



# Newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy (NISA)

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**EVENTS AT IBN SINA ACADEMY  
(July–September 2012)**

**Seminar and Workshop on Unani Medicine in Mashhad, Iran**

Ibn Sina Academy has taken a task to train practitioners of traditional medicine of Iran with intricacies of Unani medicine. In this link, the Academy organised a seminar and workshop on Unani medicine during August 25-27, 2012 at Mashhad (Iran) in collaboration with Hayat Tayabba Mahdawi Institute.

Around 500 Iranian herbal/Unani practitioners and students participated in the seminar and workshop. An exclusive exhibition of rare Unani books and journals published by both Iranian Institutes and Ibn Sina Academy were displayed on the sidelines of the seminar and workshop on Unani medicine in Mashhad. DVD's of all lectures are being prepared for the delegates.

The seminar was started on 25<sup>th</sup> August with introductory remarks by Mr. Mustafa Valinejad, the Chairman, Hayat Tayabba Mahdawi Cultural Institute, Mashhad, Iran, followed by the keynote address by Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, President, Ibn Sina Academy, on "The role of the Iranian Physicians in propagation of the Unani medicine (Tibb-e- Sunnati) all over the World" and performed as chief resource person for the workshop as well. During the workshop, he also delivered a formal lecture on 'The science of feeling peoples' pulse in Unani medicine'.

**Annual One-day Petroleum Geology Course**

The Academy wishes to congratulate Mr. Fishanur Rahman, an alumnus of Aligarh Muslim University and currently working as a scientist in Paris (France) for organising successfully a one day Petroleum Geology course for M.Sc. Final year (Geology) students of Aligarh Muslim

University. Like last year, he organised this workshop on 5th Aug 2012 at Ibn Sina Academy for the selected 25 students. The feedback from the students was positive with some suggestions to increase the duration of the course to 2 or 3 days instead of 1 day. The academy is thankful to Dr. Akram Javed, Associate Professor, Department of Geology for his presence, continuous guidance and giving valuable time.

**National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (Hyderabad) and Ibn Sina Academy (Aligarh)**

Dr. A. Narayana, Director, National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH), Hyderabad, sought out the collaboration with Ibn Sina Academy on acquisition, preservation and digitization of manuscripts/rare on books Unani Medicine and allied subjects. In reply to his letter, Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman on behalf of the Academy, replied, "National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH) under the aegis of CCRAS has been doing very impressive work in the literary research of all systems of medicine since its inception. Good to know that in addition, NIIMH has also started conducting PhD program in History of Medicine, which is again very appreciable. Ibn Sina Academy (Aligarh) is always interested in similar works and has been doing various works in the same direction for the last 12 years in spite of limited funds and support. I am happy that CCRAS under its Revival Programme has taken up the translation and publication of ancient works on Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha scattered across the Indian subcontinent in the form of manuscripts and rare books and also attempting to establish a centralised repository of digitised medical manuscripts at NIIMH, Hyderabad. In this direction, Ibn Sina

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Academy is whole heartedly with NIIMH. Unfortunately, we do not have any digitized copy of our own collection! So, in return we would expect if NIIMH could provide a copy of the same after completion of digitization. With best regards, Syed Zillur Rahman”.

**Books Collection Received to the Library of Ibn Sina Academy**

Following books and rare collection have been added to the Library of Ibn Sina Academy due to the courtesy of the following persons:

1. Prof. Masoodul Hasan of English has donated 23 rare publications to the Library of Ibn Sina Academy, which includes 400 years old printed books during the era of Shahjahan. They are publications of 1621 AD, 1640 AD.
2. Prof. Samiuddin of Commerce donated a collection of 95 books of his wife Late Prof. Abida Samiuddin.
3. Habib Ahmad from Bhopal gifted 600 books on Urdu literature, which has been posted by express mail by Salah Siddiqui.

**Delegation of UGC Academic Staff College, Aligarh Muslim University**

Delegates attending the following four Subject Refresher Courses and Orientation Programmes visited Ibn Sina Academy

1. Subject Refresher Course (Business Studies), dated July 21, 2012
2. Subject Refresher Course (Hindi), dated July 17, 2012
3. Summer School, dated July 23, 2012.
4. Orientation Programme (ASOP-121), dated July 26, 2012.

On these occasions, Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman addressed the participants and gave an account of the History of Unani Medicine and stressed the values of culture and heritage. He showed them also the Museums of Ibn Sina Academy.

**A Literary Event in Honour of Prof. Abdul Rahim Kidwai**

A literary event to read a note “*Kaj kulahf ka Bankpan*” in honour of Prof. Abdul Rahim Kidwai (Director, UGC Academic Staff College, Aligarh Muslim University), by eminent Urdu critic Prof. Ghazanfar Ali (Director, Urdu Academy, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi) was organised by Ibn Sina Academy on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2012 in presence of all delegates attending the UGC Refresher Course. In the program, apart from Prof. Ghazanfar Ali, Prof. Iftikhar Alam Khan, Prof. Fasih Ahmad Siddiqi, Prof. Masoodul Hasan and Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman also addressed. The program was presided over by Prof. Masoodul Hasan and compered by Prof. Saghir Afrahim.

**Pre Selection Interviews for IDB Scholarship**

Pre Selection Interviews to select the new students from the entire states of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand (North Zone II) of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Scholarship Programme were held during September 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> at Ibn Sina Academy. Out of 121 applicants, 90 appeared and the most deserving cases were recommended by the panelists. 64 students were from Engineering and Management background while 26 were from Medicine. The Panelists were Prof. Ekram Khan, Department of Electronics Engineering, Dr. Omar Farooq from the same department, Dr. Akram Javed from the Department of Geology, Mr. Obaid Asim Iqbal from UP Rabita Committee and Dr. Suhail Sabir for Engineering and Management students. Dr. Sarwar Hashmi from Dental College, Dr. Kashif Razi and Dr. Syed Ahmad Zia from Medical College, Dr. Masood Ahmad from Rabita Committee and Dr. Shahid Malik, Senior Hony Students' Counsellor were on the other panel.

IDB Scholarship Program was initiated 30 years back and continues successfully to

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provide interest free loan scholarships to the bright and needy students of Muslim Community. India is a Non Member country because of a very large Muslim population, Kenya and Sri Lanka are two other non member countries. IDB, Jeddah awards scholarships worth \$90 million to the students in IOC countries. There are around 3000 IDB graduates till today who received scholarships and most of them have refunded the entire amount as it was a contract which they signed. There are around 445 IDB graduates from North Zone II who have not yet refunded while they are morally and legally bound to do so. Through the refunded amount a new set of scholarships are generated for the needy called MET Scholarships. As the process is on, I am sure many more IDB graduates shall start refunding in the months to come. They can contact me if they wish to know the amount due on them. Every student nowadays receives around 60000 INR every year these days while when the program was initiated the total amount was 36000 INR approximately. It gives huge relief to those who are lucky enough to receive this prestigious scholarship given by IDB, Jeddah.

Report by Dr. Suhail Sabir Ph.D  
Hony Students' Counsellor, North Zone II  
(UP&UK), IDB Scholarship Program in  
India

#### MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

**Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman** has been nominated as a member, Unani Pharmacopoeia Committee, CCRUM, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, for the session 2012-2013. He has also been nominated a member of a panel of experts on the subject "Unani Medicine", constituted by National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language.

Prof. Rahman has been invited of Mr. Shakil Akhtar as guest to inaugurate (Mahurat) of a clap shot for the pilot shoot of a Hindi TV serial 'Pine Cottage' (based on freedom struggle) for a satellite channel under the banner of ACE MUSIC at Habib Garden, Marris Road, on July 3, 2012. He has also been invited as special guest on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2012 at a get together celebration for the newly inaugurated "Dream Merchant Films", an associated of "Ace Music". During the function, it was announced to produce a feature film on the life and contribution of Asrarul Haq Majaz, a prominent alumnus of Aligarh Muslim University.

He was chief guest during the Shairi-Nashisth organized by the Department of Urdu on the occasion of Independence Day 2012 celebrated at Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2012.

Prof. Rahman also attended the following conferences and seminars:

1. Seminar and Workshop on Unani Medicine in Mashhad, Iran (see page 3). He delivered a keynote lecture on "The role of the Iranian physicians in propagation of the Unani and herbal medicine (Tibb-e-Unani wa Sunnati) all over the World" and also performed as chief resource person for the workshop as well. During the workshop, he delivered another formal lecture on "The science of feeling peoples' pulse in Unani and herbal medicine".
2. Addressed as 'Guest of Honour', Inaugural Function, National Conference on Hakeem Abdul Hameed: Hayat wa Khidmat on September 28, 2012 at Kennedy Auditorium, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh
3. Delivered an invited lecture on the topic "Tashreehul Badan - A glorious past" during the national workshop on "PG Education in Tashreehul Badan – A need of the Hour" on September 25,

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- 2012, A. K. Tibbiya College, AMU, Aligarh.
4. Delivered an invited lecture on the topic "how to train and where to train the scholars of Jarahat" during the 3rd national conference on "Modes and Methods of Training of Unani Scholars for Unani Surgical Procedures" on September 30, 2012, A. K. Tibbiya College, AMU, Aligarh.
  5. A meeting of the sub-committee to amend in first schedule of Drug and Cosmetic Act on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2012 at CCRUM Headquarters, New Delhi.
  6. A meeting of Muslim Majlis Mushawwarat Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2012
  7. First meeting of the newly constituted panel on the subject 'Unani Medicine' of the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India for promotion of Urdu Language. The objectives of the Council to promote develop and propagate Urdu language in the country, to take action for making available in Urdu language the knowledge of scientific and technological development as well as knowledge of ideas evolved in the modern context and to advise the Government of India on issue 5<sup>th</sup> July 2012 at Farogh-e-Urdu Bhawan, Jasola, New Delhi.
  8. *Hasrat Mohani ki Adabi wa Qaumi Khidmat*, Ghalib Institute, Delhi. Prof. Rahman presented a paper entitled "*Hasrat Mohani ki Siyasi Zindagi*" and chaired the third scientific session. Hasrat Mohani was revolutionary and romantic poet. He initiated political movement since the days of student life at Aligarh Muslim University.

**Iran Visit by Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman**

Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman has made a short excursion to Iran for both academic and sightseeing reasons during August 21 to 31, 2012.

The primary aim of the current visit was to arrange a seminar and workshop on Unani medicine at Hayat Tayabba Mahdawi Cultural Institute, Mashhad (see page 3).

From 21-24 August, Prof. Rahman remained in Tehran. He visited '*Farhangestan Zaban wa Adab Farsi*' where he met its director, Dr. Muhammad Raza Nasiri. Dr. Nasiri requested to contribute biography chapters for the Encyclopaedia of '*Farhangestan Zaban wa Adab Farsi*'. Prof. Rahman also attended a marriage ceremony of Syed Sadiq Hashemi, son of Mr. Syed Abdul Qadir Hashemi on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2012.

During 25-27 August, 2012, Prof. Rahman remained busy in the seminar and workshop on Unani medicine at Hayat Tayabba Mahdawi Cultural Institute, Mashhad. He treated many sick persons who lost their hopes in modern medicine and advised Unani prescriptions.

Mashhad's City Council arranged a formal reception cum greeting party in honour of Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2012.

Roznama-e Khorasan Razavi, a daily newspaper from Mashhad, Iran, published an extensive interview of Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman on 28th August 2012.

Prof. Rahman is thankful to Dr. Mohammad Karimi Zanjani Asl (Editor, Qutbshahi's Heritage, France) for bringing in contact with Mr. Syed Sadiq Hussaini Ashkevari from Majma Zakhair of Qom, Maulana. Syed Sadiq Hussaini Ashkevari very kindly attended Prof. Rahman on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2012 and offered to grant permission to reprint few of his books on Unani medicine. Prof. Rahman has given permission to print and translate his seven books on Galen into Persian. Prof. Rahman has also been provided along

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with some other books, a copy of the catalogue of the manuscripts of medicine present in the library of Astan Quds Razavi under the aegis of Islamic Research Foundation.

In Tehran, Mashhad and Qom, lots of people invited almost on every evening for dinner by some of the old friends and relatives.

In this Iran trip, lots of scholars presented their books and publications. To name a few, Dr. Mehdi Mohaghegh presented a book 'Kamil-al Sanah Tibbiya' (3<sup>rd</sup> volume) while Dr Muhammad Hasan Hairi presented three books on Ghalib. Dr. Nasiri and Ashkevari also presented the books of their Institutes.

In the end, Prof. Rahman likes to thank to the very valuable support of Mr. Syed Abdul Qadir Hashemi of Tehran who helped plan the trip and arranged local bookings. According to him, "everything went incredibly smooth and according to the plan. I was able to complete the entire itinerary covering a large number of places". "As usual like my last visits, I was impressed by the rich historical and cultural heritage of Iran and by the friendliness of its people".

**Prof. S. M. Razaullah Ansari** (Secretary, Ibn Sina Academy) has been invited to attend the "Joint Meeting of Research Council and National Commission for History of Science", to be held in Bio-technical Park, Lucknow, during 14–16 October 2012. He also attended there a "Seminar on Evolution of Indian Medicine", to be held during the event.

Prof. Ansari has been also invited to attend the "International Seminar on Sources of Indian History and Culture", to be held on November 2-4, 2012 at Raza Library (Rampur). He will be reading a paper on "*The mathematical-Astronomical Works by Lutfullah and Khairullah; the son and grandson of Ahmad Ma'mâr*".

As an Old Boy and former teacher of Zakir Hussain Delhi College (New Delhi), Prof. S.M.R. Ansari has been especially invited to attend "The International Seminar on Exploring Delhi's Social and Cultural Traditions through Persian Literature (Mughal Period)", to be held during November 7-9 2012. Prof. Ansari will be presenting his paper/lecture on the only scientific topic, viz., "*Delhi Astronomical Observatory, and the Persian Works of its Director Mirza Khairullah Khan*". The seminar is organised by the Anjuman-i Fârsî, Z.H. Delhi College (Delhi University), Delhi.

**Dr. S. Badrul Hasan** (Life member of IAMMS): The Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University has appointed Dr. Syed Badrul Hasan, Medical Superintendent (Retired), J. N. Medical College Hospital as Chairman of Bio-ethical Committee to screen the collaborative work for animal as well as human model for research purposes as per guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Health, Government of India. Dr. Hasan's appointment has been made on the recommendation of Professor Jamal Ahmad, Director, Centre for Diabetes and Endocrinology vice Professor Reyazuddin, Professor of Radio diagnosis (Retired).

**Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman** (Treasurer, Ibn Sina Academy and currently PhD candidate of the School of Medicine, University of Western Sydney) has been invited as a guest speaker during the one day seminar on "Pre-modern Medicine: Theory and Practice in the Classical and Islamic Worlds", hosted by the Australian and New Zealand Society of History of Medicine at Durham Hall, Surry Hills, NSW, Australia, on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

**Pre-modern Medicine Seminar – A Report**

(By Peter Hobbins, Secretary, Australian and New Zealand Society of History of

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Medicine, Medical History Newsletter, series 4, No 38, August 2012)

The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia once again very kindly hosted the second seminar for 2012 on 15 July, focusing on Pre-modern and Islamic medicine.

Opening the session was orthopaedic surgeon Wayne Donaldson, who has studied Galen's treatise on 'lesions of discontinuity' in *The Therapeutic Method*, never previously translated from Greek to English. This magnum opus was just one of approximately 500 books reputed to have been authored by Galen (129/130 – 216? CE), about whose personal life little is known. Having yearned to study philosophy, in a dream his father foresaw a shift into medicine, so Galen undertook the 12 - year process – by far the longest medical training in the ancient world. Moving to Rome, Galen commenced his practice by tending to gladiators, which Wayne suggested qualified him as the first sports medicine physician. Unlike the Greeks, the Romans saw medicine as merely a craft for slaves, which meant that many of Galen's teachers were freed men. Although he prided himself on advising patients from any social station and never asking for payment, as Galen's reputation grew, so too did both the gifts bestowed upon him and the ire of competitors. This led him to leave Rome after 4 years, but he was invited back at the behest of Marcus Aurelius and eventually served as doctor to four emperors; the fact that he outlived all of them was perhaps as indicative of his political skills as his clinical acumen. As an author, Galen was – as Wayne put it – a "pompous old so - and - so", making grandiose claims to invention and recognising predecessors apart from Hippocrates. Forming in essence a series of postgraduate lectures for experienced physicians, his work on lesions of discontinuity – primarily wounds and fractures – makes no mention of the

patient. Nevertheless, within his milieu analgesics such as alcohol, opium and marijuana were known, forming part of a vast pharmacopoeia of simples and compounds recommended by Galen. Although these were primarily herbal in nature, he was not a naturopath in the modern sense, as most were applied via plasters. For the management of simple fractures, he recommended manipulating the bones to reconnect them, after which strips of linen soaked in egg white and olive oil would be applied to set the break and stop evil humours accumulating. Compound fractures would have the projecting ends sawn off – as remained common western practice until World War I.

In his presentation on the globalisation of Graeco-Arabic medicine, clinical pharmacologist **Syed Ziaur Rahman** discussed the transit of knowledge from the Mediterranean to India from the time of Galen onward. Following the collapse of the Graeco-Roman world, training and expertise in medicine shifted to the Syriac and Arabic arena, with both Greek and Byzantine scholars invited to enjoy royal patronage in Persia. Within this region, training in medicine and philosophy was furthered by a range of institutions, including the Academy and Hospital of Gundeshapur (in Persian Gund-ī Shāh Pūr). By 900 CE most of the basic Graeco-Roman medical literature had been translated into Arabic, often with additional corrections and commentaries, by authors including Hunayn ibn Ishāq. Other scholars developed their own works, including Sabur ibn Sahl, whose *Aqrabādīn* – a medieval catalogue of antidotes – reached 22 volumes, while the *Qānūn* of Ibn Sina (Avicenna) was required for studying Arabic medicine until the seventeenth century. In turn, from 1000–1300, many works by Arab physicians were translated into Latin, especially by scholars working in Spain and Italy. A further stage, however, was



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the transfer of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern knowledge to India, where what was once known as Greek medicine is now generally referred to as Unâni (the word derived from the country's name Greece, in Arabic *Yûnân*). As the system developed via the collection of books and the establishment of local schools, many of the texts originally in Arabic were translated into Persian, the official language of the Indian Mughal period (c.1500–1800). Thus local physicians, who tended to come from central India, preserved Graeco-Arabic medicine, adding their own treatises which both maintained a humoral basis but also incorporated local herbs into the system. Among the popularisers of Unani under the Nawabs was Hakim Akbar Arzani, while the 'Azizi family was particularly prominent from 1700–1900 in shifting the therapeutic basis of the system from compounds to simple drugs. These were compiled into a pharmacopoeia known as the *Qarabadin*, which is still being studied by Unani practitioners in India, where the system continues to be widely patronised and sanctioned alongside western practice. Zia completed his presentation by noting his association with the Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Sciences in Aligarh, whose library contains a considerable number of books and manuscripts in many languages, including Alexandrian texts and a special collection of the works of Ibn Sina.

In the final presentation of the seminar, orthopaedic surgeon George Weisz asked the question: Renaissance medicine or medicine in the Renaissance? He noted that the term 'Renaissance' is itself an 1860s French expression applied retrospectively to the period 1400–1600, rather than serving as a label or movement within the period. Initially typified by a glorification of the ancient world and the eschewal of the preceding 'black ages', the Renaissance was typified by an emphasis on humanism and

personal advancement. Within medicine, the period was characterised by a shift towards an organic understanding of the basis of disease, rather than a direct focus on the symptoms. This shift had been driven particularly by the advent of the Black Death (bubonic plague) in the fourteenth century, leading to a renewed practice of human morbid anatomy to replace extrapolation from ancient texts and animal examples. Rather than being inhibited by the Catholic Church, this process was at first facilitated by a Papal authority for priests to conduct autopsies for legal purposes – such as suspected poisoning or criminal acts – with further pontifical statements being used by physicians to justify expanding the practice. By the sixteenth century, humanist physicians were becoming responsible for a medical revolution, although much of their work was communicated orally owing to strict limitations on publication, especially for texts that might challenge Church authority. Nevertheless, in addition to changing conceptions of the circulatory system, scholars also began to localise the origins and manifestation of disease into specific organs, creating a new physiological model divided via anatomical structures and organ systems. By the time that the Pope sought to restrict this new schema in the later sixteenth century, the growth of universities in the Protestant northern regions permitted humanist medicine to be freely taught and practiced. For these reasons, George proposed, the era was characterised not by a Renaissance of antique medicine, but rather by its rejection and a naissance of modern medicine. Concluding his presentation with a series of artworks of the period, George illustrated how both medical diagnoses and identification of individuals could be undertaken by close attention to carefully reproduced pathognomonic features within portraits.

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**Forthcoming Seminars on Unani  
Medicine**

**Hamdard International Unani Medicine  
Conference-2013**

Hamdard International Unani Medicine Conference-2013 is going to organize a conference on "Unani Medicine: Education and Research in the Contemporary World" from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2013 at Bait al-Hikmah Auditorium, Hamdard University, Madinat al-Hikmah, Karachi, Pakistan.

The conference is being organised under the aegis of Organized by International Association for Unani Medicine (IAUM), Hamdard Foundation Pakistan (HFP), Pakistan Association for Eastern Medicine (PAEM) and Faculty of Eastern Medicine (FEM), Hamdard University (HU). Many members of Ibn Sina Academy are on the panel of important committees. As per the program, the welcome Address will be delivered by Prof. Dr Hakim Abdul Hannan (President, Pakistan Association for Eastern Medicine & General Secretary, International Association for Unani Medicine (IAUM). The Key Note Address will be delivered by Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, Vice President, International Association for Unani Medicine (IAUM). He will also deliver Oration for Mrs. Sadia Rashid.

Note: - It is desirable for speakers from India to submit their abstract through Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, Vice President of the International Association for Unani Medicine (IAUM). Address: - Tijara House, Dodhpur, Civil Lines, Aligarh (U.P.)-202002 India

**"Global Conference on Unani Medicine-  
Emerging trends and Future  
Prospects"**

The Directorate of Indian Systems of Medicine, Government of Jammu and Kashmir is going to organise 'Global Conference on Unani Medicine-Emerging trends and Future Prospects' in October

2012 at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Center Srinagar, J&K.

For details contact following website:  
[www.gcum12.com](http://www.gcum12.com) or email:  
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Following are the members of the organizing committee: Prof. Abdul Wahid Qureshi, Vice Chancellor, CU, Kashmir; Prof. Talat Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, Kashmir University, Srinagar; Prof. A. R. Trag, Vice Chancellor, IUST, Avantipora, Kashmir; Prof. Tej Partap, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST, Kashmir; Dr. G.N. Qazi, Vice Chancellor, Jamia Hamdard, Delhi; Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman, Founder President, Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh; Prof. A. R. Yousuf, Ex Dean, Academic Affairs, KU, Kashmir; Prof. Shakir Jamil, Director General, CCRUM; Prof. Anis Ahmad Ansari, A.K. Tibbiya College, Aligarh; Dr. Khalid Siddiqui, Ex-Director General, CCRUM; Dr. Ram Vishwa Karma, Director IIM, Jammu

**History of Medicine in Southeast Asia  
Biennial Conference**

A biennial conference on history of medicine in Southeast Asia under the aegis of 'History of Medicine in Southeast Asia' is being held at Manila, the Philippines. For details, contact: Harold Cook at email: [homsea@gmail.com](mailto:homsea@gmail.com) or <http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/hist/homsea/index.html>

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on  
Holistic Medicine- University of  
Colombo Including a Holistic Medicine  
Informatics Stream.**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Holistic Medicine (ICHM-2012) follows on the success of ICHM-2008 and ICHM-2011. The main aim of the conference is to advance the development holistic approaches to disease and health care. This international conference will cover recent advances in the following areas: Modern Medicine (Allopathy), Ayurveda,

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Homeopathy, Naturopathy, Alternative Medicine, Complementary Medicine, Reiki, Touch Therapies, Siddha, Colour Therapy, Aroma Therapy, Geriatric Health, Chiropractic Therapy, Acupuncture, Unani, Yoga, Massage, Traditional Chinese Medicine, Traditional Medicines of all the Countries and Medicinal Plants. This conference is the premier international meeting exclusively dedicated to the holistic approach in medicine. This year, articles are invited in two streams, a medical stream and an information technology for holistic medicine stream. Currently, the application of information technologies to health have led to the development of many initiatives including telemedicine, clinical decision support systems, interoperability standards, simulation, robotics and e-learning. The vast majority of health informatics initiatives have been developed for Allopathic medicine. The First International Conference on Complementary and Alternative Medicine Informatics brings together researchers and practitioners from diverse medical systems and information technology.

For details, visit following website:  
<http://www.cmb.ac.lk/ichm2012/index.html>

#### DOCUMENTATION

**Obituary: Prof Aulad Ahmad Siddiqi**  
By Syed Ziaur Rahman

So sad to hear that Prof. Aulad Ahmad Siddiqi is no more!

Prof. Aulad Ahmad Siddiqi belonged to a much respected family of Badaun district of Uttar Pradesh. He was the younger brother of eminent Urdu critic, Padma Bhushan Prof. Āl-e Ahmad Suroor. The two brothers 'Al and Aulad' earned both name and fame in the literary circle of Aligarh Muslim University.

Prof. Aulad Ahmad Siddiqi did MA in Economics from Aligarh Muslim University. In spite of being a professor in the department of economics, he was fond of Urdu literature. He was a scholar of repute both in the field of economics and Urdu. He authored few important chapters and books in Economics. His book, 'Origin and Development of Land Tenures in U.P. [1800-1930]' is highly quoted and cited in the field of Economics. He was a voracious reader of Urdu books and critically wrote reviews of some Urdu books.

Prof. Aulad Ahmad Siddiqi was married to Shahida Latif, daughter of Shifaul Mulk Hakim Abdul Latif Falsafi, descendent of famous Azizi Family of Unani physicians from Lucknow. Hakim Abdul Latif was also the most endearing teacher of my father Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman. Needless to say, being from the family of Shifaul Mulk Hakim Abdul Latif, Prof Aulad Ahmad was very close to all my family members. I have a privilege in attending and personal interaction with him several times. He graced Ibn Sina Academy many a times by attending several functions even at his frail health. He gifted some of the Urdu periodicals to the Library of Ibn Sina Academy in addition to a flower vase, which originally belonged to Lady Ross Masud. Lady Ross Masud was an old good friend of Begum Hakim Abdul Latif.

Prof. Aulad Ahmad Siddiqi was not keeping good health for the last many years and eventually died on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2012 after a minor fracture. According to my teacher, Prof. K.C. Singhal, "It is very sad that such an illustrious son of soil is no more with us. He was not only a kind human being but also flagship of AMU".

Prof. Aulad Ahmad Siddiqi is survived by his wife Shahida Aunty, one son Faizy Siddiqi and two daughters Tanveer and Lala. Faizy is married to the daughter of Dr. Ravindran Khwaja while Tanveer is

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married in Dubai, of whose husband unfortunately and untimely died few months ago. The younger daughter Lala is married to Fauzan, the nephew of Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad, former president of India. May his soul rest in Peace (Aamen).

**Report of My Visit to Aligarh**

By Kira Schmidt Stiedenroth, MA  
(Research Associate, Department of Oriental and Islamic Studies, Faculty of Philology, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany)

I visited Aligarh for a week (16th -21st July 2012) as part of a three-month fieldwork period for my PhD thesis on the institutions and practices of Unani Medicine in contemporary India. What follows is a very brief account of the activities carried out in Aligarh.

On the first day Dr. Abdul Latif took me to the Ibn Sina Academy, where I was received by its president, Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman. We had extensive discussions about Unani medicine before and after Prof. Rahman showed me the library and the museums of the Academy.

On the second day I visited the Department of *Ilmul Advia* at the Ajmal Khan Tibbiya College. I was shown the department and had short discussions with staff working at the department, including Prof. Afaq and Prof. Yusuf Amin. Here, I was also informed by Dr. Latif and his colleagues about their ongoing research project on skin diseases. Additionally, I had the opportunity to have a very short interview with some students. In the afternoon I met the manager of the Tibbiya College Dawakhana. We had a short talk but, since it was already late, it was not possible to visit the manufacturing units, so we agreed to see them on the next day.

During the third day of my visit I again visited the Department of *Ilmul Advia*. This

time I could attend a practical class and see by myself how the class is conducted and what activities students carry out. After that I paid a visit to the Ajmal Khan Tibbiya College Hospital.

The hospital was very crowded and I was able to observe the OPD consultation for almost an hour, shortly discussing with the consultant physician between the consultations. After that I met Prof. Siddiqi, with whom I had a discussion regarding Unani medicine in general and the College Hospital in particular. I also visited the Departments of *Mo'alejat*, including *Ilaj bit Tadbir*, which are adjacent to the hospital. Here I had some short talks with staff, including Prof. Khan. After visiting the College Hospital I went to visit Hakim Kaleemulah, who is a well known hakim practicing privately in Aligarh. I observed the consultations and had a short discussion with him. Lastly, I visited the Tibbiya College Dawakhana, where a staff member showed me the production units and explained about the products and their production.

For the fourth day of my research I had made an appointment to visit the Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine, where I met the director in charge and staff members. I was also taken to their Medical Plants Survey Unit at the Fort and to the Pharmacological Unit at the AMU campus. In the afternoon I finally paid a visit to Dr. Saud Ali Khan, the College Principal, with whom I had a very interesting talk.

On Friday the 20th I visited the manuscripts section of the Maulana Azad Library where I could access some medical manuscripts. After that I again visited the Ibn Sina Academy, where I spent the whole day discussing with Prof. Rahman.

My visit in Aligarh was extremely useful and deeply interesting. Although I stayed

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for a week, I was not able to visit all the departments of the Tibbiya College due to lack of time. I am looking forward to visit other departments and to meeting other faculty staff during a next visit.

*Acknowledgments*

I am very thankful to all the persons who cooperated during my visit and who gave me some time to have talks and discussions. I am specially thankful to Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman for kindly extending me an invitation to Aligarh and also to Dr. Abdul Latif for organizing my stay and most of my visits. I am also thankful to Dr. Abdullah and Dr. Sumbul Rehman from the Department of Ilmul Advia for accompanying me around the college campus and beyond.

And last, but not least, I extend my deep gratitude to the Dean, Prof. Shagufta Alim, whom I unfortunately could not meet but who gave me permission to visit the college and to stay at the university guest house.

Thanks are also due to Prof. S.M.Razaullah Ansari ( Secretary Ibn Sina Academy) who is the only scholar presently researching on Persian Sources concerning science. The general discussion with him was quite fruitful.

**Sezgin Square and Sezgin Memorial**

By S. M. Razaullah Ansari (Aligarh)  
[courtesy inputs from Turkish scholars Feza Günergun and Salim Ayduz]

It is a great pleasure for us to report the following. On Monday 24 September 2012, "Prof. Dr. Fuat Sezgin Square" and "Prof. Dr. Fuat Sezgin Monument" have been inaugurated, in Ankara, the capital of Turkey. The ceremony was held and organized by the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality. Both the Square and the Monument named after this world renowned historian of Arabic-Islamic Sciences are located in the Yenimahalle

district of the Ankara city. Fuat Sezgin Square and his Monument were unveiled by himself, his wife Ursula Sezgin and the Mayor of Ankara, Melih Goekçek. The statue of Prof Sezgin was prepared by the sculptor Aslan Başpınar. According to the Mayor Goekçek, "Prof Sezgin is one of the most eminent scholars in the world. He has been studying since decades the contributions and inventions of Muslim scholars to the world civilization. Our new generation will be motivated by this statue. We know him as the first scholar who won the prize of Islamic Sciences of Saudi Arabia King Faisal Foundation in 1978, and the founder of the *Institute for the History of Arabic-Islamic Science* at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main in 1982. He opened officially also Istanbul Museum of the History of Science and Technology in Islam on May 24, 2008."

Fuat Sezgin was born on 24 Oct. 1924 in Bitlis (Turkey). He studied at Istanbul University during 1943-1951 the Arabic Linguistics, Islamic Studies, Iranian Studies, and Mathematics. Sezgin secured from Istanbul University his Ph.D. in 1954 on "The Sources of Imam Bukhari" under the famous German orientalist Hellmut Ritter. Sezgin was very fortunate to be one of the few early students of Ritter, who was the director of the then newly established Oriental Institute (in Istanbul 1937). Ritter was the strictest taskmaster and a great researcher, whose scholarly nature, according to my humble opinion, Sezgin apparently imbibed and emulated in his professional career and intellectual life to this day.

Sezgin started his teaching career at Istanbul University and continued it also as visiting professor at universities of Frankfurt and Marburg in Germany during 1961-1963. In 1965 he did his second doctorate — the *Habilitation*, which entitles a scholar to teach at any German

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*university* — at the J.W.Goethe University at Frankfurt a.M. and was later appointed professor there. His researches then dealt extensively with studies of Arabic-Islamic Sciences during the Islamic Middle Ages. He started publishing the multi-volume series: *History of Arabic-Islamic Writings*, in which various volumes appeared, e.g., on Quranic Science (1967), Medicine (1970), Mathematics (1974), Astronomy (1978), to name just a few, and the latest on Geography. In 1978 he got the First Saudi Arabia King Faisal International Prize of Islamic Studies. In 1982, Sezgin established the Institute of the *History of the Arabic-Islamic Sciences* in Frankfurt am Main. Today the Institute is the grandest repository of the most comprehensive collection of texts on the history of Arabic-Islamic Science ('*Ulūm*') in the world. In 1983 Sezgin founded also a unique Museum within his Institute, containing more than 1000 replicas of historical scientific instruments, tools and maps of the Islamic Golden age. The *Catalogue of this Museum* in 4 volumes has been also published in English. To honor Prof. Sezgin for his work, awards have been bestowed upon him. They are, the Goethe-Placard of the City of Frankfurt (1979), and the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. He has been elected also as fellow of the Turkish

Academy of Sciences, the Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco and Academies of Arabic Language in Cairo, Damascus and Baghdad. Till to-date he has published from his Institute about more than 1500 books, containing primary and secondary sources of Arabic-Islamic science.

It is a great privilege for me to record that I am acquainted with Prof. Sezgin since 1977, when he was planning to found his Institute. He has been very generous to me, particularly by presenting his important publications, whenever I have visited him. I am deeply indebted to him for his cordiality. At present, he is the Emeritus Director of the Institute, and is actively engaged in writing his volumes of History of Arabic-Islamic Sciences even at the ripe age of 88 yrs. May God grant and bestow on him excellent health and vitality to further and complete his unique work.

As a tail piece, I wish to add that like his supervisor Hellmut Ritter in whose honor a stele was erected in the cemetery of the former German embassy in Tarabya at the shore of the Bosphorus, Sezgin has retraced truly in words and deeds Ritter's footprints with his own Memorial in Istanbul. The providential spirits of *guru* and disciple a galore!



**Congratulations to our eminent colleague and well-wisher of Ibn Sina Academy - Prof. Dr. Fuat Sezgin!**

Photo Courtesy: Dr. Salim Ayduz

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