



Newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy (NISA)

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CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN UNANI MEDICINE
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS (Literary Research) (Urdu)

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Aljamili Maf. Vol-I (U) _(O/P Rs. 71/-)	275.00
Aljamili Maf. Vol-II (Urdu)	208.00
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**EVENTS AT IBN SINA ACADEMY
(January – March 2014)**

“Sadaf Zaad” of Abid Ali Abid released

Mohammad Abid Ali Abid, a noted Urdu poet and an active member of Ghalib Study Centre of Ibn Sina Academy has come up with a compilation of his several selected poems in the form of a book, ‘Sadaf Zaad’. The book was released on 20th March 2014 by eminent personalities like Prof. Shafey Kidwai, Prof. Fasih Ahmad Siddiqui, Prof. Saeeduzzafar Chaghtai, Dr. Shariq Aqeel, Er. Khalid Faridi and Prof. H. S. Zillur Rahman.

The book has some thematic material on renowned personalities of Aligarh such as Qazi Abdus Sattar, Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, Syed Mohammad Ashraf. The book is dedicated to Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, President, Ibn Sina Academy.

A ghazal night by Johny Foster

A programme “ghazal night” by Johny Foster was organized in honour of distinguished participants and resource persons of 'National Workshop cum CME on Alternatives to Animal Experimentation in Medical Science Education' (held at Department of Pharmacology, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, AMU, Aligarh) on 24th February 2014 followed by delicious dinner.

A Voluntary Programme on Documentation and Preventive Care of Collections

A month-long workshop training program on documentation and preventive care of collections was organized with an effort by Heritage Restore at Ibn Sina Academy. The

inauguration was held on 25th January 2014 with introductory lectures by Ata Khursheed, Incharge Manuscript Division, Maulana Azad Library, AMU, Aligarh and Dr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, Consultant, Heritage Conservation and Tourism, Management Project, Gwalior.

Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman spoke on the importance of museums and documentation. Guest of Honour Dr. Abdur Raheem K, Chairman, Department of Museology, AMU, Aligarh stressed the need of documentation, preservation and digitization of manuscripts and all artifacts and objet d'art, extant at the museum of Ibn Sina Academy. Prof. Iftexhar Alam Khan, Ex-chairman and Founder of the Department of Museology, AMU, Aligarh also addressed as chief guest and shared his own experience as historian and museologist. Nayeem Kausar, convener of the program, anchored the whole event. Later on as a part of workshop, students were looked engaged in documenting and noting. Discussion over each objects were held before documentation. Mr. Azfar Ahmad, President, Heritage Restore (New Delhi) addressed the students on how to do accessing?

Members' Activities

Prof. H. S. Zillur Rahman, President, IAMMS, has been appointed as Member of 'Task force constituted for a project of CSIR-TKDL Unit. TKDL is one of the prestigious projects of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, which at present is considered globally as a successful tool for preventing the misappropriation of traditional

knowledge of the country at International Patent Offices. Project Leader is Dr. Archana Sharma.

In this regard, the first meeting of Task force for TKDL Project 'Analysis & Monitoring of Patent Applications in International Patent Offices for preventing misappropriation of India's Traditional Knowledge was held on January 30, 2014 at CSIR-TKDL Unit, Ghaziabad and second meeting was held on 24th March 2014 at Science Centre, CSIR, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.

He is also appointed as one of the members of editorial board of a new series under the title of "Indo-Iranian Heritage". This series will be published by Avicenna Institute for History of Thought (Bonn, Germany) and *Majma' Zakhair Islami* (Qom, Iran). The series will print facsimile or critical editions of philosophical, logical, ethical, Literature and scientific texts as well as works produced in the tradition of non-Islamic religions in Persian and Arabic. Dr. M. Karimi Zanjani Asl (Vice Director, Avicenna Institute for History of Thought) and Prof. Dr. Fathullah Mujtaba'i will look after the series as general editors.

Prof. H. S. Zillur Rahman also attended following programmes.

1. General Body Meeting of Anjuman Tarraqi Urdu (Hind) on 3 February 2014 at Urdu Ghar, New Delhi,

2. 101 years celebration of Mohammad Ahmad Sabzwari

A function was held to celebrate the 101 years birthday of Mohammad Ahmad Sabzwari, a noted Urdu writer of Pakistan and a son of Bhopal soil at Bhopal (MP) on 12th January, 2014 presided over by Professor Hakim Syed

Zillur Rahman and Masroor Ahmed Masroor (Senior Journalist of Pakistan) as chief guest. Dr. Razia Hamid's book 'Yaadon Ki Mehak' and Muhammad Ahmed Sabzwari's Book 'Hind main Urdu Satween Sadi Sey' were launched by the chief guest and chairperson. Prof. S. Z. Rahman presented a paper on this book. Professor Afaq Ahmed spoke about Muhammad Ahmed Sabzwari and Dr. Razia Hamid's on his contributions towards literature. Rasheed Anjum read the "Citation 101 Years Celebrations of Veteran Writer Mohammad Ahmad Sabzwari". Nasim Ansari anchored the function.

3. Literary Research Sub-committee of CCRUM

A brain storming session for appraisal of current activities and future activities and future strategy for extending and strengthening of literary research programme was held at CCRUM headquarter on 7th January 2014. The meeting represented chairman and members of literary research sub-committee, eminent experts and council's officers.

4. Unani Pharmacopoeia Committee

The first meeting of the newly constituted Unani Pharmacopoeia Committee was held on 27th February 2014 in the Committee Room, CCRUM Headquarters, New Delhi.

5. Eik Shaam Shahryar Ke Naam Presided, Eik Shaam Shahryar Ke Naam, in memory of Gyanpeeth. Awarded Late Prof. AMK Shahryar on 9th February 2014 by AMU Old Boys Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh at Krishnanjali Exhibition Ground, Aligarh. It was organized and convened by Gulzar Ahmad.

6. Foundation Laying Ceremony of the Green School

Participated in the Foundation Laying Ceremony of the Green School at Sultan Jahan Manzil, on 4th January 2014.

The School was jointly established by Salman Jafri, Secretary New Millennium Foundation and Prof. Riazur Rahman Sherwani, Hony. General Secretary, Al India Muslim Educational Conference. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman formally welcomed the Chief Guest, Lt General (Retd) Zameer Uddin Shah, Vice Chancellor, AMU, Aligarh. During the function, Prof. Riazur Rahman Khan Sherwani, enlightened the historical contribution of Muslim Educational Conference in the field of education. Salman Jafari enthusiastically described the primary aim of the establishment of the school. The vice chancellor laid the foundation stone of the school and lauded the contribution of the Conference. Asad Yar Khan presented the vote of thanks.

7. MET Clinic Inaugurated

A state of art MET Hospital Project was inaugurated at Qasimpur Road near Homeopathic Hospital Aligarh. As a part of project, firstly MET Clinic was installed on 5.1.2014 by IG Police Officer Mr. Prakash D and Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman. They also inspected OPD.

8. Nutque '14

Annual Literary and Cultural Festival, "Nutque 2014", of Sir Syed Hall (South) was held on 21st February 2014. The function was presided over by Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman. Prof Syed Kafeel Ahmad Qasmi was the guest of honour while Group Captain Shahrukh Shamshad was the chief guest. Prof. Tajuddin, Provost, welcomed the guests. Senior Hall presented the annual report.

9. International seminar on "A Historical Appraisal of India's Composite Cultural Ethos: Perspectives from Urdu Literature"

Guest of Honour, Annual International Seminar organized by the Anjuman Taraqqi Urdu (Hind), New Delhi during 7 to 9 March 2014. The theme of the seminar was "A Historical Appraisal of India's Composite Cultural Ethos: Perspectives from Urdu Literature". Several speakers from diverse fields such as History, Literature, Theatre, Journalism, and Activism participated. Renowned scholars Prof. Shamim Hanafi presided over the inaugural function. Padma Shri Shamsur Rahman Farooqui delivered the keynote address. Prof. Akharul Wasey, Prof. Sadiqur Rahman Kidwai, Dr. Khwaja Ekramuddin, Mr. Sanjeev Sarraf, Dr. Geeta Patel and other Urdu scholars were present. Prof. S. Zillur Rahman presented a paper in the inaugural function.

10. Seminar on Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and his relevance in the modern world'

One day seminar on Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and his relevance in the modern world', was held at Ibn Sina Academy on 25th February 2014 under the courtesy of Sun Shine Welfare Society. Prof. Mahmoodul Haq (Retd., Islamic Studies), Prof. Latif Kazmi, Noorul Islam and Thakur Yashpal Singh presented invited talks. Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman presided over the function.

11. Hakim Ajmal Khan National Seminar

Ajmal Khan Memorial Society at Kanpur organized "Hakim Ajmal Khan National Seminar" on March 2, 2014. Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman presided over the function. Dr. Iqtedar Husain Farooqui (Lucknow), Dr. Mohd Mohsin

(Farrukhabad) and others presented their papers. Hakim Habibur Rahman organizer of the Seminar welcomed the participants.

12. Meeting Executive Body of the Nadwatul Ulema

Attended, meeting of the executive body of Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulema, Lucknow on 30th March 2014 as a member of the Executive Committee.

Prof. H. S. Zillur Rahman, Prof. Anis Ahmad Ansari, Prof. Nazar Abbas and Prof. Tafseer Ali from Aligarh have been empanelled as International Scientific Committee of the 6th International Congress of the International Society for the History of Islamic Medicine, which is slated to be held in Yüzüncü Yıl University Campus, Van - Turkey during 23-26 September 2014.

Prof. S. M. Razaullah Ansari (General Secretary, Ibn Sina Academy) has been invited by the editor of the *Encyclopedia of History of Science, Technology, and Medicine in Non-Western Cultures* (second edition) to contribute the following three articles: i. Ghulâm Hussain Jaunpûrî, ii. Raja Ratan Singh, iii. Mathematics and Astronomy in Medieval India. The first two scholars were astronomers of Medieval India, on which topic Prof. Ansari is the only expert to-date. The Editor-in-Chief of the Encyclopedia is Dr. Helaine Selin (USA) and the World famous Springer Verlag (Berlin, New York) has agreed to publish it. This well-received encyclopedia (first edition in 2008) has been heavily used. The researchers have downloaded over 21,000 articles, a terrific amount for a work comprised of 752 entries.

To note is also the very detailed Report of Prof. Ansari published recently: "24th International Congress of History of

Science, Technology and Medicine, Manchester 2013 – An Appraisal" in *Indian J. of History of Science*, Vol. 84, No. 4 (2013), pp. 705–717.

Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Hony. Treasurer, IAMMS, has been nominated and invited as:

1. Editor, Scientific Proceedings and Souvenir, CT-CME 2013 (Thoracic Surgery), Department of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, AMU, Aligarh.
2. Convener, Committee for final vetting of the "Evaluative Report of the Department" for SSR of AMU for NAAC.

IAMMS Members' Participants at SoPI – A report by S. Ziaur Rahman

The 13th Annual Conference of the Society of Pharmacovigilance, India (SoPI) is well attended by faculty members and PG students of Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College (JNMC) and Ajmal Khan Tibbiya College (AKTC) at Pramukhswami Medical College, Karamsad, Anand (Gujarat). Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Associate Professor, JNMC and Hony. Treasurer, IAMMS, was invited to deliver an invited talk on 'Research and Publications on Pharmacovigilance' during a special symposium on teaching and research. He also chaired a scientific session on 'Pharmaceutical Issues of Pharmacovigilance'. Dr. Abdur Rauf, Assistant Professor, AKTC and Member, IAMMS, presented a paper on "Monitoring of Adverse Drug Reactions with special reference to detoxification of Unani Drugs". Dr. Ajay Gupta (Resident, Department of Pharmacology, JNMC) got selected for the first prize in the poster presentation. The paper of Dr. Sangeeta Bhat (Resident, Department of Pharmacology, JNMC) was short listed in the prize sessions and was praised for her best presentation. During

the Annual General Body Meeting (GBM), Dr. Abdul Latif, Associate Professor, AKTC and Hony. Joint Secretary, IAMMS, was nominated as executive member of the Society, while Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman was nominated as associate managing editor of the Society's Journal. In the meeting, Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman has also won the bidding to hold the next annual conference at Aligarh. In the valedictory function, Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman invited all the delegates and briefed about the next venue Aligarh Muslim University.

Visit of Dignitaries at IAMMS

1. Laurence Gautier (France), PhD Candidate, Faculty of History, University of Cambridge, England, UK (10.3.2014).
2. Dr. Kazuyo Sakaki, Japan (6.3.2014)
3. Dr. S. Mohsin Alvi, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA, USA (24.3.2014)
4. 'Educational Tour' for Delegates, Subject Refresher Course in Library and Information Science, UGC Academic Staff College, Aligarh Muslim University, January 30, 2014.
5. 'Educational Tour' for Delegates, Subject Refresher Course in Research Methodology in Social Sciences, UGC Academic Staff College, Aligarh Muslim University, February 4, 2014.
6. Educational Tour' for Delegates participating Orientation Programme, UGC Academic Staff College, Aligarh Muslim University, February 22, 2014.
7. Educational Tour' for Delegates participating Orientation Programme, UGC Academic Staff College, Aligarh Muslim University, March 3, 2014.
8. 'Educational Tour' for Delegates, Subject Refresher Course in Hindi, UGC Academic Staff College, Aligarh Muslim University, March 22, 2014.
9. 'Educational Tour' for Delegates, Subject Refresher Course in Disaster Management, UGC Academic Staff College, Aligarh Muslim University, March 28, 2014.

Acknowledgement of a research scholar from University of Cambridge

"Dear Prof. Rahman I would like to thank you again for your warm welcome and your kind help during my stay in Aligarh. Your library is not only very resourceful, it is also a very pleasant place where to study and I enjoyed working there very much. I was happy to share some discussions with you and to meet your friends as well as your son. I am looking forward to meeting you again when I go back to Aligarh next time. Best regards, Laurence Gautier, PhD candidate, Faculty of History, University of Cambridge".

Forthcoming Conferences at IAMMS

International Seminar on Life and Contribution of Ibn Sina

The Academy intends to hold an International Conference on "Life & Contribution of Ibn Sina" for 3 days on multidimensional works and contributions of Ibn Sina (Avicenna) in the field of medicine, science, philosophy and literature during 25-27 October 2014 to commemorate the 1000th anniversary of the compilation of Ibn Sina's *Kitâb al-Qânûn fî at-Tibb* (The Canon of Medicine).

Themes:

1. Relevance of Ibn Sina in Modern Era
2. Studies on Ibn Sina in India
3. Impact of Ibn Sina's work on contemporary World
4. Introduction to Canon of Medicine and *Al Shifa*

5. Ibn Sina as a renowned physician, philosopher, geographer and commentator of Quran
6. Ibn Sina's work in Ethics, Anatomy, Astronomy, Geometry, Theology, Physiology, Pharmacology, Pharmacy, Medicine, Gynecology, Ophthalmology and Surgery
7. Ibn Sina's Contribution to Chemistry, Physics and Metaphysics
8. Ibn Sina's Poetry
9. Ibn Sina's Works in Latin and Foreign Languages
10. Studies of Ibn Sina in European Universities
11. Contemporary study of Ibn Sina
12. Political Scenario during the time of Ibn Sina

Call for Abstract:

- Papers and posters should preferably be from the theme and core areas mentioned above.
- Abstract must be in Microsoft Word Document 2007 and in Times New Roman, font size 12.

Use single line spacing and 2.5 cm margins all around. Text in abstract should not be more than 250 words, excluding title and affiliation. Abstract must be mailed latest by 31st August, 2014 to ibnsinaacademy@gmail.com

XIV Annual Conference of Society of Pharmacovigilance, India (SOPICON-2014) & International Symposium on Safe Medicine and Safe Patient

Department of Pharmacology, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India is entrusted to hold the 14th Annual Conference of Society of Pharmacovigilance, India (SOPICON-2014) from 1-3 December 2014 along with an International Symposium on "Safe Medicine and Safe Patient".

The Department of Pharmacology, J. N. Medical College, AMU, Aligarh, has been a pioneer in the field of Pharmacovigilance in India even before the initiation of NPPI and PvPI by the Government of India. It was designated 'WHO special Centre for ADR Monitoring' in 1997. The idea of having a National Society for Pharmacovigilance (SoPI) was also mooted at Aligarh during the International Workshop in ADR monitoring in 1998.

The upcoming conference cum symposium will bring together academic experts to discuss the importance of Pharmacovigilance, current regulations, safety surveillance (pre and post marketing) and review risk management plans to improve safe medicine and safe patient. The symposium will specifically open new vistas for young scientists, who wish to take up the research in this field.

The Scientific programme will comprise of various Orations, Guest Lectures, Symposia on many current topics including Pharmacovigilance of Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha (ASU) Drugs, Free Papers and Posters Presentation. Eminent speakers from India and abroad are being invited to provide the current and relevant information.

For more detail, contact: Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Organising Secretary, SOPICON'14, Dept. of Pharmacology, JNMC, AMU, Aligarh.

Aristotle's Logic and Metaphysics

A conference on Aristotle's Logic and Metaphysics at the University of Chicago will be held on May 23-24, 2014.

900th Anniversary of Bhaskaracharya
Bhaskaracharya, the celebrated author of the *Lilavati*, *Bijaganita*, *Siddhanta-siromani* and *Karana-kutuhala*, will be 900 years old in this year.

Dr V. V. Bedekar, Chairman, Vidya Prasarak Mandal, Thane (Maharashtra) (<http://www.vpmthane.org/>), is celebrating the occasion in a big way. In the various educational institutions run by the Vidya Prasarak Mandal in Maharashtra, there will be popular lectures, essay-writing competitions and quizzes for the students and workshops for teachers to acquaint them about Bhaskaracharya and his works, and also about other Indian astronomers and mathematicians. Several lectures were already held since January and the response of the teachers and the students has been very good. These activities will continue throughout the year and perhaps also later.

In addition to these outreach activities, an International Conference is planned on 19-21 September 2014 at Thane near Mumbai.

Professor Michio Yano of Kyoto-Sangyo University and Prof. S. R. Sarma are helping Dr. Bedekar in preparing the academic programme of the Conference (<http://www.vpmthane.org/bhaskara900/>). Almost all the leading historians of Indian mathematics and astronomy have agreed to participate in the conference.

Submitted by Prof. S. R. Sarma,
Duesseldorf, Germany

Conference on Medieval and Early Modern Medicine

The Healing Arts Across the Mediterranean examines theories and practices of healing in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern period. An

emphasis will be placed on tracing the continuities and evolution in knowledge to specific sites, texts and material artifacts.

The conference will be held on March 28, 2014 at the Teleconference Lecture Hall - Alexander Library 169 College Avenue New Brunswick, NJ and is being sponsored by SAS, the Program in Medieval Studies, the Program in Early Modern Studies, the Center for Cultural Analysis, the Centers for Global Advancement and International Affairs, the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, the Department of History at Rutgers-Newark, and the Medical Humanities Working Group at CCA and RWJMS.

The special sessions on following topics will be organized:

1. Medicine and the Political Body: A metaphor at the crossroad of four civilizations by Glen Cooper, Brigham Young University.
2. Medical and religious discussions of generation in the Islamic World 1200–1500 by Nahyan Fancy, DePauw University
3. Healing Bodies: The Conceptualization of Medicine in Ottoman Alchemical Texts 1500-1800 by Tuna Artun, Rutgers-New Brunswick
4. Medical spiritual healing in medieval miracle stories by Jennifer Edwards, Manhattan College
5. Erecting Sex: Hermaphrodites and the Science of Medieval Surgery by Leah DeVun, Rutgers-New Brunswick
6. Healing verses in the Imperial minds by Ozgen Felek, Middle East & Middle East American Center, The Graduate Center, CUNY
7. Medical practice in the Ottoman provinces: The view from the Venetian

Fondaco by Valentina Pugliano, University of Cambridge

8. Healing the Community: State, Medicine and Contesting voices in early modern Ottoman Empire by Nükhet Varlik, Rutgers-Newark

9. Psychology as a form of Healing in the 18th Century Ottoman Empire by Yaron Ayalon, Ball State University

10. Unheard of Curiosities: An Exhibition of rare books on the Occult and Esoteric sciences by Erika Gorder, Rutgers University Libraries.

Submitted by Nahyan Fancy, DePauw University

Conferences / Seminars Held

The National Workshop cum CME on Alternatives to Animal Experimentation – A report by S. Ziaur Rahman

The Department of Pharmacology, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University organized a National Workshop cum CME on "Alternatives to Animal Experimentation in Medical Science Education" during 24-25 February 2014.

Inaugurating the workshop, Prof. K. C. Singhal, Vice Chancellor, NIMS University, Jaipur said that most of the medical treatments of modern system of medicine, including HIV drugs, insulin, antibiotics, vaccine etc., were made possible by animal testing.

Prof Singhal said that there is a need to ensure that potential benefits of research outweigh suffering to animals, replace animal with alternatives wherever required and refine experimental techniques. He said that need of alternatives has been much hyped by activists and environmentalists but use of alternatives has been made

mandatory for teaching, so we have found some way to implement this.

Prof Shajahan Bano, Dean, Faculty of Medicine said that the workshop will help students to improve their skills in teaching and research with less pain and agony meted out to animals, and increased use of simulators and software. Prof Bano said that the simulators are already being used in Anesthesia and are helpful for training students.

Prof Tariq Mansoor, Principal and CMS, said that all of us love animals and we should observe extreme care to avoid undue pain and harm to them. Prof Mansoor said that the workshop will help raise awareness level among medical professionals.

Dr. Chaitanya Kaduri, Science Policy advisor, PETA said that it is our responsibility to protect animals as suggested in the Constitution of India. He said that we should expand the working relationship with teaching faculty to develop software on use of alternatives to animals. Dr Chaitanya congratulated the JN Medical College for initiating the promotion of non-animal methods.

Dr. S Ziaur Rahman said that the main objective of organizing the workshop was to provide participants with an opportunity to explore the expanding possibilities of alternatives to animal experimentation, train and instill confidence in them for use of alternatives and encourage them to adopt these alternatives in their teaching. Dr Jameel Ahmad conducted the program.

In the valedictory function, Prof. M. A. Akbarsha, Director and Chair, Mahatma

Gandhi Doreinkemp Centre for Alternative to Animal Experimentation in Medical Science Education, Bharatidasan University, Trichirapally and Chief Guest at the valedictory session, said that deliberations in the CME and workshop would help participants to start similar work at their own set up as alternatives to animal experimentation are need of the hour. Prof Akbarsha added that it is high time to work with current trend of available technologies in order to keep pace with current research.

Prof. Sandhya T. Avadhany, Vice Dean, St. John's Medical College, Bangalore and Prof. R. Raveendran, Department of Pharmacology, Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Pondicherry, Guests of honour congratulated the organizers for the well-organized workshop and also commented that the workshop provides opportunity to learn about various e-sources.

Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman, organizing secretary, thanked all the resource persons, participants, administration and funding agencies for supporting and making this workshop successful. He also thanked the participants for showing enthusiasm in the workshop and hoped that the participants would carry the responsibility further.

Prof. M. Mobarak Hossein, Chairman, Department of Physiology and Director, Interdisciplinary Brain Research Centre, AMU, Prof. Chandragauda R. Patil, Department of Pharmacy, R. C. Patel College of Pharmacy, Karvand Naka, Shirpur, Dhule, Maharashtra and Prof. S. K. Bajaj, Department of Physiology, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi distributed mementos and

participation certificates to resource persons and participants. Total Number of participants were 52 (Local 29 and Outside: 23)

Documentation

Conference on "Astrolabes in Medieval Cultures"

An astrolabe is a pre-telescopic device for observing and measuring the coordinates of heavenly bodies, Sun, moon and planets. Although it originated in Greece, yet the astronomers of Islamic Middle Ages developed it enormously. The Isfahan School and Lahore school of astrolabe-makers are quite famous. Emperor Humayun knew the use of astrolabe very well. He invited Alâhadâd asturlâbî of Central Asia to establish his school of astrolabe makers in Lahore. Hundreds of astrolabes of this Lahore school are extant in world museums (Ed.)

This conference is being organized on 24-25 April 2014 by Josefina Rodriguez-Arribas and Charles Burnett (Warburg Institute) and Stephen Johnston (Oxford Museum for the History of Science) at the Warburg Institute, University of London, Woburn Square, London.

The topics covered by this conference will be the astrolabe itself, texts on the construction and use of the instrument, and the position of the astrolabe in pre-modern cultures and societies (Islam and India, Jewish societies and medieval and Renaissance Europe).

Attendance is free of charge, but pre-registration is required by emailing Warburg@sas.ac.uk giving your name, email address, and the name of your institution (if relevant). The conference will last 1.5 days.

Programme on 24 April 2014:

Chair, Charles Burnett (Warburg Institute)

1. All the Astrolabes - An AHRC Project in Context by Silke Ackermann (Museum of the History of Science, Oxford)
2. Construction and Use A Museum Perspective on Astrolabe Writing by Stephen Johnston (Museum of the History of Science, Oxford)
3. Astrolabes as Eclipse Computers Arabic Texts on the Construction and Use of the *ṣafīha kusūfiyya* by Johannes Thomann (Universität Zürich)
4. Bonetus de Latis and his Astrolabe Ring by Josefina Rodríguez Arribas (Warburg Institute)
5. Practical demonstration of use of an astrolabe.

Programme on 25 April 2014:

1. Old Castilian Alfonsine Translation of 'Alī b. Khalaf's Universal Plate by Emilia Calvo (Universidad de Barcelona)
2. From the Celestial Globe to the Astrolabe Transferring the Celestial Motion onto the Plane of the Astrolabe by Flora Vafea (Independent scholar, Cairo/Athens)
3. Comparing Astrolabes the Problems of Dating and Locating a Medieval European Example and a Theoretical Solution by Petra Schmidl (Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn).
4. Reworking of Arabic-Persian Astrolabes with Sanskrit Legends, by Sreeramula Rajeswara Sarma (Düsseldorf, Germany).
5. Reactions to 11th Century Toledan Astronomy in al-Andalus, by Miquel Forcada (Universidad de Barcelona)
6. Astrolabes on Parchment. The Astrolabes Depicted in Alfonso X's *Libro del saber de astrología* and their Relationship to Contemporary Instruments, by Laura Fernandez (Universidad Complutense de Madrid).

7. Two Medieval French Astrolabes with a Gear Mechanism, by Koenraad van Cleempoel (Universiteit Hasselt).

Submitted by Prof. Charles Burnett

Provost Dallal receives prestigious Kuwaiti prize for the advancement of science

AUB Provost Ahmad Dallal was awarded the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) prize-2013 for his lifetime research contributions to the field of Arabic and Islamic scientific heritage.

Established in 1976 to “encourage, support, and invest in capacity building and in initiatives that build a solid foundation and an enabling culture for science, innovation, and technology,” the foundation awards prizes on an annual basis to Kuwaiti and Arab scholars, in recognition of their intellectual achievements that serve the interest of scientific advancement.

Prizes are awarded annually in each of the following fields: Basic Sciences, Applied Sciences, Economic and Social Sciences, Arts and Letters, and Arabic and Islamic Scientific Heritage.

Professor Dallal received the KFAS prize for his research on Arabic and Islamic scientific heritage, during a formal ceremony held in Kuwait, under the patronage of the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Ahmed Al-Jaber al-Sabah. Professor Dallal shares the prize with Tunisian researcher Faeza Al-Aridi Bensal. Professor Dallal published two books: “An Islamic Response to Greek Astronomy” (Brill, 1995), and “Islam, Science, and the Challenge of History” (Yale University Press, 2010) as well as many articles on Arabic science and Islamic history.

The Avicenna Institute of Middle Eastern Studies

The Avicenna Institute is a non-profit research centre based in Piliscsaba, Hungary with the objectives of promoting scholarship in the field of Middle Eastern studies. The budget being strongly reliable on the variation of state's and private funding is very limited. In this framework, several senior and junior researchers, and fellows are assuming and pursuing aims of the Avicenna Institute. Among the Institutes' projects are organizing public and international scientific workshops and conferences, publishing scientific monographs, conferences' proceedings, granting scholarship for junior researches. The Institute has solid connections with Hungarian and international research centres, such as Pazmany Peter Catholic University, University of Saint Joseph, Beirut and Instituto Universitario Orientale di Napoli.

Following are mission and objectives: The Institute was founded to fulfil threefold objectives: to conduct research for thorough understanding of Arabic, Persian and Turkish cultures, to advise decision-makers, media-actors and businessmen interested in Middle-East issues, to disseminate knowledge on current topics in on-going public debates to avoid misunderstandings in intercultural dialogue.

The institute works on several projects:

- * study the factors of continuity and discontinuity in Islamic legacy in the perspective of understanding the current development in the Islamic world, mainly in philosophy, theology, political sciences and literature, classical and modern

- * organizing public and international scientific workshops and conferences to disseminate knowledge,
- * publishing scientific monographs, conferences' proceedings,
- * granting scholarship for junior researches in PhD or post-doctoral dissertations.

For more detail about the Institute, please visit:

<http://www.annalindhoundation.org/members/avicenna-institute-middle-eastern-studies#sthash.5LX1KcYE.dpuf>

The Use of Plants in Medicine by Avicenna

Avicenna, also known as Ib'n Sina, was an Arab physician who contributed greatly to the medicinal world; his published works included the use of plants in medicine.

Avicenna (980 A.D.-1037 A.D.) was born in Persia; he became a well-known physician, highly advanced in many 'modern' methods of medicine which are used today and was celebrated throughout the Arab world. His contributions and published works included *The Book of Healing* and the *Canon of Medicine*. He is also accredited with writings on the use of over 800 medicinal plants.

Early History of Avicenna

Avicenna's real name was Abu Ali al-Husayn ibn Abd Allah ibn Sina, shortened to Ib'n Sina or westernized to Avicenna; he was a quick learner and by the age of 21 had already been appointed as physician-in-chief to a hospital in Baghdad. From this position, Avicenna advanced quickly, but spent some time in prison for his success, the target of jealous or misunderstood peers.

The Influences for Avicenna's Medicine

The principles of Avicenna's medicine are still taught today; Avicenna drew a lot of his medicinal knowledge from Greek, Chinese, Ayurvedic and Unani Medicine. He studied a lot of the medicinal work carried out by Hippocrates (460 B.C. - 377 B.C.). Furthermore, Avicenna's own medicinal work influenced much of European medicine from the 12th to 17th centuries; the *Canon of Medicine* was one of the most popular medicinal texts of medicine students in medieval Europe.

Avicenna and the Use of Medicinal Plants

Avicenna recorded the descriptions and use of hundreds of plants which were used for medicinal purposes; his writings were so detailed that they are still relevant in use today. However, although Avicenna is known to have recorded the use of many medicinal plants, some plants have been difficult to identify due to the use of various regionalized Middle Eastern, Indian and Chinese names in the texts.

Avicenna and the Use of Rose

Popular plants such as lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*) are mentioned in Avicenna's texts but it is perhaps the rose (*Rosa damascena*) for which Avicenna is remembered the most. The rose is one of the most revered plants in the Islamic culture and Avicenna wrote a complete book on the rose; rose is said to be one of the first plants which Avicenna successfully distilled.

The Invention of the Refrigerated Coil in Distillation by Avicenna

Avicenna was accredited with introducing the use of a refrigerated coil in the distillation process of plants, an

improvement on the basic stills which were in use prior to Avicenna's invention. It was possible to produce aromatic flower waters and essential oils with the new distillation process; although archaeological evidence shows that plants were certainly distilled before this time in history, there is no doubt that the invention of the refrigerated coil improved the distillation process greatly.

Avicenna's Place in Medicinal History

Avicenna contributed many other medicinal findings and works to the world of medicine; in addition to his use of plants in medicine, some of Avicenna's other writings included psychology, astronomy, natural diets, music, natural sciences, massage techniques and the use of plant oils. Avicenna, in many ways, was 'ahead of his time' and it is perhaps for this reason that many of Avicenna's texts are still referred to by modern medicine today.

References:

1. Davis, Patricia 1999 *Aromatherapy An A-Z* UK:Vermilion
2. Lawless, Julia 1995 *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Essential Oils* UK:Thorsons

Courtesy: The Avicenna Institute of Natural Healing

"Disease is an abnormal state of the body which primarily and independently produces a disturbance in the normal functions of the body. It may be an abnormality of temperament or form (structure). Symptom is a manifestation of some abnormal state in the body. It may be harmful as a colic pain or harmless as the flushing of cheeks in peripneumonia"

— Avicenna

'A Discussion of the Cause of Disease and Symptoms', in *The Canon of Medicine*, adapted by L. Bakhtiar (1999), 171.

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