



Newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy (NISA)

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**Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences
Aligarh, India**

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EVENTS AT IBN SINA ACADEMY
(October – December 2020)

Ibn Sina Academy listed as HIFA Supporting Organisations

Healthcare Information For All (HIFA) is a global social movement to improve the availability and use of healthcare information in low and middle income countries. It has more than 20,000 members in 180 countries (including health workers, librarians, publishers, researchers, policymakers) committed to the progressive realisation of a world where every person has access to the healthcare information they need to protect their own health and the health of others - and is protected from misinformation.

Following email by the HIFA coordinator, Neil Pakenham-Walsh was posted on HIFA website dated 26.11.2020:

“Dear HIFA colleagues, On behalf of the HIFA Steering Group, I am delighted to welcome Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Sciences (India) as a new HIFA Supporting Organisation!

Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Sciences (India) was founded in 2000. It was named after a well known personality among the physicians of Unani medicine and scientists of physical science since medieval times. It is a non governmental and non profit organisation. Membership is open to everyone who has an interest in or would like to contribute by studying the History of Medieval Medicine and Sciences.'

<https://www.hifa.org/support/supporting-organisations/ibn-sina-academy-medieval-medicine-and-sciences>

There are now 415 Supporting Organisations worldwide committed to the HIFA vision: a world where every person and every health worker has access to the healthcare information they need to protect their own health and the health of others. The full list of all supporting organisations with their profiles is available on the following website:

<http://www.hifa.org/support/supporting-organisations>

Supporting Organisations are under no obligation to provide financial support. Those who do so are prominently recognised on our home page and publications. Every new HIFA Supporting Organisation moves us closer to our goal: a future where every person has access to the healthcare information they need to protect their own health and the health of others.

Best wishes, Neil.

Thank you very much dr. Neil Pakenham-Walsh for taking Ibn Sina Academy as one of the new HIFA Supporting Organisations. We appreciate this goodwill gesture and thank you on behalf of the Academy's fraternity. We will try to obey the rules and publicise the good work of HIFA through our FB page/twitter, etc.

Editor, NISA

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

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perspective pouring in from members, so that we as a community can pave way forward - in the right direction. Even during the lockdown period, we continued our discussion club via online mode.

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.

Workshop on Financial Literacy

Vision Education and Training Society (VETS) Aligarh, organized a workshop on financial literacy: a tool of financial empowerment for construction workers on 16.12.2020 under the financial education programme for adult in association with Association of Mutual Fund of India (AMFI).

Following resource persons participated in the workshop: Mr. Suryakant Sharma (Consultant, Association of Mutual Fund of India, AMFI North India), Dr. M. Shamim (Dept. of Commerce, AMU, Aligarh), Dr. Qurratul Aein Ali (Dept. of Social Work, AMU, Aligarh), Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman (Dept. of Pharmacology, AMU, Aligarh) and Dr. Obaid A Siddiqui (Dept. of Anaesthesiology, AMU, Aligarh). Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman (President, Ibn Sina Academy) was the chief guest. The programme was also attended by Mr. Mahendra, Mr. Pandey (Senior Superintendent of Post offices) and Mr. S. H. Zahid Jamal (Dept. of Pharmacology, AMU, Aligarh). The workshop organising secretary was Dr. Akeelurrehman, Secretary, VETS.

Workshop on Opportunities for Small Business Loan

Vision Education and Training Society (VETS) Aligarh, organized a workshop on opportunities for small business loan offered by financial institutions on 29.12.2020 under the financial education programme for adult. The organising secretary was Dr. Akeelurrehman, Secretary, VETS. 54 participants registered for the workshop.

Eid Miladun Nabi Celebration

Eid Miladun Nabi was celebrated with gaiety at Ibn Sina Academy on 8.11.2020. Mr. Ali Sardar Jafri, Mr. Ahmad Nadeem, Prof. Siraj Ajmali, Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Mr. Wasi Ali Beig and Dr. Mohd. Abbas Niazi (Ex-Principal, AMU ABK High School (Boys) addressed while Hakeem Syed Zillur Rahman presided over the function. Participants felt enlightened after listening guest lectures and decided to follow the life of Prophet Mohammad to become the successful, happy and satisfied.

Daan Utsav Week by PLHIV/AIDS

Daan Utsav Week by People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV+) was organized by AIDS Cell, Ibn Sina Academy and SOCH Organisation at Aligarh from October 2 to October 8, 2020 under the aegis of Hathras +People's Welfare Society.

Condolence Meeting on the sad demise of Maulana Kalbe Sadiq

Ibn Sina Academy deeply mourned the sad demise of Vice-President of All India Muslim Personal Law Board, prominent Muslim cleric and AMU alumnus, Maulana Kalbe Sadiq who passed away on 24 November 2020 at Era Medical College Hospital.

Extending heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family, President Ibn Sina Academy, Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman said, "It was my privilege to know Maulana (Dr.) Kalbe Sadiq personally and his demise has left a void, which is impossible to fill. May God embrace his family in comfort during this difficult time." He further stated that Dr. Sadiq delivered "Ibn Sina Memorial Lecture" on April 8, 2015 and that was very much appreciated by all the participants. He always stressed on communal amity and education.

Dr. Kalbe Sadiq was a member of the University Court and a member of the Board of Studies, Department of Shia Theology in AMU and had also completed Masters and PhD in Arabic from AMU. He was part of the various interfaith dialogue initiatives of the Centre for Interfaith Studies, AMU.

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Brief Biography Dr. Kalbe Sadiq

Dr. Syed Kalbe Sadiq ibn Allāma Syed Kalbe Husain Kabban (born on 1 January 1936) was a person who cannot easily be wished away. Born in a family of theologians who once served the Nawabs of Awadh, Kalbe Sadiq was an educationist and a reformer to the core. After his basic and traditional education, he came to Aligarh Muslim University from where he earned his PhD in English. He was probably one of the last of the well-read and knowledgeable orators and widely accepted faith leaders of the Indian Shias. He, unlike many, was an institution builder and a man who seriously tried to uplift his community from ignorance and internecine clashes.

Hailing from one of the most prominent families of theologians, he along and his elder brother, the late Allāma Syed Kalbe Abid Sāhib, dominated scholarly studies of Indian Shias for the past six decades. Kalbe Abid too had distinguished himself as an erudite spokesman of the community who stood for the unity of the Shias and Sunnis, especially the two warring groups in Lucknow. When he died from a yet to be explained accident, a throng of humanity descended to bid him farewell. No other religious leader inspired the coming together of Shias, Sunnis and even Hindus in that fashion.

Dr. Kalbe Sadiq took up the mantle from his late brother and stood for intra-communal relations between Shia-Sunnis and the Muslim-Hindu communities. He also sought gender equality and even at a time when most community leaders were opposing the banning of triple talaq, he stood for the long due reform and declared it un-Islamic. He is also known for fighting for the rights of Muslim women to pray in mosques as is the case in some other countries. Women's education was also on his reformist agenda.

Like a true scion of a noble family of *shurafa-i* Lucknow, he was seeped in *adab*, *waza'dāri*, *murawwat* and *ihsān*. He would help without making any proclamations about it or proclaiming it from the rooftops. Many young boys and girls became educated only due to

his timely monetary help. He would never publicise his good deeds. His Tauhid ul Muslemeen Trust educated many economically weak students.

He established educational institutions and even a well-endowed medical college. The Era Medical College of Lucknow was established due to his endeavours. He opened a number of top-quality educational institutions. In fact, at a time when his contemporaries were talking of the need to open religious institutions and madrasas, he was founding modern English medium schools imparting scientific education. A case in point is the MU College which he founded at Aligarh. Quite interestingly, the teachers recruited at this institution belong to various religious denominations and were not confined to his own creed.

His role in interfaith dialogue too has been quite spectacular and unique. To him, the Shias, the Sunnis and the Hindus were all part of a singular humanity, all nurtured equally by God, the sustainer.

In his *majālis* (religious oratory), he emphasised a topic which was seldom taken up by others, but which was the need of the time: science and contributions of Muslims towards the growth of scientific temper. Majlis after majlis, wherever he was invited this became his topic. Another theme which he would invoke was that there was no social stratification in Islam, only piety counts, not the fact that you were a Syed. This coming from a Theologian of Lucknow was in fact very revolutionary. He is survived by wife, three sons and a daughter.

Condolence Meeting on the sad demise of Prof. Zafar Ahmad Siddiqui

A prominent critic and scholar of Urdu literature and former chairman, Dept. of Urdu, Aligarh Muslim University, Prof. Zafar Ahmad Siddiqui passed away after a brief illness on 29.12.2020.

Extending condolences on the demise, the President Ibn Sina Academy, Prof. Hakim

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Syed Zillur Rahman recalled the literary prowess of Prof Zafar.

He said: "Prof. Zafar carried with him, a peerless scholarship, research acumen and the legacy of classical Urdu literature. He performed a long list of literary and cultural roles exquisitely alongside his job."

"It is tough to prioritise one aspect of Prof Zafar's literary impact over the others, but what he brought to all the different sides of his prolific career was the fact that he was a literary polyglot, who also had a prolific command on Arabic and Persian literature," said Prof. S. M. Razauallah Ansari, General Secretary, Ibn Sina Academy.

"Prof. Zafar Ahmad Siddiqui wrote extensively on classical Urdu and Persian texts and his books on Shibli, Momin, Ghalib and Urdu Qaseeda betray unmatched and profound scholarship" said Professor Abdul Latif. His teaching career spanning over forty years benefitted innumerable students. His demise created a void that will not be filled, he added.

Professor Syed Ziaur Rahman, Hony. Treasurer, Ibn Sina Academy deeply mourned his death and said that Urdu research and criticism has become poorer without Zafar Saheb. He further stated that Prof. Zafar's training as a student of both Arabic literature and Urdu literature had familiarised him with the best, both languages had to offer. Prof. Rahman attended his funeral at University graveyard on 30.12.2020.

"Prof. Zafar produced criticism that was more objectively evaluative than traditionally biography based assessment. He revived criticism through his rigorous scholarship," said Mr. Alim Naqvi. He also said that the deceased will be remembered for his tremendous contribution to the world of letters all over the country and abroad.

Prof. Zafar wrote critically appreciated and highly valued commentaries on the works of Ghalib and Momin. He authored over 17

books and numerous papers in peer-reviewed journals.

In a career spanning over 40 years, Prof. Zafar taught at the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) for 18 years before joining AMU in 1997. He had degrees of PhD in Urdu, MA Urdu and BA Arabic from BHU and an MA in Arabic from AMU. The deceased is survived by three children.

Condolence Meeting on the sad demise of Mr. Syed Mohammad Afzal

Former Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) Registrar, alumnus and Madhya Pradesh cadre IPS officer, Mr. Syed Mohammad Afzal passed away at JNMC, AMU, Aligarh, battling cancer on 15.12.2020. He was 56-years-old.

Expressing condolences on the former AMU Registrar's demise, the President Ibn Sina Academy, Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman said that deceased will be remembered for numerous contributions to the university. He added that Mr. Afzal was a caring and compassionate person with a larger-than-life personality. In Bhopal, he used to keep good relation with my son-in-law Mr. Salah Siddiqui. His demise is a huge loss to the society. May the Almighty bless his soul with peace, said Prof. Rahman.

Mr. Afzal served as the AMU Registrar from 2000 to 2002 and joined as the Jamia Millia Islamia Registrar in 2005. In his distinguished career, Mr. Afzal was posted as the DIG of Crime Investigation Department (CID), Senior Superintendent of Police (Telecommunication and Commandant 14th Battalion) and Superintendent of Police Gwalior, Rajgarh and Chattarpur, Commandant of Jammu and Kashmir Battalion, Additional Superintendent of Police Jabalpur, Assistant Superintendent of Police Sagar-Bhopal and Senior Vice President, National Police Academy, Hyderabad.

Mr. Afzal attended AMU for LLM (1987), LLB (1985), BA Hons. (1982) and PUC (1979). Mr. Afzal's brother, Dr. Syed

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Mohammad Amin is a professor of Urdu at AMU and a very close associate with Ibn Sina Academy. The family of Mr. Afzal used to run the Aligarh based Al Barakat Educational Society.

A delegation from Ibn Sina Academy comprising of Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman, Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman and Dr. S. Tasawwer Husain visited Mahrehra (Etah District) to attend the funeral procession of ADG Bhopal Syed M. Afzal.

Condolence Meeting on the sad demise of Prof. Shamsur Rahman Faruqi

Ibn Sina Academy mourned the demise of Prof. Shamsur Rahman Faruqi (30.9.1935-25.12.2020), an iconic figure of Urdu literature, poet, critic and writer.

"We extend our deepest condolences to the bereaved family of Prof. Shamsur Rahman and send love and prayers in his honour. His demise has left a void, which is impossible to fill," said Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, president, Ibn Sina Academy. Prof. Rahman pointed out that Prof. Shamsur Rahman will always be remembered for valuable contributions and credited to have revived 'Dastangoi', a 16th century Urdu oral storytelling art form.

Prof. Shamsur Rahman was awarded a Doctorate *Honoris Causa* by AMU in 2002 and a fully-fledged professorship at the university.

Prof. Shamsur Rahman was considered an authority on *Ilm-e bayan* (the science of poetic discourse) and classical poetry, he was also a noted lexicographer. His book, 'Kai Chaand The Sar-e-Asmaan' (2006), has been hailed as a masterpiece of Urdu fiction. He translated his stories into English which are included in a book titled 'The Sun That Rose from the Earth' in 2014. His books "Mirror of Beauty" (translated into English from the Urdu *Kai Chaand The Sar-e-Asmaan* in 2006), *Ghalib Afsaney Ki Himayat Mein* (1989) and "The Sun That Rose From The Earth" (2014) are

among others he wrote in his five-decade-long literary career.

Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman remembered him in his own way. He said, Urdu poet Shamsur Rahman Faruqi passes away almost a month after recovering from Covid-19. He was awarded Padma Shri and received Saraswati Samman in 1996 for his work *She'r-e Shor-Angez*, a four-volume study of the eighteenth-century poet Mir Taqi Mir.

Ibn Sina Academy remembered the literary works of Mukhtar Shamim and Rahbar Jaunpuri

A remembrance and condolence meeting was also organized at Ibn Sina Academy, in honour of two well-known Urdu scholars: Mr. Mukhtar Shamim and Rahbar Jaunpuri. Both wrote lots of Urdu poetry and articles. Mr. Mukhtar Shamim also wrote an article on *Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman – Hayat wa Khidmat, Aik Jaiza*, in *Swad-e Harf* (First edition 2011), published from Bhopal.

New strain of Corona Virus (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. 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". Ibn Sina Academy as Civil Society participated in various protests and demand for free access of COVID Technology Access Pool (C-TAP).

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MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

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

1. Presided, 2nd IICHA National e-Symposium, Ajmal Khan Tibbiya College, AMU, Aligarh, (See detail on page 11)
2. Presided, Inaugural Session of a month-long AMU Centennial Celebrations, Aligarh Alumni Association, Washington DC, 7.11.2020.

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

1. Jamia Hamdard IEC Meeting, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi, 24.12.2020 (Online)
2. Guest Lecture, Online CME cum Awareness Programme on Pharmacovigilance of ASU & H Drugs, Department of Moalejat, AKTC, AMU, Aligarh, 8.12.2020 (Topic: Experiences in Pharmacovigilance of Unani Medicine)
3. Panellist, Implementation of Antimicrobial Stewardship: The Indian Perspective, World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (18-24 November 2020; Online through Zoom), HIMSR, New Delhi, 24.11.2020
4. Resource person, International Webinar on Integrated Approach to Treat Covid-19 (Online through Zoom), Dept. of Moalejat, National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore, 8.10.2020.
5. Chief Guest, 'Mohalla Medical Camp', Azad Public School, Hamdard Nagar, Aligarh, 13.12.2020.

Dr. Rahman appreciated the efforts being taken to organize such type of medical camp that provided essential medicines and consultation to deserving patients of an inaccessible area of Hamdard Nagar, Aligarh. He congratulated the whole organizing team of Fallah-e Millat Foundation, specialist doctors, nurses,

supportive staff and drug distributors for the care provided to each patient. The programme was also attended by Prof. Umar Farooq (Special guest), and other team volunteers: Mr. Saddam (Municipality Counselor), Mr. Faisal Javed, Prof. Ibrahim, Mr. Sarfraz, Mr. Abdur Raheem, Mr. Shahrukh, Mr. Sanjeev, Mr. Qaiser Husain, Mr. Mohd Imran, Mr. Adnan Kazmi.

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) organised second, third and fourth series of International Webinar on "JNMCites' Experiences from the COVID frontlines: US and India" on 4.10.2020 (presided by Prof. R. Maheshwari, Dean Faculty of Medicine), on 25.10.2020 (presided by Dr. Hameeda Tariq) and 29.11.2020 (presided by Prof. Rakesh Bhargava, Dean Faculty of Medicine), respectively. Resource persons from both JNMC and USA participated and shared their experiences on COVID-19. AMAANA was represented by Dr. Kohkan Shamsi while AAEP was represented by Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman.

FORTCOMING CONFERENCE

The 4th International Conference on the History of Arab and Muslim Sciences

Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Conference in 2021 will be held virtually on appropriate virtual online portals. The Organizing Committee of the Conference is looking forward to receiving your scholarly contributions and participation in the activities of the conference.

We are pleased and honored to announce that the conference is held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Sharjah, and the President of the University of Sharjah.

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The conference will be held jointly between the University of Sharjah and Sharjah International Foundation for the History of Arab and Muslim Sciences between April 4 and 6, 2021 under the theme “Scientific Legacy and its Contemporary Impacts”.

Please, feel free to forward this invitation to colleagues in your institution or organization who are interested in the History of Arab and Muslim Sciences to contribute to the success of such an important Conference by sending their contributions to the scientific and organizing committees at: ichs21@sharjah.ac.ae

Deadline to submit an abstract: January 15, 2021; Announcement of accepted abstracts: February 01, 2021. The Deadline to submit a full paper: February 28, 2021 while the deadline for early registration: January 31, 2021

We are delighted to provide you with the guidelines for the preparation of your abstract as follows:

- All abstracts should be submitted electronically using the given template. Any abstract that does not follow the guidelines and themes will not be considered for review and presentation at the conference.
- The papers must fall within the scopes of the themes of the Conference.
- The abstract should not exceed 500 words excluding the title of the paper.
- Papers and abstracts can be submitted in either Arabic or English languages only.

Submitted by:
Prof. Hamid Al Naimiy
The Chancellor of the University of Sharjah-
Chairman of the Conference

SCHOLARSHIPS

Call for entries: IUHPST Essay Prize in History and Philosophy of Science

Submission deadline: 15 January 2021

The International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology

(IUHPST) invites submissions for the 2021 IUHPST Essay Prize in History and Philosophy of Science. This biennial prize competition seeks to encourage fresh methodological thinking on the history and philosophy of science and related areas.

Entries in the form of an essay of 5,000–10,000 words in English are invited, addressing this year’s prize question: “What can history and philosophy of science, technology and medicine contribute to our current global challenges?” What constitutes a current global challenge is left to the judgment of the authors, but examples include the coronavirus pandemic, climate change, socioeconomic inequality, racism, the refugee crisis, and science denialism.

All entries should consist of original work that has not previously been published. Entries written originally in another language should be submitted in English translation, along with the name and contact details of the translator. Entries will be judged on the following criteria, in addition to general academic quality: direct engagement with the prize question, effective integration of historical and philosophical perspectives, and potential to provide methodological guidance for other researchers in the field.

The author of the winning entry will be invited to present the work at the 26th International Congress of History of Science and Technology (ICHST), 25–31 July 2021, which will be held as an online event. Presenting at the Congress will be a condition of the award.

The award will carry a cash prize of 1,000 US dollars and a waiver of the Congress registration fee.

Other strong entries will also be considered for presentation at the Congress. In order to ensure this consideration, entrants should submit the entry also as a standalone paper abstract for the Congress by the deadline for that, following the standard instructions indicated on the Congress website: <https://www.ichst2021.org/call-for-stand->

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alone-abstracts/ (extended deadline 10 January 2021).

Entries are invited from anyone, without restriction of age, nationality or academic status. Co-authored work will be considered; if the winning entry is a co-authored work the cash prize will be shared out among the authors.

This prize is administered by the Joint Commission of the IUHPST, whose remit is to make links between the works of the two Divisions of the IUHPST: the DHST (Division of History of Science and Technology) and the DLMPST (Division of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science and Technology). For further information about IUHPST, see: <http://iuhps.net>

Entries for the prize competition should be submitted in pdf format by e-mail to the Chair of the Joint Commission, Prof. Hasok Chang, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge (hc372@cam.ac.uk). Any queries should also be directed to him. The deadline for submission is 15 January 2021.

Beckman Center Fellowships – Call for Applications

The Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry at the Science History Institute offers fellowships on an annual cycle for scholars whose research would benefit from the use of our collections. About 20 fellowships are given out annually, making the Beckman Center the largest private fellowship program in the historical study of science, technology, and medicine in the United States. Researchers travel from all over the world to use our collections and take part in a vibrant scholarly community.

Our collections are of great value to historians of science, technology, and medicine and scholars in STS, especially to those with overlapping interests in histories of art, business and labor, or the environment. Materials range chronologically from the 15th century to the present and include over 6,000 rare books, significant archival holdings, oral

histories, scientific instruments and artifacts, thousands of images and other graphic media, memorabilia, and a substantial fine art collection, supplemented by over 100,000 modern primary-source volumes and journals. Highlights include:

- Oral histories and personal papers of émigré scientists, including the papers of the Jewish-German physical chemist Georg Bredig (1868–1944) and his son Max.
- Diverse materials relating to women in science, including oral histories, images, artifacts, and laboratory and lecture notes.
- Advertisements, printed ephemera, recipe books, and photographs relating to food science.
- The personal papers, oral history, and extensive works of Eugene Garfield (1925–2017), a pioneer of information science, as well as oral histories of several early information scientists.
- Archival records of major national and international scientific organizations, such as the American Chemical Society and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC).
- Corporate records of major American scientific companies, such as Dow Chemical and Beckman Coulter, Inc., and archival materials on senior business and scientific figures within them.
- Personal papers of numerous notable polymer chemists and Nobel laureates in chemistry.
- The material heritage of chemistry, from early handheld analytical balances to late twentieth century mass spectrometers, along with some 170 different chemistry sets from all over the world.
- Considerable rare book and manuscript holdings relating to alchemy, which are complemented by hundreds of works of art depicting alchemists, chemists, and early medical practitioners.

Chemical, biological and medical fields are strongly represented in our collections. These include, but are not limited to, inorganic and organic chemistry, mineralogy, mining and metallurgy, geochemistry, astrochemistry,

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biochemistry, molecular biology, biotechnology, pharmacology, toxicology, physiology, balneology, and agriculture.

Our library holdings are searchable at othmerlib.sciencehistory.org. For further information about our museum artifacts please use our online form: <https://sciencehistory.org/ask-a-reference-question>.

The Beckman Center offers the following fellowships:

80/20 Postdoctoral Fellowships (2 years)

These fellowships reflect the Institute's commitment to providing a career-launching platform for recent PhDs and its support for the career diversity initiatives of the American Historical Association and affiliated scholarly societies. Postdoctoral fellows of the Beckman Center have the opportunity to build skills and experience relevant to work both within and outside the academy. We encourage applications from scholars aspiring to library, museum, and public history careers, as well as those targeting the tenure track.

Our postdoctoral fellows are presented with the option of spending roughly one fifth of their time working closely with Institute staff mentors on "engagement" projects related to their research and based loosely in one of three concentrations: rare books, museum, or oral history. Each concentration incorporates a digital component, and all fellows are encouraged to undertake a range of outreach activities, which include contributing to our in-house digital magazine and podcast, *Distillations*. The rest of the time fellows are expected to take advantage of the Institute's considerable resources to develop and publish their own research.

Applicants for 80/20 postdoctoral fellowships must be on track to defend the dissertation by the end of July 2021 or have earned the doctoral degree within the last five years. Postdoctoral fellowship stipends are US\$45,000, paid in monthly installments, with an additional US\$2,500 subsidy for

health insurance, an annual allowance for research expenses, and an additional one-time reimbursement for initial travel expenses.

Dissertation Fellowships (9 months)

These fellowships are open to graduate students whose PhD dissertation proposals have been accepted by their respective university departments. The stipend is US\$26,000, with an additional one-time reimbursement for initial travel expenses.

Short-Term Fellowships (1–4 months)

These fellowships are open to all scholars and researchers irrespective of career stage, including doctoral students, who plan to work closely with the Institute's collections on an independent research project. The stipend is US\$3,000 per month to defray the costs of travel, accommodation, and living expenses in Philadelphia. A limited additional travel subsidy may be granted to international scholars depending on the availability of funds.

***NEW* Distinguished Fellowships (4 months)**

These 4-month fellowships are open to established scholars who are able to spend either the fall or the spring semesters in residence at the Institute carrying out research related to the history of chemical or molecular science. The stipend is US\$5,000 per month, plus an additional travel subsidy. Applications are made via the same process as short-term fellowships.

Contact: fellowships@sciencehistory.org
The deadline for the Fall 2020 call for fellowship applications is January 25, 2021. See our website for our guide for applicants and instructions on how to apply: sciencehistory.org/fellowships/guide-for-applicants.

DOCUMENTATION

E-symposium held on people access to healthcare

The Faculty of Unani Medicine, Aligarh Muslim University, in association with the

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Indian Integrated Community Health Association (IICHA) and Simnan Imperial Guild (Sig), organized the 2nd IICHA National E-Symposium online on “People Access to Healthcare without the Prospects of Financial Hardship” marking the centenary celebration of AMU.

In his welcome address, Dr. Jugal Kishore (President, IICHA & Director, Department of Community Medicine, VM Medical College & Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi), highlighted various government policies with regard to financial assistance for medical care. He said proper awareness drive is needed to educate people how they can be benefitted from such government policies.

Chief Guest Mr. G. S. Priyadarshi (IAS and Commissioner, Aligarh Division) emphasized the need for expenditure of funds on preventive aspects rather than curative one. He urged academicians and administrative officials to work together for the benefit of society. He said it is high time to integrate resources and distribution mechanisms for the maximum benefit of marginalized people in society.

In his presidential remarks, AMU Treasurer, Padma Shri Professor Hakim S Zillur Rahman discussed the significance of different pathies and their efficacy in different regions of the country.

Delivering the keynote address, Prof. M. Athar Ansari (former Chairman, Department of Community Medicine, AMU) spoke on “Catastrophic Health Expenditure in India: An Overview”. He discussed various aspects of the problem and suggested solutions for them. Prof Khan Mohammad Qaiser (MIJ Tibbiya College, Mumbai) spoke on “People's Suffering Financial Hardship in Healthcare-Problems and Probable Solution” and Dr. Shiva Kumar Harti (All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi) discussed “Contribution of Ayurveda towards Accessible Health Care in Covid-19 Pandemic”.

Earlier, Prof S M Safdar Ashraf, in his introductory address, said that the objective of the symposium is to facilitate academicians to discuss problems and their solutions pertaining to health expenditure in India. He said deliberations with special reference to COVID-19 Pandemic will help understand the financial issues involving the pandemic faced by the people all over the world. A number of concerned people attended the e-symposium from different parts of the country.

Ibn Sina Academy – A brief

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

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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 Greeco-Roman period.

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 1100 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 20 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. The IAMMS is the only Library from India mentioned in this Directory.

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 the 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, history of medicine, Urdu literature with special reference to Ghalib, Sir Syed and Aligarh, 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. The Academy is an academic institution and a research center. The literary and academic works available in the Library are made use of by the scholars from all over the country. Researchers make use of the literature and facilities for their theses and primary

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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 the manuscripts 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: Ibn Haytham on the occasion of International Year of Light (IYL 2016) of UNESCO and Ibn 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 its regular activities.

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. 45,000/- for the salary of the followings: Safai wala, office attendant, museum curator and typist. 2). Rs. 6,000/- for preservation and conservation of books and periodicals. 3). Rs. 35,000/- 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, IAMMS

Islamic World Contributions to Medieval Europe

During the high medieval period, the Islamic world was at its cultural peak, supplying information and ideas to Europe, via Al-Andalus, Sicily and the Crusader kingdoms in the Levant. These included Latin translations of the Greek Classics and of Arabic texts in astronomy, mathematics, science, and medicine. Translation of Arabic philosophical texts into Latin "led to the transformation of almost all philosophical disciplines in the medieval Latin world", with a particularly strong influence of Muslim philosophers being felt in natural philosophy, psychology and metaphysics. Other contributions included technological and scientific innovations via the Silk Road, including Chinese inventions such as paper and gunpowder. The Islamic world also influenced other aspects of medieval European culture, partly by original innovations made during the Islamic Golden Age, including various fields such as the arts, agriculture, alchemy, music, pottery, etc.

Many Arabic loanwords in Western European languages, including English, mostly via Old French, date from this period. This includes traditional star names such as Aldebaran, scientific terms like alchemy (whence also chemistry), algebra, algorithm, etc. and names of commodities such as sugar, camphor, cotton, coffee, etc.

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.

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Print at: Muslim Educational Press, Aligarh, India

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