



Newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy (NISA)

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**EVENTS AT IBN SINA ACADEMY
(July – September 2017)**

Book Releasing Ceremony

A book, *Nazariya-e Tahzib* by Dr. M. Tariq Ghazi, a renowned writer and journalist, was released at Ibn Sina Academy on 9.7.2017. Distinguished scholars Prof. Masoodul Hasan, Maulana Mohd Shakeb, Prof. M. Saud Alam Qasmi, Prof. Nafees Ahmad, addressed with special reference to book. The book discusses to celebrate the journey and academic achievements of M. Tariq Ghazi, who is based in Toronto, Canada. Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman presided over the function. A detailed report of the ceremony was covered by the newspaper, *Rashtriya Sahara* (10.7.2017)

Series of Meetings and Programs of 'Wings of Desire'

'Wings of Desire' NGO team had series of meetings at Ibn Sina Academy on every Sunday. For the preparation of various programs being held under the aegis of 'International Literacy Day', a large meeting was held on 6th September 2017.

On the occasion of "International Literacy Day" on 8th September 2017, Wings of Desire, took out a road rally, in which lots of volunteers working in the field of education, participated, to spread the message louder and farther. Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another and hence we need to endorse the coveted thing that is education right from the childhood. "Education Child Campaign Awareness Rally" was led by Chief guest Mr. Vivek Bansal (Secretary All India Congress Committee and former MLC, UP Sate). Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman represented Ibn Sina Academy in this rally.

'Wings of Desire' NGO is basically working on Child Education, particularly for girls. The NGO's is working for the upliftment of the society. To change the society is the main target of the NGO. This change will come through education only. But why preference to questions of girls education

...yes it is the girl who spreads the knowledge to every corner of the society.

In another meeting, the volunteers had an interactive session with Dr. Yasir Khan, Asst. Prof, IIMT NOIDA, on 24th September 2017 and announced the new team for the session 2017-2018.

CONDOLENCE MEETINGS

Professor Anis Ahmad Ansari

Ibn Sina Academy has lost a very sincere and dedicated colleague. He was one of the well-wishers, collaborators, assistants and friends who suggested many good ways for the development and growth of the Academy. He remained executive committee member of the Academy many times.

In the professional life, Prof. Ansari had a distinct career since graduation. He passed BUMS with first division and first position and distinction in Amraz Uzn Anaf Halaq (E.N.T.) paper. He received University Gold Medal for standing first in BUMS (1967). His teaching career started in 1972, during his service, he passed the Diplomas of Proficiency in Arabic and Persian Languages in evening classes from AMU. He also did Diploma in Health Management (correspondence course) from Institute of Public Healthcare, Chennai and completed the M.D (Ilmul Advia) degree from AMU in 1983 (on study leave). His interests in teaching and research especially on experimental work on basic fundamental of Unani Medicine, pharmacological studies on both single & compound Unani formulations, are very well known.

During his teaching career, he served as an Advisor (Unani) in the Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India, New Delhi, on deputation for five years from December 2001 to November 2006. He visited 09

countries including Indonesia, Pakistan (two times), Iran (two times), UAE, Egypt, KSA, Israel, Italy, South Africa to present scientific aspects of Unani Medicine. He held several positions such as Dean Faculty of Unani Medicine, Advisor (Unani) AYUSH Govt. of India, Director In-charge CCRUM Govt of India, Principal AKTC AMU Aligarh, Chairman D/O Kulliyat AKTC AMU Aligarh, Provost S S Hall (South) AMU and Provost Sir Sulaiman Hall AMU.

Prof. Ansari succumbed to death on 24th September 2017 due to severe injury in a road traffic accident near the University Circle in the evening of 13th September 2017. He remained in a critical condition and was on ventilator both at ICU JNMC and Critical Neuro Care of Apollo Hospital New Delhi.

Mahmoodur Rahman

The Academy has lost another well-wisher, Mr. Mahmoodur Rahman, an IAS officer who served as the additional chief secretary in Jammu and Kashmir Government and served also as Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). He passed away on 8th July in Lucknow following a massive cardiac arrest.

A condolence meeting was observed at Ibn Sina Academy under the chairmanship of Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman. In the meeting, members remembered him very fondly. They expressed that he was appointed vice chancellor in the year 1995, the time when the university was suffering from its worst time in decades. The academic environment was badly affected by years of lawlessness at the campus and the repeated bouts of violent protests in the campus had dented its image badly.

Although in his term of five years, he might have not been able to make the university number one in the country, yet according to old timers' claim he was able to bring

back the focus to academic activities, to establish a semblance of normalcy and to evict goonda elements out of the university campus. Evidently, it was a no mean achievement. The university has seen major improvement since then and a latest survey puts the AMU as the third highest ranked university in the country.

Mahmoodur Rahman was appointed as the chairman of a Commission constituted by Maharashtra Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh in 2008. The commission's report, which came out in 2013, made some strong points and suggestions over social stature of Muslims in Maharashtra. He had an illustrious career as a bureaucrat and served in different capacities in Kashmir, Union Government and later as the chairman of Bombay Mercantile Bank, the biggest Muslim managed co-operative bank in the country.

Professor Zillur Rahman, informed that Mahmoodur Rahman Sahib, had started keen interest in the activities of Muslim Educational Conference since he took over the charge of the Conference as President.

Jamuna Prasad Rahi

A condolence meeting and All India Mushaira was organised on 5.8.2017 under the aegis of Ghalib Study Centre, Ibn Sina Academy in honour of Jamuna Prasad Rahi, who died in a severe accident near railway crossing of Seema Talkies, Aligarh.

A large number of local and outstation poets from Delhi, Ghaziabad, Meerut, Muzaffarnagar, attended the program and paid rich tribute to the departed soul.

The detailed obituary on Jamuna Prasad Rahi appeared in our last issue of NISA (Vol. 17, No. 3, 2017).

Naiyer Masud

The Academy held a condolence meeting on the sad demise of Naiyer Masud (died 24 July 2017) on 30th July 2017 at 7:30 pm.

Naiyer Masud was Professor of Persian at Lucknow University and the son of Syed Masud Hasan Rizvi 'Adeeb'. Janab Alim Naqvi, Prof. Mola Baksh, Prof. Tariq Chattari, Prof. Saghir Afrahim and Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, threw light on his works, remembered his family and friends. All participants presented their personal condolences to his bereaved family. He was an eminent Urdu and Persian Scholar and won many laurels including Padma Shri Award. He was very knowledgeable, down to earth person and stayed at Adabistan in Lucknow. May his soul rest in peace!

VISIT OF DIGNITARIES

1. Delegates, Subject Refresher Course in Library & Information Science, Human Resource Development Centre, AMU, Aligarh, 25.9.2017.
2. Dr. Shozeb Haider, Faculty member and UCL Excellence Fellow in Computational Medicinal Chemistry, College of Pharmacy, University College of London, UK., 21.9.2017
3. Dr Abrar Ahmad, Anaesthesiologist, Sohar, Oman, 27.7.2017
4. Prof. Adil Rahman, Dept. of Biochemistry, SAFAI Rural Hospital, Itawa, 16.7.2017

MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, Founding President, Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh, has been felicitated for his academic contribution by Amar Ujala (a Hindi Newspaper, Aligarh Edition) on the occasion of Teachers' Day (6.9.2017).

Prof. Rahman also attended following meetings / lectures:

1. Chief Guest to deliver lecture on Sir Syed Ahmad Khan on the occasion of Sir Syed Bicentenary Celebrations on 28.9.2017 at AMU ABK High School for Girls, AMU, Aligarh.

2. General Body Meeting, Anjuman Taraqqi Urdu (Hind), New Delhi, 21.8.2017.
3. Joint Meeting of the Research Council and Indian National Commission for History of Science, INSA, New Delhi, 15-16 September 2017 (For detail, please see page 8)
4. Visited Anjuman Taraqqi Urdu (Hind), New Delhi, 15.6.2017. On the same occasion, Jawed Rahmani, PRO, took his live Interview for FB broadcast.
5. Visited, Arshi Nursing Home, Biaora, Rajgarh (MP), 17th September 2017. The director of the Nursing Home, Dr. M. A. Ghorri, Dr. Jameela Ghorri and other staff members felicitated Prof. Rahman
6. Got felicitation in Bhopal by Dr. Mukhtar Shamim, who arranged a function in the honour on 20th September 2017

Prof. S. M. Razaullah Ansari, Secretary Ibn Sina Academy, has been invited by Dr. Enno Aufderheide, Secretary General of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, on behalf of the President of the Foundation, Professor Dr. Helmut Schwarz, to attend the A.von Humboldt Colloquium: "Germany and India – Partners in Education and Research", which will be held during 23-25 Nov. 2017 in Bengaluru.

With this Colloquium the A.v. H. Foundation seeks to recognize the profound expertise of the Humboldt community in India, bringing members of Humboldt network from different fields and generations together for a dialogue on key topics of international cooperation and internationalization. The focus will be on issues of education and promoting academic excellence: The following questions are to be addressed by the participants for discussion.

1. Which institutional structures at organisations of higher education support the career development of prospective world-class researchers?

2. How have conditions for research and development evolved over the past ten years?
3. Which general conditions assist academics to combine good teaching with excellent research and to set international quality standards?
4. What is the status of a research-driven knowledge transfer in educating new generations of junior researchers?
5. How do German-Indian research relations impact the international knowledge and innovation market?
6. What role do the Humboldt network and funding organisations like the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation play in advancing bilateral cooperation between Germany and India?

In fact the conference will provide an interdisciplinary forum to discuss these questions in conjunction with exchanges over current research activities and collaborations. Participants will be invited to share their expertise in different formats (plenary sessions, workshops, poster sessions, etc.) and to establish, renew, and deepen their ties with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the Indian Humboldt community, and other guests.

The Colloquium provides also the participating academics with a platform to present their own research topic to a wide specialist audience during interdisciplinary working groups and thus to generate and receive ideas for specialist and interdisciplinary networking.

Prof. Ansari has envisaged to speak on the "History of Science a neglected Discipline". As we know, he is the only one Indian scientist, who has been engaged for a number of decades in *source material* in history of Medieval Indian exact science: astronomy and mathematics in Indo-Persian. We look forward to his successful participation in the Humboldt Colloquium.

Prof. Zakia Athar Siddiqui (Life Member, IAMMS and former Principal Women's College AMU, Aligarh) had been awarded by 'Aligarh Ratan 2017' for her contributions in the field of Education by Pandit Mohan Lal Gautam Memorial Society on 5th August 2017 at Royal Residency.

Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman (Honorary Treasurer, Ibn Sina Academy) has been awarded INSA Project on 'Meta-analytical study of cardiac drugs described by Ibn Sina (980-1037) in the contemporary research', for the session 2017-2018, as Principal Investigator. He has also been inducted as:

1. Editor, Souvenir, Sir Syed Bi-Centennial Alumni Meet 2017, AMU Affairs Committee, AMU, Aligarh
2. Jury Panel Member, Sun Pharma Research Awards and Science Scholar Awards 2017, Sun Pharmaceuticals, Gurugram, Haryana
3. Coordinator, PhD Admission 2017, Department of Pharmacology, JNMC, AMU, Aligarh
4. Local Coordinator, Aligarh Open University, AMU, Aligarh, since 2017

Prof. Rahman attended following events:

1. CPIO Workshop, UGC-HRDC, AMU, Aligarh, 23-24 September 2017.
2. General Body Meeting, Muslim Social Uplift Society, Sultan Jahan Building, Shamshad Market, Aligarh
3. Special Invitee, Department of Pharmacology, Saraswati Institute of Medical Science, Hapur, 23 August 2017
4. Special Invitee, Valedictory Session, Life Skills Development Workshop, Centre for Students Counselling, AMU, Aligarh; and distributed certificates to participants.
5. Resource Person (Topic: Literature Search – Tools and Methods), PG Thesis Writing Workshop Series 1 for MD/MS/MDS (Admitted Batch 2017), MEU, JNMC, AMU, Aligarh July 27, 2017.

6. Invited as guest panellist to deliver his views on "Corruption Free India", All India Radio (Aakashwani), Agra, 27.9.2017

MEMBERS RELATED ACTIVITIES

Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman appointed as AMU Coordinator for Aligarh Open University

The Vice Chancellor of AMU Prof. Tariq Mansoor has passed an order for an appointment of Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman of the Department of Pharmacology as Coordinator, Aligarh Open University (AOU), vice Prof. Asfar Ali Khan with immediate effect. The main task of AOU is to coordinate academic classes with the help of alumni of AMU. It helps students to learn different courses with first-hand experience from world class scholars from foreign universities. These experts share their experience with present lot of students. The AOU works on a voluntary basis, and includes activities that range from intensive language courses, soft skills trainings, to cross-cultural and learning a foreign language. AOU is organized into convenient time blocks beginning with 2-3-weeks. The courses whenever organized are advertised and notified quite a few days before so that students get time to register and prepare for participation. Dr. S. Ziaur Rahman after appointment briefed that there is a wide scope if we tap the academic excellence of our alumni spread all over the world. He said, he has plan to expand the AOU activity in the coming years. He thanked the Vice Chancellor Prof. Tariq Mansoor who has extended his full support and under his leadership have a great opportunity to make AOU very successful. He further stated that AOU is collective effort of several alumni mostly those who have been associated with past Aligarh Summer University.

Workshop on Structural Bioinformatics

"A 3-days workshop on "Structural Bioinformatics" was held in the

Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Life Sciences, AMU, Aligarh, during September 18-20, 2017. The participants of this workshop were M.Sc. (Previous and Final year) and Ph.D. students of the Department. This hands-on workshop delved the use of bioinformatics data resources and molecular modelling tools for the analysis of biomolecular structures. The workshop enabled students in understanding the prediction of protein structure and function and the localization of binding sites of ligands (like drugs, metal ions, etc.) on proteins. It also helped students in getting training of the latest tools and methods used in Bioinformatics, a rapidly growing field with immense potential in all areas of research in biological and medical sciences.

The workshop was conducted under the aegis of Aligarh Open University by Dr. Shozeb Haider, faculty member and UCL Excellence Fellow in Computational Medicinal Chemistry, College of Pharmacy, University College of London, UK. Prof. Riaz Mahmood, Chairperson, Dept. of Biochemistry, welcomed and introduced the speaker, while, Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman (Dept. of Pharmacology, JNMC) and Co-ordinator, Aligarh Open University, thanked the speaker for volunteering and taking initiative for holding the workshop for the benefit of the students.

Training Program on developing communications skills and English language proficiency

The Aligarh Open University (AOU) organised seminars with first sessions focussed on developing communications skills and English language proficiency for senior secondary school students. These sessions, which started on August 24, 2017 continued till August 30, 2017. Ms Uzma Qazi (Assistant Professor, Jazan University, Kingdom of Saudia Arabia) helped in organising seminars and interactive workshops. Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman (Coordinator, AOU) thanked the

Aligarh Muslim University, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Tariq Mansoor for expanding the idea of AOU by giving approval for organising the program on English language course. Mr. Saad Hameed (Training and Placement Officer, General) briefed the students on the importance of the programme and how the Training and Placement Cell with the help alumni has been working hard. Mrs Nagma Irfan (Principal, Senior Secondary School, Girls) was also present on the occasion.

Aligarh Open University organized workshop on 'English Language Skills' at the Sayyid Hamid Senior Secondary School (Boys).

In the inaugural function of the workshop on 'English Language Skills', Dr Arib Ali Khan (Officiating Principal, Sayyid Hamid Senior Secondary School) urged students to benefit from the workshop. He said that since English is the mother of career growth and development, the students should have the required proficiency in the language.

Dr. Uzma Qazi (Assistant Professor, University of Jizan, KSA) discussed the significance of English as Lingua franca. She was the resource person of the workshop.

Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman (Coordinator, AOU) highlighted the objectives of workshop and also explained that AMU Vice Chancellor, Professor Tariq Mansoor has a special emphasis on improving communication skills of students. Mr Saad Hameed, Training and Placement Officer (General) addressed the students on the need of effective communication skills.

The valedictory function was presided by Prof. Mohammad Nasiruddin (Chairperson, Department of Pharmacology, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, AMU) as Chief Guest. Mr. Habib Ahmad, Dr. Syed Faiz Zaidi, Mrs. Sadia Nasir, Mr. Ghufra

Ahmad and Mr. Arshad Jamal were present on the occasion.

'Swachhta Pakhwada'

Prof. Mohammad Nasiruddin (Chairperson, Department of Pharmacology) led the 'Swachhta Pakhwada' cleanliness drive in the Department of Pharmacology, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College (JNMC). Dr. Jameel Ahmad (Convener) and Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman participated actively in the drive on 16th September 2017

XVI Annual Convention of Federation of Aligarh Alumni Associations of USA

The Federation of Aligarh Alumni Associations (FAAA), held its XVI Annual Convention at San Francisco, Northern California USA during July 14-16, 2017.

AMU Vice-Chancellor Prof Tariq Mansoor was the Chief Guest on this occasion. Prof. Suhail Sabir, Chairman, Alumni Affairs Committee and Executive Member, IAMMS was the Guest of Honour and Prof. M. M. Sufiyan Beg, Principal ZHCET was a special invitee.

Prof. Tariq Mansoor, in his address assured the Alumni from USA that they would continue to be at the top of his agenda. In his vision statement he emphasized on engaging Alumni across the Globe for various projects he wishes to implement for the University. He thanked the representative of various Alumni Associations in USA for inviting him at the Convention. Addressing representatives from member associations and associate members from Arizona, New York, Virginia, Houston, Michigan, Dallas, Washington, Northern California and Boston, he added that it is need of the hour to come forward and join hands to revive 'The Aligarh Movement.'

Professor Suhail Sabir spelt out how during the last 4-5 years, alumni from world over got connected with their *Alma mater*. He also discussed the various projects which have been completed with

the help of alumni and further projects in the pipeline. He made a special mention of smart class room project.

All the sessions were highly successful as Alumni pledged their full support to the Vice-Chancellor for all the projects AMU administration wishes to undertake.

In a goodwill gesture, Professor Tariq Mansoor invited them to be part of AMU Alumni Meet. He emphasised there is need for more workshops and lectures under 'Aligarh Open University' program.

Inauguration of new OPD units and Dialysis blocks at JNMC

The Aligarh Muslim University Vice Chancellor, Professor Tariq Mansoor with Mr. Rajesh Kumar Pandey (Senior Superintendent of Police, Aligarh) jointly inaugurated a new Dialysis Unit, a new OPD Block, OBG Block, NICU and Assisted Reproductive Technology Unit in the university's Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College and Hospital (JNMCH). 'Grey Matter' (JNMC magazine) was also released on this occasion.

While attending the function as the Chief Guest, Prof Tariq Mansoor said that a continuous process of development and improvement is of paramount importance for any institution. He pointed out that these inaugurations are a beginning and there is a long road ahead for further scopes of improvement and development. Prof Mansoor also informed that the next phase of development in JNMC will be of super speciality. "We have applied to Medical Council of India (MCI) for new DM and M.Ch courses," said the Vice Chancellor. He added, "since JNMCH caters patients from the deprived sections, people can easily afford the best of treatments by our doctors, senior residents and paramedical staff, who deserve appreciation for their services, hard work and dedication." Prof Mansoor further said that there has been an inflow of a large number of patients during the last year

and this year, we again expect big number of patients. He pointed out that the large turnout is because of the quality and affordability available at JNMCH. The Vice Chancellor also congratulated the editorial board of 'Grey Matter' for their hard work in bringing out this magazine, while stating that the good work will continue in the years to come. Guest of Honour, Mr. Rajesh Kumar Pandey, who is a recipient of five presidential gallantry awards and a peace keeping award for his services with United Nations in Kosovo said that since JNMCH has always been doing a good job, it is expected that doctors and paramedics attending accident and trauma patients will cooperate in promoting awareness for using helmets and seat belts while driving and riding vehicles. Expressing gratitude on the invitation to be part of the inauguration ceremony, Mr. Pandey said that this gesture from the Vice Chancellor and the university administration has left him overwhelmed. Prof Amanullah Khan (Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Principal and CMS, JNMCH) said the new state-of-art Trauma Centre has come in existence to bring JNMCH at par with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). He further said that the new centre has been established under the government's PMSSY scheme. Prof Khan added that he is in touch with the Ministry of Health officials for developments in bringing super speciality facilities in JNMCH. Prof. Javid Akhtar (Registrar), Prof. M Mohsin Khan (Proctor), Prof. Mujahid Beg (Chairperson, Department of Medicine), Prof. R. K. Tiwari (Principal, Dr. Z.A. Dental College), Prof. M. H. Beg, Prof. S Amjad Ali Rizvi, Prof. Haroon Subhan Khan, Prof. M U Rabbani, Prof. Anwar Salamat Khan, Prof. S. C. Sharma, Prof. Mazhar Abbas, Prof. Khalid Sherwani, Prof. R. K. Gaur, Prof. Adeeb Alam Khan, Prof. Ibne Ahmad, Prof. Mohd Khalid, Prof Fakhru Huda, Prof. Hammad Usmani, Prof S. Ziaur Rahman and Dr. Mohd Wasif were also present on the occasion.

The editorial board members of 'Grey Matter', Prof. S. Ziaur Rahman (Censor), Dr Malik Huzaif Shabeeri (editor), Isra Khan, Mugdha Srivastava, Afshan Arshad, Meeran Banday and Haseeb Mehmood also attended the function. Professor Haris M Khan (Medical Superintendent) proposed the vote of thanks, while Dr Fatima Khan conducted the programme.

FORTHCOMING EVENT

Teaching of Medical Sciences during the Islamic and Medieval Ages

Eighth edition of International Congress of the International Society for the History of Islamic Medicine will be held from 26-28 February 2018 in Dubai, UAE.

The objective of the program is its attachment along with great importance in preserving the history of Islamic medicine and creating awareness of early inventions and important discoveries and achievements made by Muslim doctors and Arab scientists in this field.

There is a consensus amongst researchers of the history of medicine that early Arab and Muslim physicians had played a very important role in the development of medical science during the renaissance of Islamic civilization, which spanned for eight centuries. This was achieved through translating earlier medical and scientific scripts and developing these sciences in the light of their clinical expertise. ISHIM welcomes all doctors and professionals who are interested in submitting their abstracts and research papers to be part of this important event.

For more detail, please contact, ISHIM 2018 <info@ishim.ae>

The Society for the Social History of Medicine

The Society for the Social History of Medicine hosts a major biennial,

international and interdisciplinary conference.

From 11-13 July 2018 it will meet in Liverpool to explore the theme of 'Conformity, Resistance, Dialogue and Deviance in Health and Medicine'. This broad theme plays on several levels. It reflects local Liverpool health heritage as a site of public health innovation; independent and at times radical approaches to health politics, health inequalities, health determinants, treatment and therapies (including technological innovation, community and collective practices, and the use of arts in health).

We envisage that this conference theme will also stimulate participants to think about how medical orthodoxy has been shaped and re-moulded, and how patients and practitioners choose to conform to conventional practices, seek alternatives, resist or compromise. The theme further facilitates a transnational conference strand, examining the construction of, and attitudes towards, Western and other medical traditions and health systems. In the light of this theme, the 2018 conference committee encourages papers, sessions, round-tables and other interventions that examine, challenge, and refine histories of conformity, resistance, dialogue and deviance in medicine and health. These might be set in relation to inclusions, exclusions and injustices; insiders, outsiders and mediators; peoples, places and cultures; and diverse and expanding new social histories of health and medicine.

But the biennial conference is not exclusive in terms of its theme, and reflects the diversity of the discipline of the social history of medicine. Proposals that consider all topics relevant to histories of health and medicine broadly conceived are invited. Nor are submissions restricted to any area of study: we welcome a range of disciplinary approaches, time periods

and geographical contexts. Submissions from scholars across the range of career stages are most welcome, and especially from postgraduate and early career researchers.

Possible topics include:

- Health and medicine in colonial, postcolonial and transnational contexts
- The political economy of health and medicine
- Theories and practices of conformity and deviancy in health and medicine
- New ways of framing working within the social history of medicine
- Radical politics and resistance to dominant medical knowledge and practice
- Critical theory and social movements such as feminist, postcolonial, disability and queer theory and activism in relation to health and medicine
- Relations between different cultures of health and medicine
- Inequalities of health and medical care
- Public health
- The environment and health
- Animals, disease and health
- Work and health
- Arts and health
- Popular representations of health and medicine

Individual submissions should include a 250 word abstract, including five key words and a one paragraph CV/ résumé with contact information. Panel submissions should include three papers (each with a 250 word abstract, including five key words and a short CV), a chair, and a 100-word panel abstract. Round table submissions should include the names of four participants (each with a short CV), a chair, a 500-word abstract and five key words. We also invite poster presentations, short films and ideas for new sessions.

Deadline for proposals is 2nd February 2018, sshm2018@liverpool.ac.uk

Avicenna Pharmacology Quiz

Annually held 'Avicenna Pharmacology Quiz 2018' for Undergraduate MBBS / BDS/ BUMS students will be held in January 2018 with the support of alumni (passed-out PGs from the Dept. of Pharmacology, JNMC, AMU, Aligarh). The Quiz, based on Pharmacology discipline, would help UG students to take interest and to learn more about the subject. As last year, there will be three prizes. First prize will carry a cash award of INR 4000; the second prize of INR 3000 and the third prize of INR 2000. It is requested to circulate this information for wide publicity among all undergraduate students.

For more information, please contact: Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Coordinator, Dept. of Pharmacology, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh
Email: rahmansz@yahoo.com

ISRPTCON 2017

The Ninth National Conference of Indian Society for Rational Pharmacotherapeutics (ISRPTCON 2017) will be held during November 19-21, 2017 at Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, AMU, Aligarh. Nearly 200 delegates from India and abroad are expected to attend this conference, informed by the organizing secretary, Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman. He further stated that the Society was founded in New Delhi in 2007 by a group dedicated pharmacologists of India. The chairman of the organizing committee is Prof. M. Nasiruddin. Interested candidates may contact:

Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Organising Secretary, ISRPTCON 2017, Dept. of Pharmacology, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College Hospital, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh 202002, India. Email: isrpt2017@gmail.com
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Extension 5955

FELLOWSHIP/SCHOLARSHIP

Short-term visiting research fellowships

The project Ptolemaeus Arabus et Latinus (<http://ptolemaeus.badw.de>) hosted by the Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften in Munich, is offering short-term visiting research fellowships (1-4 months) for tenure in Munich between 1 January and 30 November 2018. Interested candidates may download applications (closing date: 1 October 2017) from:
http://ptolemaeus.badw.de/remote_static/pdfs/PAL_Felloswhips_2018.pdf

Submitted by
Benno van Dalen
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DOCUMENTATION

Autographed copies of Maulvi Abdul Haq

Where there are several important books extant at the library of Ibn Sina Academy, it has also many autographed books. In our collection, we found more than hundred books (approximately 102) signed by Maulvi Abdul Haq, as informed by Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, President, Ibn Sina Academy. He further told that it's an amazing collection! ...some books were presented to Maulvi Abdul Haq by great personalities with their signatures like Sir Ross Masud.

Dodhpur Road be named after Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman

Prof. Suhail Azmi, Chairperson, Department of Psychiatry, JNMC, AMU, Aligarh, has proposed to the Aligarh District authorities that the name of the Road starting from Dodhpur Crossing to Kela Nagar Crossing be named after Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman (Inquilab Urdu Daily, dated 21.6.2017)

Letter of Zakaria Virk

"Dear Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman, Director Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh

Assalamo Alaikum

I am very happy rather delighted to read the preface to my book. It is superbly written, it is comprehensive, and only a scholar like you could have written it covering all the topics discussed, as well as giving the background to study of human body. I consider this a great honour. Mr. Ammar Yasir (Varanasi) has received the foreword. The book will be published very soon *Inshallah*. I was pleasantly surprised to find out that Dr. Moiz Shams has composed a similar book. I will contact him to mail me a copy. Also I wanted to get a copy of 'Ibn Sina Yadgeri Khutbat' 2017. Please let me know the cost of the book including the postage. I will send you money-gram. Once again I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kindness and huge favour. It has truly touched my heart. Wassalam, Zakaria Virk, Toronto Canada"

History of Science Seminar: Technology during the Harappan

The One-Day Seminar on Technology during Harappan Times, was organized and coordinated by Professor Vasant Shinde (Member, Research Council) on 15th September 2017 at Indian National Science Academy Headquarters, New Delhi.

Professor Kankan Bhattacharyya (Vice President, INSA) highlighted some of the salient features like brick making and navigation system of the Harappan people including the role of Rakhaldas Banerji in excavation of Mohenjodaro. In this context he mentioned Lothal which was a late Harappan trade port like other contemporary ports in Mesopotamia and Egypt. Professor Ram Ramaswamy emphasized the role and need for courses in history of science in India creating

awareness among the young scholars and in universities for all round development of the discipline. It was also noted that the discipline is widely recognized and taught in Western universities. Professor Vasant Shinde, in his overview on the seminar, emphasized the evolution of technology during different phases of the Harappan civilization. He also underlined the importance of studying more ancient civilizations by undertaking excavation work to correct the views of earlier British writings on Indian archaeological sites.

Professor D. Balasubramanian (Chairman, RC) thanked Professor Shinde and all other colleagues for their participation in the seminar which covered diverse technological aspects of the Harappan times.

The seminar and many of the talks presenter there were appreciated by audience. Listed below are papers presented during the Seminar:

1. Harappan Water Management System by Vasant Shinde, Deccan College, Pune
2. Harappan Shell Industry: An Overview by V.H. Sonawane, M.S. University, Baroda
3. Some Important Aspects of Stone Bead Technology and Craft Production in Harappan Civilization by Kuldeep Bhan, M.S. University, Baroda
4. Significance of Lithic Technology in the Harappan Culture with special Reference to Dholavira by Prakash Sinha, Allahabad University, Allahabad
5. Studies on Indus Ceramic Industries: Complexities, Challenges and Prospects by K. Krishnan, M.S. University, Baroda
6. Harappan Metals and Metallurgy by Vibha Tripathi, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
7. The Harappan Textile: Sketches of an Elusive Craft of the Third Millennium BCE by P. Ajithprasad, M.S. University, Baroda

8. Evidence for the Artisan in the Indus Script by Iravatham Mahadevan/M.V. Bhaskar, Chennai
9. Harappan Kilns by J.S. Kharakwal, JRN Rajasthan Vidyapeeth, Udaipur
10. Copper Utensils in the Indus Valley Civilization: A Case Study in the Light of Harinagar Hoard by Bhuvan Vikram, Archaeological Survey of India, Agra
11. Pointers to Harappan Astronomy by Mayank Vahia, TIFR, Mumbai
12. Binjor: A Harappan Craft Centre by S.K. Manjul, Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi

India: Beyond Expectations

India has long been on my mind as a destination in which to travel to and this summer I was fortunate enough to spend a month there.

Admittedly, I went during the months of June and July which is not the most favourable season for travelling (when I was in Agra the temperature reached 47 degrees!). Despite having always eaten meat, I realized that it is relatively easy to become vegetarian in India and as a result I have altered my diet since returning. Like many Westerners who travel to the subcontinent we do fear about incurring the dreaded 'Delhi Belly'. I am pleased to say that I never experienced this in Delhi and our tour guide would advise the group that; '90 percent of Delhi Belly comes from the water. If you get "Delhi Belly" make sure to drink a *lassi* (a yogurt-based drink) and you will feel better'. One of the best meals I ate in India was at the Bamboo Cafe, a delightful family-run business which is a perfect way to round-off a day viewing the Taj. If you would like to sample some traditional spices and teas I highly recommend that you venture to Mehar Chand & Sons, namely the 'Golden Horse' in the spice market of Dehli¹ which has

¹ The family business offers an array of teas and spices and has played host to famous visitors such as Christine Lagarde.

recently celebrated their 100 years of trading.

Tourism does indeed seem like a popular route for states to diversify away being reliant on heavy industry. Gulf states such as Saudi and Bahrain, for instance, have a 'vision 2030' which incorporates elements of tourism to boost their economies. Interestingly, Saudi aims to develop tourism along the Red Sea, and in so doing will need to liberalize its economy in order to achieve this. One thing which I had noticed about India is the way it always seems to consistently host a flow of international tourists. I mention this because earlier this year I was on holiday in Egypt which appeared as quite a contrast to India. Both India and Egypt possess some alluring wonders of the world, yet from what I experienced, tourists in Egypt were rather sparse in should have been the peak season. Political unrest, of course, has played a part in affecting tourist numbers, but I hope anyone reading this will get the opportunity (if you haven't already) to gaze in awe at the Pyramids of Giza. On returning from Egypt an American man did ask me at the airport if I had any Indian rupees because all bureaus would not exchange his cash. Acquiring Indian currency had thus played on my mind ever since as I did not want to turn into the American asking other travellers for rupees. Luckily, the Modi government had mostly curtailed the circulation of 'black money' before I arrived in the country.

What I find fascinating about the world is that the more I travel, the more I have noticed the underlying issues facing regions. When in Beijing, I saw the effects of smog in how the local residents would crackle in their throats and spit out the accumulated phlegm. In Egypt, there is a major issue with garbage – indeed, this can be seen upon approaching the great pyramids. Myself and my friends passed through Mokattam Village which is the 'aptly-named' garbage city in order to

reach the remarkable 'cave Church'. Despite it taking nearly two hours and two different taxi drivers to find the Church it was well worth the trip. There were actually two churches, an indoor winter church and an outdoor amphitheatre as a summer church. So long as relations between the Coptic community and Cairo remain cordial, then the capital's street will enjoy a garbage free environment. Admittedly, before I went to Egypt, I had been made aware of the issue over litter in Giza. In a similar vein, I had always thought that the Yamuna River surrounding the Taj Mahal faced environmental degradation. Upon visiting the Taj, I was pleasantly surprised that the local authorities were taking efforts to conserve the riverside. Nowadays, the area remains clean and only locals are permitted to graze their livestock along the river free from tourist interference. The view which I was subsequently able to capture of the Taj Mahal over river from the gardens, Mehtab Bagh, was breathtaking.

India is home to the quintessential backpacker and I definitely met some interesting characters on my journey. Madpackers and Zostel appeared to be main hostels for those travelling the Golden Triangle. As a result, I would bump into travellers I had seen before such as 'India' who was ironically celebrating her birthday in India, and Charlie who was a professional chef gathering recipes on route. Many backpackers talked of Rishikesh² as 'must' on the to-do-list especially if you want to immerse yourself in yoga, an intrinsic part of Indian culture. I never made it to Rishikesh on this trip, but I am glad that I was able to partake in a yoga workshop at Aligarh University. Depending on perspective, some consider yoga in connection to Hinduism while

² Rishikesh came to notoriety when the Beatles stayed there. Perhaps, for this reason, so many visitors flock there while that is not to say there aren't plenty of other places to practice yoga.

other regard it more in a philosophical light. As of 2016, yoga joined UNESCO's list of intangible world heritage as a mechanism to recognize ancient organic culture from the subcontinent. I did question whether should have booked three nights in Agra, as many people would say 'What is there to see apart from the Taj?'. Well, I did do a lot of reading in the hostel during the day (from 10am until 4.30pm) as the outside temperature was nearing 50 degrees. That is not to say, however, that I couldn't entertain myself in the city. If you visit Agra, I suggest that you meander your way to the Agra Fort, go to Mehtab Bagh for the views of the Taj Mahal, try the Bamboo Cafe for some authentic dishes and go on a walking tour of the city. I chose to try out the 'Mughal Heritage Walk' which was a incredible insight into the living culture of the city – discovering the workshops where the marble crafts are produced and meeting a man who races pigeons from his rooftop.

One aspect of India which I find so striking is how multi-faceted it is. Underlying disputes between faiths are apparent, most notably Hindus and Muslims, but from my own experience, India, by and large, has a rich history of embracing different groups. I learned that a Mughal ruler, for instance, at Red Fort took a wife from different nationalities and faiths. If you go to Delhi I definitely recommend that you take a tour of the stunning Lotus Temple which is a house of worship for the Baha'i faith. I thought it was interesting that this faith reflected on other faiths with a sense of unity.

Moreover, I understood from my visit to the prestigious Aligarh Muslim University that the founder Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's mission was to bring students together under the purpose of learning³.

Something which I will always treasure from my time in Aligarh was an invitation to visit the museum at Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Science. The museum hosts some marvelous Mughal writings, extensive medical literature and artifacts from the colonial period⁴.

After travelling in India, I can surely appreciate the lure of the country and why people want to return. I understand why my friend from university who I met in Delhi, as well as, my friends in Aligarh loves their country with a passion. India is the largest democracy in the world and for it to function its undoubtedly needs to embrace diversity. There is something about the essence of India which draws in foreigners. I remember being at the Taj Mahal and a young American woman asked for photos of herself spinning in traditional Indian dress – this was great to see – if you were going to visit somewhere so iconic in India, why not fully immerse yourself in the experience? While in Delhi, I got the chance to see the Akshardham temple complex. Although only opened in 2005, the Akshardham embodies a very ancient feel constructed from Rajastani pink sandstone. The evening light show is exquisite and told an interesting and colourful story of the gods. I was practically one of only a handful of foreigners there, but that made the experience all the more authentic. This article is merely a flavour of what I felt India had to offer and for the most part the country has surpassed my expectations. Because there is so much to see and do, I now realize why so many travellers view a trip to India as a right of passage.

Note: The above travelogue is written by Ian Niblock, Associate Research Fellow, Foundation for Evidence-based Development in India (FEDI), originally for "Anthropological Bulletin", which is an online journal (www.anthropologicalbulletin.in)

³ You may like to know that Aligarh University was visited by Viceroy of Queen Victoria and the first graduate was Hindu

⁴ Many thanks to Syed Ziaur Rahman for providing me a tour of his family's collection.

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