to the Ministry for this accreditation. The Academy is also thankful to Prof. Anis Ahmad Ansari, Advisor Health (Unani) and Dr. Sangeeta Goel, Director AYUSH for taking personal interest in this regard.

Visit of Delegates

Department of Linguistics, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh organised a national seminar on Linguistics and New Theories of Literary Criticism during January 6-7, 2004. Prof. Mirza Khalil Beg was the director of the seminar. In the evening of the inaugural day, delegates of the seminar paid a visit to the Ibn Sina Academy.

Department of Amraze Niswan, Ajmal Khan Tibbia College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh organised a national seminar on Amraze Niswan from March 27-28, 2004. Prof. Qamar Akhter Kazmi was the director of the seminar. The participants of the seminar

Welcome Get-together in Honour of Dr. H. U. Qureshi

The President of Ibn Sina Academy arranged a get-together of eminent scholars in honour of Dr. H. U. Qureshi (Former Consultant, International Court of Justice, Hague, The Netherlands) on 30.1.2004. After formal introduction by Prof. S. M. Razaullah Ansari (General Secretary, Ibn Sina Academy), Dr. H. U. Qureshi enlightened the audience about the manuscript libraries in Europe particularly in Leiden.

Visit of Iranian Delegation

Dr. Abdollah Bahrami, President (Chancellor), Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, Mashhad / Iran (www.mums.ac.ir), Dr. Mohsen Naseri and Dr. Amir Mahdi Taleb, Associate Professors, Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, Shahed University, Tehran (Iran), visited the Academy on 13.3.2004. They held discussion on the possibility of future cooperation in the field of medicine, particularly Unani / Islamic Medicine. Dr. Abdollah Bahrami presented publications of his University and of National Museum for History of Medical Sciences of Iran to the Academy. The delegation invited members of Ibn Sina Academy to attend the following conferences in Iran: 3rd International Congress of Health, Environment and Natural Products (www.mums.ac.ir/henp) and 2nd International Congress on Traditional Medicine & Materia Medica (www.itmrc.org).

Books releasing ceremonies at Ibn Sina Academy

The Autobiography of Prof. Athar A. Siddiqi Mr. Kamleshwar, a renowned Hindi scholar and former director of Doordarshan (Indian National TV), released the autobiography of Prof. Athar H. Siddiqi (*Maan Kyä Meri Hayät*

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Kyā) on 26.3.2004 at the Academy's premises. On this occasion, Mr. Kamleshwar, Padam Shri Prof. Qazi Abdul Sattar, Prof. Riazur Rahman Khan Sherwani, Prof. K. P. Singh, Prof. S. Zillur Rahman and others highlighted the contents of the book and spoke also on the personality of Prof. Athar Siddiqi.

Books by Prof. Shafiq Anjum and Mr. Abidullah Ghazi

Prof. S. Zillur Rahman, President of Ibn Sina Academy welcomes distinguished guests on the releasing ceremony of two books: *Rakht-e Safar* by Shafiq Anjum (Former Professor, Deptt. of Political Science, AMU, Aligarh) & *Zikr-e Saman Azaran* by Abidullah Ghazi (Iqra Foundation, USA) on April 11, 2004 in the Hall of the Library of Ibn Sina Academy. Mr. Naseem Ahmad (Vice Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh) has very kindly consented to grace the occasion and to release the books while Prof. Riazur Rahman Khan Sherwani (an eminent scholar of Arabic) will preside over the function.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS OF IAMMS

Professor S. Zillur Rahman, President Ibn Sina Academy, has been nominated as a member of the international editorial advisory board of the *Journal for the History of Arabic Science* (Aleppo). The steering committee of the Journal, after taking advantage of Dr. Ahmad Y. Al-Hassan's visit to Aleppo (Syria), who was the founder of both the Journal and the Institute of the History of Arabic Science (IHAS), took several decisions in his presence, including the creation of a new Advisory Board for the Journal and a new Editorial Committee. It consists of Dr. Aladine Lolah (Director of IAHS and Editor-in-Chief); Dr. Ahmad Y. Al-Hassan; Dr. Sami Chalhoub (Professor in the IHAS); Dr. Moustafa Mawaldi (Associate Professor in IHAS); and Dr. Jamil Ragep (Professor of the History of Science at the University of Oklahoma, USA).

The managing editors will be Moustafa Mawaldi, Jamil Ragep, and Sally P. Ragep.

The following information may be noted: Members of the community of historians of science specializing in Arabic/Islamic civilization are requested to submit articles to the journal for review; the editorial board is committed to a prompt review of articles as well as a timely publication schedule.

Please send all correspondence and submissions to Prof. Dr. Aladine Lolah, Institute for the History of Arabic Science, University of Aleppo, Aleppo, Syria. Email: aladmelolah@hotmail.com.

(Source: Dr. Aladine Lolah's Letter to Prof. S. Zillur Rahman, No. 14/920MT, dated 16.12.2003)

Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman, lecturer in the Department of Pharmacology, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College (AMU, Aligarh), attended the following meetings / seminars:

* The 6th Biennial Meeting of the Asian Pacific Society for Neurochemistry (APSN) from 4th to 7th February 2004 at HKCEC, Hong Kong. During the conference, he was also chosen one of the best scientific researchers and was awarded the APSN Young Scientist Travel Award.

* "From Genome Back to People: The Ultimate Challenge of Drug Discovery" by Prof. Paul M Vanhoutte on February 12, 2004. Prof Vanhoutte is a renowned pharmacologist and is presently Visiting Professor at the Dept. of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, Hong Kong University, Hong Kong. He knows Dr. Rahman since he visited India to attend International Congress on "Frontiers in Pharmacology and Therapeutics in 21st Century", organized by the Indian Pharmacological Society at New Delhi in 1999. During the same conference, Dr. Vanhoutte as president of International Union of Pharmacology (IUPHAR) announced Servier Young Investigator Awards of

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IUPHAR in which Dr. Rahman was one of the recipients.

* WHO Sponsored "Second International Conference on Improving Use of Medicines" (ICIUM 2004) from March 30 to April 2, 2004 at Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Ms. Nazneen Rahman, Curator Karam Hussain Museum of Arts, Culture and Science, Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh, visited the Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences (Hong Kong) on 8.2.2004. She met the museum staff including the curator, handed over the official letter of the President of Ibn Sina Academy to the Curator, other printed materials and a few copies of newsletters of Ibn Sina Academy. As token of appreciation and in exchange, Ng Kwok Leung (Ringo), Executive Officer of Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences Society, donated their Museum's important publications to the Academy. Ms. Rahman saw the galleries of the HK Museum and its affiliated herbal garden on Chinese Traditional Medicine with awe and admiration.

New Members:

1. **Dr. M. Shahid**, Lecturer, Department of Microbiology, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India
2. **Dr. A. G. Qaiser Moghal**, Homeopathy Consultant, Melano-Ticino, Switzerland
3. **Dr. Anwar Gilani**, Professor of Pharmacology, Department of Biological and Biomedical Sciences, The Aga Khan University Medical College, Karachi, Pakistan
4. **Hakim Abdul Mobin Khan**, Vice President, Central Council of Indian Medicine, New Delhi and Professor, Tibbia College, Mumbai, India
5. **Dr. Zaheeruddin Babar**, Lecturer, School of Pharmacy, University College Sedaya International, Taman, Malaysia

NEWS ITEMS

Forthcoming Conferences / Seminars

The 8th North African Meeting on the History of Arab Mathematics

Seven North African Meeting on the History of Arab Mathematics were held since the first colloquium of Algiers in 1986, which was followed by meetings in Tunisia (1988), Algeria (1990), Morocco (1992), Tunisia (1994), Algeria (2000) and finally in Morocco (2002).

The next meeting will be held in Tunis in from December 18th - 20th, 2004. It will tackle with the following themes:

- A. Mathematics and Astronomy
- B. Applied mathematics
- C. History of teaching Arabic mathematics and the circulation of the Arabic mathematics.
- D. Mathematics and society

This meeting aims to strengthen the interest for the history of the Arabic mathematics as fundamental phase in the general history of the mathematics and on the other hand, to offer to the researchers from North Africa in history of the Arabic mathematics a space of meeting among them and confrontation of their works with those of their foreign colleagues. Besides, this meeting among researchers and specialists of various countries constitutes an opportunity to spread and make known the works realized on the history of the Arabic mathematics. Notably through:

- (a) The discovery, the publishing and the translation of important manuscripts,
- (b) The development of the relation between the mathematics and the social, economic and cultural needs of the society.
- (c) The identification of the traditions of teaching mathematics in the Arabian - Islamic civilization,
- (d) The accentuated of the links between mathematics and the other domains of the knowledge,

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(e) The contribution of Andalusian and North African mathematicians to mathematics.

Organizers of the 8th Meeting:

The Tunisian Association of the Mathematical Sciences and L'Institut supérieur de l'Éducation et de la Formation Continue (Université de Tunis) in association with La Cité des Sciences de Tunis. The International Committee will be presided by Professor Ahmed Djebbar (Lille 1) and the National Organising Committee will be presided by Professor Mohamed Souissi (Tunis).

Important dates:

April 30, 2004: date pre-registration; June 30, 2004: deadline of sending of the summaries of the communications; July 30, 2004: date of acceptance of the communications; October 1, 2004: distribution of the program of the Meeting; October 15, 2004: deadline of reception of the definitive registrations; November 15, 2004: deadline for the reception of the complete texts of the communications; December 17, 2004: expected date of the arrival at Tunis of the participants; December 18, 2004 at 9 o'clock: official Opening of the 8th Meeting; December 20, 2004 at 18 o'clock: official closing Ceremony of the 8th Meeting; December 21, 2004: departure of the participants.

Registration fees: 20 Euros (= 30 Tunisian dinars). (This sum should be paid at the arrival to the hotel on December 17. It allows, in particular, covering the acquisition of the Acts (Proceedings) of the 8th Meeting.)

Accommodation: The participants will be accommodated in half board in the hotels of the city of Tunis.

Single room: 44 Euros/day and per person (66 Tunisian dinars).

Double room: 24 Euros /person and per day (36 Tunisian dinars).

Tourist visits: A group visit of an archaeological site situated 170 km from Tunis is scheduled on Sunday afternoon for the participants. The foreign colleagues, who wish to prolong their stay in Tunisia after the Meeting, can visit the Tunisian South (Douz or / and Tozeur) during some days. This region, which is on the verge of the Saharan desert, is usually recommended during December.

In order to receive more information, please contact mahdi.abdeljaouad@isefc.rnu.tn

The Commission on History of Science & Technology in Islamic Civilization

The Commission on History of Science and Technology in Islamic Civilization would like to sponsor a symposium at the next year's 22nd International Congress of History of Science, to be held in Beijing from July 24 to 30, 2005. The following theme is proposed: "*Science in Islam and Its Interactions with Other Scientific Traditions.*" Depending on the response, either 2 or 3 sessions with 4 papers in each session will be organised. Scholars interested in participating in this symposium, are requested to send a paper title and short abstract (ca. 50 words) as soon as possible but no later than next week, Monday, June 28, 2004, to the undersigned. The submissions will then be evaluated and then a proposal will be sent to the Beijing organizers before the deadline of June 30, 2004.

Prof. Jamil Ragep, Vice President of the
Commission, jragep@OU.EDU
Dr. Mercè Comes, Secretary of the
Commission, mcomes@ub.edu

A Symposium on "Astronomy in the Oriental, Antique and Medieval World"

A Symposium on "*Astronomy in the Oriental, Antique and Medieval World*" will be organised under the auspices of the IUHPS Commission for the History of Ancient and Medieval Astronomy (CHAMA), at the 22nd International Congress of History of Science,

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to be held in Beijing, July 24-30, 2005. The Organising Committee of this Symposium consists of the following: Prof. S. M. R. Ansari (India, chairman), Prof. R. Mercier (UK), Prof. M. Yano (Japan), and Prof. Ms. Anne Tihon (Belgium). The Symposium will consist of 3-4 sessions. Three sessions will be devoted to the three themes: Astronomy in the Orient, astronomy in the Antiquity and astronomy in the Medieval Europe. It is envisaged that invited review talks by experts of the corresponding fields will be delivered in these sessions. However, the fourth session may be devoted for short oral or poster presentations, particularly by young historians of astronomy. Contact addresses:

Prof. S. M. Razaullah Ansari, President of
CHAMA, Raza.Ansari@gmx.net .
Prof. Anne Tihon; Secretary, of CHAMA,
tihon@ori.ucl.ac.be.

International Congress of Health, Environment and Natural Products

3rd International Colloquium on Health, Environment and Natural Products - "Traditional Medicine and Applications" will be held from September 25th - 28th, 2004 in Mashhad city, localisation of numerous Iranian and Persian historical sites. This conference will be organised by Mashhad University of Medical Sciences (Iran) in association with University of Metz (France).

Message of the President. On behalf of the organizing committee, I am pleased to invite you to attend the 3rd International Congress of Health, Environment and Natural Products (HENP), which will be held on September 25-28, 2004 in Mashhad, Khorasan, Iran.

The first and second congress were held in France and Morocco, respectively, now we intend to hold the third congress in Iran. The scientific program will thus blend basic sciences discoveries in herbal medicine such as phytochemistry and phytopharmacology

with their translation into clinical practice. Importantly, links between traditional medicine, academic research, technology transfer and market development of new diagnostic procedures, natural products as drugs and services in health will be featured in the congress.

Mashhad is a large industrial city of Iran. It is proud of having religious and historical buildings. Another feature which attracts tourists to this city is the very pleasant weather of the countries around it. The congress, the especial events planned by organizing committee and visiting historical city of Iran, will make this an unforgettable event. So please plan to join us at what will be a terrific International Congress.

Dr. A. Bahrami, Congress President

For more details, contact Dr. A. Bahrami, (Congress President) or Dr. B. S. Fazly Bazzaz (Congress Secretary),
P. O. BOX: 9138813944-951, Mashhad, Iran,
Tel: +98 511-8430634. Fax: +98 511-8430249
E - mail: henp@mums.ac.ir
Website: www.mums.ac.ir/henp

Forensic Medicine & Science Forum:

Historical & Contemporary Perspectives

The Forensic Medicine & Science Forum scheduled to be held on Friday 28th May 2004 at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. The Forum will also mark the culmination of the Forensic Medicine Archives Project, <www.fmap.archives.gla.ac.uk/> which is hosted by Glasgow University Archives Services. The Project (funded through the Wellcome Trust's and the British Library's 'Research Resources in Medical History Scheme') has surveyed and developed means to preserve the records of the Department of Forensic Medicine and Science, Glasgow University from 1839 onwards.

The Forum appeals historians, forensic science

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practitioners, criminologists, archivists, librarians, curators and other interested parties to participate in the said program. Participants will have the opportunity to listen to an array of expert speakers who will discuss issues relating to historical and contemporary aspects of forensic medicine and science.

Further details of the Forensic Medicine & Science Forum Programme can be found at: www.fmap.archives.gla.ac.uk

An exhibition of records surveying some of Glasgow's achievements in forensic medicine and science will be displayed in the Royal College's Lower Library during April-May 2004. The exhibition will include records held by the College and Glasgow University Archives Services, will also the works of John Glaister Senior (1856-1932) and John Glaister Junior (1892-1971), Regius Professors of Forensic Medicine at the University of Glasgow.

For more details, contact: James Beaton, Librarian the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow 232-242 St Vincent Street Glasgow G2 5RJ, E-mail: james.beaton@rcpsg.ac.uk
Or

Dr Paula Summerly (Researcher), Forensic Medicine Archives Project/ Forensic Medicine and Science Forum, Glasgow University Archive Services 77-87, Dumbarton Road, Glasgow G11 6PW, U.K.

E-mail: P.Summerly@archives.gla.ac.uk

Websites: <http://www.rcpsg.ac.uk>

<http://www.archives.gla.ac.uk>

<http://www.cybermedicalcollege.com>

<http://www.archives.gla.ac.uk/projects/wellcome/default.html>

Complicity and Compassion: The First International Conference on Nursing & Midwifery in the Third Reich

The First International Conference on Nursing & Midwifery in the Third Reich is being

organized after the first Nuremberg Trials that nurses' roles should have been examined publicly. This conference, while relevant to all nurses, will be important for historians, philosophers, ethicists, theologians and Holocaust scholars and others. The conference is slated to be held from 10th to 11th June 2004 at South Court Hotel, Limerick, Ireland. Further details and registration could be found: www.nursingthirdreich2004.com/

National Seminar on Clinical Trials - From Concept to Completion

The Department of Pharmacy Practice at National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research (NIPER) is coordinating a two-day "National Seminar on Clinical Trials: From Concept to Completion". This announcement calls for the participants to register for the seminar. The two-day meeting on August 2-3, 2004 will bring together pharmaceutical scientists from the industry and academia, regulators and professionals directly involved in the planning, conduct and evaluation of the clinical trial in the country thereby providing a platform to discuss the intricacies of clinical trials. Such an interface between the subsets of expertise will bring up for discussion the issues that are not covered in the textbooks.

Major Topics of Discussion

- ❖ Requirement vis-a-vis D & C Act
- ❖ Pre-clinical data: driver for human trial
- ❖ Managing Supply Chain
- ❖ Writing the trial protocol
- ❖ Identification of sites
- ❖ GCPs and Ethics Committee
- ❖ Safety monitoring

For details, please contact: Dr. Pramil Tiwari, Program Convener, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research (NIPER), Sector 67, S. A. S. Nagar - 160062
E-mail: ptiwari@niper.ac.in

World Conference on Dosing of Anti-infective as Part of Ehrlich's 150th Birthday Celebration

The Ehrlich week of Excellence is being celebrated as "World Conference on Dosing of Anti-infective" and "Dosing the Magic Bullets" as part of Paul Ehrlich's 150th Birthday from September 9 to 11, 2004 at Nuremberg, Germany. The conference will include Ehrlich-Symposia – An Update on Ehrlich-fields (Blood-Brain Barrier, Malaria, Today's Magic Bullets, Antiprotozoic Compounds, Staining Techniques, Hematology & Anti-Cancer Drugs), Satellite symposia including history events like Historians' Conference, Ehrlich Classical Talks, Ehrlich Exhibition, Ehrlich Dyes and Art followed by Great Events of Paul Ehrlich's 150th Birthday Celebration.

For further details, contact: Conference Secretariat, WCDA c/o IBMP, Paul-Ehrlich-Str. 19, 90562 Nuremberg-Heroldsberg, Germany. E-mail: mail@ehrlich2004.org.

Chemistry & Medicine in the 18th century

A conference on "Chemistry and Medicine in the Eighteenth Century" is scheduled to be held from Friday 23 April 2004 in Museum Boerhaave in Leiden, which will be organized by the Historical Group within the Royal Society of Chemistry and the Chemiehistorische Groep of the Koninklijke Nederlandse Chemische Vereniging, together with the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry, the Genootschap voor de Geschiedenis van Geneeskunde, Wiskunde, Natuurwetenschap en Techniek GeWiNa, and Museum Boerhaave.

To note are the following lectures:

-Eighteenth-century chemical physicians and the empirical art of medicine (Dr Noel Coley, Open University);

-The influence of iatrochemistry in eighteenth century medical practice (Prof. Dr Harm Beukers, University of Leiden).

-Medicine, monopolies and mortars: the pharmaceutical trade at the Society of Apothecaries in the eighteenth century (Dr. Anna Simmons, Open University);

-Chemical reform and the question of an 'industrial vision' in the late eighteenth century (Dr Lissa Roberts, University of Twente);

-On the role of chemistry in Boerhaave's medicine (Dr Rina Knoeff, University of Maastricht).

Boerhaave to Black: the evolution of chemistry teaching (Dr Robert Anderson (Cambridge University)

The goodness of air: eudiometry as a tool in eighteenth century chemistry and medicine (Dr. Trienke van der Spek, Museum Boerhaave)

2nd International Congress on Traditional Medicine & Materia Medica

Traditional Medicine & Materia Medica Research Center (TMRC) is organizing the 2nd International Congress on TM & Materia Medica at Shaheed Beheshti University of Medical Sciences from 4 to 7 October 2004.

Full details about the congress may be found at the website: www.itmrc.org or contact, Dr. M. Mosaddegh (Dean), No.10, Shams Alley, Valiassr Ave., Tehran, Iran. P.O Box: 14155-6354. Tel: +98-21-8773521-5 Fax: +98-21-8795008. E-mail: tmrc@itmrc.org

Past Conferences / Seminars

International Conference Calls for Improved Use of Medicines – A Report

The thrust of the "International Conference Calls on Improving Use of Medicines" (ICIUM 2004) was to identify the research needs related to the selection of essential medicines in developing and transitional countries. The WHO Model Essential Medicine List (EML) has been in existence for 25 years. Several recommendations were further made on how countries develop.

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maintain, and evaluate their own national EMLs and Drug Formularies.

About 450 leading multi disciplinary researchers, national and international policy makers, patient advocates and clinicians representing nearly 80 countries, gathered in Chiang Mai, Thailand, for the Second ICIUM Conference from March 30 to April 2, 2004.

Participants reported on the many advances made during the past years and, at the same time, expressed concern over the continued, widespread improper use of medicines. While agreeing that the unprecedented level of funding now available to increase availability of medicines in non-industrialized nations is essential, they cautioned that the increased access to quality drugs is beneficial only, if the medicines are used properly.

"Improper use of medicines will lead to resistance making therapy more expensive in the future," said Dr. Hans V. Hogerzeil, Interim Director of the Department of Essential Drugs and Medicines Policy of the World Health Organization (WHO/EDM). "To save lives, increased availability of medicines and treatment must be accompanied by responsible use."

Overuse, under-use, and misuse of medicines along with poor patient adherence to therapy are contributing to the emergence and rapid spread of disease strains that are resistant to currently available treatment. Resistance to conventional drugs has been observed in patients with respiratory infections, HIV/AIDS, diarrheal diseases, tuberculosis, and malaria along with other ailments. Once the ability to use important drugs is lost due to resistance, their effectiveness is lost to every patient, whether in Africa, Asia or anywhere else in the world.

Members of the international community who assembled for ICIUM 2004 reviewed

impressive research generated since the first International Conference on Improving Use of Medicines, held in 1997. The previous conference was a milestone, which resulted in unprecedented consensus on interventions to improve the use of medicine and a definitive global research agenda to increase understanding of issues that have impact on the appropriate use of medicines.

Since the 1997 meeting, "we now face a much more complex and challenging international health environment in which there is a potential for promoting improved use of medicines," said Dr. Jonathan Quick, President-elect and CEO designate of Management Sciences for Health. A key participant in 1997, Dr. Quick, former head of WHO/EDM, stated, "measurable progress is possible. To achieve sustained long term impact, we must learn to use the levers of health insurance, public information and public opinion, and political leadership. We must also build strong fundamentals of technical, financial, and human resources, and focus on clear public health priorities."

As one of the exciting new developments, emerging health insurance systems promise to be effective tools to improve access to and use of medicines. "The future of the concept of essential medicines lies with health insurance" said Dr. Hogerzeil. "Insurance systems can emerge in resource-deprived settings. Increasingly, reimbursement schemes will leverage programs of rational use, medicine pricing and pharmaceutical policies in general." He went on to suggest that the WHO could help countries by establishing practical guidelines for creating or strengthening health insurance systems.

In the struggle to combat increasing antimicrobial resistance, according to Dr. Hogerzeil, one of the most exciting things is the potential for 3-day therapy of childhood pneumonia, the major killer of under 5-year

olds in developing countries. Short-course antibiotic therapy for non-severe pneumonia seems to be effective, lower treatment cost, increase adherence, cause less adverse effects, and decrease the emergence of resistant bacteria. If the evidence is really conclusive, this is not only important for Africa, but for Europe and the rest of the world as well.

Looking to the future, Eva Ombaka, who heads the Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network in Kenya, strongly encouraged "harnessing the people's power" to improve medicine use in the community. In the keynote address she said, "Community leaders, faith leaders, and the youth are untapped resources that should be used."

ICIUM 2004 is part of a global effort to improve the use of medicines, particularly in non-industrialized countries. The ICIUM 2004 Conference was collaboratively organized by the Boston University School of Public Health Center for International Health, Harvard Medical School Department of Ambulatory Care & Prevention, International Network for Rational Use of Drugs, Management Sciences for Health through its Rational Pharmaceutical Management Plus (RPM Plus) and Strategies for Enhancing Access to Medicines (SEAM) Programs, the Thai Network for Rational Use of Drugs, and the World Health Organization Department of Essential Drugs and Medicines Policy.

The conference was sponsored and supported by a number of national and international agencies. Major support for the conference was provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Canadian Intl. Development Agency, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, U.S. Agency for International Development, World Health Organization (WHO, Geneva), WHO Country Office for Thailand, and WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia (SEARO). In addition, more than 20 other organizations

contributed to the success of the conference by sponsoring attendance of multiple participants.

Participants from India were sponsored by Dr Kisantha Weerasuriya, Essential Drugs and Medicines Policy (EDM), WHO South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO), New Delhi. They were: Dr Syed Ziaur Rahman (Aligarh), Mr. Nilakantha Bhoi (Jaipur), Dr. Prafull D Sheth (Delhi), Dr Archana Patel (Nagpur), Dr Shally Awasthi (Lucknow), Dr L S Chauhan (Delhi), Dr Vijay R Thawani (Nagpur), Dr Naresh Khanna (Delhi), Dr Subhash Chandra Mandal (P.O. Gana, West Bengal), Dr Shobha Rani Hiremath (Bangalore), Dr Amit Chakrabarti (Gangtok, Sikkim), Mr. Sumant Goel (Belgaum), Dr Kurian Johana E Thomas (Vellore), Dr Sujith Chandy (Vellore) and Dr Renuka Kulkarni (Mumbai).

For more information on ICIUM 2004 please visit www.icium.org or contact: Mandi Mayer of Management Sciences for Health, Washington, DC. E-mail: mmayer@msh.org, or Chitr Sithi Amorn of Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. E-mail: schitr@chula.ac.th

Harvard Workshop on Instruments and Material Culture

Mario Biagioli* & Jean Francois Gauvin**

Workshop on "Instruments and Material Culture of Early Modern Science" was held on April 17, 2004 at the Department of History of Science, Harvard University.

The workshop was structured in four sessions, two in the morning and two in the afternoon. Each session, based on pre-circulated papers, included two participants and one commentator. The participants provided short introductions to their papers (10 minutes), followed by the commentators' remarks (15 minutes) and then an open discussion (about an hour). The workshop was open to the public, and copies of the participants' papers

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can be obtained from Mr. J.-F. Gauvin* by e-mail.

The participants were: Jim Bennett (Museum of the History of Science, Oxford), Mario Biagioli** (Harvard University), Francois Charette (Dibner Institute), Jean-Francois Gauvin (Harvard University), Michael Gorman (Arkimedia, Dublin), Anna Maerker (Cornell University), Simon Schaffer (Cambridge University) and Sara Schechner (Harvard University)

The commentators were: Peter Galison (Harvard University), Myles Jackson (Dibner Institute) and Rob Iliffe (Dibner Institute)

The meeting not only produced great intellectual stimuli on topics directly touching the material culture of scientific practice, but also generated informal discussions on various related subjects such as pedagogy, curatorial challenges, and research in the context of museum studies.

[*Jean Francois Gauvin, Ph.D. Candidate (E-mail: gauvin@fas.harvard.edu),

**Professor, History of Science (E-mail: biagioli@fas.harvard.edu), Department of the History of Science, Harvard University, 1 Oxford Street, Science Center 371, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA]

FELLOWSHIPS / SCHOLARSHIPS

PhD Studentship in History of Medicine, University of Durham

Applications are invited for the 3-year Wellcome Trust funded PhD studentship Prize in History of Medicine by the Department of Philosophy, University of Durham. The prize is tenable from 1 October 2004, for candidates holding, or being about to complete, a Master's degree preferably in History of Medicine, History of Science, or in History. The successful candidate will carry out full-time research for his/her PhD on the

topic "Clinical Science in Newcastle and Durham Medical Societies, 1848-1914" under the supervision of Professor Andreas-Holger Maehle. The candidate's ability to contribute to the lively research culture of the Department of Philosophy and the University's Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease (www.dur.ac.uk/chmd/index.htm) will be essential. The studentship consists of a stipend (£14,247 p.a. in the first year, rising to £15,843 p.a. in the third year) plus £2,940 p.a. towards the payment of PhD fees.

Informal enquiries may be made to Prof. A.-H. Maehle (E-mail: a.h.maehle@durham.ac.uk), Chair of History of Medicine and Medical Ethics, Dept. of Philosophy, University of Durham, 50 Old Elvet, Durham DH1 3HN, United Kingdom.

Closing Date for applications is 15 April 2004. For an outline of the project, please see <http://www.dur.ac.uk/a.h.maehle/clinicalscience.htm>

International Prize - "Nicola Pende"

The District Council of Noicattaro (Bari, Italia) invites nominations for the International Prize "Nicola Pende". This biennial award was established in 1998 by the District Council of Noicattaro. A commemorative gold medal and an honorary diploma will be given to the recipient. According to the recipient suggestion, the conditions of the Prize provide for the sum of € 10.000,00 to be awarded to: young researchers, research groups or any higher-study centres.

Eligibility: The award is open to all regardless of nationality or citizenship. Nominees must be alive at the time of their nomination. Any individual or small group in the scientific community which has contributed substantially to the understanding or development of social and community medicine, bioethics and biomedicine across national boundaries is eligible for this award.

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Nomination particulars:

- Your name, address, phone number, E-mail.
- The name and address of the nominee.
- A summary of the action(s) which form the basis for the nomination (about 100 words).
- The candidate's CV (no more than two pages).

Submit: Please submit all information by the end of March 31, 2004 to, Comune di Noicàttaro (Bari-Italy) - Prize "Nicola Pende" via Pietro Nenni, 11- 70016 Noicàttaro- Bari-Italy. E-mail: manmancini@libero.it

DOCUMENTATION

Newsletter on the History of Mathematics in Africa

The latest issue No. 28 of the African Mathematical Union Commission on the History of Mathematics (AMUCHMA) newsletter on the History of mathematics in Africa is now, like all the earlier issues, available on the web page: www.math.buffalo.edu/mad/AMU/amuchma_online.html

Anybody interested in receiving AMUCHMA-28 as an attachment, may contact Prof. Dr. Paulus Gerdes, Chairman, AMUCHMA, C.P. 915, Maputo, Mozambique, E-mail: pgerdes@virconn.com; AMUCHMA web: www.math.buffalo.edu/mad/AMU/amuchma_online.html

Newsletter of the Commission for the History of the Ancient and Medieval Astronomy

The Newsletter (Vol.2, No.2, May 2004) of the Commission for the History of the Ancient and Medieval Astronomy (CHAMA) is now available on the website of the Commission: <http://chama.fltr.ucl.ac.be>. In the following we give here an excerpt from the Preface of the issue by the editor: Prof. S.M.R. Ansari.

"In this issue we are happy to present for our members substantial information. In the section 'New Books', including those in press, details of nine Books are given. It is a pleasure to know that the collected works of Paul Kunitzsch (Munich) and Raymond Mercier (England) are now available. Further, the life long work of David King (Frankfurt): *Studies in Islamic Astronomical Timekeeping and Instrumentation* has seen the light of the day for the historians of astronomy in Islamic Middle Ages. I may recall here another very significant contribution of David King (jointly with Julio Samsó and B.R. Goldstein): *Astronomical Handbooks and Tables from the Islamic World (750-1900): An Interim Report [Suhayl, Vol. 2 (2001), pp. 9-105; reviewed by S. M. R. Ansari, Mathematical Reviews (May 2003), No 1907813 (2003e.01007)]* along with which we have now an extensive overview of the History of Practical Astronomy in the Islamic World. Out of these 9 Books mentioned in the sequel, only one by A.C. Bowen and R.B. Todd is devoted to Greek Astronomy. Besides the above-mentioned, the readers will find contents of the recent issue of the journal, *Suhayl* (Barcelona), Editor-in-chief: Juan Vernet; and also a selection from Vol.38 (2003) of the *Indian J. of History of Science* (Editor: A. K. Bag), which is published under the auspices of the Indian National Commission for History of Science (New Delhi) since 1966. Please note also that six members of our Commission have kindly sent us lists of their recent publications. The Commission acknowledges gratefully their cooperation. In the last section: 'News and Announcements', we have notices regarding five conferences and four news items".

Printed copy of the Newsletter can be obtained from either from S. M. Razaullah Ansari (raza.ansari@gmx.net), or Anne Tihon (tihon@ori.ucl.ac.be).

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SHORT COMMUNICATION

**A Visit to a Unique Library of
Ibn Sina Academy**

Syed Moimuddin Alvi*

Right in front of Barula Market, at Dodhpur, a place located on the outskirts of AMU, one will find across the road, the lane that leads to a huge white painted building, *Tijara House*. This is a place which houses a treasure of knowledge. A collection of research material that could hardly be found elsewhere.

As I entered the second gate, I saw the words: "Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Sciences", beautifully written on a green marble announcing the date of the Academy's inauguration by Mr. Humid Ansari, IFS and former Vice-Chancellor of the AMU. The staircase led me to the first floor where Ibn Sina Academy is housed. The Academy's full title is masterly inscribed on a slab studied with blue tiles along with some floral decorations using the Kashi Kari art. This slab was got made in Iran that excels in this type of work. Appreciating the good taste of Prof. Zillur Rahman, as I approached the main entrance of the Library, I was astounded by witnessing the quality and craftsmanship of the furniture which was used to house the books and for the comfort of the users. I was surrounded by fragrance and warmth of friendship while Prof. Zillur Rahman cheerfully welcomed me and thoroughly discussed about his dreams and desires that he nurtured in his heart. It was really amazing to learn that he single handedly gathered such a huge collection.

Named after its owner, Prof. Zillur Rahman, the Library of Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Sciences located at Aligarh is a repository of rare books, valuable manuscripts, microfilms, paintings, photographs, sculptures, coins and postage stamps along with clippings of newspapers depicting the Aligarh Movement which dates back to early nineteenth century. As the Library's name reflects, its main object was to equip it with books and journals pertaining to the studies of Medieval medicine &

sciences, but, later on Prof. Zillur Rahman conceived a project to expand the library in as many fields as possible, and also to establish a small museum, which to-date has a unique collection of rare fountain pens, photographs, memoirs and relics of prominent personalities.

The fabulous collection of more than 3,500 coins is unique in the sense that it has been arranged in chronological order and framed in transparent glass panes so that both sides of the coin are easily visible. The glass frames fixed on revolving stands make easy access to each frame. The coins date back to Indo-Greek period, i.e. 300 B.C to 2000 A.D., which explains well the Indjan civilization. Some very valuable and ancient currency notes belonging to pre-Czar Period also worth special mention.

A general collection of more than 1, 00,000 postage stamps is separately placed, which is a proud treasure of the owner. First Day covers of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, his companions, trustees and some eminent alumni of AMU are displayed. A few rare commemorative stamps have been issued by Indian Posts & Telegraphs Department, which have the photographs of Ibn Sina, Fārābī, Rāzī, Ibn Waṭṭah, Al Birūnī, Amir Khusro, Hafiz Shirazi, Mirza Ghalib, Sa'di, Rūmi, Omar Khayyam, Mir Anis, Bahadur Shah Zafar, etc. Nearly 200 rare fountain pens like Mont Blank, Waterman, Parker, Sheffers and Cross, etc.

Apart from the huge collection of books on Science and Medieval Medicine, the main attraction of the library consists of books on and about Aligarh, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and Mirza Ghalib. It is interesting, rather surprising to note that the first biography on Sir Syed was written in English by a foreigner and was printed in London. The book is available to glance through. A section of Urdu and other Indo-European literature is also an added attraction for users. Books on Urdu poetry are separately displayed to quench the thirst of lovers of Urdu Shapiro.

The Magazines Section proudly possesses all

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issues of Aligarh Magazines published since 1947. It also has a few earlier issues. The issues of Tahzibul Akhlaq, the magazine founded by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, are also at display. The file contains its issues of 1874. After its reincarnation in the year 1982, a complete set of its issues is available for consultation. Copies of Fikr-o-Nazar are also on display.

The Manuscripts Section consists of more than 500 mss. and most of them are unique, like the copies of Holy Quran having ornamented borders and glittering edged papers.

The Museum also has the replica of seal of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH). Historical group photographs of personalities of AMU, a self-portrait of Shifaul Mulk Hakim Abdul Latif are proud possessions of the museum.

It has been noticed that retired persons of AMU are so much nostalgic that even after their superannuation they prefer to settle down in Aligarh. This Academy is a heaven for those who wish to utilize their time and enhance their knowledge. In this way they are to get rid of the idleness in their life that leaves them in a state of ennui, which is hazardous for their health and happiness.

The Academy also arranges from time to time guest lectures by eminent personalities on topics of interest that come under the purview of the Academy. By taking active part in such programmes, all users can utilize their time and contribute for the noble cause of the Academy.

The Newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy (NISA), a quarterly organ, is another important source of information that keeps the lovers of Medieval Science abreast of the activities and research around the globe. News on Book reviews, awards, scholarships, forthcoming conferences, workshops and symposia and much more information can be found in NISA. Most of the earlier copies of NISA can be accessed on its website: <http://www.ibnsinaacademy.com>.

Prof. Zillur Rahman has been very much worried about Muslim culture, which, in his

opinion, is bordering towards extinction. Acquiescing this fact, he has established a special section in the Museum displaying the dresses, jewellerys, garments, crockery & cutlery and other items like Huqqa, Paandaan, Khasdaan, Itrdaan and Batwa, etc. that represent Muslim tradition. People who pay a visit to the Library specially admire the items on display in this section.

Prof. Zillur Rahman has devoted all his courage, earnings and brain to make the library of the Academy a place where people can freely consult books and other reading material. The library has "Open Access System" where people enjoy their stay as long as they are surrounded with valuable collection containing important information. For all these qualities, the Library can be ranked as one of the best research and specialized libraries of the country.

Prof. Zillur Rahman's efforts are remarkable. An unflinching personality, no trace of fatigue on his face, and no sign of retirement on his anatomy are to be witnessed. A continuous, ceaseless, never-ending endeavour that he has embarked upon must get recognition and applause. He really deserves our appreciation. We must realize that at least there is a person who has positive thinking and is deeply concerned with our culture and tradition, which calls for our serious attention and also responsibility. Let us join hands and help him physically, materially and even morally in making his dreams a reality, lest our culture, values and traditions become a part of forgotten chronicle of human race and perish in the pages of history. Let us encourage him for what he has done so far and help him achieve his endeavour. Well done Professor Saheb! Kudos to you.

(Source: amunetwork@yahoo.com, dated April 12, 2004)

[*The author is a resident of 4/579-A "Blessing" at Medical College Road, Aligarh-202002, India. His illustrious father was Late S. Zahiruddin Alvi, Registrar of Jamia Urdu, Aligarh]



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 & Byelaws of the academy and agree to abide by it.

1. Name:

2. Educational Qualifications:

3. Addresses:

(i) Office with phone #

(ii) Residence with phone #

(iii) E-mail:

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

5. Field of specialization:

6. Type of membership desired:

Life 1500/-

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Ordinary (annual) 100/-

Date:

Signature:

Note: (1) The admission fee of Rupees Fifty only shall be chargeable at the initial admittance to the academy. The subscription for Life membership is Rs. 1500/- only and student life membership is Rs. 700/- . An ordinary membership subscription is Rs.100/-, valid for calendar year and shall become due on the 1st January each year.

(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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