

Newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy (NISA)

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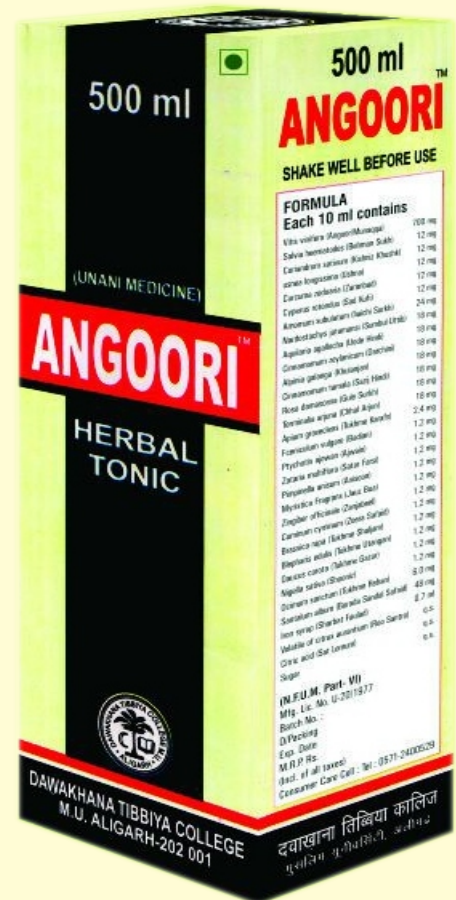
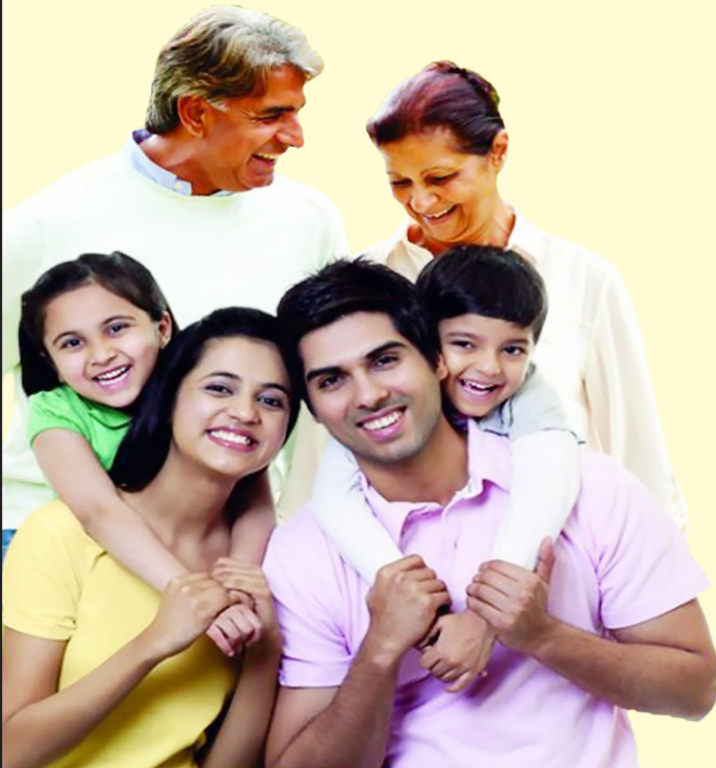
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EVENTS AT IBN SINA ACADEMY
(July – September 2020)

Ibn Sina Reading Club Meeting

Over the last few months we were happy to see the addition of new members which brought with them much diversity to the discussions held in the Club. We have continued with our culture of open ended dialogue while discussing issues such as leadership, role of philosophy and religion in taking decisions and how these affect the society we live in.

We also discussed, with our history as background, the various patterns of Human behavior that keep on repeating itself. We also discussed the less talked about and taboo issues of casteism in Muslim communities in India and how we must tackle such a sensitive affair.

The goal with the discussions in the Ibn Sina reading club is always dismantling an often untouched matter and following it with a constructive discussion, with Multi faceted perspective pouring in from members, so that we as a community can pave way forward - in the right direction.

This Reading Club functions under the auspices of Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Science. Every week, members of Ibn Sina Reading Club meet and discuss any predetermined topic of interest.

Submitted by Abdullah Zaman, convener

Condolence Meeting on the sad Demise of Prof. Yasin Mazhar Siddiqui

Noted Islamic scholar and author, Professor Yasin Mazhar Siddiqui, former Chairman, Department of Islamic Studies, Aligarh Muslim University passed away after a prolonged illness on September 14, 2020.

Professor Yasin Mazhar Siddiqui wrote more than 40 books and 300 research articles in Urdu, Arabic and Persian. His writings on the

Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and his teachings got wide acclaim. He wrote extensively in reputed literary journal, *Nuqoosh* (Lahore) and got international 'Nuqoosh Award', 'Seerat-e-Rasool Award' and 'Seerat Nigari Award'.

Professor Siddiqui, an alumnus of Aligarh Muslim University, worked for ten years at the department of History before joining the department of Islamic Studies as a Reader, and later he became professor and chairman of the Department. He also served as the Provost of Aftab Hall.

Professor Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, President, Ibn Sina Academy, expressed his deep sense of sorrow at the demise of Professor Siddiqui whose profound scholarship explored new dimensions of *Seerah* writing. His death causes irreparable loss to the academic world. Professor Rahman further said that Prof. Siddiqui was on board of executive committee of Ibn Sina Academy in the very initial days of its establishment from 2001 to 2006.

Gifts to Ibn Sina Academy

Prof. O. P. Kalra, Vice Chancellor, Pandit B.D. Sharma University of Health Science, Rohtak, presented beautiful life size busts on Sushruta (Father of Indian Plastic Surgery) and Charaka (Father of Indian Medicine) for the History of Medicine Museum of Ibn Sina Academy on 20th September 2020. The Academy is grateful to all members of the Executive Committee of the University for unanimous decision to present the busts to the museum.

Novel Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19)

As the coronavirus epidemic has roared across the world including India, many people cannot come to work. Noting the severity and contagiousness in the nature of the virus, the president of Ibn Sina Academy, has asked all the staff members to stay home and stay safe.

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There is no need to work and join the duties. He further informed that “Government of India is taking all necessary steps to ensure that we are prepared well to face the challenge and threat posed by the growing pandemic of COVID-19. With active support of the people of India, we have been able to contain the spread of the Virus in our country. The most important factor in preventing the spread of the Virus locally is to empower the citizens with the right information and taking precautions as per the advisories being issued by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India”.

Visitors at IAMMS

Mr. Sirajuddin Qureshi, President, India Islamic Cultural Centre, New Delhi, visited Ibn Sina Academy on 25.8.2020.

MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Prof. S. Zillur Rahman, President, Ibn Sina Academy, was invited to attend online the following events and programmes:

1. AMU Executive Committee Meeting on 14.9.2020 and 29.7.2020, AMU, Aligarh
2. Special Meeting of the Board of Management, Dara Shikoh Centre for Interfaith Understanding and Dialogue on 21.7.2020, AMU, Aligarh
3. AMU Finance Committee Meeting on 20.7.2020, AMU, Aligarh

Released the book “Aa’ena-e Gar” of Begum Asif Izhar Ali

Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman was requested to release the book *Aa’ena-e Gar* of Begum Asif Izhar Ali on 20.8.2020. The function was organized under the aegis of “Bazm-e Adab Khwateen”. Prof. Rahman appreciated the role of “Bazm-e Adab Khwateen” in the field of literature by scholarly women writers of Urdu language. He remembered founder secretary Late Rashida Khaleel and her contribution in the field of literature, poetry and theater. He also praised the author Begum Asif Izhar Ali for her new

book, which is based on her poetry composed on current affairs.

The programme was also addressed by Prof. Maula Bakhsh, Prof. Sagheer Afrahim, Dr. Suroor Sajid, Engineer Khalid Faridi, Mr. Salman Khalil, Mr. Masaid Kidwai (Vice Chancellor, Jamia Urdu, Aligarh) and Syed Izhar Ali.

Many speakers spoke through online like Prof. Seema Sagheer, Ms. Huma Khaleel, Ms. Azra Naqvi (Delhi), Mr. Mujeeb Akhtar (Kuwait), Mr. Faisal Izhar and Mr. Faraz Izhar (Dubai). The vote of thanks was moved by Afshan Malik and the mementoes were distributed to few accomplished women associated with “*Bazm-e Adab Khwateen*”.

1040 Year Anniversary of Ibn Sina: International Scientific Video Conference, "Abu Ali Ibn Sina - the Pride of Uzbekistan and World Heritage"

On August 16, 2020, the whole world celebrated the 1040th Birth Anniversary of Abu Ali Ibn Sina.

Currently, the international community is particularly interested in studying the works of the encyclopedic famous physician Abu Ali Ibn Sina for further application of his discoveries in modern medicine and science. He was born in 980 in Afshona village of Bukhara region.

In order to deeply study and widely promote the rich heritage left to mankind by the physician, scientist and philosopher Abu Ali Ibn Sina, who also made an invaluable contribution to world medicine, on the basis of his philosophical and medical heritage, on August 16, 2020, Avicenna Public Foundation in partnership with “Uzreport” news agency, held the International Scientific Video Conference - “Abu Ali Ibn Sina - the Pride of Uzbekistan and World Heritage”.

The event was participated by the representatives of the Office of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Legislative Chamber of Uzbekistan, Democratic Party

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"Milliy Tiklanish", the Agency for Youth Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, State Museum of History of Uzbekistan, National University of Uzbekistan, Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies of Uzbekistan, Westminster University, Bukhara State Medical Institute (named after Abu Ali Ibn Sina), Tashkent State Dental Institute, Tashkent Medical Academy, Samarkand State Medical Institute, The Institute of Oriental Studies (named after Abu Rayhan Biruni), Specialized Boarding School for Young Biologists and Chemists (named after Abu Ali Ibn Sina), leading specialists and experts from Germany, Belgium, France, Israel, India, Turkey and Uzbekistan, and others among folk healers, doctors, pharmacists, historians, orientologists, philosophers, biologists, chemists, civil society and the media.

Scientific reports were presented by 17 scientists, including 6 foreign speakers: President of the Ibn Sina Academy Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman (India), President of the International Avicenna Foundation Prof. Such Michael (Israel), President of the Avicenna Association Prof. Marc Bonnel (France), Adviser to Avicenna Public Foundation for Scientific Researches Usmankhodjayev Abdukarim, Rector of the Samarkand State Medical Institute, Rizaev Jasur, Director of the State Museum of History of Uzbekistan Prof. Ismailova Jannat, Associate Professor of Clinical Pharmacology of Tashkent Pediatric Medical Institute, Md. Mamatova Nodira, Professor of National University of Uzbekistan (named after Mirza Ulugh Beg), Ishankhudjaeva Z. R. and Prof. Abdul Latif (Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh, India). All of them noted the relevance and importance of studying the rich and multifaceted heritage of Abu Ali Ibn Sina, the need to adapt it to modern science and the life.

Within the framework of the international video conference, memoranda of cooperation were signed between Avicenna Public Foundation and "Uzreport" News Agency and Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies. In preparation for the historic international event dedicated to the celebration of the

1040th Anniversary of the Birth of Abu Ali Ibn Sina, thematic videos were prepared in Uzbek, Russian and English, which were broadcasted on «Uzreport» TV Channel and posted on social networks.

Avicenna Public Foundation also produced thematic posters and booklets, which were planned to be distributed free of charge among young scholars in cooperation with the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Agency for Youth Affairs of Uzbekistan. In addition, thematic flash mobs and hash tags on the theme "My History – My pride", "I am proud of Abu Ali Ibn Sina", "I am a descendant of Avicenna" by Avicenna Public Foundation were arranged. At the same time, in the framework of social partnership, in close cooperation with Tashkent Khokimiyat 20 thematic banners were installed on the central streets of the capital.

At the end of the International Event, a resolution was adopted, which noted the relevance, scientific, cultural and political significance of holding International Scientific Video Conference, the need for state support and funding for research activities to study the multifaceted scientific heritage of Abu Ali Ibn Sina, to intensify public and publishing activities with the subsequent replication of scientific works (books, dictionaries, encyclopedias, teaching aids for Universities, brochures, etc.) at the expense of grants and subsidies allocated by the Parliamentary Commission and the Ministry of Innovative Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the development and modernization of the material and technical base of Avicenna Public Foundation, the development of international scientific and cultural relations, aimed at the subsequent strengthening of scientific and cultural, tourist and political potential and image of Uzbekistan, and strengthening and promoting the national brand of Ibn Sina –Avicenna among young people and abroad.

Prof. S.M. Razaullah Ansari, the General Secretary of Ibn Sina Academy has been

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invited by the Editorial Board of *International Journal of Astrophysics and Space Science* to join the Board.

The text of the invitation is as follows.

“Having been deeply attracted by your paper *"K.D. Naegamvālā: The founder of the first astrophysical observatory in India"*, we wholeheartedly invite you to submit papers and join the Editorial Board, and Reviewer Panel.

IJASS is a peer-reviewed academic journal for researchers and scholars in the field of astrophysics and space science to spread their ideas. It was launched with the objective of promoting academic communication worldwide in a more effective and efficient way. We have been devoted to building *IJASS* into one of the world's top journals. Notable experts are cordially invited to join the Editorial Board/Reviewer Team. We invite you sincerely to submit other unpublished papers of relevant fields to the journal. If you would like to contribute your paper, please visit the following website:

<http://www.ijass.net/submission/uyGF3>.

Editorial Office of *International Journal of Astrophysics and Spectroscopy*. Hindustan Book Agency 2018 and Springer Nature Singapore Pvt. Ltd. 2019.” We publish for our readers’ knowledge, the abstract of the paper by Prof. S. M. Razaullah Ansari; see the section, documentation, pp. 10-11.

Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Honorary Treasurer, Ibn Sina Academy, was invited on 10.9.20 to attend the following events and programmes:

Resource Person, Subject Refresher Course in Environmental Science, (Topic: Pharmaceutics in Environment), UGC Human Resource Development Centre (online through Google Meet), AMU, Aligarh.

Webinars on Pharmacovigilance

National Webinar on Pharmacovigilance of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homeopathy Drugs (AYUSHSURAKSHA 2020) and

National Symposium on Pharmacovigilance during COVID-19 was organized by Intermediary Pharmacovigilance Centre, National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore under the sponsorship of Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India, New Delhi, on 16.9.2020. Dr. Rahman spoke on the newer concept of Materiovigilance and its importance in AYUSH. He suggested ways to monitor medical device adverse events used in AYUSH system. Dr. Aleemuddin Quamri, Coordinator, Intermediary Pharmacovigilance Centre, NIUM, was the organising secretary.

The second webinar was organized by the Medical College of Teerthanker Mahaveer University, Moradabad, on 23.9.2020 where Dr. Rahman briefed about the importance of Pharmacovigilance of Remdesivir. He said, Remdesivir was originally investigated for the treatment of Ebola and Marburg viruses’ infection and was considered a potent candidate treatment for COVID-19 because it was known to have activity against coronaviruses. He further informed that during the clinical trial, serious adverse events were reported in patients treated with Remdesivir; however, no deaths were treatment-related. He warned that the drug Remdesivir should be used cautiously in patients of elderly and those who are having compromised hepatic and renal damage. Dr. Prithpal Singh Matreja, Head, Department of Pharmacology, TMU, was the organising secretary.

The third online CME on Pharmacologic Approaches to Treatment of COVID-19 was organised by Department of Pharmacology, Hind Institute of Medical Sciences, Sitapur, on 25th July 2020 where more than 100 scholars participated. In this CME, Dr. Rahman spoke on Remdesivir in the treatment of COVID-19. Prof. Mohammad Tariq Salman, Department of Pharmacology, HIMS, was the organising secretary.

The fourth webinar was on “Protecting Elderly from the Pandemic” was organized by the Center for Excellence in Science and Technology for Higher Education on Drugs and Cosmetics from the Moist Tropical Forest

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and its Environment, Mulawarman University, Samarinda, Indonesia on 27.8.2020

"Most elderly people in the country live with their children. Their risk of contracting the infection from family members remains high," said Prof Syed Ziaur Rahman, while delivering the keynote address in an International online webinar on 'Protecting Elderly from the Pandemic'. Speaking on the pandemic situation in India and particularly in Aligarh, Prof Syed Ziaur Rahman stressed that mental and physical well-being of elderly requires special focus during pandemic. "Asking the elderly to self-isolate is one of the most effective Covid-19 prevention strategies. But strong intergenerational ties and issues related to living arrangements can make physical distancing difficult for older persons," he said. He further added that research is showing that adults 60-years and older, especially those with pre-existing medical conditions, especially heart disease, lung disease, diabetes or cancer are more likely to have severe-even deadly-coronavirus infection than other age groups. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to prioritise the health and well being of our elderly citizens.

With Prof. Ali Gufron Mukti, Dr. Dradjad Witjaksono, Dr. Arie Ibrahim, Dr. Swandari Paramita, and colleagues discussed the importance of protecting elderly from COVID19 pandemic.

In this event, the CoE for Tropical Studies also launched joint-translation program of an old manuscript namely *Ainul Hayat* (the Fountain of Life). The Bahasa (Indonesian national language) translation of *Ainul Hayat* is based on an edited version of manuscript on geriatrics written 500-years ago in Arabic, was earlier translated in Urdu by Prof Syed Zillur Rahman (President, Ibn Sina Academy).

A. P. J. Abdul Kalam's Birthday Celebrated

Bharat Jan Vigyan Jattha observed Immortality Day on the birth anniversary of A. P. J. Abdul Kalam under the guidance of

Vigyan Ratn Lakshman Prasad at A. P. J. Abdul Kalam Auditorium of Wisdom Public Inter College. The chief guest was former WHO Consultant Prof. K. C. Singhal. The program was organised by Jan Vigyan Jattha chairman Dr. Pramod Gupta, Organiser Anup Gupta and convener, Prof. R. Swarup (Executive Member of Ibn Sina Academy). Other dignitaries present were Krishni Vigyani Ved Manisha, Dr. Dev Narain Bhardwaj. Prof. R. Swarup counted the contribution of A. P. J. Abdul Kalam and said he was the true legacy of Noble Laureate Dr. C. V. Raman. The school participants draw paintings, wrote essays, poems on this occasion, which was judged by Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman (AMU), Dr. Manju Giri (D. S. College) and Dr. K. B. Verma (S. V. College), Dr. A. K. Mahur (Deputy Secretary, Nuclear Track Society of India, Vivekanand College and Dr. Chandra Shekhar (Technology Incharge, Samwad Sarolar News Channel)

Events Organised by Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman

1. Special Lecture by Prof. P. C. Joshi

A special lecture titled "India's Healthcare Challenges and Traditional Ethno medicinal Heritage" was organized jointly by the Foundation for Evidence-based Development in India and Aligarh Muslim University on 27th September 2020. The lecture was delivered by Professor P. C. Joshi who is a renowned medical anthropologist and Pro-Vice Chancellor (also officiating Vice-Chancellor) of University of Delhi. The lecture event was presided over by Professor O. P. Kalra who is an alumnus of JNMC/AMU and Vice-Chancellor of Pdt. B D Sharma University of Health Sciences, Rohtak.

In this landmark lecture, Prof. Joshi embarked on an overarching approach to present status of traditional methods that undertake health services. In the practices, he clearly identified critical gaps and disparities while holding responsible policy people as well as practitioners per se. He specially mentioned the work of *Ibn-Khaldoon* to emphasize the role of social factors in mortalities and

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morbidities. Ultimately, he stressed upon systematization of traditional systems and to make it more evidence-based through trials and experimentations with the help of government systems.

In his presidential remarks, Prof. Kalra appreciated the choice of this topic by the organizers Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman and Dr. Daud Salim Faruque and also that Prof. Joshi not only covered the vast topic but enlightened the audience with the knowledge of certain unexplored sides of traditional methods of treatment. He strongly supported Prof. Joshi's call for systematization of the system and making it more evidence-based thereby to standardize it better.

2. International Webinar on "JNMCites' Experiences from the COVID frontlines: US and India".

The Aligs' Academic Enrichment Programme (AAEP), in association with the Aligarh Medical Alumni Association of North America (AMAANA) held an international webinar on "JNMCites' Experiences from the COVID frontlines: US and India".

In his inaugural address, Professor Tariq Mansoor (Vice Chancellor, AMU) highlighted the role of Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College it is playing in containing COVID-19 pandemic at Aligarh and in nearby cities. He said that till date JNMC screened more than 87,000 samples and treated a number of COVID patients successfully.

Prof. Mansoor informed that JNMC has shown interest in participating in vaccine trial and is in touch with Indian Council of Medical Research (New Delhi). He appreciated AMAANA jointly organizing the webinar and sharing its experiences, which would help our graduates not only in local consultancy at JNMC but also practicing elsewhere.

Dr. Kohkan Shamsi (President, AMAANA), on US side and Dr. Tamkin Rabbani (Chairperson, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, JNMC) on Indian side, coordinated the lecture series.

Dr. Anup Katyal (USA) spoke on COVID-19 from ICU perspective and answered queries made by the participants while Dr. Shaad Abqari (India) discussed the issues and setting-up strategies of COVID Care Team at JNMC.

Sharing her experiences in the management of COVID airways at her New York hospital, an epicentre at the peak of the pandemic in US, Dr. Tazeen Beg underlined the importance of full PPE-protection during the high risk aerosolization procedures and described the various challenges faced during airway exchange.

Dr. Haider Husaini (India) described the management protocols for COVID-19 patients being followed at JNMC while Dr. Saima Rafique (USA) pointed out that pregnant women were among the most vulnerable population at high risk of COVID19. Dr. Hiba Sami (India) discussed various challenges in testing COVID samples at JNMC lab and suggested solutions. Earlier, Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman (Coordinator, AAEP) welcomed the participants while Dr. Saadia Chaghtai (Secretary, AMAANA) proposed a vote of thanks.

The next series will be held on 4th October 2020 with new speakers and titles of presentations.

3. Avicenna Pharmacology Quiz (Series 4)

Indian Medical Association-Medical Students Network, Aligarh College Council, Uttar Pradesh (IMA MSN Aligarh) organised Avicenna Clinical Pharmacology Quiz 4.0, which was participated by thousands of students from almost all the leading medical colleges of India. It was first Pan India event of this Council. This Council is meant for academic purposes such as Literary, Cultural, Debates and other co-curricular activities at College, State and National Level.

In total 1192 registrations were received from more than 70 medical colleges including prestigious institutes like AIIMS (New Delhi,

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Rishikesh, Bhopal, Mangalagiri), KGMU (Lucknow), MAMC (Delhi), VMMC (Delhi), LHMC (Delhi), Seth G. S. Medical College (Mumbai), G.M.C. (Trivandrum), IMS (BHU), KMC (Manipal) and many more.

There were two rounds. The screening round was played on 25 July 2020 while the final round was held on next day. It was open to all MBBS undergraduate students and interns across the nation. There was no entry fee. The quiz was hosted on Online Platform in Live mode.

The first prize worth of Rs. 5000 Cash, second prize with Rs 3000 Cash and third prize worth of Rs. 2000 Cash were given to Ms. Anushka Khandegar (Madhya Pradesh), Mr. Subham Pattnaik (Orissa) and Ms. Sumokshya Sibalika (Orissa).

The forth to tenth position holders were given PGMEE Books (by CBS Publishers) in which Ms. Rimjhim, Ms. Syeda Alina and Mr. Vandit Goyal were from JNMC, AMU, Aligarh. Digital Certificates were distributed to all participants.

Organisers for quiz competition were Patron Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman (Dept. of Pharmacology, AMU), Dr. Bharat Kumar Varshney (General Secretary, Aligarh IMA), Dr. Siraj Ahmad (Quiz Master, Dept. of Pharmacology, AMU), Dr. Lakhan Prakash Gupta (Convenor), Dr. Vibhor Gupta (Co-Convenor), Dr. Tahir Hussain Farooqui (Co-Convenor), Dr. Kartik Varshney (State Council Member), Dr. Ayushi Agrawal (Secretary), Dr. Sami Ahmed Khan (Joint Secretary).

BOOKS RELEASED

1. Ibn Sina and Uzbekistan

We would like to congratulate Dr. Abdul Latif, Joint Secretary, IAMMS for his new book, *Ibn Sina & Uzbekistan* recently released in Uzbekistan.

The book reveals more about the great polymath Ibn Sīnā also known as Abu Ali

Sina, Sharaf al-Mulk, Hujjat al-Haq, Sheikh al-Raʿīs and in the West as Avicenna. He is one of the greatest polymaths, human civilisations have ever produced. He was a thinker, philosopher, physician, astronomer, writer and the father of early modern medicine. .

Ibn Sina is believed to have written more than 450 works during his lifetime (980 —1037 AD). Out of these around 240 have survived which includes 150 on philosophy and 40 on medicine. His wide spectrum of knowledge can be understood from the fact that he wrote on mathematics, physics, astronomy, alchemy, psychology, geography, geology, Islamic theology, logic and even on poetry.

Ibn Sina was born on August 16, 980, in Afshona, Bukhara. It was part of a Samanid Empire, which consisted of large part of the present-day Iran, Afghanistan Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and parts of Kazakhstan and Pakistan. Afshona, is in Uzbekistan now. He lived for just 56 years and died on June 18, 1037 in Hamadan (present day Iran). So, both Central Asians and Iranians claim his legacy with the same passion.

Ibn Sina had an immense impact on medieval thoughts, Islamic traditions, logic and medieval sciences. Not only Muslims but Christians and Jews also admire his great contributions to human development, society and sciences. *The Book of Healing* (a medical encyclopedia): *The Canon of Medicine* (a scientific encyclopedia) are his two greatest works.

Ibn Sina has been a centre of attraction for researchers, scholars and admirers from all over the world. The most recent work on Ibn Sina has come from Professor Abdul Latif of Aligarh Muslim University. His book; *Ibn Sina and Uzbekistan*”, was released on the occasion of 1040th Birth Anniversary of Abu Ali Ibn Sina. The author summarises in it the contributions of the great polymath, physician and scientist.

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The book covers the topic that most of the researchers have ignored in the past. It talks about his place of birth, and impact of local culture and communities on his life. Uzbekistan's history is often compounded with that of Iranians and then with Russians, but it is not so.

The Uzbeks have their own space in history books and Ibn Sina is a 'golden page' of those at books. Surely the cuisine, the lifestyle, beautiful buildings, Masājids and Madarasa (schools) might have made a huge impact on his mind and his life.

Ibn Sina & Uzbekistan is a compilation of what the great scholars (mostly the Europeans) have written about Abu Ali Sina or Ibn Sina. It talks about his work and his impact on the Islamic world and the world history. This book may be a ready reckoner for those who wish to know more about Ibn Sina, an ocean of knowledge.

2. Pharmacology of Avicennian Cardiac Drugs

'*Pharmacology of Avicennian Cardiac Drugs*', authored by Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Department of Pharmacology, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College (JNMC), Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) was released in a special function recently at JNMC.

Based on Avicenna's (Ibne Sina) 1000-year-old manuscript, '*Risalah al-Adwiya al-Qalbiyah*' (The treatise on cardiac drugs), the book brings forth Avicenna's contribution to mechanisms of cardiovascular drugs and detailed monographs on simple cardio - active drugs and their therapeutic effects.

Releasing the book, Prof M. U. Rabbani (Chairman, Department of Cardiology) said, Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman has given a modern perspective on 63 different drugs mentioned by Ibn Sina.

This book is a precious source of hypothesis for further researches on psychosomatic aspects of cardiovascular diseases as well as

phytopharmacological studies on cardioactive medicinal plants, said Prof. Rabbani.

Prof. M. Yusuf Amin, who wrote the foreword of '*Pharmacology of Avicennian Cardiac Drugs*' elaborated that the author has attempted to correlate the fundamentals of cardiology and psychology, integrated by the Rūh (Pneuma) as described by Avicenna in the light of present research.

'*Pharmacology of Avicennian Cardiac Drugs*' is a useful resource material for scholars who want to make a thorough assessment of the Avicennian Cardiac drugs that have cardioprotective activity and indirect improvement of blood supply to all body organs.

The author of the book, Prof. Ziaur Rahman said that Avicenna's knowledge in cardiology, his ideas, experiences and methods for treating disorders are still valuable.

He added that Avicenna had given descriptions on heart and psychological diseases that affect the cardiovascular organs' physiology. Avicenna mentioned simple and compound natural cardiovascular remedies and it is imperative that the modern medicine practitioners go through all these methods and remedies for cardiovascular diseases with modern perspectives.

DOCUMENTATION

We publish here for our readers' knowledge, and appreciation the abstract of the published paper by Prof. S. M. Razauallah Ansari.

K.D. Naegamvālā: The Founder of the first Astrophysical Observatory in India

Kavāsji Dādābhāi Naegamvālā was born in 1857, and belonged to an illustrious family of Parsi contractors. He was educated at Elphinstone College in Bombay, where he studied for B.A. and M.A. before being appointed a Lecturer at the College in 1882. Six years later he shifted to the College of Science in Poona, as their founding Professor of Astrophysics, and in 1900 became the

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Director of the new Takhtasinghji Observatory in Poona. He remained at the College until his retirement in 1912, and the Observatory was then closed and its astronomical instruments transferred to Kodaikanal Observatory. Naegamvālā died in 1938. In this paper I relate briefly the tremendous efforts of Naegamvālā to educate himself in ‘celestial spectroscopy and astronomical physics’, first with the aid of Father Lafont (Calcutta) and later at European observatories in Rome, Potsdam and South Kensington, before he established India’s first astrophysical observatory in Poona. For this he procured what, at the time, was the most modern astronomical equipment in India. In his endeavours, Naegamvālā was helped in particular by the Astronomer Royal, Sir William Christie. I then end this paper by examining Naegamvālā’s observations of the 1898 total solar eclipse. This paper is based largely on archival records and family papers (I had the privilege to meet Nowrojee in 1976 at Poona, when he was in his mid-80s. I was also fortunate then to meet Professor Naegamvālā’s grand-daughter, Dr. Silloo M. Vacha, grandson, Mr. J.P. Naegamvala, and the mother of Dr. Vacha, who were very kind in letting me study the Family Papers, containing Professor Naegamvālā’s publications, hand-written drafts and typescripts. They are referred to here as ‘Family Papers’. Records concerning Professor Naegamvālā’s work and Takhtasinghji Observatory are extant also in the Maharashtra Government Archives (Mumbai) and in the Education Department (1882–1899), which I refer to here simply as ‘Bombay Archives’ (and then cite the No. and the Year).

Eye Donation Week Celebrated by IMA-MSN, JNMC-AMU Branch

The National Eye Donation Fortnight is observed in India between August 25 and September 8 every year, to raise awareness about the significant act of contributing one’s eyesight after their death, for the benefit of others.

The gift of vision is among the greatest gifts given to mankind. The sad truth here which

cannot be denied is that millions of people worldwide have either lost or lack this precious gift due to different reasons like diseases, injury, congenital defects etc. According to a WHO report published in 2010, globally, 285 million people suffer from visual challenges and of these 285 million; 246 million suffer from low vision while the remaining 39 million suffers from blindness.

Among curable blindness is the one caused due to corneal opacity caused by different reasons like nutritional (particularly Vitamin A) deficiency, injury, diseases or infections. In India nearly 2-3 million people suffer from corneal blindness which could be cured through eye donation. Cornea is the transparent front portion of the eye which allows light to enter the eye. A person is said to be suffering from corneal blindness when the cornea gets cloudy or obstructed in some other way. This reduces visibility. Once a cornea has lost its transparency, a corneal transplant, or graft, is a person’s best chance to regain vision in the affected eye(s). Cornea for transplant is obtained through eye donation.

Eye donation is an act of donating one’s eyes after his/her death. This small act of generosity by the donor can have a major impact on the lives of the receiver. The eye donation of the deceased can be authorized by the next of kin and kin even if the deceased did not pledge to donate his / her eyes before death.

Different governments of the world have tried to promote eye donation among people through different ways. One of those ways is through introduction of postage stamps with eye donation theme (informed by our patron, Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman).

Eye Donation Stamps from Different Countries

1. India: This stamp was issued in 1987 by government of India to encourage eye donation in the country. Its face value is Rs.2.00. Another stamp was issued on 15 October 1987 by government of India in commemoration of 100 years of service to blind in the country. Its face value is Rs.1. A

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postcard (Meghdoot). This meghdoot card was issued on 6 January 2008. Meghdoot card is basically a post card with an advertisement (In the above card, the advertisement is about Refractive Errors (D1) - National programme for Control of Blindness) occupying the space next to the address column. Its denomination is 25 paise

2. Thailand: This stamp was issued in Thailand on 6th April 1979 to commemorate the 1979 Red Cross Fair and to promote eye donation in order to prevent blindness. It has face value 75+25 st - Thai satang. It was reissued with a surcharge on 30 March 1985. The sur-tax went to Thai Red Cross.

3. Turkey: This stamp was issued on 4th May 1988 in Turkey to promote organ donation and organ transplantation. It has a face value of 600 Turkish Lira. The theme on the stamp is “ORGAN BAĞIŞI VE ORGAN NAKLI = ORGAN DONATION AND ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION”

4. Bangladesh: This stamp was issued on 19 September, 1991 in Bangladesh for the 14th anniversary of Sandhani, a voluntary organization run by medical and dental students. Sandhani was formed in the Dhaka Medical College in 1977. It has face value of 5 ₳ - Bangladeshi taka. The theme on the stamp is “Posthumous Eye Donation – The best will”

5. Costa Rica: Two stamps were issued on 28 January 1981 to promote the establishment of the Banco de Córneas (Cornea Bank) de la Asociación Filantrópica de Leones de Costa Rica, founded by Albelardo Rojas. These have face values of 1.80 and 5 ¢ - Costa Rican colon, respectively.

6. Panama: This stamp was issued by the government of Panama on 17 February 1987 for the Panama Lions club 50th anniversary (in 1985), depicting the first Panamanian Eye Bank established in the country. It has a face value of 0.37 Panamanian Balboa.

7. Dominican Republic: On 18 November 1991, the government of Dominican Republic issued this stamp to encourage eye donation in the country. Its face value is 3 Dominican Peso (RD\$ 3.00). The theme of the stamp reads, “Donate Your Eyes to the Cornea Bank Eyes that see through Hearts that feel”

8. Grenada: Issued by the government of Grenada. It's from a set of 4 stamps issued on 25 November 1968 by Grenada to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the World Health Organization. This was the first stamp issue to promote organ transplantation. It depicts Cornea transplant. It has a face value of 50 C (Eastern Caribbean dollar).

9. Sri Lanka: In 1982, the government of Sri Lanka issued a stamp to commemorate ‘Eye Donation Society’. The society is a non-government and non-profit organization involved in donating human eyes and tissues for transplantation and provides the tissues free of charge, except for a small fee on processing and delivery. Many famous individuals, including the late Sri Lankan President J. R. Jayewardene, have donated their eyes upon death. This stamp has a face value of 2.50 Sri Lankan Rupee.

10. Malaysia: The country issued a postal cover in 1978 with a slogan promoting Eye Donation. The theme reads, “*Derma Mata Memulihkan Penglihatan*”, which translates, Donate Eyes to Restore Sight”.

Many such kind of stamps have been used by different countries to encourage eye donation among the general population.

The above information was provided by Kartik Varshney, Syed Mohseen Shariff, Kamesh Singla (MBBS Students of JN Medical College, AMU, Aligarh and representative of IMA-MSN)

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APPEAL

Ibn Sina Academy is an accredited as 'Centre of Excellence' by Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India. The Academy has an extensive collection of more than 25 thousand books, 20 thousand journals and more than 1000 manuscripts of Arabic, Persian and Urdu. A large number of books on the famous Urdu Poet Ghalib led to the creation of a Ghalib Study Centre. In addition, there are two museums with some rare artifacts collections.

Let me briefly list some of the highlights of the status and importance of the Academy.

1. The Academy has earned a name for itself not only in this country but also abroad in a short period of about 19 years.

2. The National Library of Medicine (NLM) of the National Institute of Health (NIH), USA, prepared a *Directory of Libraries of History of Medicine* of the World. It is a pleasure to inform that our Academy has been mentioned in this Directory. Thus the name of India is mentioned in this Directory, because of Ibn Sina Academy.

3. The Academy is an important Centre of Muslim Culture and Heritage, one of its own kind in our country, where people and students come from Indian towns. The Academy is trying hard to keep the past and culture of the Indian community alive. One Museum is devoted to this aspect. The second Museum is devoted to literature on History of Medieval Medicine and Sciences. This is in itself a unique institution, not found anywhere in India. It shows the accomplishments and contributions made by scientists in the last 1400 years in chemistry, physics, astronomy, botany, zoology, geology, mathematics, etc.

4. In 2015, the famous American television channel CNN Travel presented a survey report on top ten important unique Museums of the world, including the museums of the seventeenth century Europe. It is a matter of

great pride for us that our Academy and its Museums were included in this Report.

5. Large number of visitors to make use of the library of the Academy includes not only research students and teachers of the Aligarh Muslim University but also researchers from outside Aligarh. These students and teachers belong to subjects Urdu, Hindi, Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, History, Islamic Studies and Unani Medicine.

6. The research material on Islamic Studies and Unani Medicine is so extensive that scholars from abroad, viz., Germany, England, Canada, U.S.A. and other Gulf countries come to consult the extensive literature on the subjects mentioned above. An American girl on Fullbright Scholarship came to our Academy. This is a matter of great pride for us that the Academy has become world renowned for subjects already mentioned above.

7. Ibn Sina Academy is an academic institution and a research center. Academic works available in the Library of the Academy are made use of by scholars from all over the country. Researchers make use of the literature and facilities for their theses and primary source material. Students preparing for various competitive tests come also to study in the peaceful academic atmosphere of its reading room.

8. The Academy also publishes books on different subjects and especially on Unani Medicine. So far more than 50 books have been published by the Academy in the last 20 years. Editing and writing of books is time consuming and hard work, but the Academy is carrying on its mission and doing this academic work on a continuous basis. In addition, a quarterly newsletter (NISA) is being published regularly.

9. The Academy is also regular organizer of seminars, conferences and special lectures throughout the year. To name a few, two international seminars were organised: 1. Ibn Haytham on the occasion of International Year of Light (IYL 2016) of UNESCO and, 2. Ibn

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Sina on the occasion of 1000th year of his treatise *Canon of Medicine*, declared by UNESCO. In addition, the *Annual Ibn Sina Memorial Lecture* and *Annual Nasim Ansari Oration* are part of regular activities of the Ibn Sina Academy.

10. The Academy is not a business institution for commercial purpose for which profits and losses are taken care of its existence. All this because of the financial support received from family and friends, who help out in running the day to day expenses of the Academy. However, the salaries provided for the staff are sometime problematic for us. All our employees, are working on a regular basis, and are keeping the Academy very active and functioning. Without outside help the Academy cannot be run smoothly and successfully. With the continuous support of other intellectuals, we can continue working with great zeal and devotion. Being a charitable organization, donations to the Academy are also exempted from Income Tax under section 80G of the Income Tax Act 1961. Finally, we thank the readers of NISA for their interest and request them and their colleagues to extend financial support to the Academy. Following is the average monthly break-up of the expenditure presently.

1). Rs. 35,000/- for the salary of the followings: Safai wala, office attendant, museum curator and typist. 2). Rs. 5,000/- for preservation and conservation of books and periodicals. 3). Rs. 30,000/- for electricity charges, Annual Maintenance Charges (AMC) for Lift and other electrical Items. 4). Rs. 10,000/- for unforeseen expenses such as posts, printing of newsletters, books, etc.

The readers may kindly note the following:
Our Bank Account No. 511750963 at the Indian Bank, Marris Road, Aligarh 202001;
IFSC Code: IDIB000A044, MICR Code: 202019006 (PAN Card of Ibn Sina Academy: AAATI4643P)

Thanks and regards,
S. Zillur Rahman
President, Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh

Ibn Sina Academy is an institution of unique dimensions. It was formally inaugurated on April 21, 2001, but within a short period of its establishment, it has become a centre of distinction both at national and international level. Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, gave accreditation to this academy in 2004 and promoted it as 'center of excellence' in 2008. Many organizations such as the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) accepted the academy in the Civil Society (CSO) Network database, similarly, Intute Resources (UK), Science Societies in India and History of Medicine Archive of US Department of Health and Human Services, National Library of Medicine, NIH, USA, indexed the academy in its own database. The academy is primarily involved in preservation of medical manuscripts and other artifacts of historical importance and in propagation of history of medicine. Students and research scholars from all systems of medicine and from other diverse disciplines interested in history of medicine and sciences take the maximum benefit from its rich collection. The library of Ibn Sina Academy houses one of the most precious and valuable collection of thousands medical manuscripts, printed books, rare works of physicians and a large number of classical Unani periodicals. Most of the manuscripts are very rare and some are unique. The Manuscripts Section is also partner member of National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM), Government of India, for Conservation and Preservation of rare manuscripts. To cite an example, one manuscript which extant at the library of Ibn Sina Academy is *Kitab ila Aglooqan fi Shifa al Amraz* of Galen. This was the first major translation of Galen into Arabic by a Syrian Christian Hunayn ibn Ishaq. Hunayn translated (c.830-870) 129 works of Galen into Arabic. *Kitab ila Aglooqan fi Shifa al Amraz*, is a master piece of all literary works of Galen. It is a part of the Alexandrian compendium of Galen's work. This manuscript of 10th century comprises of two parts that include details regarding various types of fevers (*Humyat*) and different inflammatory conditions of the body. More importantly, it includes details of more than 150 single and compound formulations of both herbal and animal origin. The book provides an insight into understanding the traditions and methods of treatment in Greek and Roman era. In addition, this book provides a direct source for the study of more than 150 single and compound drugs used during Greko-Roman period.



CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN UNANI MEDICINE

Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India

The Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India. It was established on 30 March 1978; however, it started functioning in January 1979. Since inception, the Council has been busy in researching various fundamental and applied aspects of Unani Medicine. Over the years, the CCRUM has emerged as the world-leader in the field of research in Unani Medicine.

THE NETWORK

The CCRUM has 23 research centers functioning in different parts of the country, besides its headquarters in New Delhi.

AREAS OF ACTIVITY

The Research Programme of the Council has four major components:

- Clinical Research
- Drug Standardization
- Literary Research
- Survey and Cultivation of Medicinal Plants

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Some of the significant achievements of the Council are as follows:

Clinical Research

- Developed 27 Unani drugs, which are purely natural, standardized and without any side-effects, for successful treatment of vitiligo, sinusitis, infective hepatitis, eczema, filariasis, malaria, rheumatoid arthritis, bronchial asthma and some other common ailments.
- Obtained 15 patents on for developing certain novel therapeutic compositions and SCAR primers.



Drug Standardization

- Developed pharmacopoeial standards for 298 single and 150 compound drugs. Besides, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for manufacture of 50 compound drugs have also been finalized.
- Published six volumes of *National Formulary of Unani Medicine*, six volumes of *Unani Pharmacopoeia of India* (UPI), Part 1 (on single drugs), and three volumes of the UPI, Part 2 (on compound drugs).

Survey and Cultivation of Medicinal Plants

- Collected over 104,568 specimens of medicinal plants belonging to 1,800 species from the wild.
- Undertaken successful cultivation of 33 important medicinal species.
- Gathered and documented over 16,261 folk medicinal claims.

Literary Research

- Translated 56 volumes of 21 classical books/manuscripts from Arabic/Persian into Urdu and other languages.
- Prepared a database of 2,400 manuscripts of Unani Medicine.
- Reprinted over 70 rare classical books.
- Compiled Standard Unani Medical Terminology for 4,028 terms of Unani Medicine.
- Developed 'Standard Unani Treatment Guidelines for Common Diseases'.

Publications

- Produced over 2,000 research papers and brought out about 400 publications, besides regular publication of a quarterly bulletin *CCRUM Newsletter*, quarterly Urdu Journal *Jahan-e-Tib* and quarterly English Journal *Hippocratic Journal of Unani Medicine*.

For further information please contact:

Director General

CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN UNANI MEDICINE

Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India

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NISA is an official quarterly newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences, which is registered under Indian Trusts Act 1882 & designated as "Centre of Excellence" by Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India.

The news items, small notices or short communication on informative researched topics for publication should be sent at least four weeks prior to next issue and whenever possible through e-mail (Microsoft Word), accompanied by a hard copy.

Please send all newsletter correspondence to:

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Print at: Muslim Educational Press, Aligarh, India

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