

# Newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy (NISA)

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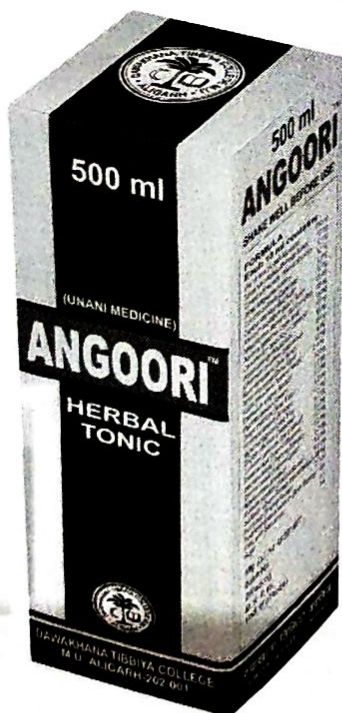
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**Warmest wishes for the festive season! It's been a wonderful 2015 at Ibn Sina Academy...lots of literary and social activities and now it is anticipated even better 2016. May this New Year bring more success, prosperity and happiness!**

**National Seminar on 'Life and Contribution of Ibn al-Haytham'**

Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh (India) organized "National Seminar on Life and Contribution of Ibn al-Haytham (Alhazen)" during 14-15 October 2015, to commemorate the 1000<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Compilation of Ibn al-Haytham's remarkable seven Chapters work on optics: in Arabic and as a part of UNESCO's declaration of "International year of Light 2015 (IYL 2015)".

During the inaugural session, Aligarh Muslim University Vice Chancellor, Lt General Zameer Uddin Shah delivered the presidential address. Former Vice Chancellor NIMS University, Prof. K. C. Singhal and AMU Pro Vice Chancellor, Brigadier Syed Ahmad Ali attended the seminar as the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour, respectively.

While delivering his address, AMU Vice Chancellor, Lt General Zameer Uddin Shah said that the Islamic community has produced great scholars like Ibn al-Haytham but we have to examine work done by today's Muslims. "Recently in Lucknow, I tried to highlight the need for quality research in Muslim institutions but unfortunately the media quoted me for other things," He added that there is a downslide in the Muslim community, but AMU has a solution for it. "Just two days ago, an independent research in the United States of America has voted AMU as the second best Indian university," said AMU Vice Chancellor, Lt General Zameer Uddin Shah (Retd). He pointed out that AMU has done tremendous work in recycling water and the usage of Nano

Technology along with other things. He further shared that there is a possible collaboration of Maruti and Mahendra and Mahendra coming up with AMU in the field of 'solar power automation'. "This collaboration will be another feather in the cap of AMU," he added.

AMU Vice Chancellor also inaugurated an exhibition on the works of Ibn al-Haytham. The Exhibition included Ibn al-Haytham's related books, journals, postage stamp, first day cover, currency notes, paintings and photographs. In addition, items were included, which were published by the Late Hakim Mohammad Saeed, Karachi, Pakistan, during the International Conference on Abul Hassan Ibn al-Haytham held on 1-10 November 1969.

The AMU Pro Vice Chancellor, Brigadier S Ahmad Ali (Retd.) said that remembering heroes like Ibn al-Haytham from the history of Islamic civilization helps us to do something new and innovative. "Ibn al-Haytham was a polymath and philosopher who is widely considered as one of the most influential scientists of all time. Referred to as the father of experimental physics and modern optics and scientific methodology, he made significant contributions to the principles of optics, astronomy, mathematics, meteorology, visual perception and the scientific method," He added that Ibn al-Haytham was the earliest theoretical physicist to discover that a hypothesis has the necessity to be experimented through confirmed procedures or mathematical evidence. "With his book on optics, , Ibn al-Haytham explained certain optical phenomena using mechanical analogies," He further added



that Ibn al-Haytham discovered how light bends and turns and also discovered the depth of the atmosphere. He pointed out that unfortunately only 50 of the 200 books written by Ibn al-Haytham survive today and there is an immediate need of the revival of his works. He also said that it is an irony that Islamic civilization, which has produced such great scholars, stopped thinking after the eighth century. He lamented that no great work takes place when people stop questioning things around them. He concluded his address by saying that the time has come when we should start questioning things again.

While delivering the welcome address, Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman, President, Ibn Sina Academy said that he is proud that this seminar has taken place despite the limited means. Prof. Rahman said that Ibn al-Haytham's experiments, with special reference to optics and light, proved earlier researches incorrect and presented the correct observations. "The entire world recognizes Ibn al-Haytham's conclusions and as a result the UNESCO is celebrating 2015 as the year of light (IYL-2015). He also pointed out that the Ibn Sina Academy is dedicated to editing, translating and publishing manuscripts and rare books from time to time and the Academy has been quite well admired in India and among the International community.

Prof. K. C. Singhal, Chief Guest pointed out that he only knows a little bit about the works of Ibn al-Haytham. "But I have always been willing to come across new discoveries and inventions. "It is a pity that the modern medicine has replaced traditional medicines like Unani, Ayurvedic, Chinese and others. What we need to ponder on is that lack of research and inventions in traditional medicines is responsible for its decline," He further urged young scholars and scientists to do innovations in the fields of traditional medicines.

Dr. Kathleen Longwaters, 'Fullbright Scholar' from USA said that much of modern scientific and medical instrumentation is built on Ibn al-Haytham's work on optics. "As a Fullbright scholar I am exploring and working on Ibn al-Haytham's works in a broader cultural context". During the seminar, the Ibn Sina Academy also awarded "Ibn Sina Award" to Dr. Abdul Latif, Department of Ilmul Advia, Faculty of Unani Medicine, AMU for his work on public health. On the other hand, Dr. Asma Kazmi gifted a portrait of Ibn al-Haytham, which she painted specially for the occasion.

A short documentary on Ibn al-Haytham produced by the Department of Journalism and Mass communication, AMU, was screened during the inaugural session of the two day seminar. The Chairperson, Department of Journalism and Mass communication, Prof. Afrina Rizvi provided expertise in making the film. Similarly a music entitled "Rainbow of Light" composed by Linda Lamon in honour of IYL 2015 was played.

Bangladeshi Research investigators, Dr. Mohd. Zakiul Hassan, (Respiratory Viruses Research Group, Centre for Communicable Diseases, Dhaka) and Dr. Shah Mohammad Fahim of Ibn Sina Medical College, Dhaka, also attended the seminar. On behalf of the Bangladesh Institute of Islamic Thought (BIIT), they also presented a copy of MoU signed by Dr. Shah Abdul Hannan (President, BIIT).

In addition experts like Prof. Zahid Husain Khan, National Focal Point for India for IYL 2015, and Member, International Working Group on Ibn al-Haytham (Paris), Prof. S. M. Razaullah Ansari, Former President of International Commission for Science and Technology in the Islamic World, Anisul Islam, (Coordinator Al-Haytham Memorial Science Club, Pakherpora, Jammu & Kashmir), Dr. Mohd. Qutbuddin (Centre of



Arabic and African Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi) and Dr. Ashfaque Ahmad (Research Officer Unani, National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage, Hyderabad), participated and graced the seminar.

Overall, 46 research scholars presented papers on different aspects of Ibn al-Haytham. Scholars reviewed Ibn al-Haytham's multidimensional personality spanning his contributions in the field of science, vision, optics, light and Medicine. Meanwhile Congress leaders, Mr. Vivek Bansal (Secretary, All India Congress Committee) and Mrs. Ruhi Zuberi were also present.

To note is that National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language and Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi jointly sponsored the seminar. Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Treasurer, Ibn Sina Academy, moved the vote of thanks, while Dr. Sumbul Rahman of Dept. of Ilmul Advia, conducted the programme.

#### **National Workshop on Hijamah**

National Workshop on Hijamah was organized by National Society of Hijamah, India in collaboration with Ibn Sina Academy (Aligarh), World Unani Foundation, Islahi Health Care Foundation and Hijamah Society (UK) on 8th November 2015 at Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi.

Apart from Hands-on workshop and clinical demonstration as an effective and curable treatment from Ilâj-bit-Tadbîr. Speakers covered topics on introduction to theory and practice, history of Hijamah, etc. The organizing secretary was Dr. M. Shahid Malik, General Secretary, National Society of Hijamah.

#### **Tarahi Bazm-e Musalama**

Tarahi Bazm-e Musalama, under the aegis of Bazm-e Naved Sukhan in collaboration with Ghalib Study Centre, Ibn Sina Academy was organized on

4.12.2015. Large number of local poets participated in the programme.

#### **Condolence Meeting**

A heartfelt condolence meeting on the sad demise of Mrs. Saira Amiruddin Ajmal was held at Ibn Sina Academy on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2015. Mrs. Saira Ajmal was the wife of Mr. Amiruddin Ajmal, who is a leading industrialist and an elder brother of Mr. Badruddin Ajmal (Member of Parliament and Patron, Ibn Sina Academy).

#### **VISIT OF DIGNITARIES**

1. Ms. Sabrina Datto of Chicago University (October 14-27, 2015). She collected material for her Ph.D. thesis on Unani Medicine
2. A two-member delegation of Uyghur Medicine Research Centre, Xinjiang, China under the leadership of Mr. Abulimiti, Director, Research and Development
3. Dr. Arindam Bhattacharya (IFS), Spl. Secretary to Govt of U.P. Medical Education Deptt. & Addl. Director (Admin) S.G.P.G.I., visited Ibn Sina Academy and had long discussion on relevance of history of medicine in medical education and separate CPMT for AYUSH. Dr. Bhattacharya is a medical graduate from AIIMS, New Delhi (12.11.2015)
4. Delegates, Winter School in Disaster Management
5. Delegates, Subject Refresher Course R/M in Social Science, UGC Human Resource Development Centre, AMU, Aligarh, 3.10.2015
6. Delegates, Subject Refresher Course in Computer Applications, UGC Human Resource Development Centre, AMU, Aligarh, 5.10.2015
7. Delegates, Subject Refresher Course in Library and Information Sciences, UGC Human Resource Development Centre, AMU, Aligarh, 25.11.2015
8. Delegates, Orientation Programme (140), UGC Human Resource



Development Centre, AMU, Aligarh,  
28.11.2015

## MEMBERS ACTIVITIES

**Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman**, former Dean, Faculty of Unani Medicine, Aligarh Muslim University and Founder President, Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh, was invited to deliver the Keynote Lecture during the 1st International Congress on Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, Mashhad (Iran) during 7-9 October 2015. This was his eleventh visit to Iran to attend and delivered invited lecture in the International Conferences.

He also attended the joint meeting of Markazi Majlis Amla and Markazi Majlis of the All India Muslim Majlis-e Mushawarat, on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2015 and Majlis-e Amla of Anjuman Tarraqi Urdu (Hind) on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015, New Delhi.

He was also invited to attend as chief guest

1. Opening Ceremony to start the two new post-graduate course of Unani Medicine in Moalejat and Kulliyat at Aligarh Unani and Ayurvedic Medical College and ACN Hospital, Aligarh on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2015.
2. Valedictory Session, National Seminar on "Ikkeeswin Sadi main Urdu to Darpesh Challenges", organized by Millat Bedari Muhim Committee at Aligarh, in collaboration with National Council for Promotion of Urdu Languages, New Delhi, 19<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

**Prof. S.M. Razaullah Ansari** (General Secretary of Ibn Sina Academy) participated very actively in the preparation of the ordinances of the recently founded International Society of Ibn al-Haytham, at Paris. A report by him will be published shortly.

**Dr. Abdul Latif** (Joint Secretary, Ibn Sina Academy and Chairman, Dept. of Ilmul Advia of AMU) has been awarded Ibn Sina Public Health Award during National Seminar on Life and Contribution of Ibn al-Haitham. He has also been awarded "Excellence Award for outstanding contribution in the field of Education" by the Renowned Padam Vibhushan Cardiologist Dr. Purshotam Lal along with Prof. R. K. Khandal (former VC, UP Technical University), President India Glycol Pvt. Ltd., Mrs. Shruti President, CEE in Piccadilly.

**Dr. S. Ziaur Rahman**, Hony. Treasurer, IAMMS and Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology, JNMC, AMU, Aligarh, attended and participated in the following conferences as guest:

1. Guest Lecture, Challenges of Running and Reporting of ADRs in India, 5th Annual Conference of Society of Biological Sciences India (SOBSICON 2015), Amritsar, 26-28 November 2015.
2. Attended as Member Organising Committee, National Seminar cum Workshop on "Modernization of Unani Pharmacy: Need and Importance", A. K. Tibbiya College, AMU, Aligarh, 14-15 Nov. 2015.
3. Attended, Meeting of expert of medical manuscripts, National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM), Shastri Bhawan, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India, 19 November 2015
4. Chaired a session, National Workshop on Hijamah, Scientific Society of Hijamah, Jamia Millia, New Delhi, November 8, 2015
5. Guest Lecture, on "Drug residues as environmental pollutants and potential impact on human health and life", The 15th Annual Conference and International Colloquium on Patient Safety, October 31--November 2, 2015, Department of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacology, Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine, Kolkata.
6. Guest lecture on Sources of Literature in Pharmacovigilance, 15th Annual



- Meeting of International Society of Pharmacovigilance (ISoP), Prague, Czech Republic, 27-30 October 2015
7. Chaired a session, AMU Alumni Meet 2015, AMU, Aligarh, October 18-19, 2015
  8. Joint Organising Secretary, National Seminar on Life and Contribution of Ibn al-Haytham (Alhazen)", Aligarh, 14-15 October 2015.
  9. Deputed to visit UP State Information Commission, Lucknow for a hearing related to JNMC Hospital as CPIO on 30th December 2015.
  10. Visited Dayanand Medical College, Baba Farid Medical Science University, Punjab, 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

### FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

#### International Conference on Unani Medicine (ICOUM-16)

National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore is going to organize an International Conference on Unani Medicine (ICOUM-16) in the month of June-- July 2016 at Bangalore, India. The theme of the conference chosen is "Unani Medicine - from traditional to science based alternative medicine".

The Conference will be held to disseminate the knowledge of various branches of the system, explore possibilities for integration of Unani knowledge with the present available tools and techniques for evidence generation, assessment of objective, and empirical approach to the curriculum development and acquaint the Unani personnel with global trends in developing Unani medicine on rational basis. The conference will also try to accumulate inputs for developing methods for evaluating pure philosophical and logical principles underlying the fundamentals of Unani medicine.

For more information, please contact Prof. M. A. Siddiqui, Director, NIUM, Bangalore, India.

#### Second Urdu Science Congress in Aligarh

The Second Urdu Science Congress will be held on 20-21 February 2016 under the aegis of *Anjuman Farogh-e-Science* (Organisation for Science Promotion), Aligarh Branch.

The very First National Urdu Science Congress was organized by the *Anjuman Farogh-e-Science* at Zakir Husain Delhi College, Delhi, India during 20-21 March 2015. *Anjuman Farogh-e-Science* is a registered non-governmental organization (NGO), established in 1992 through the efforts of Dr. M. Aslam Parvaiz, former Principal of Zakir Husain Delhi College. Since, 1994, the *Anjuman* has been regularly publishing a popular science monthly magazine, *Urdu Science Mahnamah* (Urdu Science Monthly), edited by Dr. Parvaiz. It has also held science popularization conferences in Urdu. It organizes an award giving function, recognizing school students with highest scores in science subjects.

The aim of such type of Urdu Science Congress is to foster communication between scientists, scholars of Arabic Urdu and Persian languages; educators; writers; poets; historians; science reporters and researchers interested in presenting their works in Urdu language.

It is expected that the event would attract over a hundred delegates from across the nation with over twenty invited guest presentations.

Papers are invited on following topics:

1. Quran and Science
2. Science in Urdu literature for Children
3. Science Literature – past, present and future
4. Studies of Science in Madrassa – a challenge



5. Urdu and Newer Technologies – a need of an hour
6. Science terminologies in Urdu
7. Science based registered organizations and societies in India – an introduction
8. Legacy of Science in Urdu
9. Scientific Experiments in Urdu

For details regarding registration, please contact: Dr. Abdul Moiz Shams, Secretary, Anjuman Farogh Science, Aligarh Branch, Muzammil Manzil Complex, Dodhpur, Aligarh. Email: moizsham@yahoo.com; urdusciencecongress@gmail.com; Phone: 09897452566

### FELLOWSHIPS/SCHOLARSHIPS

#### **Two Postdoctoral Fellowships in History and/or Philosophy of Science at the University of Notre Dame**

The University of Notre Dame History and Philosophy of Science Graduate Program seeks to appoint two Postdoctoral Fellows in history and/or philosophy of science. Appointments begin August 2016 for one year, and are renewable for a second year.

Applications are welcome from scholars working in any area of history and/or philosophy of science, technology and/or medicine, including the human, physical and social sciences. In addition to pursuing their research and participating actively in the intellectual life of the program, the ND HPS Postdoctoral Fellows teach one course per semester, which may be either graduate or undergraduate. ND HPS Postdoctoral Fellows are strongly encouraged to teach a graduate seminar in their area of specialization.

The annual stipend is \$48,000 in the first year, rising to \$50,000 in the second year. In addition to the stipend, the package includes health insurance, \$4000 per year of research and conference travel funds, and up to \$3000 in relocation expenses. Office space, which may accommodate up

to two postdoctoral fellows, will also be provided.

Applicants must have completed all requirements for the doctoral degree by June 30, 2016. Applicants should send the following materials in electronic form only, as PDF files by email attachment, to Tori Davies (tdavies@nd.edu), with "HPS postdoc" as the subject line.

Enquiries may be addressed to Katherine Brading (kbrading@nd.edu), Director, History and Philosophy of Science Graduate Program, University of Notre Dame.

The ND HPS Graduate Program is housed in the Reilly Center for Science, Technology and Values, and draws faculty from a variety of departments including History, Philosophy, the Program of Liberal Studies, Theology, and English. The University serves as the host for the History of Science Society. For further information about the Reilly Center and the ND HPS program please visit <http://reilly.nd.edu/>

The HPS Postdoctoral Fellowships are funded by the College of Arts and Letters, with support from the American Council of Learned Societies through funds provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The University of Notre Dame seeks to attract, develop, and retain the highest quality faculty, staff and administration. The University is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and is committed to building a culturally diverse workplace. We strongly encourage applications from female and minority candidates and others that will enhance our community. Moreover, Notre Dame prohibits discrimination against veterans or disabled qualified individuals, and requires affirmative action by covered contractors to employ and advance veterans and qualified individuals with disabilities in compliance with 41 CFR 60-741.5(a) and 41 CFR 60-300.5(a).



## DOCUMENTATION

### **Meeting of expert of manuscripts to consider various issues of National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM)**

Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Treasurer, Ibn Sina Academy, was invited to attend the meeting of expert of manuscripts to consider various issues of National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM)\*, which is an autonomous organisation under Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Dr. Rahman, who participated in the discussion, informed that the true knowledge of India is basically contained in the wealth of manuscripts. The subject area covered is as wide as can be imagined by any well-read person.

It is generally believed that Indian literature consists of spiritual and philosophical texts and literary works, but few people know that there is a vast scientific literature in our country that consists of texts on Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Astronomy, Architecture, Metallurgy, Water conservation, Management, Economics, State-craft, Animal husbandry, Agriculture, Ayurveda, Unani, Music, Fine arts to name just a few. In fact, there is no knowledge system that has not been covered in the Indian tradition.

During the meeting, it was highlighted by experts that in order to achieve the goal of harvesting meaningfully the knowledge base of the country, it is imperative that manuscripts in the country are preserved properly both in the traditional way and also in the modern technological format. It is also important to make this base accessible to scholars and researchers.

Experts further pointed out that conservation of manuscripts in repositories and also in the custody of individuals needs to be looked at holistically. Further, a system needs to be

devised and put in place, which will ensure automatic scientific conservation of manuscripts for coming generations.

Meaningful and productive use of manuscripts depends on accessibility by scholars and researchers, which is very difficult in the present conditions. There is no uniform access policy, let alone rules of access to this knowledge base in the country. The permission to use is arbitrary and varies from one state to another and also in institutions within a state. Since the knowledge base contained in the manuscripts is national heritage, it is felt that a well-defined national policy needs to be devised for access to our knowledge base.

At present manuscripts are covered by the antiquities act of 1972, which was basically created to deal with archaeological heritage of the country. Therefore, the detailed coverage that the manuscripts of the country need and deserve is not there in the above-mentioned act. It is worth considering whether there is a need to have an act exclusively dealing with manuscript wealth of the country in all their aspects, like conservation, preservation, access and use for utilizing the knowledge contained therein.

The National Mission for Manuscripts had created a draft of an act for manuscripts in the year 2011, which needs to be re-looked at, in order to make it comprehensive and effective. As it is, the manuscript wealth of the country has been in a state of neglect for a very long time due to lack of an effective system in place. It was felt by the participants in the meeting that any delay in addressing the issue will cause irretrievable damage. In this regard, a committee was formulated under the chair of Prof. Dipti Tripathi, former director, NMM. The committee would re-look the draft and soon submit its report, so that it could be placed before the Minister of Culture.



The National Mission for Manuscripts has over a period of time digitized 2.11 lakh manuscripts from all over the country. The use of the digitized images is restricted due to the right for permission of use resting with the owners of the manuscripts. Thus every time a researcher has to access any manuscript digitized by the Mission, one has to go through the process of obtaining permission from the repository or individual who holds it. A well thought out national policy and act in this matter will do away with arbitrariness in giving permission for use.

It is quite obvious that this whole situation needs urgent and proactive consideration and action to save manuscripts from further damage and loss of a knowledge base which is not only the richest heritage of any country in the world but has also provided India through the centuries, respect, as a centre of knowledge to be craved for.

The meeting, was called by Shri Narendra Kumar Sinha, Cultural Secretary, Minister of Culture, New Delhi and.

\*NMM was established to survey, locate and conserve Indian manuscripts, with an aim to create national resource base for manuscripts, for enhancing their access, awareness and use for educational purposes. The Mission was initiated in February 2003, by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Government of India and Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts is the nodal agency for the execution of this project. It creates bibliographic databases of Indian manuscripts and is involved in the conservation and preservation of the manuscripts.

Report by Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman

**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Society of Pharma-covigilance India (SoPI)**

Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Treasurer, Ibn Sina Academy, attended the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Society of Pharma-covigilance India (SoPI) during October 31-November 2, 2015 at Kolkatta and delivered a guest lecture on "Drug Residues as Environmental Pollutants and Potential Impact on Human Health and Life".

Dr. Rahman highlighted the significance of drug-environment interaction and its impact on human health and life, and said that drugs interact with the environment in diverse ways and these include the aquatic system, ground water, surface water, sewage systems, flora and fauna of the ecosystems, causing various modifications including bacterial drug resistance. He informed that drug residues may reach the environment by a number of different routes such as patients' excretion either as a parent compound or metabolites, via the sewer system. Direct release into the waste water system from manufacturing, hospitals or disposed via toilets and sinks. Even when waste water makes it to sewage treatment facilities, they are not equipped to remove pharmaceuticals. As a result, our streams and rivers are exposed to a cocktail of synthetic compounds from stimulants and antibiotics to analgesics and antihistamines. He further stated that it is a well-known fact that drugs interact frequently with the environment and some of these interactions may have deleterious effects on human's health and life such as the exacerbation of various autoimmune diseases including rheumatoid arthritis, systemic sclerosis, systematic lupus erythematosus and anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibody related vasculitis. He said, similarly, another important aspect of environment-drug interaction is the effect of endocrine disruptors that may interfere with the production or activity of hormones in living organisms. Potential effect in males cause poor semen quality including low sperm counts, low ejaculate volume, high number of abnormal spermatozoa



motility. Other effects may include testicular cancer, malformed reproductive tissue viz. undescended testes, small penis size, prostate disease and other unrecognized abnormalities of male reproductive tissues, female diseases including breast and reproductive organ tissue cancers, fibrocystic disease of the breasts, polycystic ovarian syndrome, endometriosis, uterine fibroid and pelvic inflammatory diseases. Potential effect in children have been linked with impaired behavior, mental, immune and thyroid functions in developing children. Other include precocious puberty, osteoporosis, foetal growth, child development, and obesity. He stated in the lecture, that the third group of environmental contaminants are of heavy metals that can be found on the surface and in the tissues of fresh vegetables. Certain trace elements are essential in plant nutrition, but plants growing in a polluted environment can accumulate trace elements at high concentrations causing a serious risk to human health when they are consumed. Prolonged exposure to heavy metals such as cadmium, copper, lead, nickel, and zinc can cause deleterious health effects in humans. He elaborated most of the current studies which revealed carcinogenic effects of several heavy metals such as cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury and arsenic. Dr. Rahman many years back, coined the term, "Pharmacoenvironmentology" for the study of drugs eliminating into the environment from living organisms.

Large number of papers and posters were presented including 10 for prize sessions. In addition, 10 were invited as guest speakers. Being the National Secretary of SoPI, Dr. Rahman also addressed during the inaugural as well as valedictory functions and presented a comprehensive report on activities and current scenario in the field of Pharmacovigilance in India.

Prof. Bhabatosh Biswas, Vice Chancellor,  
West Bengal University of Health

Sciences, Prof. Sushanta Kumar Bandyopadhyay, Director of Medical Education, Government of West Bengal, Dr Sten Olsson, WHO Programme Expert, Uppsala Monitoring Centre, Sweden, Dr. Shanti Pal, Group Lead, Drug Safety, WHO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland, Prof. K. C. Singhal, Founder-President SoPI, Prof. Barna Ganguly, President, SoPI, Prof. Santanu K Tripathi, Organising Secretary, SoPICon2015, Prof Govind Mohan, SoPI Treasurer, Prof. Nandita Basu, Director, Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine, Kolkata, Prof. R. P. Goswami, President, Society of Tropical Medicine & Infectious Diseases in India, Prof Barun Saha Dalal, Principal, K P C Medical College, Kolkata, Dr. Saurav Ghosh, Medical Director, K P C Medical College, Kolkata, also spoke and presented their views on different aspect of Pharmacovigilance.

#### **15th Annual Meeting of International Society of Pharmacovigilance (ISoP) at Prague, Czech Republic**

Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Treasurer, Ibn Sina Academy, was invited to attend the 15th Annual Meeting of the International Society of Pharmacovigilance (ISoP) at Prague, Czech Republic during 26-30 October 2015. He also presented a paper on sources of literature on Pharmacovigilance based on the collection extant at the Library of Ibn Sina Academy. He divided his paper to explain the primary, secondary and tertiary sources of literature. He enlightened that nowhere such a large number of publications on Pharmacovigilance and drug safety is available as it is in Aligarh.

Being the National Secretary of the Society of Pharmacovigilance India (SoPI), he also played a significant role in winning the bid to hold the next annual meeting of the International Society of Pharmacovigilance (ISoP) in India.

Dr. Rahman informed that now the next annual conference of SoPI will be a joint



one with ISoP at Agra, with Dr. KC Singhal, former professor and chairman, Dept. of Pharmacology at JNMC as Chairman Organizing Committee and Dr. Sandeep Agarwal, Cancer Surgeon, as the Organizing Secretary. Approval for this was granted in the Executive and General Body Meetings of ISoP at Prague, on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

The conference at Agra will be held from October 7-10, 2016. The day one i.e. on 7<sup>th</sup> October will be Pre-conference course, which will have separate registration. The main conference will be held from 8-10 October 2016. Those registered for the pre-conference will only attend the course and those registered for the conference will not participate in the Pre-conference course. It is expected that physicians, pharmacists, drug regulators and representatives of pharmaceutical industry and World Health Organisation, from nearly seventy countries would participate in the conference.

Meeting of ISoP and SoPI offers a chance to discuss various issues related to Pharmacovigilance and drug safety and to share experiences and ideas to bring about improvement in patient care. He further informed that the aim of holding this meeting in India is to create awareness for drug safety, best practices and to provide a platform to express views, sharing latest information on science and solutions among stakeholders and discuss issues related to Pharmacovigilance, Pharmaco-economic, Pharmaco-genetic, Pharmaco-environmentology, drugs of Indian systems of Medicine and consumer reporting.

He hope that this ISoP and SoPI joint meeting will be a unique occasion for interaction with experts in the field of Pharmacovigilance from all over the world, establish contacts, network and relationship in the field. Besides participants will enjoy excellent social

programmes and hospitality in the historic city of Agra.

**VIII Avicenna Readings – International scientific and practical conference on the theme: “Scientific heritage of Avicenna and actual problems of modern medicine” – A report**

As per the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 56-f dated February 2nd, 2015 and approved in official Governmental program No. 14/1-57 dated November 12, 2015, Avicenna Public Foundation together with National Commission of Uzbekistan for UNESCO, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Bukhara State Medical Institute organized the VIII Avicenna Readings–International scientific practical conference on the theme “Scientific heritage of Avicenna and actual problems of modern medicine” during November 20-21, 2015 in Bukhara city (Republic of Uzbekistan).

The purpose of the Event was to deeply studying and learning of the scientific, cultural, medical and practical heritage of Abu Ali Ibn Sina (Avicenna), its wide implementation in modern medicine and search for solutions of actual problems in modern medicine as a part of celebrating the 1035 Years Anniversary of the birth of outstanding compatriot — Genius of Sciences — Avicenna, observed internationally by Uzbek Scientific Society.

Avicenna Public Foundation with National Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan for UNESCO planned and held wide-scale National and International Events throughout the year dedicated to Avicenna and his rich and versatile scientific heritage. In this series, a national scientific seminar was first held in Termez city (April, 25, 2015) followed by VIII International Avicenna Readings in Bukhara city (November, 20-21, 2015).

In the VIII International Avicenna Readings, 120 participants including 12



scientists-specialists from abroad, invited honorable guests, academicians, professors, assistants of the professors, students and youth. Foreign participants from Azerbaijan, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Latvia, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, USA presented their scientific abstracts and articles, made scientific reports and delivered greeting-speeches to the audience.

The Main scientific directions of the event were:

1. Avicenna's ethics,
2. Avicenna's heritage and modern medicine,
3. Avicenna's doctrine and formation of the principles of healthy-life style ,
4. Avicenna's heritage and traditional (alternative) medicine,
5. The role of Avicenna's doctrine in the development of pharmacy,
6. Prevention, diagnosis and treatment in Avicenna's doctrine and actual problems of modern medicine.

The Program of the Conference, the collection of scientific abstracts and articles were published and were distributed to all participants.

National specialists, professors, teachers, representatives of the Ministry of Health its regional branches, physicians, bachelors and masters of Tashkent Medical Academy, Andijan State Medical Institute, Samarkand State Medical Institute, Karshi State University, Navoy Pedagogical Institute and from other governmental bodies and NGOs participated in the Event.

In the first day of the International Conference (November 20, 2015), a cultural trip to the place of the birth of Avicenna – Afshana village was organized. People paid rich tribute and flowers to the Avicenna's Monument and visited the Museum named after Avicenna.

Opening ceremony of the VIII International Avicenna Readings took place in the Bukhara National Theatre of Music and Drama, where greeting-speeches to the audience were made by Governor of Bukhara region Esonov Mukhitdin, Vice-President of the Academy of Science of the Republic of Uzbekistan Prof. Abdukhalimov Bakhrom, First Deputy of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan Khudoyarov Asilbek, Secretary General of National Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan for UNESCO Ikramov Alisher, Rector of Bukhara State Medical Institute Askarov Tohir, Secretary of French Medical Academy Prof. Ardaillou Raymond, Head of Tashkent Office of TIKA Kiziltoprak Suleyman, President of Ibn Sina Academy in India Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman.

It's a proud moment for any Indian that Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman was asked to garland the statue of Ibn Sina at his birth place Afshana on behalf of the organizing committee of the Conference. He also led the procession of all delegates. Delegates and other office bearers paid rich tribute along with showering of flowers to the Avicenna's Monument and later on visited the Museum named after Avicenna.

Avicenna Public Foundation awarded the certificate of recognition to the National Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan for UNESCO for contribution of establishing and promoting National Bioethics Committee of Uzbekistan under Avicenna Public Foundation and for strengthening multinational scientific and cultural cooperation. Another certificate of recognition was presented to Bukhara State Medical Institute for contribution to studying and publicity of the Avicenna's heritage.

Avicenna Public Foundation and Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan were awarded by medals on behalf of



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French Medical Academy. Avicenna Public Foundation was also presented the certificates of recognition on behalf of the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), Turkish multidisciplinary medical clinic "Liv Hospital" and Turkish Bahcesehir University.

It is worthy to mention that in the framework of the Conference Avicenna Public Foundation signed Memorandums of Cooperation with "Liv Hospital" and Bahcesehir University.

Director of Oriental Chinese Medicine named after Avicenna and Chairman of Avicenna Foundation Prof. Michael Such (Israel) signed Memorandum in May 2014 in Tashkent and Prof. Kadircan Keskinbora from Bahcesehir University (Turkey) signed Memorandum in November 2015 in Bukhara. Prof. Robert Paul Vogt (Switzerland), Prof. Emets Ilya (Ukraine), Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Mir (India) held seminars, workshops, master-classes and "round-tables" in separate small groups with participants of the national specialists in the field of traditional medicine and acupuncture, ophthalmology and complicated cases of cataracts, cardiology and cardiac surgery, liver transplantation and other actual problems of modern medicine. In the framework of the Conference 32, scientific reports were made, discussed, disputed and proposals were taken into the consideration.

On the 2nd day, a resolution of the International Conference was focused to the Avicenna's heritage in traditional medicine and its wide implementation in diagnosis and treatment in modern medicine; work at the proposals to include the successful and tested practice of traditional medicine to the standards of National health-care system, was approved.

The above-mentioned items of the Resolution, in case of their accurate

implementation in the National health-care system, may positively effect the availability of diagnosis and treatment procedures both from the point of view of economy of patients' spending and practical effectiveness of treatment.

It was also noted in the Resolution, to establish inter-Institutional (under Higher Educational Establishments) scientific laboratories for studying and implementing the heritage in pharmacy and herbs that were used by Avicenna.

Participants unanimously agreed that this constructive measure will provide enrichment and increase of the arsenal of medicines by natural and local remedies and will manage the wide-scale use in modern medicine.

Moreover, programme of laboratories will be scientifically based that will manage further the practical use in modern medicine. The importance of furthermore promoting the search of the original works of Avicenna abroad, its translations into Uzbek language in order to study in depth Avicenna's heritage and to organize the publicity of the creative personality, constructive ideas and scientific heritage of our compatriot was also emphasized.

In addition to all the above-mentioned ideas, it was proposed to compile *Avicenna's* that will become a strong base for enrichment of the scientific, cultural, historical, medical and practical heritage of both Uzbek people and of the world. Publication of such an Encyclopedia will also become practical and effective instrument to bring up and educate the harmonically developed Youth.

In the programme of the International Conference, exhibitions and presentations of current achievements in Pharmacy and modern Medicine were also included. The VIII International Avicenna Readings was



nationally broadcasted widely and was covered by Uzbek mass-media.

**National Seminar and Workshop on 'Modernization of Unani Pharmacy, Need and Importance'**

The Department of Saidla (Pharmacy), Aligarh Muslim University in collaboration with the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) organized two-days National Seminar and Workshop on 'Modernization of Unani Pharmacy, Need and Importance' at Ajmal Khan Tibbiya College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr. Shamim Ahmad, Ex Vice Chancellor, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi lamented that using nano-technology in medicines is complicated and it has still to set a mark in medicine preparations. "However, the use of nanotechnology in the field of medicine could revolutionize the way we detect and treat damage to the human body and disease in the future, and many techniques only imagined a few years ago are making remarkable progress towards becoming realities and that the modernization of Unani pharmacy needs to be done cautiously.

The Aligarh Muslim University Pro Vice Chancellor, Brigadier Syed Ahmad Ali, who attended the seminar as a Guest of Honour said that Saidla (pharmacy) is the backbone of all treatments. He added that since Saidla has a big role in the development of Unani Medical Science, the university administration decided to have a new building with state-of art research and development facilities for the department.

Dr. Syed Farooq, President, Himalaya Drug Company, who attended the function as the Chief Guest said that like other traditional medicines, there is a need to upgrade Unani Medicine. He added that since any medicine system is a science it needs continuous improvements. "There is

a need of modernization in the systems of drug delivery, therapy techniques, diagnostic techniques and anti-microbial techniques along with other important areas in Unani medicine". He added that today nanotechnology in medicine is employing nano-particles to deliver drugs, heat, light or other substances to specific types of cells. Dr. Farooq also said by working in the right direction, Unani medicine will be using these modern techniques.

Professor M. M. Wamiq Amin, Officiating Dean, Faculty of Unani Medicine said that without the development of Saidla, the development of Unani Medicine is not possible. He added that with the help of Government of India, the modernization of Unani Medicine will be realised soon. He further said that since its establishment in 2011, the Department of Saidla, AMU, has made a name of its own and with a new building with state-of-art facilities, the Department will be on its way to modernization.

Meanwhile, Mr. Zamaluddin from Hamdard Wakf, Bangladesh, gave a brief presentation on Hamdard-run clinics and centres in Bangladesh.

Prof. Tajuddin, founder chairman Dept. of Saidla, welcomed the guests with his address. Dr. Saud Ali Khan, principal, AKTC, moved the vote of thanks, while Dr. Farooq Dar conducted the programme. Dr. Qazi Zaid Ahmad, Organizing Secretary of the Seminar and large number of delegates from India and from other Departments of AMU, were present on the occasion. A trip to Ibn Sina Academy for most of the delegates and guests was also arranged on the very first day.

Next day, the valedictory function was chaired by Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, President, Ibn Sina Academy.



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Please send all newsletter correspondence to:

**Editor, NISA**

Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences, Tijara House,

Dodhpur, Aligarh-202002 INDIA

E-mail: [ibnsinaacademy@gmail.com](mailto:ibnsinaacademy@gmail.com), website: <http://www.ibnsinaacademy.org>

Phone:+91-5713290275

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

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

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