

NEWSLETTER OF IBN SINA ACADEMY NISA

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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.

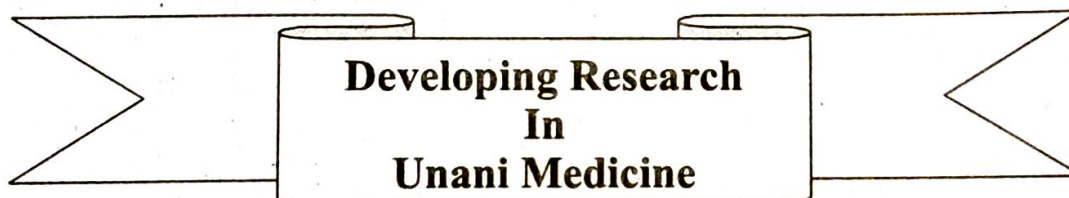
THE AREAS OF ACTIVITY

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

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IAMMS ACTIVITIES

NEW WEBSITE OF THE ACADEMY

The website of the Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences has been re-launched as the earlier web address was hacked and was lying defunct. The new web address is www.ibnsinaacademy.org. Dr. Mohd Akram, Senior Lecturer, Department of Hifzane Sehat, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi, has designed the new website.

THE ACADEMY IN THE NEWS

1. Editorial by Prof. Abul Kalam Qasmi, Tahzibul Akhlaq, Aligarh Muslim University, April 2008.
2. Editorial by Prof. Riazur Rahman Khan Sherwani, Conference Gazette, All India Muslim Educational Conference, Aligarh, June 2008.
3. Children's Corner (Sunday), by Mr. Moinuddin Alvi, Rashtriya Sahara (Daily Newspaper), New Delhi, 25th May 2008.

ACTIVITIES AT IBN SINA ACADEMY

Outline of the collaborative literary research work initiated at Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh, and progress report of the work carried out by the Research Officer, CCRUM, Department of AYUSH, M/o Health & FW, Govt. of India, posted in the Academy.

Introduction of the Manuscript:

The book *Kitab ila Aglooqan fi Shifa al Amraz* is one of the master piece literary work written by Galen (129-201 A.D.) and is a part of the Alexandrian compendium of Galen's work. Its Arabic translation was done by Hunayn bin Ishaq (d-260/873). This book comprises of two parts that include details regarding various types of

fevers (*Humyat*) and different inflammatory conditions of the body. More importantly, it includes details of more than 150 single and compound formulations of both herbal and animal origin. The book provides an insight into understanding the traditions and methods of treatment in Greek (Unani) and Roman era. In addition, this book provides a direct source for the study of more than 150 single and compound drugs used during Greeco-Roman period.

Outline of the work:

The above mentioned book is in a Manuscript form and the work to be carried out is of

1. Collation
2. Editing and
3. Urdu translation.
4. Indexing of drugs.

The Collation and Editing work is under progress, and to obtain a correct text, five different copies of this Manuscript, which are available in different libraries of India and abroad, have been procured. These are as follows:

1. Zillur Rahman Library, Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences, Aligarh.
2. Raza library, Rampur.
3. Copy edited by Dr. Mohammad Saleem Salim.
4. Tehran, Iran.
5. Fateh Library, Istambul, Turkey.

Copy edited by Dr. Mohammad Saleem Salim (1982) has been made standard for comparing other texts.

At least six months will be required to complete this Collation and Editing work. The Urdu translation shall be started once the Editing work is completed. This may take further six months.

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The indexing of the single and compound formulations found in the Manuscript shall be undertaken after completion of Urdu translation. This work will also include preparing a list of Botanical and/or Zoological names of these drugs.

Guest Lecture Series 29

A guest lecture by Prof. Syed Salman Nadvi (South Africa) was held on 3rd April 2008.

World Health Day 2008

On the occasion of World Health Day 2008, Ibn Sînâ Academy in collaboration with Indian Medical Association (Aligarh Branch) arranged following 2 lectures in the Library Hall of the Academy.

1. Second annual Professor M. Nasim Ansari Memorial Lecture by Dr. M. Habib Raza (Reader, Department of Surgery, JNMC, AMU, Aligarh). The topic of the lecture was: "Albucassis / Abu al Qasim al-Zahrawi (Father of Surgery): His Contributions in Medical Sciences with special reference to Surgery.

2. Lecture on World Health Day Theme by Dr. M. Ather Ansari (Reader, Department of Community Medicine, JNMC, AMU, Aligarh). The topic of the lecture was: "Protecting Health from Climate Change"

Dr. V. K. Jain (A noted Paediatrician) and Prof. M. Amanullah Khan (a noted Surgeon) presided over the function, while the program was conducted by Dr. Rajeev Varshney (Hony. Secretary, Indian Medical Association, Aligarh Branch) and Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman (Social Secretary, Indian Medical Association, Aligarh Branch). The meeting started with the welcome address by Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman (President, Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh) and Prof. L. M. Bariar (President, Indian Medical Association, Aligarh Branch).

Apart from the above two lectures by eminent speakers, an exhibition on poster making on World Health Day theme 2008 by students of different schools (courtesy MEDICS) and a show on stamps collection, released from different countries on the occasion of World Health Days, was also arranged. Some of these postal stamps depict beautifully the various WHD themes for the last 60 years. Another event was the screening of the film 'A Day in 2200' (based on Tobacco Control Theme) by Dr. Mohd. Tauheed Ahmad. The best posters were awarded soon after the judges announced their decision. WHO (SEARO) sent **WHD Kits** for the said programme.

Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman (President, Ibn Sînâ Academy) was also invited as chief guest during the programme especially held on the occasion of WHD 2008 at Green Crescent Public School. He spoke on various aspects of serious and damaging effects of climate change on human health because of melting glaciers, disturbed rainfall patterns, floods, landslides, debris flows and droughts leading to rise of sea level change in air quality and heat waves.

Safe Motherhood Day 2008

A programme was organised by Ibn Sina Academy on the occasion of "Safe Motherhood Day" on 11th May 2008. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Mohd. Tauheed Ahmad, (Resident Member, Department of Community Medicine) said; "As regards maternal safety, India is still more than a century behind the developed nations. Currently in India, about 500 mothers lose their lives for every 100,000 live births. This is no better than the state of UK or USA in the middle of the 19th century. Now these countries have a maternal mortality rate of less than 10. Malaysia, Thailand and Sri Lanka have brought down maternal mortality rates

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dramatically by implementing effective programmes and we need to learn some lesson from these countries”.

In his presidential remarks, Dr. S. Ziaur Rahman (Lecturer, Department of Pharmacology) said that at every 8 minutes, a mother loses her life in India. Almost all these deaths are preventable. There is a need for awareness at the mass level of accessible health services.

An exhibition of postal stamps related to safe motherhood and family planning was also inaugurated by Dr. Abida Latif (Medical Officer, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Malkhan Singh Hospital) and Dr. Abdul Latif (Chairman Department of Ilmul Advia). Dr. S. Ziaur Rahman stressed the importance of these stamps. This exhibition will continue till 18th April. Finally, Dr. Mushir Ahmad (Resident Member, Department of Biochemistry) proposed a vote of thanks.

Conservation of Manuscripts

Mr. Nayeem Kauser has successfully completed a project work on conservation of manuscript “Guncha-e-iram” 1882. He conserved it as well as digitalized the manuscripts. Mr. Shoeb Akhtar Usmani and Mr. Nayeem Kauser have also engaged in fumigation of books at the library of Ibn Sînâ Academy. They both fumigated about one dozen rare manuscripts using the Academy’s fumigation chamber. Both of them work voluntarily for the Academy from time to time.

An evening with Urdu Scholars

A delegation of Urdu scholars from Delhi visited Ibn Sînâ Academy on April 27, 2008. Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman, President Ibn Sînâ Academy, had a round of the Academy with the delegation. All the members appreciated the President’s efforts. The following scholars of the

delegation are to be noted particularly: Prof. Sadiqur Rahman Kidwai, Prof. Shamim Hanafi, Dr. Khaliq Anjum, Dr. Shahid Mahuli, Prof. Abdul Qadir Jani, Prof. Ali Ahmad Fatmi, Mr. Iqbal Farooqi and Mr. Idrees Ahmad.

MEDICS Meeting

A consultative meeting of the advisory board and executive body of the MEDICS (Medicos Establishment for Development of Integrated Care Society) was held at Ibn Sînâ Academy on 30th May 2008 under the chairmanship of Prof. Syed M. Zainuddin. The agenda of the meeting was to review the past activities and to chalk out the future strategies. Following are some of the distinguished members attended the meeting: Prof. Anees Ismail, Dr. M. Mobarak Hussain, Dr. Mohd Sami Ahmad, Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Mr. Mohd Aslam P., Dr. Mohd Saquib, Mr. Priyankar Sen, Dr. Ashish Kumar and Dr. Nasar Abdali.

Earlier, a meeting of chief volunteers of MEDICS was held on 10.5.2008 at the Library of Ibn Sînâ Academy in connection with the organization of International Candlelight Memorial March under the banner of Global Health Council (USA) on 17th May 2008.

(E-mail dated 23.7.2008; Duncan Rollason <drollason@globalhealth.org>, International Outreach Assistant, Global Health Council, Washington, U.S.A.)

“My name is Duncan Rollason, I am the International Outreach Assistant to the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial here at the Global Health Council. Thank you very much for your final report form for the 2008 International AIDS Candlelight Memorial and for your registration form for the 2009 International AIDS Candlelight Memorial. Your registration will be entered into our online system in September at

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which point we will send out your candlelight coordinator packet.

The article and picture, "AIDS Awareness through Candlelight March" in Amar Ujala give us a great sense of your ceremony. Please feel free to send any other stories or photos to me. Do you have specific plans made for the 2009 memorial? We'd love to hear about them. Please let me know if have any further questions or would like advice in planning an effective memorial for the 2009 Candlelight Memorial next May 17th. Kind Regards, Duncan"

Welcome Ceremony

A Welcome Ceremony was organized at Ibn Sînâ Academy on 30th May 2008 in honour of Dr. Waseemur Rahman. Dr. Rahman is a 31 years old Unani graduate from Jamia Hamdard (New Delhi) and is the first graduate of Darul Uloom Deoband (Deoband) who cleared Indian civil services examinations. Maulana Waseemur Rahman who belongs to an obscure village of Siddharthnagar District in Eastern Uttar Pradesh got 404th ranking on this year's Union Public Service Commission's (UPSC) list of successful candidate.

"It is an honour for all of us, particularly for Unani fraternity, that he cleared the UPSC exams", said the president of the Ibn Sînâ Academy, Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman. Dr. Abdul Latif, Chairman Department of Ilmul Advia, A. K. Tibbiya College, remarked, "Waseem after completing BUMS from Delhi joined the A. K. Tibbiya College, AMU for MD (Unani) degree. He is a workaholic and dreamt always of clearing UPSC".

Dr. Waseemur Rahman is the fourth of three sons of a Unani practitioner in Dumariaganj, and he has worked really hard to make his dream possible. Candidates usually take time off for preparation of the UPSC highly competitive

examination. But he did it while doing his MD and later working at a government project on Unani medicines in New Delhi.

Waseem completed his primary schooling from a Madrasah in his village. He was later sent to a nearby madrasah to complete his 'Ālimiyat course. After graduating from the Madrasah, he went to the world famous seminary Dârul 'Ulûm (Deoband), where he completed his Fâzil degree before returning to his village and working as a cleric. However, fate had something else in store for him. He appeared for Pre-Tibb, a preparatory examination for BUMS and qualified for admission. He never looked back since then. Waseem like many Madrasah graduates is not well versed in English. He appeared in UPSC choosing Urdu, History and Persian as his main subjects.

This year, 27 Muslim candidates cleared UPSC Exams, in which Waseem ranks 16th among them. But he is the first from among his peers at Dârul 'Ulûm to go for the UPSC Exams and will grace most probably the office of a senior superintended of police very shortly.

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES AT IAMMS

OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

(.....A day to acknowledge individual loss and family grief when loved ones have suffered overdose)

The Academy wishes to organize "Overdose Awareness Day" on 31st August 2008 to remember those who have died or are suffering permanent injury from drug overdose. In the forthcoming activity, speeches, poem/essay writing and rounds of discussion about overdose prevention and drug policy shall be organized. The programme is a part of the project of the Salvation Army Crisis Service, Australia.

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Participants shall wear "Silver Badges" that signify the profound loss of someone cherished.

Visit of Delegates & Other Personalities

- About one hundred delegates from all parts of the country visited Ibn Sina Academy on 15th April 2008. These delegates were participants of the Refresher Course (Life Science) and Reorientation Course of UGC-AMU Academic Staff College. On the same occasion, Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman, President, IAMMS, delivered a lecture on "Indo-Islamic Heritage and Artifacts".
- Visit of Lecturers from various Tibbiya Colleges on 9.5.2008

Following dignitaries also visited the Academy:

1. Prof. Syed Salman Nadvi, South Africa, 3.4.2008
2. Prof. Iqbal Rasheed Siddiqui, Karachi, Pakistan, 3.4.2008
3. Prof. Munibur Rahman, Michigan, USA, 3.4.2008
4. Dr. Humra Mahmood, New York, USA, 5.4.2008
5. Dr. Fatmi, Austin, Texas, USA, 13.4.2008
6. Ms. Tahira Hussain, Editor, Awam (Weekly) and Mr. Tariq A.G. Khan, New York, USA, 5.5.2008
7. Dr. Hassan Yousefi, Kerman, Iran, 7.5.2008
8. Dr. Mohammad Hadi Shoaie, Tehran, Iran, 7.5.2008
9. Mr. Aadil Aseer Dehlavi, Delhi, India, 7.5.2008
10. Prof. Basir Ahmad Khan, Pro Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU, New Delhi, 10.5.2008.
11. Maulana Fakhru'l Hasan Nadvi and Maulana Mohd Kamal Akhtar Nadvi, Nadwatul Ulema, Lucknow; Mohd Ghayas Siddiqui, Aligarh, 17.5.2008

12. Ebadiyani and Farishte Farroghi, Tehran, Iran.

South East Asia Regional Office of WHO has sent 65 documents / publications for the Library of Ibn Sina Academy on following 3 subjects: Traditional Medicine, Pharmacology and HIV/AIDS along with a copy of the **WHO SEARO Catalogue with CD-ROM**, which contains soft copies of all publications mentioned in the catalogue.

Members of the Library are thankful to Dr. Dini Latief (*Director, Family and Community Health, WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia, New Delhi*) and Ms Anchalee Chamchuklin (*Information Management and Dissemination, WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia, New Delhi*)

IAMMS MEMBERS ACTIVITIES

Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman, President, Ibn Sina Academy, has been invited as

1. Chief Guest at the Inauguration of Magnum Opus – A Literary and Cultural Festival, Sir Ziauddin Hall, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, 18th April 2008.
2. Chief Guest at the Valedictory Function, of the Club for Short Evening Courses, General Education Centre, Kennedy Auditorium, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, 18th May 2008
3. Chief Guest at the World Health Day Programme, Green Crescent Public School, Aligarh, 7th April 2008.
4. As Member of the Coordination Committee, 58th Annual Convocation of the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, 18th June 2008
5. As Member of the World Alumni Summit, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, 17-19 October 2008

He attended also the following meetings and conferences:

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1. Unani Pharmacopoea Committee, Govt. of India, CCRUM Headquarters, Janakpuri, New Delhi, 22nd April 2008.
2. TKDL Task Force Meeting for TKDL (Unani), HRD Centre, Ghaziabad, 11th April 2008.
3. Meeting for finalisation of SOPs for Regimental Therapies, CCRUM Headquarters, New Delhi, 14th May 2008.
4. Scientific and Academic Committee, National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore, 7th July 2008
5. 1st Meeting, Markaz-i Majlis-e- Amla, All India Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi, 12th April 2008.

Prof. S. M. Razaullah Ansari (Secretary, Ibn Sînâ Academy) has been invited to attend the following symposia/meetings:

1. *National Symposium on Sciences in India: From Early Times to Independence*, held at the National Centre for History of Science, University of Mysore, April 21-24, 2008. Prof. Ansari read his paper on "Astronomy and Mathematics in Medieval Indian and Persian Sources, with Special Reference to their Translation into Sanskrit"; see the abstract in this issue.
2. As one of the members of Indian National Commission for History of Science (INCHS), which in turn operated under the auspices of Indian National Science Academy (New Delhi), Prof. Ansari participated in the "History of Science Project Investigators' Meeting, held in I.I.T. (Mumbai) during 9-11 April, 2008. This meeting is important, since the result of the deliberation lead to the decision, which projects are to be funded by INCHS.
3. As member-secretary of the Indian Committee of International Union for History & Philosophy of Science

(IUHPS), Prof. Ansari conducted the meeting of the Committee in Mumbai, with Prof. R. Narasimha (Bangalore) in chair. The Committee deliberated especially about the forthcoming 23rd International Congress of History of Science, to be held in Budapest (Hungary), in July 2009.

A noteworthy development is the nomination of Prof. S. M. R. Ansari for the position of First Vice-President of IUHPS Council. The Indian National Science Academy (New Delhi), as the adhering organization to the IUHPS, has sent Prof. Ansari's nomination to the Chairman of the Nomination Committee of IUHPS. Ibn Sînâ Academy congratulates Prof. Ansari for his nomination and blesses him for his election to this privilege position. It may be mentioned that Prof. Ansari has been very active in history of science activities on international level. For instance, he has been participating in the History of Science International Congresses since 1977, and has been president of a couple of IUHPS historical commissions.

Prof. Anis Ahmad Ansari (Executive Member) & **Prof. Afzal Ahmad**, (Life Member), Ibn Sînâ Academy, has been appointed as a member of "Institutional Ethical Committee" for Clinical Studies at Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine, Aligarh and Ajmal Khan Tibbia College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, Constituted by Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi, with effect from 10th January 2008.

Dr. Abdul Latif, Joint Secretary, Ibn Sînâ Academy and Chairman Department of Ilmul Advia, AK Tibbiya College, AMU, Aligarh, participated in the National Campaign on Quality Assurance of AYUSH

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Drugs, 10-11 June 2008, Islamic International Centre, Delhi.

Dr. Latif published recently the following books:

1. **New Bainul Aqwami Akhlaqi Hidayat Braa'ey Tibbi Tahqiqat** (International Guidelines for Biomedical Ethics in Research), Publication Division, AMU, Aligarh, price Rs. 125/-
2. **Scope and Market Value of BUMS and BAMS: A real picture**, Publication Division, AMU, Aligarh, price Rs. 150/-

Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Treasurer, Ibn Sina Academy and lecturer, Department of Pharmacology, JNMC, AMU, Aligarh, was invited as a member of international delegation to attend the 61st World Health Assembly of WHO by Global Health Council (USA), held during 19-24 May 2008. The World Health Assembly is the most authentic summit in the field of health sector and is held annually at WHO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland. He also visited Manipal Academy of Medical Science at Pokhara, Nepal during 18th to 23rd June 2008.

In addition, he attended the following conferences:

1. **First World Health Professions Conference on Regulation**, International Conferences Centre, Geneva, Switzerland, 17-18 May 2008
2. **Geneva Forum: Towards Access to Health 2008**, University Hospital, University of Geneva, Switzerland, 25-29 May 2008. In the conference, he also presented his innovative paper on Ecopharmacovigilance.

Dr. Md. Tauheed Ahmad, Circulation Officer, Ibn Sina Academy, has been granted the membership of the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education & Research (GFMER) from May 2008.

Promotion of Indo-Iranian relations in the field of Unani Medicines

The cultural counselor at the Indian Embassy of Islamic Republic of Iran, asked the president of Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences, to submit a proposal to enhance the relation of India and Iran through the field of Unani Medicine. Following is the letter which was sent to the Cultural Counselor:

To: The Cultural Counselor, Indian Embassy, Tehran, Iran

Dear Mr. Vinay Kumar, I am writing these lines in connection with the promotion of Indo-Iranian relations in the field of Unani Medicines.

It is well known that intellectual, social, lingual and scientific exchanges have played a very important role in Indo-Iranian historical and cultural relations, since several centuries. To name just a few disciplines, there are subjects of Art (paintings), Music, Calligraphy and Architecture besides the Persian language and literature, the major influence has been exercised by the Unani Medicine, which is known here in Iran as *Tibb-i-Sunnati*. The scholarly intelligentsia of both Countries is conscious of this fact even today.

The Best Traditional or Unani (Graeco-Iranian) Medicine as developed in Iran was transmitted to India during Medieval period. For instance, the writings of Ibn Sina, Razi, Bahauddaula, Abu Sahl, Ali bin Abbas were not only published in India, but their Urdu translations were also carried out. These writings were employed and are still being used in Unani Colleges in India. Consequently such a tradition/interaction has made India the world centre and leader of Unani Medicine or *Tibb-Sunnati*.

We know that there exist today 45 colleges of Unani Medicine in India, in which undergraduate and Post-graduate instructions are imparted. Besides hundreds of hospitals of Unani Medicine, which are functioning in India presently, thousands of private Physicians are practicing the system of Unani Medicine in their Practice.

On other hand, Iranian efforts to promote Tibb-i Unani or *Sunnati* are in full swing. In Tehran four universities have already started concentrating on this field. There exist attempts to promote this field also in Mashhed, Shiraz, and Sari (Mazandaran).

It may be stressed that Indian expertise in this field can assist Iran now quite substantially. Evidently the history of Unani Medicine of both countries will be enriched by learning from each other.

I think, it is high time and also the need of the hour today that Indo-Iranian relations particularly in this field are promoted appreciably. To the end, I may suggest that our two governments strengthen and stress the existing relations in Unani Medicine by exchanging delegations of Unani physicians and historians as early as possible.

May I therefore solicit your utmost attention on this special aspect of Indo-Iranian relations!

With deep regards, Sincerely, Syed Zillur Rahman, President, Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences, Aligarh, India.

OTHER NEWS

Library of Congress and KAUST Digital Partnership

The Library of Congress and the King Abdullah University of Science and

Technology (KAUST) have announced a partnership in the history of science in the Arab and Islamic worlds. The Library and KAUST will jointly convene an international advisory committee of leading scholars and curators to map out a strategy for identifying, selecting, digitizing, cataloging, annotating, and promoting scholarly research about manuscripts and other rare and unique materials relating to science in the Arab and Islamic worlds, and for including these materials in the World Digital Library (WDL) and other digital library projects.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

Hamdard International Integrative Medicine Conference 2008

In Association with Hamdard Foundation Pakistan and Faculty of Eastern Medicine, Hamdard University, Karachi, Pakistan, the Pakistan Association for Eastern Medicine (PAEM) is going to organize Hamdard International Integrative Medicine Conference – "Expanding the Horizon of Integrative Medicine" from November 24 – 26, 2008 at Bait al-Hikmah Auditorium, Madinat al-Hikmah, Hamdard University, Karachi, Pakistan.

The specific areas which can be selected for deliberations for the advancement and exchange of ideas in health sciences are:

1. Evidence Based Unani/Eastern Medicine
2. Drug Development, Manufacturing and Quality Assurance
3. Advancement in Integrative and Conventional Medicine

In addition, *Hakim Mohammed Said Memorial Lecture* and *Hakim Abdul Hameed Memorial Lecture* shall be delivered by eminent Unani physicians, while the Welcome Address, Inaugural Address, Keynote address and Presidential

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Address shall be presented by Prof. (Hkm) Abdul Hannan (President, PAEM & Dean Faculty of Eastern Medicine, Hamdard University, Pakistan), Prof. (Dr.) Nasim A. Khan (Vice-Chancellor, Hamdard University, Pakistan); Prof. (Hkm) Syed Zillur Rahman (President, Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences, Aligarh, India), Mrs. Sadia Rashid (President, Hamdard Foundation, Pakistan), respectively. **Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman Oration** will be delivered by Prof. (Dr.) Usman Ghani Khan (Principal, Hamdard Al-Majeed College of Eastern Medicine, Hamdard University).

For any other details or information please write to Dr. Aftab Saeed, Secretary, Organizing Committee, Faculty of Eastern Medicine, Hamdard University, Karachi – 74600, Pakistan.
E-mail: hucon2008@yahoo.com

1st International Euro-India Conference on Holistic Medicine

Institute for Holistic Medical Sciences (IHMS) is going to organize the first International Euro-India Conference on Holistic Medicine (ICHM-2008) from August 21 to 23, 2008 at Kottayam, Kerala, India. The main aim of the conference is to bring together researchers, doctors, psychiatrists, traditional practitioners, social scientists, chemists, health activists, and experts to share their knowledge on the recent developments in the field of Health related issues and Holistic Medicine. The conference will be one of the biggest international meetings dedicated to Holistic approach to Medical Sciences.

For more information, please visit www.ayurvedaklinik.com/ichm or contact: Dr. Anne George, Institute of Holistic Medical Sciences, Chathukulam Buildings, Parumbaikadu P.O Kottayam, Kerala 686028, India.

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International Congress of Traditional and Complementary Medicine

International Congress of Traditional and Complementary Medicine is being hosted by the Traditional and Complementary Medicine Research Centre affiliated to the Mazandaran University of Medical Science, Sari, Iran. Apart from various scientific sessions, a workshop on recognition of herbal drugs, preparation of traditional drugs, methods of diagnosis in traditional medicine, relation between traditional and modern medicine and methods of therapy in traditional medicine especially massage therapy, unctio, cupping, phlebotomy, leech therapy, etc. is also arranged. For more information, please visit the following web address: <http://www.ictcm.ir>
E-mail: info@ictcm.ir

6th Congress of International Association for the History of Nephrology

The Sixth Congress of the International Association for the History of Nephrology will be held from October 2-4, 2008 in Taormina (Sicily, Italy) at the San Domenico Hotel.

For further information related to registration, accommodations and other logistics, e-mail may be sent to Prof. Guido Bellinghieri: <gbellighieri@hotmail.com>

or visit the website of the Association:
<http://www.iahn.info/>

XX Symposium of Brazilian Medicinal Plants & X International Congress of Ethnopharmacology

The 20th Symposium of Brazilian Medicinal Plants & 10th International Congress of Ethnopharmacology is a joint venture directed to students, researchers and other health professionals interested in the main advances in the knowledge of medicinal plants. The joint event will include renowned lecturers from Brazil and abroad, discussing the various themes relevant to medicinal plant research, such as agronomy, botany, chemistry, pharmacology, ethnopharmacology, and all its correlated disciplines.

The event will include plenary lectures, mini-conferences, round tables, coordinated sessions, posters and mini-courses. Additionally, special sessions are being organized to comprehensively discuss six selected genera: *Baccharis*, *Cordia*, *Erythrina*, *Maytenus*, *Mikania* and *Phyllanthus*. In these sessions, specialists will broach since botanical and ethnopharmacological until toxicological and clinical studies of the genera species.

For more information, please contact the following web address:

<http://www.plantasmedicinais.unifesp.br/en/>
E-mail: plantasmedicinais@eventus.com.br

Seventh International Congress on Traditional Asian Medicine

The International Association for the study of Traditional Asian Medicine (IASTAM) will hold its seventh International congress. The theme is "Asian Medicine: Cultivating Traditions and the Challenges of Globalisation". IASTAM invites papers on the cultivation of the body of plants and traditional knowledge and practice, on the

challenges faced by the globalization of traditional Asian Medicine, tensions between local and global production, interpretation, professionalization and evaluation, as well as issues of trade, economy and ecology. IASTAM encourages papers from scholars from all sciences and humanities discipline as well as from practitioners of traditional Asian medicine (Unani, Acupuncture, Sowa Rigpa, Siddha, Ayurveda). Proposals on any theme or topic are welcome, but papers that address the themes of cultivation and globalization will be given preference. The last date of submission of abstract is 1st August 2008. For more information, contact: IASTAM - International Association for the study of Traditional Asian Medicine, Emma Griffin, Wellcome Trust for Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL, 210 Euston Road, London NW1 3BE, United Kingdom.
E-mail: iastam.org@hotmail.com

Commission on History of Science & Technology in Islamic Societies

The Commission on History of Science & Technology in Islamic Societies would like to sponsor a symposium in the 23rd International Congress of History of Science and Technology, to be held in Budapest, Hungary from 26 - 31 July, 2009
Web: www.conferences.hu/ichs09/index.htm

The theme of the symposium which is proposed will be "Islamic Science in Context: Texts, Instruments, Locales, and Institutions"

Depending on the response, it is proposed to have either 2 or 3 sessions with 4 papers in each session. If anybody is interested in participating in the above symposium, please send a paper title and short abstract (ca. 50 words) for evaluation before the deadline of the Budapest Congress June 30, 2008.

Best regards, Jamil Ragep (President), Mercè Comes (Vice President), Sally Ragep (Secretary), Benno van Dalen (Counselor) and Yunlis Shi (Counselor).

Symposium of the IUHPS Commission for History of Ancient & Medieval Astronomy (CHAMA)

The Commission (President, Prof. S. M. R. Ansari) has announced that it intends to organize a Symposium at the 23rd International Congress for History of Science (Budapest, July 2009). The theme of the Symposium is "Ancient and Medieval Astronomy with Special Emphasis on its Socio-Cultural Context". The Symposium will consist of two sessions: Session I: *Ptolemy and His Writings: Status of Present Research*, Session II: *Socio-Contextual and Miscellaneous Studies*. According to the tentative programme, sixteen speakers have already accepted the invitation. For instance Julio Samsó (Spain), A. Jones and Jamil Ragep (Canada), Anne Tihon (Belgium), R. Mercier (UK), Sonja Brentjes (Seville), Y. Maeyama (Germany), X. Sun (China) and M. Yano (Japan) *et al.* In short, the speakers span wide geographical areas, namely, Europe, Canada, China, India, Iran and Japan. They are all personally known to Prof. Ansari and are renowned authorities in their field of Ancient and Medieval Astronomy.

FELLOWSHIP

International Society for the History of Pharmacy

The International Society for the History of Pharmacy was founded 1926. The society is established to form an international centre for handling all matters of a pharmaceutical historical nature without commercial interests. It endeavours to reach its goals by promoting research in

writing and teaching history of pharmacy as well as disseminating knowledge and obtaining recognition for the discipline. Today it is the head organization of 23 national societies.

ISHP offers a research fellowship every second year.

According to its statutes, the "International Society for the History of Pharmacy" (ISHP) promotes research, teaching and publication in pharmaceutical history.

Based on this, ISHP offers a grant to support research projects in pharmaceutical history with a truly international focus.

The fellowship will again be offered in 2009 and amount up to a maximum of Euro 2,500. Proposals have to be sent in English language to the ISHP General Secretary up to September 1, 2008. They must include:

- a detailed description of the research project which is usually but not necessarily done at an academic institution
- a detailed discussion of the project's relevance in terms of internationality
- a curriculum vitae of the applicant
- a confirmation that the applicant is a member of ISHP issued by his national organisation
- a list of former research projects and publications of the applicant
- a letter of recommendation from a senior academic teacher
- a detailed list of expensed expected (i.e. costs for travelling, obtaining literature etc.)

The proposals are judged by a fellowship committee comprised of the ISHP President, the ISHP General Secretary and three distinguished scientist in the field of pharmaceutical history, nominated by the Select Executive Committee. The

fellowship committee must be comprised of representatives from at least four different nations. The committee is encouraged to call for expert reviews from outside including those of other scientific disciplines if appropriate. The decision will be made until January 1, 2009.

Prof. Dr. Christa Kletter, Austria, Prof. Dr. Javier Puerto, Spain and Prof. Dr. Thierry Lefebvre, France, are nominated as Committee members.

A successful candidate is obliged to describe his project during the ISHP General assembly or another opportunity during the International Congress for the History of pharmacy held in the year 2009 (Vienna, Austria).

After the project has been completed, ISHP needs to be informed in detail about the results, e.g. by sending a comprehensive report, reprints of publications etc. Until a project is completed, interim reports have to be sent to ISHP every December.

DOCUMENTATION

Astronomy and Mathematics in Medieval Indian Arabic and Persian Sources, With Special Reference to Their Translation into Sanskrit

S. M. Razaullah Ansari

It is well known that during the medieval period of Indian history, the Sultanate (12th -16th c.) and Mughal (16th -19th c.), there had been a constant stream of scholars, crafts men and artists particularly from Central Asia, who were responsible for the transmission of knowledge of all sciences into India. As a matter of fact, we may recall that Emperor Babur (prior to his conquest of India) had forged an alliance with the Shah Ismâ'îl I of Persia and Emperor Humâ'yûn had bonded a friendship with

Shah Tahmâsp (d.1576) s/o Shah Ismâ'îl. Consequently, even during the following reigns of Emperor Akbar (d.1605), Jahangir (d.1627) and Shahjahan (ruled 1627-1658), the cordial relationship with Iranian Safavides rulers, namely Shah 'Abbâs I (d.1629) and Shah 'Abbâs II (d. 1666) strengthened further. There exists in the literature an interesting reference that Shah 'Abbâs I sent as gift to Jahangir, on his request, the *original* astrolabe of Ulugh Beg ' the grandson of Tîmûr and founder of the astronomical observatory at Samarqand in 15th c. The Shah of Iran kept for himself only its copy! Another noteworthy gift by the Shah was a large ruby inscribed with the name of Ulugh Beg, and which was presented to the then prince Shahjahan by the Iranian ambassador in about 1620-21. Evidently in such a politico-cultural milieu, several scholar-scientists flocked to the courts of medieval Indian Sultans and Emperors who patronised them liberally and immensely. In this perspective, we delineate briefly the sources of exact science in Arabic and Persian, i.e., of astronomy and mathematics, which were transmitted to India during the medieval period and which were further developed on the subcontinent.

In the manuscript libraries of Aligarh, Calcutta, Hyderabad, Lucknow and Rampur, to name just a few, there are extant mathematical-astronomical treatises by the famous al-Bîrûnî (d. 1073); al-Tûsî, (d.1274) who was the director of an observatory at Marâgha (Azerbaijan/Iran); al-Kâshî (d. 1430), the director of the Ulugh Beg Observatory at Samarqand; Sultan Ulugh Beg (d. 1449), the founder of the Observatory, and Bahâuddîn al-Âmilî (d. 1622). We enumerate in this paper the most significant works of the afore-mentioned scientists.

We then go over to the Medieval Indian scholars who wrote commentaries on and /or glosses to the famous treatises. Here we confine ourselves to the descendents of Ustâd Ahmâd Maâmâr (1649), the architect of Taj Mahal, namely Lutfullâh (d.1682), Atâullâh (d. 1657), Khairullâh (d.1748) who was the director of Delhi observatory ('Jantar Mantar') and which was got constructed by Raja Sawai Jai Singh II (d.1743).

To note is also the transmission of mathematical and astronomical knowledge from Sanskrit into Persian and from Arabic and Persian to Sanskrit. We present details of the Persian translation of Bhaskarâchârya's Arithmetic (*Lîlât*) by Faizi by the order of Emperor Akbar and also his algebraic tract (*Bâjganî*) by Atâullâh during Shahjahan's reign. For the reverse transmission into Sanskrit, we may list the following:

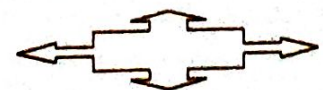
1. A Jaina scholar, Mahendra Sûrî, composed the *first ever* treatise on astrolabe in Sanskrit: *Yantrarâja* ("the King of Instruments"), written about in 1370 AD. Sûrî was the court astronomer of Sultan Fîroz Shâh Tughlaq (reigned 1351-1388) who was himself an expert astrolabe-maker. On this Sanskrit text, his disciple, Malayendu Sûrî, wrote a commentary during 1377-1382. The importance of this text could be gauged by the fact that there are extant 100 manuscript-copies in India to-date.
2. The astronomical-mathematical tables compiled at the Samarqand observatory, known as *Zîj-i Ulugh Bég*, were translated into Sanskrit by a team of Hindu and Muslim scholars by the order of Emperor Akbar.
3. Pandit Nityânanda (ca.1639); the court astronomer-astrologer of Emperor Shahjahan, translated into Sanskrit the *Zîj-i Shâhjahânî*, compiled by

Farîduddîn Munajjim (d.1629); the title is *Siddhânta-Sindhu*.

4. Nityânanda wrote also another tract, *Siddhântarâjai*, which comprises the Islamic planetary model and cosmology.
5. Sanskrit translations of Nasîruddîn al-Tûsî tract: "Twenty Chapters on Astrolabe", and of an important theoretical chapter from his "Memoir on Astronomy" were carried out by Nayansukho-pâdhyâya. Moreover, *Samrâtsiddhânta* and *Rekhaganîta* by Jaganatha (18th c.) are also translations of Ptolemy's *Almagest* and of Euclid's *Elements* from the Arabic recension / adaptation of the corresponding Greek texts by al-Tûsî. These Sanskrit texts were prepared by members of Sawai Jai Singh's school of translation founded by him in 18th century.
6. Sanskrit texts like *Ukârâkhya-grantha* and *Hayata-grantha* are also actually translations from Arabic and Persian respectively. The word *Hayata* is a Sanskrit adaptation of the Persian word *Hay'at* which is derived from the Arabic *Hay'a*, meaning theoretical astronomy.

We present in this paper the details of these texts and dwell upon their significance. We appeal that the class of such Sanskrit texts should be studied by a team of Sanskrit and Persian-Arabic knowing scholars, so that the capability of the Indian mind for the acquisition of knowledge from medieval Indian scientific edifice could be highlighted.

[Abstract of the talk delivered at the National Symposium on Sciences in India: From Early Times to Independence, University of Mysore, Mysore, April 21-24, 2008. The full text of the talk will be published in the Proceedings of the Symposium shortly.]



أبو علي ابن سينا

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