



# NEWSLETTER

## OF IBN SINA ACADEMY

### NISA



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## NEWS ITEMS OF IAMMS

### Ghalib Study Centre

In view of the large collection on Ghalib, his life and works in the Library of Ibn Sina Academy, the Executive Committee of the Academy has decided to establish 'Ghalib Study Centre'. At present, more than seven hundred books in different languages and special numbers of magazines on Ghalib are extant in the Library of the Academy. In addition, there are other things that were released by different agencies and organizations in fond memory of Ghalib such as postal stamps, paintings, posters, calendars, guard-files, cassettes, paperweights, key-rings, thermos, etc.

It was a need of such 'Centre' in Aligarh alleged president of the Academy. Almost all books of prominent authors and publishers have been collected for this 'Centre'. Members of the Academy are satisfied with this decision and felt content to hear this excellent news.

### Book Releasing Ceremony

A function to release the book *Aty-e-Qayoom* was organised at the Library Hall of Ibn Sina Academy on 30.4.2006. Prof. Masoodul Hasan, (Former Chairman Department of English, AMU, Aligarh) while releasing the book, spoke about the contribution and achievement of Mr. M. Qayoom Saheb, who was PG Teacher in the City Boys' School, AMU, Aligarh. Almost all teachers of City Boys' School, both working and retired attended the function.

### Interactive Session with Ms. Kunkum Chadha

Ms. Kunkum Chadha (Editor - Nation News, Hindustan Times, Delhi) interacted with the members of Ibn Sina Academy. She discussed both political and academic scenario in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Following members participated in the discussion: Prof. H. S. Zillur Rahman (President, IAMMS), Prof. S. M. Razaullah Ansari (General Secretary, IAMMS), Dr. Abdul Lateef (Joint Secretary, IAMMS), Mr. Pradeep Saxena (Correspondent, Hindustan Times, Aligarh), Mr. Shamim Riaz Khan

(Associate Member IAMMS), Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman (Treasurer, IAMMS), Mr. Jawed Akhtar (Associate Member, IAMMS), Dr. Tauheed Ahmad (Circulation Officer, IAMMS), Mr. S. H. Zahid Jamal (Associate Member, IAMMS) and Mr. M. Ayub (Librarian, IAMMS).

### Visit of the Pakistan Delegation on 6.5.2006

A delegation of Pakistan Association for Eastern Medicine (PAEM) comprising eleven members, viz., Hakim Qalb-e-Saleem, Hakim Muhammad Owais Ahmed Khan, Hakeem Abdul Qayyum, Hakim Fazal Amin, Hakim Muhammad Hafeez, Hakim Muhammad Hamid, Hakeem Naseem Ahmed Siddiqui, Hakim Syed Sabir Ali, Hakim Suddiq Anis, Hakim Sajid Hussain Khan and Hakim Ziaur Rahman, visited Ibn Sina Academy on May 6, 2006. The Academy arranged a welcome ceremony in honour of the team. Dr. Ghayoor Ahmad (An eminent Unani Physician of Aligarh) presided over the function. While, Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman welcomed the guests, Prof. Ifkhar Alam Khan presented a brief survey of the history of Unani Medicine in Aligarh particularly in relation to Ajmal Khan Tibbiya College. Hakim Qalb-e-Saleem and others spoke on Indo-Pak relations. The stress was to strengthen the relations of two countries in the field of Unani Medicine. In the end, Prof. SM Razaullah Ansari presented a vote of thanks.

### Visit of the Sri Lanka Delegation

A Delegation of four members from Indigenous Institute of Medicine (IIM) of the University of Colombo, Colombo, Sri Lanka, visited Ibn Sina Academy on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June 2006. They interacted many members of the Academy and exchanged bilateral views on common interest between India and Sri Lanka. Dr. Hairun Niza Nizamuddin, Dr. M. A. Sirajudeen, Dr. M. A. Jaleel and Dr. M. I. Fazlul Haq were the members of the team.

### An Evening with Prof. I. A. Siddiqui

Dr. I. A. Siddiqui, Professor in Physics Department of Saifia College (Bhopal) visited Ibn Sina Academy on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2006. He appreciated the contributions of Ibn Sina

Academy in the field of History of Medicine and Sciences along with preservation of Indian cultural heritage. Prof. Siddiqui is also one of the famous Urdu poets in the arena of science fraternity. He recited couplets of poems with his melodious voice. Other local poets who were invited at this function also recited their poems. Following were present at the function: Prof. S. Zillur Rahman, Prof. Zafar Hussain Siddiqui, Prof. Afzal Ahmad, Mr. Nematullah Khan Sherwani, Mr. Abid Ali Abid, Dr. S. Tassawer Hussain, Mr. S. H. Z. Jamal, Dr. S. Ziaur Rahman and Mr. M. Iqtidar.

### Individual Activities of IAMMS Members

#### Publications of Prof. S. Zillur Rahman

1. Contributed six articles for the *Encyclopaedia of Persian Language and Literature in the Subcontinent*. Vol. I. Edited by Iranian Academy of Persian Language and Literature, Tehran, Iran, 2005
2. Authored *Safar Nama Bangladesh*, which is a travelogue in Urdu, published by the Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences, Aligarh, 160 pp.
3. Contributed a chapter. Kitâb al-Hashaish - Eik Mutâla' in the book: *Impact of Persian Language and Culture on India*, Edited by Prof. Azarmi Dukht Safavi, Department of Persian, AMU, Aligarh, 2006, pp. 300-316.

**Prof. S.M. Razaullah Ansari** has been invited to be a member of Japanese Delegation, headed by Prof. Michio Yano (the Dean and Professor, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Kyoto Sangyo University), which will be visiting the Manuscripts Libraries in Hyderabad, Aug.21-25, 2006. This visit is a part of a project sponsored by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. The title of the project is 'Islamic Science in India'.

**Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman** participated in the following scientific events:

- Seminar on "Trends in Applied Genomics" by Dr. Christian Betz, Germany, Hotel Hans Plaza, New Delhi, 25th April, 2006
- Recent Advances in Endocrinology and Diabetes, Department of Medicine, JNMC, AMU, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2006.
- Pharmacogenomics Symposium - 2006 (Industry Academia Interaction on Contemporary Issues), Department of Pharmacology (AIIMS) and Ranbaxy Research Laboratories (Gurgaon), Gurgaon, May 20, 2006

Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman has also been invited to present his views during the brain storming session on Issues in Use of Large Animals in Biomedical Research on 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2006 at Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi. Animal experimentation is vital for biomedical research, testing and education. During the last decade there has been a remarkable improvement in the standards of animal facilities and quality of experimentation particularly with small animals but the use of large animals is also crucial for drug development, testing and discovery of new molecules. For generating data on large animals in India has become most difficult. Non-availability of colony bred cats, dogs, monkeys as per CPCSEA guidelines, long delays (some time up to years) in getting ethical clearance forces the Indian Pharmaceutical Industries to depend upon other countries for data on large animals. This not only leads to loss of precious time in cutting edge science but also drains substantial funds out of country. Training and basic and applied research in academic and research institutions also suffer.

To discuss issues and problems faced by the scientists, academicians, pharmaceutical industries, national laboratories, testing laboratories or any other stakeholder, a brain storming session was organized under the auspices of Indian National Science Academy (INSA), Indian Pharmacological Society (IPS), Association of Physiologists and Pharmacologists of India (APPI) and Nutrition Society of India (NSI). At the end of the two sessions of brain

storming, a recommendation was prepared by Dr. Mehtab S. Bamji, Chairperson of International Council for Scientific Union (ICSU) Joint Committee of Indian National Science Committee for International Union for Nutritional Sciences (IUNS), International Union for Physiological Science (IUPS) and International Union of Pharmacology (IUPHAR) to take up the matter with the Planning Commission's working group on policies, administrative changes for improvement in Science and Technology, research environment and resource under the chairmanship of Dr. R. Chidambaran, member secretary to Science and Technology Group of Planning Commission. Dr. Chidambaran was keen that the meeting should have held before the end of June 2006 and made the recommendations without delay.

**Environmental Pharmacology  
A new discipline**

*Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman has invented the concept of 'Environmental Pharmacology' as a new discipline. He coined the term 'Pharmacoenvironmentology' for the study of drugs and its interaction with environment in terms of risks and benefit.*

*Population Environment Bulletin, International Institute for  
Population Sciences, Vol. 3, No. 2, 2006*

Dr. S. Ziaur Rahman has been selected for the Safety Pharmacology Society Award 2006 to attend the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Safety Pharmacology Society, which is scheduled to be held from September 26-28, 2006 in San Diego, California, USA. Dr. Rahman will also visit Iran during August-September 2006 under the auspices of special IBRO Fellowship. He will work in Shaheed Beheshti University and Tarbiat Modares University under the guidance of Dr. Mohsin Raza, Professor in the Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran (Iran)

*Dr. Abdul Latif and Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman* submitted a report on the project entitled, 'Evaluation of Drugs of Indigenous Systems of Medicine for their Efficacy and Adverse Drug Reactions in the Patients of Bronchial Asthma' to the Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, 2003-2006. Both were co-investigators in this project.

**OBITUARIES**

**Condolences on the death of WHO Director-General**

The Executive Committee of the Ibn Sina Academy sends its sincere condolences to the family and colleagues of Dr Jong-wook Lee, Director-General of the World Health Organization, who died suddenly in a hospital following surgery to remove a blood clot on his brain on 22 May 2006. It was also the first day of the 59th World Health Assembly, where he was supposed to preside over after few hours.

Following message was sent next day, May 23, 2006 at 4:52 p.m. to his e-mail address (DrLee-tribute@who.int) on behalf of the executive members of the Academy.

"The Members & Executive Committee of the Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences (India) were shocked after knowing the sad demise of Dr Jong-wook Lee, who was the Director-General of the World Health Organization since 21 July, 2003. We sincerely convey our deep condolences on the sudden demise of Dr Lee. To mourn this tragic incident, a condolence meeting was held on 23.5.2006 at 11:00 a.m. at the Academy."

Following message was received as acknowledgement from the office of the Director General on Wednesday, June 07, 2006 2:11 PM) "Thank you very much for your message of sympathy following the death of Dr Jong-wook Lee, Director-General of the World Health Organization, last week. Because of the sheer volume of such messages received, we are not

able to reply individually to each. Please, however, rest assured that your words of condolence and support to Mrs. Reiko Kaburaki-Lee and her family are being conveyed to them, are greatly appreciated, and contribute significantly to their comfort in this difficult time. Your words reconfirm the high regard in which Dr Lee was held. WHO has lost not only a great leader in public health, but also a man of integrity, intelligence, humility and humour. With regards and thanks, "Office of the Director-General"

### **Professor Khurshidul Islam – An Elegant Personality of Aligarh**

By S. Ziaur Rahman

Prof. Khurshidul Islam, a well known critic and poet of Urdu language, has passed away after prolonged illnesses on 17th June 2006 (1). He hailed from Umree, District Bijnor while his mother was from Seohara of the same district. He belonged to the family of Moulana Hifzur Rahman and Dr. Abdul Rahman Bijnoree. Born in 1919 at Moradabad, he did matriculation from Delhi and came to Aligarh for further education. From the Aligarh Muslim University, he got Master's degree in 1945 and almost immediately after post-graduation, he was appointed as lecturer in the Urdu Department (2). While teaching in the department, he also did PhD on Ghalib. He became professor in 1973 and chairman department of Urdu on 8th October 1973. He was a good orator and during his student life he once won the Harold Cox Speaking Prize in 1942. He also worked as lecturer at Oriental School of London University for three years (1953-56).

#### **Academic Activities:**

Prof. Khurshidul Islam was a prolific writer. His works are seen cited in many research papers and articles including Encyclopaedia Iranica. He was editor of Urdu-English Dictionary, Oxford University Press (1970-73) and Fikro Nazar, Aligarh Muslim University (1974-1979). He won UP Urdu Academy Award on his critical essays "Tanqeeden". As a poet, he published two

collections: *Rag-e-Jan* and *Shakh-e Nihal-e Gham*. His prose poem – *Jasta Jasta* is another published collection. Under a UNESCO Project, he coauthored "Ghalib – Life and Letters" with Ralph Russel, who is at present Emeritus Professor Urdu at School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. The work which was done under the Project was published by Oxford University Press in 1969 entitled *Ghalib - Life and Letters*. (Also confer Ghalib 1797-1869; Volume I: Life and Letters. London: George Allen and Unwin Ltd, UK, 1969). This work was also accepted in the Indian translation series of the UNESCO. It was recommended for publication by the Committee on Far Eastern Literature set up to advice UNESCO in this field by the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies and by the National Academy of Letters of India / Sahitya Akademi). Another published work of both Ralph Russel and Khurshidul Islam is "Three Mughal Poets: Mir, Mir (Mirza) Sauda and Mir Hasan", George Allen and Unwin, London, 1968. This work was also done under the UNESCO Project. Both Ralph Russel and Khurshidul Islam did many other academic works in collaboration; they also surveyed extensively the attitude and attacks on western culture and education of Saiyid Akbar Husain popularly known as Akbar Allahabadi. A copy of each of the above books is extant in the Library of Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh, India.

#### **Ralph Russel, Khurshidul Islam and Aligarh Muslim University**

Both Ralph Russel and Khurshidul Islam were very good old friends. They worked in collaboration for many years. Unfortunately, this friendly relationship could not be sustained and they became antagonist to each other. Nobody knows the reason of their hostility. When my father, Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman Sahib, visited London to meet Ralph Russel, he also did not mention anything about Khurshidul Islam but gifted most of his books with his autograph including those co-authored with Khurshidul Islam. Ralph Russel once wrote about Khurshidul Islam in an article - Urdu, Khurshidul Islam, and I. "In "Urdu & I" (AUS ii 1996), I made passing

reference to my collaboration with Khurshidul Islam. For reasons which I will not go into here that collaboration came effectively to an end nearly ten years ago, but for more than thirty years his contribution to my understanding of Urdu literature and to our joint work on it was immense and deserves to be recorded. I have related in "Urdu and I" how we met in Aligarh and how and why we quickly became close friends. Our active collaboration began some years later, toward the end of the three-year period when he taught at the School of African and Oriental Studies, University of London. It was he who proposed that we should make it our life's work to present all that was best in Urdu literature to the English-speaking world, beginning with Mir and continuing right up to (what was then) the present day. We started practical work on this project in 1955-56, preparing what was ultimately to become our book *Three Mughal Poets*, though this was not published until 1968; and until 1987, with many interruptions made inevitable by his and my separate commitments to our work, we continued to work together, to produce *Ghalib: Life and Letters*, a long article on Akbar Allahabadi, and to prepare the materials for translation of selections from Ghalib's Urdu and Persian verse. In all these projects except *Ghalib: Life and Letters* all the essential preliminary work was his—that is, he would read, more than once, all of the relevant work of the poets we were planning to present and make the selection of verses appropriate to our purpose. He did that with Mir's Kulliyat, the satirical work of Sauda, and the verse of Akbar Allahabadi. (In Ghalib's case; he read and made selections from Ghalib's Persian prose and from about half of the Urdu letters, while I did the same for the other half.) We would then read these selections together, discussing and explaining anything I didn't understand. I would then put the selected verses into the appropriate order, and produce English translations of them. Then we would discuss these translations and produced finalized version which satisfied us both" In my article "On Translating Ghalib," published long ago (*Mahfil* 5: 4 [168-69], pp. 71-8). I wrote: Our tastes and interests and

judgments, and the range of our reading in literature in general are so similar that a more ideal collaboration could hardly be imagined. In addition, in translating, where every nuance of every word and phrase, in both the language of the original and that of the translation, can be important, we can do together what neither of us could do alone for both of us know both languages well, and each of us has one of them as his mother tongue; and we can therefore hope to understand fully what the Urdu intends and to convey that intention as fully as English allows. --- But I want to add something more to what I have just said about Khurshidul Islam. He was (and is) the only Indian or Pakistani Muslim I have ever met for whom I know that literature is, as it is for me too, something that teaches you, moulds you, changes you, transforms you, bringing to you all the time a greater and truer awareness of yourself and of other people and of the universe in which you live. Similarly, he is the only Indian or Pakistani Muslim I know who has read with this passionate, self-transforming interest, not only the literature of his own language, but that of the great world classics from the European renaissance onwards. His interest in, knowledge of, and assessment of the great Urdu writers reflect all this, and his work is consequently in a class of its own. ----- Khurshid if I am not mistaken has never been a formal student of Persian but from boyhood onwards he has learnt enough and read enough to give him the necessary competence to understand and develop a sound taste for Persian poetry. But although he has a good reading knowledge of Persian he has been at pains to check and recheck with dictionaries and with commentaries and with friends with greater Persian expertise than he has before he will be satisfied that his interpretation is correct" (3).

Ralph Russel's first acquaintance with Urdu was during compulsory military service in India during the war. After the war, his interest in Urdu led to his joining the staff of the School of Oriental and African Studies, where he soon became Reader. His teachings, translations and writings on Urdu and its literature have earned

him a high reputation both in the subcontinent, where he has spent much time lecturing and researching, and among his fellow Urdu scholars in North America and Europe (4).

He visited Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, in 1958. Many welcome ceremonies were held in his honour at the University. When he visited NRSC Club 'B' on October 15, 1958, he wrote "I have been very pleased that I have had the opportunity to meet and talk with some of the students here, and to see this club, with which I am greatly impressed" (5).

#### **Something about the book, *Ghalib – Life and Letters***

This book is a fascinating portrait of one of the most popular Urdu and Persian poets, Mirza Asadullah Khan Ghalib (1797-1869). Very little of Ghalib has previously appeared in English, and that little has circulated almost entirely within India and Pakistan. This volume mainly consists of translations from the Memoir written by his friend and younger contemporary Hali not many years after Ghalib's death; and of his diary of the revolt of 1857. According to the above book, "Mirza Asadullah Khan Ghalib (1797-1869), noble, poet, and wit of Mughal Delhi in the twilight years before the crushing of the revolt of 1857 finally extinguished Mughal power, has long been possibly the most famous and the most popular of the poets of Urdu and Persian that the Indo-Pakistan subcontinent has produced. His frankness, his humorous good nature, and his cheerfully avowed unorthodoxy with regard to the more irksome formalities of his Muslim religion, made him something of a legend even in his own lifetime. Collections of his numerous letters to his friends were published just before his death, and not many years later his friend and younger contemporary Hali wrote his Memoir of Ghalib, itself one of the classics of Urdu literature. Hitherto very little of Ghalib has appeared in English, and that little has circulated almost entirely within India and Pakistan. The present volume consists in the main of translations from Hali's Memoir, Ghalib's Persian and Urdu letters, his diary of the revolt of 1857,

and other materials. These materials are arranged, with the minimum of connective narrative, to tell the story of his life.

#### **Conclusion**

Khurshidul Islam had perfect command and facility over his expressions during conversation. He was a good writer, poet and critic but used to say whatever he had in his mind. He always used to go out of the way to help his friends and acquaintances, especially those who were victims of academic tyrannies and injustices. Not only he would talk to the authorities on behalf of the sufferers but would take a firm stand in academic bodies like Faculty and Academic Council Meetings. He was bold and beautiful. He did not believe in the presence of God and His creation. He had great affection in academic activities. His curiosity to study attracted him to Aligarh even he had no money for getting admission. He came after selling off his property. After his death, Aligarh has lost yet another luminary personality. He is now buried in the University graveyard and left behind 5 children: two daughters and three sons namely Ms. Nuzhat, Ms. Iffat, Mr. Jamal, Mr. Tariq and Mr. Khalid. May God gives rest to his departed soul and patience to his bereaved family members particularly his wife.

#### **References:**

1. [http://www.indianmuslims.info/news/2006/june/20/indian\\_muslim/prof\\_khurshidul\\_islam\\_is\\_no\\_more.html](http://www.indianmuslims.info/news/2006/june/20/indian_muslim/prof_khurshidul_islam_is_no_more.html)
2. Aligarh Muslim University – Contributions and Achievements, Duty Society Centenary Volume, Duty Society, AMU, Aligarh, 1989, p. 376
3. Ralph Russel, "Urdu, Khurshidul Islam, and I", the Annual of Urdu Studies, 2005, pp 31-35.
4. The Famous Ghalib, Ralph Russel, Lotus Collection Roli Books, New Delhi, 2000, p. i.
5. History of NRSC (1910-2000), Syed Ziaur Rahman, Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh, 2000, p. 44.

### PAST CONFERENCES / SEMINARS

#### 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Traditional Medicine and Materia Medica in Medieval Manuscripts

The 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference "Traditional Medicine and Materia Medica in Medieval Manuscripts" was held in Baku (Azerbaijan) during June 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006. It was co-sponsored by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and the Washington Academy of Sciences.

The Conference was devoted to the medical heritage of Azerbaijan. The exceptional collection of ancient manuscripts preserved in Baku has been included in the *Memory of the World* program of UNESCO, listing the most important and irreplaceable written monuments of humankind. On that occasion, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, the Azerbaijan Association of Medical Historians (AAMH) and the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (ANAS) decided to organize in Baku an international Conference on ancient medicine.

The scientific program covered a wide range of topics, such as medieval medical manuscripts, ancient and medieval materia medica, medicine in classical literature and art, and folk medicine. The Main topics covered were: Medieval medical manuscripts, Medicinal practices in prehistoric and ancient times, Interaction between the Oriental and Greek schools of medicine in the Hellenistic period, Ancient and medieval Materia Medica, Medicine and pharmacy in the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries, Medicine in folklore and classical literature, Medicine in classical art, Medicine and religion, Folk medicine, Varia.

#### Invited speakers were:

- Aysegul DEMIRHAN (Turkey): *A Perspective to Two Books on Medical Ethics in Turkey of the Twentieths Century and Some Results.*
- Peter DENDLE (USA): *The "Demon Route": the Transmission of Demon Possession and Popular Medicine from Palestine to Rome.*

- Athanasios DIAMANDOPOULOS (Greece): *The Hippocratic morals in a changing world*
- Efraim LEV (Israel): *Practical Materia Medica of the Jewish Community of Medieval Cairo according to Genizah Fragments.*
- Boleslav LICHTERMAN (Russia): *On the History of Neurosurgery in Russia*
- Maria Elvira SAGARZAZU (Argentina): *Phytotherapeutic Practices in the Popular Medicine of the Guarani Region (Argentina)*
- Alain TOUWAIDE (USA): *Translating Greek Medicine in the Medieval Near-East*
- Jean-Pierre TRICOT (Belgium): *The first medical scientific illustrations: an hellenistic innovation*

Prof. Dr Farid Alakbarli, Co-chairman of the Organizational Committee and President of the Azerbaijan Association of Medical Historians, invited Prof. S. Zillur Rahman as Indian representative, but because of pre-occupied engagements, he was not able to attend the above conference.

### FORTHCOMING LECTURES AT NIH

Lecture 1: On Monday, April 24, 2006, at 1:00 PM in NIH Building 31, Room 6C8, John Swann, PhD, FDA History Office, will present a talk entitled "Reducing with Dynamite: Dinitrophenol in the Clinic and Marketplace in 1930s America."

Dr. Swann will examine pharmacological and therapeutic understandings of dinitrophenol, its proliferation for self-medication in the 1930s, and the regulatory response of the Food and Drug Administration to this powerful medicine. The public is welcome to attend this event.

This presentation by John Swann is sponsored by the NIH Biomedical Research History Interest Group (BRHIG). For more information about the BRHIG and upcoming events, please visit the BRHIG website at <http://www.nih.gov/sigs/briaig>.



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Lecture 2: On Monday, July 17, at 11:00 AM, Michelle Gittelman, MBA, PhD, Assistant Professor of Management and Organizational Behavior at New York University's Stern School of Business, will present a talk entitled "Science As an Input to Invention: Lessons From the Biotechnology Industry" in Building 31, Room 6C7. The public is welcome to attend.

Dr. Gittelman will present from her research using bibliometric analysis of published papers and patents of US biotechnology firms to explore the relationship between "open science" and patented technologies. Her findings call into question the premise that useful commercial technologies flow unimpeded from high-impact science. This presentation by Michelle Gittelman is sponsored by the NIH Biomedical Research History Interest Group (BRHIG). For more information about the BRHIG and upcoming events, please visit the BRHIG website at <http://www.nih.gov/signs/brhig>.

Submitted by  
Lisa K. Walker, PhD

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## OTHER NEWS

### NHS told to abandon alternative medicine

By Mark Henderson, Science Editor

A GROUP of Britain's leading doctors has urged every National Health Services (NHS) trust to stop paying for alternative medicine and to use the money for conventional treatments. Their appeal is a direct challenge to the Prince of

Wales's outspoken campaign to widen access to complementary therapies.

Public funding of "unproven or disproved treatments" such as homoeopathy & reflexology, which are promoted by the Prince, is unacceptable while huge NHS deficits are forcing trusts to sack nurses and limit access to life-saving drugs, the doctors say.

The 13 scientists, who include some of the most eminent names in British medicine, have written to the chief executives of all 476 acute and primary care trusts to demand that only evidence-based therapies are provided free to patients. Their letter, seen by *The Times*, has been sent as the Prince today steps up his crusade for increased provision of alternative treatments with a controversial speech to the World Health Organization assembly in Geneva.

The Prince, who was yesterday given a lesson in crystal therapy while touring a complementary health unit in Merthyr Tydfil, will ask the WHO to embrace alternative therapies in the fight against serious disease. His views have outraged clinicians and researchers, who claim that many of the therapies that he advocates have been shown to be ineffective in trials or have never been properly tested. The letter criticizes two of his flagship initiatives on complementary medicine: a government-funded patient guide prepared by his Foundation for Integrated Medicine and the Smallwood report last year, which he commissioned to make a financial case for increasing NHS provision. Both documents, it is claimed, give misleading information about scientific support for therapies such as homoeopathy, described as "an implausible treatment for which over a dozen systematic reviews have failed to produce convincing evidence of effectiveness".

The letter's signatories include Sir James Black, who won the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1988; and Sir Keith Peters, president of the Academy of Medical Science, which represents Britain's leading clinical researchers. It was organized by

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Michael Baum, Emeritus Professor of Surgery at University College London, and other supporters include six Fellows of the Royal Society, Britain's national academy of science, and Professor Edzard Ernst, of the Peninsula Medical School in Exeter, who holds the UK's first chair in complementary medicine. The doctors ask trust chief executives to review their policies so that patients are given accurate information, and not to waste scarce resources on therapies that have not been shown to work by rigorous clinical trials. They conclude: "At a time when the NHS is under intense pressure, patients, the public and the NHS are best served by using the available funds for treatments that are based on solid evidence."

Professor Baum, a cancer specialist, said that he had organized the letter because of his "utter despair" at growing NHS acceptance of alternative treatments while drugs of proven effectiveness are being withheld. "At a time when we are struggling to gain access for our patients to Herceptin, which is absolutely proven to extend survival in breast cancer, I find it appalling that the NHS should be funding a therapy like homoeopathy that is utterly bogus," he said. He said that he was happy for the NHS to offer the treatments once research has proven them effective, such as acupuncture for pain relief, but that very few had reached the required standards. "If people want to spend their own money on it, fine, but it shouldn't be NHS money." The Department of Health does not keep figures on the total NHS spending on alternative medicine, but Britain's total market is estimated at £1.6 billion.

### APPOINTMENT

#### Joseph A. November as Stetten Fellow

The Office of NIH History and Stetten Museum at the National Institutes of Health is pleased to announce the appointment of Joseph A. November as the next DeWitt Stetten, Jr., Memorial Fellow in the History of Biomedical Sciences and Technology. Joseph November, who will receive his Ph.D. from Princeton

University this summer, plans to join the University of South Carolina as an Assistant Professor in History. He will spend his fellowship year (2007-2008) at the NIH conducting research sponsored by the Center for Information Technology. His project is titled: "Planting the Seeds: How the NIH Cultivated Biomedical Computing."

Sarah A. Leavitt

#### Address:

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### BOOK REVIEW

**ADR - Adverse Drug Reactions by Dinesh Badyal, R.S. Bhatia. Published by Peepee Publishers & Distributors (Pvt) Ltd., New Delhi, 2006. Pages 268.**

Pharmacovigilance is the study of adverse drug reactions (ADR, events - AE). It affords unique information from which to detect adverse update of drugs and drug use. Impact of human drugs on environment is another emerging problem. Recent withdrawal of Diclofenac use in veterinary medical sciences and many other such instances which have direct relation with environment heralded a new discipline which may be called as Pharmacoenvironmentology. Evaluation of the potential environment risks posed by the medical product is thus needed. This impact should be assessed and, on a case by case basis, especially arrangements to limit it should be envisaged. The ADR multi-centric reporting system in India was established as ICMR Project (1989) and ICMR Taskforce Project (1992). WHO established working relationships with two centres in India as 'special centers' collaborating with the WHO Drug Monitoring Programme (UMC) in 1997. 'National Pharmacovigilance Centre' and Society for Pharmacovigilance, India

(SOPI) in addition was designated in 1998. In the meantime, the Pharmacovigilance system in India developed a number of communication and training packages with the intention of advocating safer medicines and rational drug use. Eventually, a comprehensive structure for ADR Monitoring viz. National Pharmacovigilance Program (NPP) in India was developed by CDSCO, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India in 2004 but till now no comprehensive book on this subject has been written by any Indian authors. The book written by Dr. Dinesh Badyal and Dr. R. S. Bhatia is the first book distinctively written on ADRs. In the book, authors looked at the affairs of ADRs in Indian perspective. It is an excellent pocket-size book with complete information on Pharmacovigilance. Apart from general information like definitions, history and classification of ADRs, authors have also very logically cited examples of ADRs in different systems of the body like cutaneous, gastrointestinal, hepatic, renal, pulmonary and endocrinal. In addition, they discussed about the drug induced fever and emergencies; ADRs associated with drug interaction, self medication and alternative medicine and methods on how to minimize ADRs. Correlated with ADRs, topics like drug allergy, TDM and CPA are also covered. Last chapter although mentioned as "Examples of ADRs" is all about relevant information in tabular form. The book is significantly for those scholars who are working on Pharmacovigilance / reporting ADR. The book will definitely help in contributing to the prevention, recognition and treatment of ADRs. It should be available at all Zonal, Regional and Peripheral Centers of NPP. A person may adept with intricacies of Pharmacovigilance if he / she read this book thoroughly. The book could have been better if it was written with references. Bibliographies particularly at the end of each chapter generally provide direct indications to further reading to help those who seek more information. I congratulate authors for writing such a nice book with substantial facts on ADR.

Syed Ziaur Rahman

## JOURNALS

### Free online access to nearly 200 years of medical research

Complete back issues covering nearly 200 years of historically significant biomedical journals are being made freely available online as a result of a landmark project launched at the Wellcome Trust.

On completion, the back files project will deliver over three million pages of medical journals free to anyone through standard search tools such as PubMed and Google. The initiative was developed through a partnership between the Wellcome Trust, JISC, the US National Library of Medicine (NLM) and a number of medical journal publishers.

The archive will contain a number of discoveries which have changed the face of medicine, including:

- Sir Alexander Fleming's discovery of the use of penicillin to fight bacterial infections. *British Journal of Experimental Pathology*, 1929 (continued as the *International Journal of Experimental Pathology*)
- Sir Richard Doll's groundbreaking study that confirmed that smoking was a "major cause" of lung cancer. *BMJ*, 1954
- Walter Reed's paper that proved that yellow fever is transmitted by mosquitoes. *Journal of Hygiene*, 1902 (continued as *Epidemiology and Infection*)
- Kenneth Burton's classic and highly cited "methods" paper that provided a standard way of assaying DNA concentration in a solution using diphenylamine. *Biochemical Journal*, 1956 (online now)
- Hodgkin's and Huxley's Nobel-prize winning paper on ionic theory of the nerve impulse. This work was the foundation for thousands of subsequent studies of electrical signaling in the brain and has been useful for understanding the origins of many disorders - such as multiple sclerosis, muscle myotonias, and heart

arrhythmias - that result from defects in electrical signaling. *Journal of Physiology*, 1952 (online now)

- Frederick Treves 1888 paper in which he described the first operation on an inflamed appendix. On publication, the paper was not initially well received as surgical intervention was discouraged in such cases. Seven years later this became the accepted practice. *Medico-Chirurgical Transactions*, 1888, (continued as the *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*)
- Arunlakshana and Schild's 1959 paper on the characteristics of drug binding to receptor sites. Using the approach articulated in this paper the authors showed, for example, that the histamine receptors in various guinea pig and human tissues were the same. *British Journal of Pharmacology*, 1959
- Participating publishers have also agreed to continue to deposit current content of their journals into this archive. They will be freely available after an embargo period - a maximum of one year for all research papers.

In addition to the faithful replication of every published page, the archive provides a number of innovative, value-added functions, including links from references to full text, high resolution images, full text searching across the entire archive, and links from the original article to corrections and retractions and vice-versa.

Director of the Wellcome Trust, Dr Mark Walport, said: "This growing collection will be of lasting benefit to researchers, practitioners and medical historians worldwide. It will provide access to important scientific literature from the past, free of charge, to anyone in the world with internet access."

JISC's Executive Secretary, Dr Malcolm Read, said: "This archive and its commitment to free and open access to the outputs of scientific research demonstrates the value of collaboration between funding bodies, publishers and the academic and research communities. JISC is delighted to have worked closely with the

Wellcome Trust and the National Library of Medicine on what is an impressive and important resource."

Dr. Donald A.B. Lindberg, Director of the National Library of Medicine said: "The importance of this archive is realized every day - our studies show that researchers and authors whose articles appear in PubMed Central are read and cited hundreds of times more than they were in their original print format. PubMed Central has greatly benefited from the journal content and funding contributions made possible by the Wellcome Library and JISC."

The back files archive can be accessed free of charge through the National Institutes of Health (NIH), full-text, life sciences repository PubMed Central (PMC). Journals will be added to the archive as soon as they are digitized. PubMed citations are added to that database when the archive is complete.

**Further information** about this project can be found at: [Medical Journals Backfile Project](#). This project is one of six digitization projects being managed by JISC with funding from HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England). The JISC programme represents a total investment of some £10m in the digitization of high-quality online content, including sound, moving pictures, newspapers, census data, journals and parliamentary papers for use by the UK further and higher education communities. Further information about the JISC digitization programme can be found at: [Digitization](#)

#### Notes for editors

##### 1. The full list of participating journals\*:

- Anesthesia Progress - 1954
- Annals of Surgery - 1885
- Annals of the Royal College of Surgeons of England - 1947
- Biochemical Journal - 1906
- BMJ - British Medical Journal - 1853
- British Journal of Cancer - 1947
- British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology - 1974
- British Journal of General Practice - 1952

British Journal of Pharmacology – 1946  
Clinical & Experimental Immunology – 1966  
Epidemiology and Infection – 1901  
Immunology – 1958  
International J of Experimental Pathology – 1920  
Journal of Anatomy – 1866  
Journal of Physiology – 1878  
Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine – 1809  
Medical History – 1957

\* Current journal name – some journals have had several name changes

In addition to the journals being digitized under this project, the NLM is also digitizing additional journals, including the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* and the *EMBO Journal*

**2. JISC** – the Joint Information Systems Committee – is a joint committee of the UK further and higher education funding bodies and is responsible for supporting the innovative use of information and communication technology (ICT) to support learning, teaching, and research. It is best known for providing the JANET network, a range of support, content and advisory services, and a portfolio of high-quality resources.

**3. The Wellcome Trust** is the most diverse biomedical research charity in the world, spending about £450 million every year both in the UK and internationally to support and promote research that will improve the health of humans and animals. The Trust was established under the will of Sir Henry Wellcome, and is funded from a private endowment, which is managed with long-term stability and growth in mind.

The Wellcome Library is one of the world's greatest collections for the study of the history of medicine. The print, manuscript audio, film, pictorial and digital collections are a national treasure and an unrivalled intellectual resource.

The Wellcome Trust was awarded the first

*SPARC Eurc Award for Outstanding Achievements in Scholarly Communications* by SPARC Europe (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition), for its work on open access. *SPARC Europe* represents over 100 European research-led university libraries from 14 European countries.

**4. National Library of Medicine (NLM)**, on the campus of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, is the world's largest medical library. The Library collects materials in all areas of biomedicine and health care, as well as works on biomedical aspects of technology, the humanities, and the physical, life, and social sciences. The collections stand at more than 8 million items—books, journals, technical reports, manuscripts, microfilms, photographs and images. Housed within the Library is one of the world's finest medical history collections of old and rare medical works. The Library's collection may be consulted in the reading room or requested on interlibrary loan.

For 125 years, the Library published the *Index Medicus*®, a monthly subject/author guide to articles in 4000 journals. This information and much more, is today available in *PubMed*®, freely accessible via the World Wide Web. *PubMed* has more than 16 million MEDLINE journal article references and abstracts going back to the mid-1960s with another 1.5 million references back to the early 1950s. Additional citations are being added from the back files of journals scanned for *PubMed Central*.

*The above message was posted on OA-India forum by S.Arunachalam.*

#### **Ambix**

The March 2005 issue of the *Ambix* (Vol. 52, No. 1) has now been published, and is available online [www.maney.co.uk/journals/ambix](http://www.maney.co.uk/journals/ambix)

*Ambix* is the official journal of the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry. It is an internationally recognised, peer reviewed journal and one of the leading publications in its field,

which is viewed as an important outlet for current research. Published three times a year, in March, July and November, its remit has always been to facilitate the publication of high-quality research and discussion in all aspects of the history of alchemy and chemistry, including the chemical industry. Recently, its scope has been broadened to cover the history of pharmacy and environmental studies of the chemical industry. For more information, please visit [www.maney.co.uk/journals/ambix](http://www.maney.co.uk/journals/ambix)

### Journal Medical History

The July 2006 issue of the journal Medical History (Vol. 50, No. 3) has now been published, and is available online and free of charge: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/histmed/publications/medical-history/medhist-vol50.html>

## DOCUMENTATION

### Institute for the History of Arabic Science

Prof. Dr. Sami Chalhoub  
Email: [samch47@scs-net.org](mailto:samch47@scs-net.org)

#### Introduction

■IHAS: Institute for the History of Arabic Science, established in Aleppo University 1976, is the only research and Teaching center in the Arab world that is interested in the Scientific Arabic Heritage.

#### Importance:

- The Institute is editing, classifying and publishing books related to the History of Arabic Science.
- holding annual conferences and International symposia,
- granting academic degrees for post graduate students.

■ IHAS is playing a very effective role while revealing the Arabs and Muslims participations in human civilization during one of its important stages.

■Aleppo University has a world scientific reputation in the field of Scientific Arabic

Heritage. It has a full support from the government for that purpose

■Despite, the good efforts of the orientalist in that field, some of them failed to put the Arab's and Muslim's achievements in their appropriate perspective within human civilization.

Aleppo University established IHAS to shed light on the civilizational role of Arabs and Muslims and to connect it with the World History of Science.

#### The Institute Building:

■The Institute building is characterized by a modern architectural type that has the features of original Arabic architecture and reflects Arabic history and heritage.

■The building is situated in the eastern corner of the university campus.

#### The Institute Address

Institute for the History of Arabic Science  
Aleppo University  
Aleppo - Syria  
Fax of Aleppo University: 963-21-2229184  
Telephone and Fax of Institute: 963-21-2238170  
Email add. [samch47@scs-net.org](mailto:samch47@scs-net.org)

#### Administration of IHAS:

- Prof. Dr. Aladine Lolah, Director.
- Prof. Dr. Ahmad Haloubi, Deputy Director for Administrative Affairs
- Prof. Dr. Sami Chalhoub, Deputy Director for Academic Affairs

The great 17th century professor of medicine in Leiden, Boerhaave, left only a meagre medical heritage, but the best known is "Boerhaave's syndrome" - a tear in the lower oesophagus caused by trying to swallow huge quantities of food (particularly meat) at one time. Understandably the condition then carried a 100% fatality - and even now '*fulminant mediastinitis*' almost always escapes the possibilities of surgery.

**CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN UNANI MEDICINE**  
**Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India**  
**Department of AYUSH**

**THE COUNCIL**

The Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Department of AYUSH. Established in 1978, the CCRUM started functioning from 10 January, 1979, and ever since it has been busy researching into various fundamental and applied aspects of Unani Medicine. Over the years, the CCRUM has emerged as the world-leader in the field.

**THE NETWORK**

20 research Centres of the Council are functioning in different parts of the Country.

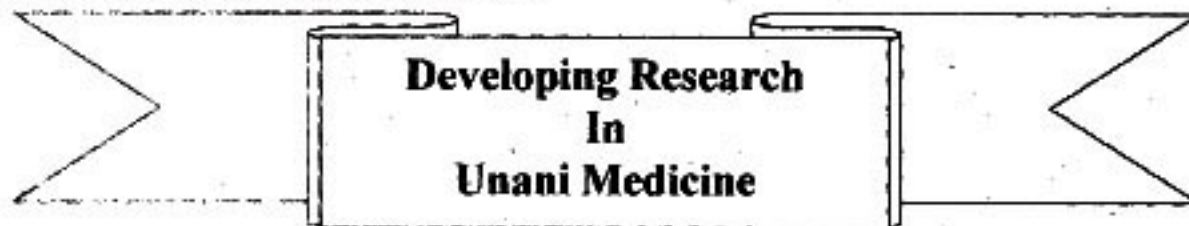
**THE AREAS OF ACTIVITY**

The Research Programme of the Council has four major components:

- √ Clinical Research
- √ Drug Standardization
- √ Literary Research
- √ Survey and Cultivation of Medicinal Plants

**THE MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS**

Some significant achievements of the Council are as follows:



**CLINICAL RESEARCH**

- Has developed 24 Unani Drugs which are purely natural, standardized and without any side-effects, for successful treatment of leucoderma, sinusitis, viral hepatitis, eczema, malaria, rheumatoid, arthritis and bronchial asthma.
- Has filed patents on seven of these drugs.

**DRUG STANDARDIZATION**

- Has evolved standards for 222 single and 385 compound Unani drugs.
- Has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) for taking up advanced research in the field of drug development.

**LITERARY RESEARCH**

- Has translated from Arabic and Persian into Urdu language 25 Unani Medical Classics mostly manuscripts. And has edited and published these works.

**SURVEY & CULTIVATION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS**

- Has collected 59462 specimens of 1730 medicinal plants from the wild.
- Undertaking successful cultivation of four important medicinal species.
- Has gathered and documented 6650 folk medicinal claims.

**PUBLICATIONS**

- Has produced over 1000 research papers and brought out 116 research publications, besides regular publications of a bimonthly CCRUM Newsletter, Quarterly Urdu Journal Jahan-e-Tib and Annual Report.

*For further information, please contact*

Director

**CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN UNANI MEDICINE**  
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NISA is an official quarterly newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences - a non-governmental, non-political and non-profit trust.

The news items, small notices or short communication on informative researched topics should be sent at least four weeks prior to publication, and whenever possible through e-mail or disk (Microsoft Word or Page Maker 6.5), accompanied by a hard copy.

Please send all Newsletter correspondence to:

**Editor, NISA**

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Copies are free to members of the Academy, also available for \$15.00 / Rs. 100 per annum to non-members and institutions.

**Editor, Owner, Printer & Publisher:**

Professor Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, Publication Division,  
IAMMS, Tijara House, Dodhpur, Aligarh - 202002 India. E-mail: rahmansz@yahoo.com

**Circulation Officer:** Dr. Tauheed Ahmad

**Public Relation Officer:** Mr. Raja Babu

**Printed at:** Litho Colour Printers, Aligarh, India.

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(Treasurer, IAMMS, Tijara House, Dodhpur, Aligarh-202002 (UP), India)

**Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences  
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