

NEWSLETTER



Vol. 1 Number 3; September - December 2001

Of Ibn Sina Academy

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Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences

ALIGARH, INDIA

IAMMS ACTIVITIES

IAMMS listed in the Status-Report of INSA

Indian National Science Academy (INSA) submitted Status Report (1997-2000) on the History of Science in India for presentation at the 21st International Congress of History of Science, held at Mexico City, Mexico, July 8-14, 2001. Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Science is included among other institutions and organisations. The compiler writes: "Founded in the year 2000, the main objective of this academy is to encourage and sponsor original research in the fields of History of Unani medicine and History of sciences. The library cum museum of the academy houses, over 400 manuscripts, paintings, stamps, coins, sculptures etc. and more than 10,000 books in Arabic, Persian, Urdu and English on a variety of subjects particularly History of Medicine (Unani/Islamic Tibb), besides hundreds of bound volumes of periodicals."

Website Links

On October 2, 2001, the website of Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences has been added into the Directory of WNDP - The Whole Net Directory Project. WNDP (<http://www.wndp.com>) is currently seeking venture capital for additional development and marketing expansion.

Selected Correspondences / Messages Addressed to the President of IAMMS

From: Mohammad Azadpur, Center for Research on Culture & Literature, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD 21218(USA), azad@jhu.edu, dated 7.5.2001

"I congratulate you on a very worthy project. I just wanted to bring to your attention that in the first page of your web-site; you call Islamic medicine "Unani". That word means Greek. Islamic physicians and philosophers were definitely influenced by their Greek counterparts, but they are not in the Greek tradition per se. They have their own. Regards, Azadpur".

Hakim Zillur Rahman replied:

"Thanks for your kind remarks about our

project. Unani Medicine, as its name suggests, owes its origin to Greece. The theoretical framework of Unani Medicine is based on the teachings of Hippocrates. After Hippocrates a number of other Greek scholars enriched the system considerably. Of them Galen (131-210 AD) stands out as the one who systemised its foundation, on which Arab and Persian physicians like Razi (850-925 AD) and Ibn Sina (980-1037 AD) constructed an imposing edifice. Thus Graeco-Arab Medicine, which later developed by Arab and Iranian Physicians during 8th to 15th century including the Abbasids period, is *now* known as Islamic Medicine. The nomenclature is similar to 'Islamic Sciences'. In India, the Arabs introduced the Graeco-Arab system of medicine, and soon it took firm roots in the sub-continent. The Delhi Sultans, the Khiljis, the Tughlaqs and the Mughal Emperors provided state patronage to the scholars and even enrolled some as state employees and court physicians. In India and in its neighbouring countries, this system of medicine is known as by its *original* name, the Unani medicine, as against the indigenous Indian system of medicine the *Ayurveda*.

From: Prof. Ahmad Y. al-Hassan (Toronto), Editor, UNESCO Volume on the History of Islamic Science and Technology, e-mail: ayhassan2@home.com, dated 24.9.2001

"I want to congratulate you on your great achievement in founding Ibn Sina Academy, and I hope that it will render a great service to the history of Islamic science under your leadership. It was a pleasant surprise to me to read the Newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy. It is very informative and well edited. I hope that you will continue publishing it regularly. I shall be grateful, if you send me future issues. Regards, A. Y. al-Hasan".

From: Prof. Mirza Khalil Bég, Chairman Dept. of Linguistics, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, excerpts from his letter dated 28.8.2001.

"I was extremely delighted to visit the Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences a couple of days ago. The collection of valuable books, journals and manuscripts on various subjects is amazing. In addition to this, there is also a wonderful collection of antiques like pens, stamps, coins, currency notes, etc.,

from far off countries of Asia, Africa and Europe. All these items of rarity have been displayed so exquisitely that visitors are held spellbound. There is also a touch of elegance everywhere in the set up. You deserve commendations for establishing such a prestigious institute for the benefit of posterity. A fascinating place of academic importance like this is rarely found even in the metropolis. Aligarh can truly boast of having an Academy of high standard, which is also valued as a great cultural heritage. I immensely appreciate your dedication to this noble cause. It is very much heartening to note that this place would also serve as a rendezvous for scientists, writers and intellectuals”.

From: Dr Anwarul Hassan Gilani, Professor of Pharmacology, The Aga Khan University Medical College, Karachi-74800, Pakistan. Letter e-mail: anwar.gilani@aku.edu, dated: 9.9.2001.

“It was learnt with pleasure that the Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and sciences has been founded. I am great fan of Ibn Sina, who is in fact father of Medicine. History of medicine can not be completed without the mention of his book (Canon or Qanun), irrespective of whom is the writer/editor. I wish to be associated with the Academy and would appreciate further information”.

Prof. S. Maqbul Ahmad

The late Professor Syed Maqbul Ahmad (AMU) was a co-editor of the UNESCO Volume on the History of Islamic Science and Technology, Editor: Prof. Ahmad Y. al-Hassan (Toronto). Prof. Al-Hassan wanted a short biography of Prof. Ahmad for the forthcoming Volume IV, Part I of the History of Islamic Science and Technology. Ibn Sina Academy provided the biographical sketch of Prof. Maqbul Ahmad, the abstract of which would appear in the above-mentioned Volume. For our readers, we are reproducing the full biographical sketch.

Prof. Dr. Syed Maqbul Ahmad was a distinguished scholar of Islamic Sciences. His main area of research was contribution of Muslims to Geography and allied sciences. Born on May 3, 1919 in Pathari of District Vidisha (M.P) ,he acquired his early education in Bhopal and Bombay. He obtained his BA (Honours) degree in Arabic in 1941 with 1st division ,he also

received the Gold Medal of Ismail Yusuf College (Bombay) ,and M.A in Arabic and Urdu from Bombay University in 1944. In the same year the University awarded him Currimbhay Ibrahim Foreign scholarship for higher studies in England. He joined St. John’s College (Oxford University) and took B.Litt. degree in 1947 and his doctorate degree ,D. Phil. ,of Oxford University in 1951.

Prof. Maqbul Ahmad joined the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) on August 15, 1951 as Lecturer in Arabic and Islamic Studies. He was promoted to the post of Reader in 1954. He was appointed Professor in 1967. In November 1967 he established the Centre of West Asian Studies at Aligarh Muslim University and continued to be its Director till 1979. Not only he just established this Centre but also he was also instrumental in its further development and succeeded in building the Centre as a full-fledged department of studies. Under his supervision at AMU, 30 students received their M. Phil. and Ph.D. degrees. While at AMU ,Prof. Ahmad acted as Head of the Department of Arabic and Director of the Institute of Islamic Studies from time to time between 1951 to 1966. He was the Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences in 1972, editor Muslim University Gazette from 1962 to 1965 and remained Member In-charge ,Publications Unit of the University from 1970-77. After serving the AMU for 28 years ,he retired in 1979. During his service at AMU, he got various prestigious appointments such as Visiting Professor at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (Shimla), and School of Oriental and African Studies (London University).

After his retirement from the University he was invited by the Vice-chancellor of Kashmir University to establish the Centre of Central Asian Studies in Kashmir and was its Director until 1984. He also established Central Asian Museum in the Kashmir University. He also served as Director, Zakir Hussain Institute of Islamic Studies at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

He was a widely travelled person and went to Europe, North Africa, West Asia, Russia, Iran, Afghanistan, Malaysia, Jordan, Japan and other countries.

He knew several European and Indian

languages including Arabic, Persian, French, German, Hindi, Urdu and Gujrati.

He was appointed *Member of the University Grants Commission (UGC)* of India from 1976 to 1979. He was a member of various academic bodies of different universities in India and abroad. He was conferred the honour of being *Fellow of Royal Geographical Society (London)* from 1948 to 1956; *Fellow Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland*, *Member of the German Oriental Society* and *Fellow of the Jordan Academy of Science*, etc. He was also offered a prestigious position at the University of Amman (Jordan).

He authored about 12 books and more than one hundred research articles, published in national and international journals of repute. Some of his works are: "Al Mas'udi's Contribution to Geography in Middle Ages" (Hyderabad 1953-54); English translation of the geographical section of Mas'udi's book *Muruj al-Dhahab*"; "Al-Sharif al-Idrisi: India and the Neighbouring Territories (English translation and commentary)", Leiden 1960; "Historical Geography of Kashmir" (New Delhi, 1984); "Indo-Arab Relations" (New Delhi, 1978); and the "Arab World and India" (New Delhi, 1968). But his most significant book containing his life long research is *the "History of Arab Islamic Geography"*, (Amman, Jordan, 1995).

In recognition of his services, The President of India conferred on him "The Certificate of Honour" in 1985 and in 1989 the University of Kashmir (Srinagar) conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Letter (*honoris causa*). In recognition of his outstanding services rendered at the AMU, as also other academic institutions in India and abroad, the Centre of West Asian Studies at Aligarh honoured Prof. Maqbul Ahmad as Professor Emeritus in 1986. As professor Emeritus at the Centre Prof. Ahmad took keen interest in the academic affairs and continued vigorously his research work. He concentrated in carrying out his research work and travelled frequently to collect literature even when his health did not permit him. He breathed last on February 21, 1998 at one of his relatives' residence in Bombay.

[For further reading, refer M.R.K. Nadvi, S. Maqbool Ahmad -Life & Works, in Urdu, Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna, 1999]

NEWS ITEM

Prof. S.M.R. Ansari elected as President of the Commission for the History of Ancient and Medieval Astronomy

The 21st International Congress of History of Science (ICHS) was held in Mexico, July 9- 14, 2001. The Congress was sponsored by the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS), which in turn is adhered to the International Scientific Union (ICSU). ICHS is held every fourth year. The next Congress will be held in China in 2005.

Prof. Dr. S.M. Razaullah Ansari (Aligarh/India) was invited to attend this Congress. In his capacity as the President of the IUHPS- IAU Inter-Union Commission for History of Astronomy, he organised there a Symposium: "Astronomical Heritage of the Non-European Cultural Areas", which was held on July 11- 12, 2001. The symposium was held under the chairmanship of Prof. Ansari, at which 22 historians of astronomy from all over the world presented their talks.

Besides the above-mentioned, Prof. Ansari's proposal for the creation of a new Commission for the History of Ancient and Medieval Astronomy was accepted at the second meeting of the General Assembly of IUHPS, held in Mexico. Prof. Ansari was then also elected as the President of this new Commission for the period 2001-2005. He wishes to organise under this Commission also a Symposium at the 22nd ICHS (China), in 2005. Further, this Commission intends to publish a Newsletter, under the Editorship of Prof. Ansari and Ms. Anne Tihon (Belgium), who is the secretary of the Commission.

It may be recalled that Prof. S.M.R. Ansari had been very actively engaged in the field of History of Science for the last few decades. He had been President of the IUHPS Commission for Science & Technology in the Islamic Civilisation (1993-97), and also of the IAU Commission for History of Astronomy (1994- 97). Under the auspices of the latter, he organised a symposium on "History of Oriental Astronomy", which was held in Kyoto (Japan), in Aug.1997. He has edited the Proceedings of this

Symposium that will be published by Kluwer Academic Publisher (Dordrecht/The Netherlands). They are expected by the end of the current year.

Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman visited Uzbekistan

Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, Professor & Chairman Department of Ilmul Advia of Aligarh Muslim University, was invited to attend the International Conference on Ibn Sina held at Bukhara (Uzbekistan) during September 13-15, 2001. In his lecture at the Inaugural session, he presented Ibn Sina and his Works in the context of Medieval Indian intellectual development. Prof. Rahman was also invited to preside the first scientific session. In recognition of his work on Ibn Sina, the *Ibn Sina Foundation of Uzbekistan* awarded Prof. Rahman a *memento*: The sculpture of Ibn Sina, at the Valedictory Function. It may be noted here that Prof. Rahman has five books exclusively on Ibn Sina to his credit, as distinct from 21 books of which he is the author. They deal with various topics of history of medicine. A Memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the *Ibn Sina Academy (Aligarh)* and the *International Ibn Sina Foundation (Tashkent)* was also signed between him and Prof. I. H. Irgashev, President of the Ibn Sina Foundation.

Prof. Rahman visited Afshana, which is the birthplace of Ibn Sina, and also saw there the splendid Museum on Ibn Sina. In Tashkent, he visited the Indian Cultural Centre, the Ibn Sina Foundation, Amir Taimur Museum, Uzbek Academy of Sciences, Al-Biruni Institute of Oriental Studies and other historical places. Al-Biruni Institute of Oriental Studies is one of the biggest centres of all the Central Asian Countries. It possesses a large collection of 40,000 manuscripts. Prof. Rahman also visited the observatory of Ulugh Bég in Samarqand. He visited other cities, like Chalak and Naqshbandi, where mausoleums of Imam Bukhari and Khwaja Bahauddin Naqshband are respectively situated.

New team of the Commission on History of Science and Technology in Islamic Civilisation declared

At the recent History of Science Congress in Mexico City, there was a meeting of the Commission

on History of Science and Technology in Islamic Civilisation. An election was held with the following results:

President: Gül Russell, Professor, Texas A&M University, USA

Vice-President: Jamil Ragep, Professor, University of Oklahoma, USA

Secretary: Mercè Comes, Professor, University of Barcelona, Spain

Counsellors: Cemil Aydin: Graduate Student, Harvard University, USA

Benno van Dalen: Research Assistant, Institut für Geschichte der Naturwissenschaften, Frankfurt am Main (Germany).

It was agreed that Sally Ragep and Jamil Ragep would edit this year's Newsletter; Professor Comes will take over its responsibility for both the printed and online version beginning in January 2002. A number of other initiatives were taken at the meeting, and Prof. Russell will be discussing these with the members of the Commission in the coming months. The minutes of the meeting will be posted in due course in the online version and will also be printed in the Newsletter.

David L. Cowen Lecture

The Rutgers University College of Pharmacy, The American Institute of the History of Pharmacy, and the Alpha Zeta Chapter of Rho Chi organised the *Thirteenth Annual David L. Cowen Lecture* in the History of Pharmacy. The title of the lecture was 'That Amiable Science: A Brief History of American Medical Botany'. It was delivered by Michael A. Flannery, the recipient of *Edward Kremer's Award*, sponsored by the American Institute for the History of Pharmacy, for his biography of John Uri Lloyd. The lecture was held at the William Levine Hall Pharmacy Building on the Rutgers Busch Campus on October 23, 2001.

Forthcoming Congresses/Conferences/Symposia

Certainty, Doubt, Error. The production of knowledge and its impediments in the practice of pre- and early-modern science

International Symposium organised on the occasion of Prof. Dr. David A. King's sixtieth Birthday.

It will take place at the Museum für angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt am Main (Germany), during November 17-18, 2001. Organisers: Dr. Sonja Brentjes, Dr. Benno van Dalen, and François Charette

Aims and Objective: The main purpose of the Symposium is to honour David King's broad and multifaceted contributions to the History of Science.

The organisers hope to accomplish this goal by taking up a programmatic issue formulated by late Prof. Willy Hartner, David King's predecessor on the chair for History of Science in Frankfurt. Thus the Symposium will focus on possibilities for new approaches to the history of science and mathematics in ancient and medieval cultures. The organisers believe that a broad variety of questions can be addressed to the history of science in Islamic and other pre-modern societies, for example by investigating epistemic categories developed by the scholars in those civilisations, the values that guided them in their questioning, the practices they followed, appreciated or condemned, the modes of justification and legitimisation of the works they undertook, the exchanges between writers of scientific texts and makers of instruments on the one hand and courtiers, legal scholars, and merchants on the other hand, or local milieus of the sciences, their twists and turns. In the organisers' view, these and other similar topics have the potential to enrich our historical perspectives and open the field to outsiders.

Program of the Conference:

Saturday, November 17th

Opening and Laudation

Jan P. Hogendijk - The Burning Mirrors of Diocles: Reflections on Methodology and Purpose of the History of Pre-Modern Science ,

Gerhard Endress - The Language of Demonstration ,

Charles Burnett - The Certainty of Astrology in the Works of Abu Ma'shar and al-Qabisi ,

Jim Bennett - Virtue, Error and Expertise: The Attributes of Instruments and the Morality of Operators. Sunday, November 18th

Tzvi Langermann - Criticism of Authority in the Writings of Maimonides and Fakhr al-Din al-Razi

Commentary by Dimitry Gutas

Round-table discussion:

David A. King - Astronomy in the Service of Religion in Mamluk Egypt and Syria and Rasulid Yemen

Bernard Goldstein - Science as a 'Neutral Zone' for Inter-religious Co-operation: The Case of Astronomy.

Stephen McCluskey - The Question of Easter: Changing Contexts and Criteria for the Justification of Received Knowledge ,

Anne Tihon - Byzantine Astronomical Documents: Survey and Perspectives ,

Julio Samsó - Is a Social History of Andalusí Exact Sciences Possible?

Moderator: Gerd Grasshoff

For more Information: <http://www.uni-frankfurt.de/fb13/ign/symposium2001.html>

Email: dalen@em.uni-frankfurt.de

The symposium is being funded by German Council of Research, the Department of Physics of Frankfurt University, the Physics Association and Arbor Scientiarum e.V.

Postal address for contact: Mr. François Charette, Research Assistant, Institute for History of Science, FB-13, J W Goethe University, Robert-Mayer Str. 1, D-60054 Frankfurt/Main, Germany, tel: +49-69-79822338, fax: 79823275.

Fax: +49-69-79823275

Fifth International Congress on Traditional Asian Medicine

The 5th International Congress on Traditional Asian Medicine (ICTAM) under the aegis of The International Association for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicine (IASTM) is scheduled to be held from August 18 to 24, 2002 at Halle in Germany.

The basic theme of the congress will be "Tradition and Innovation". It furthers not only the study of the various Asian medical systems, but also the dialogue between them and their interaction in the fields of both scholarly research and practice. The aim of the Conference is to act as an international forum for the exchange of ideas not only between scholars from various disciplines, but also between researchers, practitioners and entrepreneurs, as well as administrators and politicians in the realm of traditional Asian medical systems. ICTAM is part of the celebrations marking the 500th Anniversary of the

Foundation of the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. The cities of Halle and Wittenberg, harbouring the twin campuses, are not only situated in a part of Germany steeped in history and famous as the point of origination of the Reformation initiated by Martin Luther, but also look back upon long and illustrious histories of their own, not the least as centres of learning and of the German Enlightenment. For details, contact Prof. Dr. Rahul Peter Das, Institut fuer Indologie und Suedasien-Wissenschaften, Martin-Luther-Universitaet Halle-Wittenberg, 06099 Halle, Germany.

Medicina Alternativa World Congress

Zoroastrian College & O. I. U. C. M., Mumbai (India) will be organising the World Congress on Medicina Alternativa during Jan.18-20, 2002 at Russian Culture House, Pedder Road, Mumbai. For details contact: Zoroastrian College & O. I. U. C. M., All India Shah Behram Baug Society (for Scientific & Educational Research), Mustafa Building, 2nd Floor, Sir Pherozechah Mehta Road, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001 (India).

Congresses/Conferences/Symposia Held

Second International Ibn Sina Conference: A Report by S.M.R. Ansari

The Ibn Sina International Foundation in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) sponsored the Second International Ibn Sina Conference in Bukhara, the birthplace of that great encyclopaedist. The theme of the Conference was "The Great Legacy and Modern Civilization". The Conference was devoted to the 10th Anniversary of Uzbekistan's Independence and was held during Sept.13-15, 2001. In accordance with the aforementioned theme of the Conference, the organisers stressed not only the scientific legacy of Abu Ali Ibn Sina, but also included in its programme the resolution of the problem of modern civilization, namely, drug addiction, and HIV/AIDS.

In the first instance, we may, however, recall that the Ibn Sina International Foundation (Tashkent), was established some time in 1999. The President of the Foundation is Prof. Shukhrat B. Irgashev. For the aims and objectives of the Foundation, please refer NISA, Vol. 1, No. 2: 8-9.

The Foundation was established formally by a *decree* of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. These aims and objectives are also enshrined in the said decree. The Foundation, following its aims and objectives, has organised already the First International Ibn Sina Conference already in Sept. 22-23, 1999, on the occasion of the 1020th Birth Anniversary of Abu Ali Ibn Sina.

Programme of the Conference:

In the Inaugural Session, the Conference was opened by the address of the Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, His Excellency H. C. Karomotov, who was followed by the speeches of the Minister of Health, His Excellency F.G. Nazirov, J.E. Herbst (U.S. Ambassador in Uzbekistan), S.H. Khuseinov (Governor of Bukhara region), R. Rodrigues (UNICEF Representative) and A. Deletroz (Director of Open Society Institute). In the following we give only a list of contributions which are concerned with the personality and scientific works of Ibn Sina.

S. B. Irgashev, Great Source: A Role and Value for a Modern Society,

S. Zillurrahman, Indian Studies on Ibn Sina's Works, Z.B. Botirova, Historical and Scientific Values of Legacies in the Formation of Healthy Society,

M.Z. Zohidova, Value of Scientific Legacy of Ibn Sina in the Development of Natural Sciences,

H. A. Torkamany and F. Nadry-Abiane (Iran), Avicenna's Political Philosophy,

N.M. Majidov, Environment in which Ibn Sina's Personality was formed,

S. Suleymanov, Ibn Sina, the Founder of a Philosophical Terminology of Persian Language,

V. Pundure (Latvia), Avicenna at Pauls Stradins Museum of the History of Medicine,

B.A. Koshanov, Medical Legacy of Abu Ali Ibn Sina in Karakalpakian Folklore,

B. O. Dushanov and R. S. Sobirov, Abu Ali Ibn Sina and Khorezm Academy of Mamun,

J. M. Halimbetov, Abu Ali Ibn Sina's Ideas about Education of Comprehensively Advanced Generation,

S. M. Bahramov and S. B. Irgashev, The Legacy of Ibn Sina - An Inexhaustible Source of New Directions of Development of Medicine,

I. Shafagh (Iran), Ibn Sina and Sufism,

H. Y. Karimov, Ibn Sina's Activity - Classical Model

of General Practitioner of the 21st Century ,
 T. I. Iskandarov, Abu Ali Ibn Sina about Hygiene of
 Housing Constructions,
 A. Kodirov, Abu Ali Ibn Sina – The Diagnostician,
 A. Vahabova, About Ibn Sina’s Manuscripts on
 Medicine,
 Y. S. Egamov, Abu Ali Ibn Sina on Education of Children
 E. O. Tursunov, Abu Ali Ibn Sina on Breastfeeding
 Conditions,
 H. H. Holmatov, Abu Ali Ibn Sina’s Influence on
 Pharmacy Development,
 H. K. Jalilov, Reflection on the Main Technology of
 Modern Medicines through the Scientific Works of Abu
 Ali Ibn Sina,
 N. H. Shomirzaev, Abu Ali Ibn Sina about the Structure
 of the Human Body,
 S. I. Ismailov, Obesity from the view point of Ibn Sina
 A. Gaybullaev, Abu Ali Ibn Sina’s Recommendations
 on Treating Nephrolithiasis in Modern Urology,
 Gafurov, A. R. Rahimjanov, N. A. Alikulova, A. L.
 Lukashovich, Peculiarities of Pathogenesis and
 Treatment of Ischaemic Cerebral Insults in the Elderly
 from the point of Abu Ali Ibn Sina’s Doctrine,
 S. H. Nazarov, Abu Ali Ibn Sina – The founder of the
 Medieval Oriental Medicine.

The Conference concluded with the adoption
 of a number of resolutions , a report of students’
 competition ,and the closing function.

International Conference and Workshops on Investing in Arab Healthcare

The International Conference on Investing in
 Arab Health was held in London ,during Aug.20-24 ,
 2001. The organisers invited Health Ministers of Arab
 countries to present an in–depth account of the Health
 System of their respective countries. It is known that
 complete and integrated health care system with
 greater public-private participation is the vision of
 governments in the Arab Gulf region. The policy of
 Health Management in the Arab World is already
 shaping up to be very different in the 21st century. At
 the same time, funding this vital sector is a major
 challenge.

The Conference brought together an
 impressive line-up of speakers ,who have also worked

internationally in the health care sector ,to discuss the
 complexities in health management and opportunities
 in Arab health care markets. E-Health and electronic
 Web sites are giving access to health information to
 patients without going to a pharmacist or a medical
 centre, and to an on-line service for purchasers and
 suppliers. These were some of the services envisaged
 during the deliberation of the Conference.

International Congress for the History of Pharmacy

The International Congress for the History of
 Pharmacy was held in Lucerne, Switzerland,
 September 19–22, 2001. For more information, please
 visit its website www.histpharm.org.

Second ICMR National Training Course: A Report by S. Ziaur Rahman

The Second National Training Course was
 sponsored by Indian Council of Medical research
 (ICMR) and was organised in collaboration with School
 of Research, Maharashtra University of Health Science
 during March 19-31, 2001 at Seth G.S. Medical College
 & King Edward Medical Hospital, Mumbai. The thrust
 of the course was to familiarise the scientists of
 Pharmacology and Medicine with areas of research in
 the field of Traditional Medicine(TM). Physicians who
 are involved in research and have the potential and
 interest to venture into the fields of Clinical
 Pharmacology were asked to use their skills in designing
 and carrying out research in TM. The Course
 highlighted the development of positive approach,
 recognition of problems and pitfalls of clinical research
 in this vast field of Traditional Medicine and evolution
 of the possible solutions.

The two-week Training course was conducted
 as a workshop. Apart from guest lectures by prominent
 scientists, hands-on experience were also imparted
 through various activities like discussion, demonstration
 of techniques, protocol planning and problem solving
 exercises used in Clinical Pharmacology.

Dr. Vasantha Muthuswami (Senior Deputy
 Director General & Chief, Basic Medical Sciences &
 Traditional Medicine Program, ICMR), stressed that
 the promotion of traditional medical science , like

Ayurveda, Unani & Siddha ,could only be possible when research is carried out in collaboration with traditional medical experts. Scientific relevance of indigenous drugs as practised conventionally (original methodology) should be explored. Modern clinician should realise limitations of modern medicine, appreciate the potential of Traditional Medicine, recognise the need for research in TM and appreciate problems encountered by modern clinician ,if he decides to use agents from TM. How to register any practitioner of TM? What are the legal and ethical issues while carrying out clinical research in TM? These and such other topics were discussed in the Course.

The essence of the whole Workshop was how to exploit traditional system of medicine to meet the needs of world today. Physician and surgeons, working at various medical colleges / institutes, should appreciate how the concept in various systems of traditional medicine may provide “leads” for the research in their discipline.

DOCUMENTATION

Paul Stradin Museum of the History of Medicine

Professor Paul Stradin (1896-1958) was an outstanding doctor and social worker in Latvia. His work embraces surgery, oncology and national health care. A hospital, a nurses school, a university and several streets in various Latvia’s town bear his name. However, Paul Stradin himself has erected the most beautiful monument by creating the Museum of the History of Medicine, which reflects the development of medicine in the world. The Museum is based on the personal collection of the professor, which he had been collecting for over thirty years. In 1957, the Museum obtained the status of a governmental institution. Noteworthy is the following sections of the Museum.

Ethnical Medicine: The exposition informs the spectators about the very beginning of the development of medicine. The dioramas show treatment of traumata, cranial trepanation, bandaging of wounds and means of ancient national healing processes. Bones with various signs of diseases found in archaeological excavations, skulls and objects of medicine are exhibited. Magic medicine is represented by various charms and masques.

The Middle Ages: The display on the history of medieval medicine is placed on the ground floor of the Museum. It captures one’s interest by the recently reconstructed dioramas of monastery hospital and drug store, as well as items on the first universities of Western Europe. Dioramas of medieval town present the sanitary conditions, plague epidemics, alchemists, practitioners and different methods of treatment of those times. Eastern medicine is represented by the sculpture of Avicenna, his works on medicine and reconstructed medical instruments. Written works and portraits of A.Vesalius, G.Fracastoro, Paracelsus, A.Paré, as well as works and portraits of other famous doctors of those times represent the Renaissance medicine.

The New Times: The display on the history of New Times medicine is placed on the first floor of the Museum. It is dedicated to the achievements of the 18th – 19th century doctors in diagnosing diseases and their treatment, as well as introduces to the beginnings of microbiology and vaccination, the introduction of anaesthesia and asepsis, work of pharmacists and equipment of drug stores. The showcases hold books, medical instruments, masks for narcosis and objects used in psychiatry for holding back of aggressive patients. A number of portraits of world famous medical scientists, such as L.Pasteur - the founder of microbiology, R.Koch, W.K.Roentgen - the discoverer of X – rays, G.B.Morgagni, J.Lister, R. Virchow and other outstanding medical scientists are displayed there. The display, placed on the second floor, is dedicated to the life and works of professor Pauls Stradins. One may have a look at the interior of his study as well. Exhibits related to the foundation of the Medical Faculty at Latvia University and its first professors are displayed. Professor Karlis Barons - the founder of the scientific dentistry in Latvia, dentist’s office, a ward in a children’s hospital, an operating theatre, as well as the interior of a rural doctor’s office have been reflected in dioramas. A separate display holds exhibits related to the development of space medicine and space biology in Russia.

Various exhibitions are regularly held in the Museum. Over 190 000 exhibits are stored in the depository of the Museum. The depository of the Museum can be divided into 4 sections: objects, handwritings and

documents, rare and antique books and photo, audio and visual (films) documentations. A scientific library containing over 54 000 items is accessible in the Museum.

More than 50 000 people visit the Museum annually. A collection of scientific papers “Acta medico – historica Rigensia” is regularly published by the Museum. 24 volumes, as well as a number of other editions, have already been published.

The Museum serves as the teaching basis for the studies of the history of medicine at Riga Medical Academy (Stradins Riga University).

[For the above information, we thank **Dr. Valda Pundure**, Head of Medieval Medicine, Pauls Stradins Museum of the History of Medicine]

International Association for the Study of Traditional Medicine

The International Association for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicine (IASTAM) was founded in 1977, when a student, Ken Zysk, of Prof. A. L. Basham at the Australian National University, convinced him that a conference on Asian Medicine would be a good idea. The story of the planning of the *first* International Conference on Traditional Asian Medicine (ICTAM) held in Canberra in 1979 was told by the late Prof. Basham himself, see the IASTAM Newsletter, VIth issue. At the 1979 conference, Prof. Charles Leslie was elected the Secretary of IASTAM.

In the following decade, under the sure and energetic guidance of Basham (the historian) and Leslie (the medical anthropologist), IASTAM flourished. It was, and perhaps still remains, the only international organisation in the field of Asian Medicine, which makes a serious attempt to embrace both academics and practitioners. IASTAM has always sought to give each of these communities a platform for the expression of their views, respecting the integrity of each group, while nevertheless privileging the free exchange of knowledge over involvement in any particular commercial interest or therapeutic regime.

By 1989, IASTAM had produced thirteen issues of the news-packed *Newsletter*, had organised

large international conferences in Surabaya (1984) and Bombay (1990), a number of local meetings in different countries, as well as founding several national chapters of the IASTAM. The leadership of IASTAM passed from Basham to succeeding scholars of international repute: Paul U. Unschuld, Francis Zimmermann and more recently Lawrence I. Conrad. The fourth ICTAM was held in Tokyo in 1994. At that point, activities of IASTAM moved into a more devolved phase, with the North American, European, and Indian chapters of the organisation holding separate, highly successful local conferences. Its *Newsletter* was edited by Charles Leslie (1982-84) and Francis Zimmermann (1984-89), and it was re-named “*Asian Medicine Newsletter*” in 1989. Its frequency dropped off in the early 1990s, although the issues which did appear, edited by Charles W. Nuckolls (1992-94) and Lawrence Cohen (1996), were as packed and stimulating as ever. Under the able editorship of Waltraud Ernst, the present *Newsletter* has been put back on a regular schedule, with two lively and informative issues appearing in 1998. A local London meeting of IASTAM has been announced for October 1999 and an international congress for 2002 is being planned; see the section in this Newsletter: Congresses/Conferences etc.

International Trust for Traditional Medicine

International Trust for Traditional Medicine is a non-profit, non-governmental registered public charitable Trust, based in Kalimpong, north-eastern Himalayas, India. The Trust was founded in 1995 by a small group of dedicated researchers of Indian, Mongolian and German origin with the objective to promote study and research on Indo-Tibetan medicine and allied medical cultures of this Himalayan region. For details visit the ITTM Homepage at: www.kreisels.com/ittm.

USEFUL WEBSITES

<http://www.ucm.es/info/folchia>

A new group of investigators on History of Pharmacy in Spain has been created under the name of “Folchia” with an electronic publication, also named *Panacea*.

<http://www.ou.edu/islamsci/WebbAdd.htm>

The above site provides an updated address list of

historians of science and medicine and is maintained by Commission on History of Science and Technology in Islamic Civilisation.

<http://unanimedicine.org>

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MEDICINE IN ANCIENT EGYPT

Prof. Nancy H. Demand
Indiana University, Bloomington (USA)

Historically, many Egyptologists focused primarily on the very visible aspects of ancient Egyptian society, such as the pyramids, much to the bane of those interested in more than just monumental architecture. From the beginning of the scholarly study of Egypt's past there have been few scholars who recognized the importance of the process of disease and health on a population. With the turn of the century, new archaeological discoveries, increased knowledge of

Egyptian language and writing, and the advent of more sophisticated medical techniques; new life was breathed into the study of disease and health in the ancient Nile Valley. It was this period that saw the academic study of Egyptian disease segregated into three distinct categories.

The first is the study of medical Papyri. Early on it was recognized that the textual material of the Dynastic Period pertaining to the recognition and treatment of disease was extremely important for understanding both the state of health as well as the concept of disease in ancient Egypt. The second is the study of the artistic representation of disease in the Nile Valley. The Egyptian's predilection to portray life in a relatively realistic manner offers an excellent opportunity for the study of disease. The third, and perhaps most obvious, is the study of human remains, both skeletal and soft tissue, of ancient Egyptians. With the advent of increasingly sophisticated medical techniques at the beginning of the 20th century, as well as those complex medical techniques in use today, the analysis of Egypt's veritable wealth of human remains provided a tremendous boost to the study of the state of disease and health in the ancient Nile Valley.

Medical Papyri

The Edwin Smith Papyrus

The Edwin Smith Surgical Papyrus is, without a doubt, one of the most important documents pertaining to medicine in the ancient Nile Valley. Placed on sale by Mustafa Agha in 1862, the papyrus was purchased by Edwin Smith. An American residing in Cairo, Smith has been described as an adventurer, a moneylender, and a dealer of antiquities. (Dawson and Uphill: 1972). Smith has also been reputed as advising upon, and even practicing, the forgery of antiquities. (Nunn 1996:26) Whatever his personal composition, it is to his credit that he immediately recognized the text for what it was and later carried out a tentative translation. Upon his death in 1906, his daughter donated the papyrus in its entirety to the New York Historical Society. The papyrus now resides in the collections of the New York Academy of Sciences.

In 1930, James Henry Breasted, director of the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago, published the papyri with facsimile, transcription, English translation, commentary, and introduction. The volume was accompanied by medical notes prepared by Dr. Arno B. Luckhardt. To date, the Breasted translation is the only one of its kind.

The Edwin Smith papyrus is second in length only to the Ebers papyrus, comprising seventeen pages (377 lines) on the recto and five pages (92 lines) on the verso. Both the recto and the verso are written with the same hand in

a style of Middle Egyptian dating.

The Ebers Papyrus

Like the Edwin Smith Papyrus, the Ebers Papyrus was purchased in Luxor by Edwin Smith in 1862. It is unclear from whom the papyrus was purchased, but it was said to have been found between the legs of a mummy in the Assasif district of the Theben necropolis.

The papyrus remained in the collection of Edwin Smith until at least 1869 when there appeared, in the catalog of an antiquities dealer, and advertisement for “a large medical papyrus in the possession of Edwin Smith, an American farmer of Luxor.” (Breasted 1930) The Papyrus was purchased in 1872 by the Egyptologist George Ebers, for who it is named. In 1875, Ebers published a facsimile with an English-Latin vocabulary and introduction.

The Ebers Papyrus comprises 110 pages, and is by far the lengthiest of the medical papyri. It is dated by a passage on the verso to the 9th year of the reign of Amenhotep I (c. 1534 B.C.E.), a date which is close to the extant copy of the Edwin Smith Papyrus. However, one portion of the papyrus suggests a much earlier origin. Paragraph 856a states that: “the book of driving *wekhedu* from all the limbs of a man was found in writings under the two feet of Anubis in Letopolis and was brought to the majesty of the king of Upper and Lower Egypt *Den*.” (Nunn 1996: 31) The reference to the Lower Egyptian *Den* is a historic anachronism which suggesting an origin closer to the First Dynasty (c. 3000 B.C.E.)

Unlike the Edwin Smith Papyrus, the Ebers Papyrus consists of a collection of a myriad of different medical texts in a rather haphazard order, a fact which explains the presence of the above mentioned excerpt. The structure of the papyrus is organized by paragraph, each of which is arranged into blocks addressing specific medical ailments.

Paragraphs 1-3 contain magical spells designed to protect from supernatural intervention on diagnosis and treatment. They are immediately followed by a large section on diseases of the stomach (*khet*), with a concentration on intestinal parasites in paragraphs 50-85. (Bryan 1930:50) Skin diseases, with the remedies prescribed placed in the three categories of irritative, exfoliative, and ulcerative, are featured in paragraphs 90-95 and 104-118. Diseases of the anus, included in a section of the digestive section, are covered in paragraphs 132-164. (*Ibid.* 50) Up to paragraph 187, the papyrus follows a relatively standardized format of listing prescriptions which are to relieve medical ailments.

However, the diseases themselves are often more difficult to translate. Sometimes they take the form of recognizable symptoms such as an obstruction, but often may be a specific disease term such as *wekhedu* or *aaa*, the meaning of both of which remain quite obscure.

Paragraphs 188-207 comprise “the book of the stomach,” and show a marked change in style to something, which is closer to the Edwin Smith Papyrus. (*Ibid.*: 32) Only paragraph 188 has a title, though all of the paragraphs include the phrase: “if you examine a man with a...,” a characteristic which denotes its similarity to the Edwin Smith Papyrus. From this point, a declaration of the diagnosis, but no prognosis. After paragraph 207, the text reverts to its original style, with a short treatise on the heart (Paragraphs 208-241).

Paragraphs 242-247 contain remedies, which are reputed to have been made and used personally by various gods. Only in paragraph 247, contained within the above mentioned section and relating to Isis’ creation of a remedy for an illness in Ra’s head, is a specific diagnosis mentioned. (Bryan 1930:45)

The following section continues with diseases of the head, but without reference to use of remedies by the gods. Paragraph 250 continues a famous passage concerning the treatment of migraines. The sequence is interrupted in paragraph 251 with the focus placed on a drug rather than an illness. Most likely an extract from pharmacopoeia, the paragraph begins: “Knowledge of what is made from *degem* (most likely a ricinus plant yielding a form of castor oil), as something found in ancient writings and as something useful to man.” (Nunn 1996: 33)

Paragraphs 261-283 are concerned with the regular flow of urine and are followed by remedies “to cause the heart to receive bread.” (Bryan 1930:80). Paragraphs 305-335 contain remedies for various forms of coughs as well as the *genew* disease.

The remainder of the text goes on to discuss medical conditions concerning hair (paragraphs 437-476), traumatic injuries such as burns and flesh wounds (paragraphs 482-529), and diseases of the extremities such as toes, fingers, and legs. Paragraphs 627-696 are concerned with the relaxation or strengthening of the *metu*. The exact meaning of *metu* is confusing and could be alternatively translated as either mean hollow vessels or muscles tissue. (*Ibid.*: 52) The papyrus continues by featuring diseases of the tongue (paragraphs 697-704), dermatological conditions (paragraphs 708-721), dental conditions (paragraphs 739-750), diseases of the ear, nose, and throat (paragraphs 761-781), and gynecological conditions (paragraphs 783-839)

Kahun Gynecological Papyrus

The Kahun Papyrus was discovered by Flinders Petrie in April of 1889 at the Fayum site of Lahun. The town itself flourished during the Middle Kingdom, principally under the reign of Amenemhat II and his immediate successor. The papyrus is dated to this period by a note on the recto, which states the date as being the 29th year of the reign of Amenemhat III (c. 1825 B.C.E.). The text was published in facsimile, with hieroglyphic transcription and translation into English, by Griffith in 1898, and is now housed in the University College London.

The gynecological text can be divided into thirty-four paragraphs, of which the first seventeen have a common format. (Nunn 1996: 34) The first seventeen start with a title and are followed by a brief description of the symptoms, usually, though not always, having to do with the reproductive organs.

The second section begins on the third page, and comprises eight paragraphs, which, because of both the states of the extant copy and the language, are almost unintelligible. Despite this, there are several paragraphs that have a sufficiently clear level of language as well as being intact which can be understood. Paragraph 19 is concerned with the recognition of who will give birth; paragraph 20 is concerned with the fumigation procedure, which causes conception to occur; and paragraphs 20-22 are concerned with contraception. Among those materials prescribed for contraception are crocodile dung, 45ml of honey, and sour milk. (*Ibid*: 35)

The third section (paragraphs 26-32) is concerned with the testing for pregnancy. Other methods include the placing of an onion bulb deep in the patients' flesh, with the positive outcome being determined by the odor appearing to the patients nose.

The fourth and final section contains two paragraphs, which do not fall into any of the previous categories. The first prescribes treatment for toothaches during pregnancy. The second describes what appears to be a fistula between bladder and vagina with incontinence of urine "in an irksome place." (*Ibid*. 35)

The Investigation of Disease Patterns through Human Remains and Artistic Representations

Parasitic Diseases

Schistosomiasis (bilharziasis)

Of the three main species of the platyhelminth worm *Schistosoma*, the most important for Egypt are *S. mansoni* and *S. haematobium*. There is a complex life cycle alternating between two hosts, humans and the fresh water snail of the genus *Bulinus*. The infection is

caught by humans who come into contact with the free-swimming worm which the snail releases in the water. The worm penetrates the intact skin and enters the veins of the human host. The main symptom of the presence of the parasite is haematuria, which results in serious anemia, loss of appetite, urinary infection, and loss of resistance to other diseases. There may also be interference with liver functions.

One of the finest archaeological examples for the existence of schistosomiasis in ancient Egypt was the discovery of calcified ova in the unembalmed 21st Dynasty mummy of Nakht. Upon medical examination, the mummy not only exhibited a preserved tapeworm, but also ova of the *Schistosoma haematobium* and displayed changes in the liver resulting from a schistosomal infection. (Millat *et al.* 1980:79)

Bacterial and Viral Infections

Tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*)

Ruffer (1910) reported the presence of tuberculosis of the spine in Nesperehan, a priest of Amun of the 21st Dynasty. This shows the typical features of Pott's disease with collapse of thoracic vertebra, producing the angular kyphosis (humpback). A well-known complication of Pott's disease is the tuberculous suppuration moving downward under the psoas major muscle, towards the right iliac fossa, forming a very large psoas abscess. (Nunn 1996:64)

Ruffer's report has remained the best-authenticated case of spinal tuberculosis from ancient Egypt. All known possible cases, ranging from the Predynastic to 21st Dynasty were reviewed by Morse, Brockwell, and Ucko (1964) as well as by Buikstra, Baker, and Cook. (1993) These included Predynastic specimens collected at Naqada by Petrie and Quibell in 1895 as well as nine Nubian Specimens from the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Both reviewers were in agreement that there was very little doubt that tuberculosis was the cause of pathology in most, but not all, cases. In some cases, it was not possible to exclude compression fractures, osteomyelitis, or bone cysts as causes of death.

The numerous artistic representations of hump-backed individuals are provocative but not conclusive. The three earliest examples are undoubtedly of predynastic origin. The first is a ceramic figurine reported to have been found by Bedu in the Aswan district. It represents an emaciated human with angular kyphosis of the thoracic spine crouching in a clay vessel. (Schrumph-Pierron 1933) The second possible Predynastic representation with spinal deformity indicative of tuberculosis is a small standing ivory likeness of a human with arms down at

the sides of the body bent at the elbows. The head is modeled with facial features carefully indicated. The figure is shown with a protrusion of the back and on the chest. (Morse 1967: 261) The last predynastic example is a wooden statue contained within the Brussels Museum. Described as a bearded male with intricate facial features, the figure has a large rounded hunchback and an angular projection of the sternum. (Jonckheere 1948: 25)

As well, there are several historic Egyptian representations, which indicate the possibility of tuberculosis deformity. One of the most suggestive, located in and Old Kingdom 4th Dynasty tomb, is of a bas-relief serving girl who exhibits localized angular kyphosis. A second provocative example has its origin in the Middle Kingdom. A tomb painting at Beni Hasan, the representation shows a gardener with a localized angular deformity of the cervical-thoracic spine. (Morse 1967: 263)

Poliomyelitis

A viral infection of the anterior horn cells of the spinal chord, the presence of poliomyelitis can only be detected in those who survive its acute stage. Mitchell (Sandison 1980:32) noted the shortening of the left leg, which he interpreted as poliomyelitis, in the early Egyptian mummy from Deshasheh. The clubfoot of the Pharaoh Siptah as well as deformities in the 12th Dynasty mummy of Khnumu-Nekht are probably the most attributable cases of poliomyelitis.

An 18th or 19th Dynasty funerary staele shows the doorkeeper Roma with a grossly wasted and shortened leg accompanied by an equinus deformity of the foot. The exact nature of this deformity, however, is debated in the medical community. Some favor the view that this is a case of poliomyelitis contracted in childhood before the completion of skeletal growth. The equinus deformity, then, would be a compensation allowing Roma to walk on the shortened leg. Alternatively, the deformity could be the result of a specific variety of clubfoot with a secondary wasting and shortening of the leg. (Nunn 1996: 77)

Deformities

Dwarfism

Dasen (1993) lists 207 known representations of dwarfism. Of the types described, the majority are achondroplastic, a form resulting in a head and trunk of normal size with shortened limbs. The statue of Seneb is perhaps the most classic example. A tomb statue of the dwarf Seneb and his family, all of normal size, goes a

long way to indicate that dwarfs were accepted members in Egyptian society. Other examples called attention to by Ruffer (1911) include the 5th Dynasty statuette of Chnoum-hotep from Saqqara, a Predynastic drawing of the "dwarf Zer" from Abydos, and a 5th Dynasty drawing of a dwarf from the tomb of Deshasheh.

Skeletal evidence, while not supporting the social status of dwarfs in Egyptian society, does corroborate the presence of the deformity. Jones (Brothwell 1967:432) described a fragmentary predynastic skeleton from the cemetery at Badari with a normal shaped cranium both in size in shape. In contrast to this, however, the radii and ulna are short and robust, a characteristic of achondroplasia. A second case outlined by Jones (*Ibid.*: 432) consisted of a Predynastic femur and tibia, both with typical short shafts and relatively large articular ends.

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