



# Newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy

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PUBLISHED BY THE

**Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences**

**ALIGARH, INDIA**

## **Amendment of Byelaws of the Ibn Sina Academy**

Article (14) allows the Academy to amend or modify its Byelaws by the Executive Council without reference to the General Assembly. So, under the purview of this article, the EC met on March 10, 2002 and has decided the following amendment /addition.

Article (2) in-situ mentions that the Academy will be composed of life members, student members, and honorary members. Since the Academy is being expanded and subject wise sub-divisions has become a necessity, we have to-date the Division of History of Medicine & Sciences, AIDS Cell, ADR Monitoring Cell and Publication Division as sub-divisions. Further, the Academy is hereby instituting Fellowship to eminent persons belonging to the above-mentioned subjects particularly. The status of these Fellows will be the same as that of honorary members of the academy. Moreover, there are some scholars who want to be associated with the Academy as a regular member and not as a life member. So the Academy creates herewith a category: Regular members, the tenure of regular members would be only for one year.

Article (2) will now read: The Academy will be composed of life members, student members, regular members and honorary members / Fellows of the Academy.

### **Lecture Series:**

Following lectures were delivered:

1. "Studies of Urdu Literature in Uzbekistan" by Dr. Muhayya Abdurrahman (Institute of Oriental Languages, Tashkent, Uzbekistan)
2. "Study of Ghazali in the Present Era" by Prof. A. Jamal Khwaja (Former Chairman, Dept. of Philosophy, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh); April 14, 2002.
3. "Extent & Advent of Islam in South Africa" by Maulana Syed Salman Nadvi (Durban University, South Africa). April 19, 2002.



**Dr. Muhayya Abdurrahman giving her Lecture**



**Prof. A. Jamal Khwaja giving his Lecture**



**Maulana S. Salman Nadvi giving his Lecture**

### **AIDS Cell**

The Center for Communication Programs, School of Hygiene and Public Health, Johns Hopkins University has selected AIDS Cell of Ibn Sina Academy as a POPLINE CD-ROM site on March 29, 2002. Soon after in April 2002, the Center sent the POPLINE CD-ROM system, which is database program on Population Information. It contains all the content of the print version, plus interactive

enhancements that bring a topic to life and add depth and background. It is a preparation of a comprehensive bibliography on population, reproductive health and related social sciences. It also provides access to the major journals in biomedical sciences from major publishers like Blackwell, Elsevier Science, the Harcourt Worldwide STM Group, Wolters Kluwer International Health & Science, Springer Verlag, John Wiley, etc. The Office of Population, United States Agency for International Development (USAIDS), supports the above POPLINE database program.

### **National Seminar on Development of Islamic Religion and Philosophy in India**

Under the overall set up of the Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi, there is a *Center for Studies in Civilizations* existing for the last several years. This Center has an ambitious project, "Project of History of Indian Science, Philosophy and Culture". The Centre has brought out several volumes on various subjects. Its next project is to bring out a volume on "Systems of Religion in India". The organizers rightly think that this volume cannot be complete unless it includes also a sufficient coverage on the development of Islamic religion and philosophy in India, as Islam has been one of the important religions of India for centuries. Their objective is that distinguished scholars are identified in this area and they be requested to write their contributions (of 30-40 pages) on the themes concerning the development of Islamic religion and philosophy in India. These articles are to be first discussed in a seminar and later to be published as proceedings. It may also be mentioned that the Centre will make payments for the finally accepted articles for the volumes covered under the Project. In pursuance of this objective, the project coordinator, Prof. Bhuvan Chandel, has sponsored a seminar to be held at Aligarh on 20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> June 2002. It is proposed to hold this seminar under the auspices of an NGO, namely, Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences, Tijara House, Dodhpur, Aligarh.

The following themes may be noted:

- a. Impact of Islam on Indian Culture and Religion
- b. Development of Sufism in India; various branches and their representatives
- c. Contemporary Islamic Thinkers of India

- d. Madrasahs System of Education
- e. Contemporary Religious Movement in India
- f. Indian Contributions to Tafseer, Hadith and Fiqh
- g. Islamic Economic Thoughts in India
- h. Composite Indian Culture
- i. Contribution of Foreign Muslims Travelers in Indian
- j. Impact of Greco-Arab Philosophy in India
- k. Introduction to Islamic Philosophical and Religious Manuscripts in India
- l. *Khairabadi* School of Philosophy

For details, contact: Prof. Mohammad Rafique, Director of the Seminar & Senior Fellow, Indian Council of Philosophical Research / Prof. S. Zillur Rahman, Chairman of the Seminar & President, Ibn Sina Academy.

### **National Seminar on Development of Islamic Religion and Philosophy in India – A Report**

Inaugurating a National Seminar on Development of Islamic Religion and Philosophy in India, AMU Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Naseem Ahmad said that India is a cradle of many religions and cultures. It has been acknowledged by all who matter that Islam has been a great cultural force. He mentioned that Islam has been fostering a civilization, which was not only empirical and positivistic in its outlook but also had a great commitment to morality and spirituality of the highest order. AMU Vice-Chancellor said that Islam has always emphasized the use of thinking and reasoning. Islamic thought and philosophy attained richness through coming in contact with other philosophies, he added. Mr. Naseem Ahmad pointed out that Islam has been a much maligned religion, particularly in recent times, largely on account of the fact that Muslims have been conquerors and rulers in several parts of the world. This line of thinking has shadowed Islam's positive contributions. However, it should be said to the credit of these Muslim rulers, especially Mughals, that they made India their final home and tried to enrich its culture in all its dimensions.

While delivering the presidential address, former Foreign Secretary, Mr. Muchkun Dubey said that the recent event in Gujarat has shaken the faith of the minority community

and they were feeling insecure in India. He said that in any democracy it is the responsibility of the majority community to make the minority community to feel safe, secure and equal. The minority community should not depend on the majority for safeguarding their interests. They should look up to the Constitution in which their rights are guaranteed and any violation of these rights is justifiable.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. M. Hamid Ansari, former AMU Vice-Chancellor, urged the Muslim Intelligentsia to develop a methodology to face the challenges of present situation and respond to a new environment of the 21st century. In his welcome address, Professor Mohammad Rafiq, Director of the Seminar said that Islam has been one of the important religions of India for centuries, and has influenced society and culture to a large extent. Professor Anwar Moazzam, former Director of Islamic Institute at Osmania University, Hyderabad and Professor Syed Jafar Raza Zaidi, Dean, Faculty of Arts at AMU also addressed the session. Professor Syed Zillur Rahman, Chairman of the Organizing Committee proposed vote of thanks on behalf of Ibn Sina Academy.

### **A Consultative Meeting of ASAS**

A Consultative Meeting about the Madrasa Education and its problems was called on May 13, 2002 by the Academy of South Asian Studies (Aligarh) at the library of Ibn Sina Academy, Tijara House, Dodhpur, Aligarh. The following members contributed:

Prof. Nafees Ahmad (Proctor, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh), Prof. H. S. Zillur Rahman (President, Ibn Sina Academy), Prof. Riazur Rahman Khan Sherwani (Formerly, Chairman Dept. of Arabic, Dr. Saud Alam Qasmi (Nazim Diniyat, Sunni Theology), Prof. Abdul Bari (Chairman Dept. of Arabic), Prof. M. Shareef Khan (Formerly, Chairman Dept. of Education), Mr. Ahmed Ashfaq Khan, Dr. Akhlaq Ahmad, Mr. Mehr Ilahi, Dr. Safdar Sultan Islahi, Dr. Mohd. Azam Qasmi (Dept. of Arabic), Mr. Habibur Rahman Cheghani (Former Director, Khuda Bakhsh Library, Patna), Maulana Sabahuddin, Mr. Mohd. Shahabuddin Qasmi, Mrs. Anjuman Ara Anjum, Prof. Masoodul Hasan (Formerly, Chairman Dept. of English), Dr. Ghiasuddin, Mr. M. Qasim Siddiqi (Former

Principal + 2 College, AMU), Mr. Arshad M. Ghazi (General Secretary, ASAS), Maulana Ashhad Jamal Nadvi.

The meeting started by the recitation of Holy Quran. Mr. M. Qasim Siddiqi welcomed the guests. Mr. Arshad Ghazi introduced the ASAS and gave a brief report of its activities for one year. The performance of ASAS is as follows:

It translated 33 books in Urdu and 10 in Hindi from English written by Dr. Abidullah Ghazi and Dr. Tasneema Ghazi. A complete survey of Deeni Madaris is in progress. Social Studies books for class I to VIII are being prepared. comparative study of religion is in progress. Biographies of some Muslims Scholars, freedom fighters, scientists, educationist, etc. are also planned. Studies on various schools of education and movements are also in progress for instance Reshmi Roomal Tehrik, Jamia Millia (New Delhi), Darul Uloom (Deoband), Mazahirul Uloom, Jamia Usmania (Hyderabad), Delhi College, etc.

Arshad Jamal Nadvi briefed the members about the problems to be discussed. Madrasa Education, change of administration, examination, new approach to teaching, change of syllabi and preparation of papers about the charges and misgivings of the government machinery. Prof. Nafees Ahmad presided over the meeting. Hakeem Syed Zillur Rahman Sahab opened the discussion. He pointed out that the books prescribed in Madarsa are old and ASAS should take lead in preparing new books. Prof. Abdul Bari suggested that a board of eminent experts should be formed who would review the syllabus. Mr. Azam Qasmi was critical of the universities, which are not coordinating well with these traditional institutions.

Mr. Habibur Rahman Cheghani pointed out that the Madrasa System without the involvement of the Madrasa administrators couldn't be modernized. Mr. Ahmad Ashfaq discussed the financial aspect of Madrasas. Prof. Saud Alam Qasmi was against taking any help from the government. Prof. Nafees Ahmad stressed that a change of curriculum is the need of the hour. He discussed the question of how much time be given to modern

subjects. Further, he suggested to approach the English Medium Schools and convincing authorities to include theology in their schools. Dr. Akhlaq Ahmad, Prof. Mohd. Shareef Khan, Dr. Anjuman Ara, Sabahuddin Malik, Dr. Safdar Islahi, Mr. Mehr Elahi also gave valuable suggestions.

*Recommendations and outcome of the meeting:*

Change of the curriculum is a must and need of the hour. A representative meeting should be called with representation particularly from Nadwa, Deoband, Bareilly, and Shia Schools etc. for deliberations. Such a meeting/conference should be a complete representation of different Muslim sects and different school of thought. The question of broad based board should be discussed with all. A committee should be formed to prepare the curriculum on all India basis and this curriculum may be discussed by the board to finalize it. ASAS should take lead in preparing a website. It should approach the Muslim managements of English Medium Schools to introduce Theology in their curriculum.

### **Mushaira**

The Bazm-e Sukhan (Aligarh) organized a Mushaira of leading Urdu poets on Saturday, May 18, 7:30 PM, at the rear lawn of Tijara House, Dodhpur, Aligarh. Prof. Asloob A. Ansari presided over the Mushaira after lighting the candle. The Mushaira was very humbly dedicated to the victims of the recent horrible anti-Muslim violence in Gujarat and Palestine. More than 125 respected teachers of Aligarh Muslim University and dignitaries of Aligarh city attended the function.

Guest Poets were Dr. Ghous Mohammed Ghousi, Prof. Zahida Zaidi, Mr. S. Mehdi Zaidi, Mr. Sharif Ahmad Khan Sharif, Prof. Sajida Zaidi, Dr. Mehtab Haider Naqvi, Dr. Mohd. Ilyas Navaid, Dr. Asad Badaunwi, Dr. Abida Kahkashan, Mr. Owais Jamal Shamsi, Dr. Ghazanfar Ali, Dr. Manzur Hashmi, Dr. Anjuman Ara Anjum, Dr. Moazzam, Dr. Badar, Dr. Shahabuddin Saqib, Dr. S. Siraj Ajmali, Dr. Zoya Zaidi, Mrs. Shail Anjum, Mr. Arshad Ghazi, Mrs. Zia Ehtisham, Mr. Johny Foster, Mr. Abdul Hakim Jalib, and other local poets. Dr. Mohd. Ilyas Navaid also compared the whole Mushaira.

# **Ibn Sina Academy in the Eye of Media**

### **Television**

eTV News Channel aired a "Documentary Film on Ibn Sina Academy" on April 7, 2002 (Sunday). The same channel also covered news about the lecture delivered by Prof. Jamal Khwaja on April 16, 2002.

### **Magazine**

A national magazine namely *Science our Kainat Times* published a brief report highlighting the activities of IAMMS in its issue, No. 7 (April-June 2002), p. 9.

### **Selected Correspondences / Messages**

From: Professor Muchkund Dubey, Former Secretary, Foreign Affairs, Govt. of India and Presently, Director Centre for Social Development and Fellow Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (New Delhi), dated 19.6.2002

"I am grateful to Prof. Zillur Rahman for inviting and taking me round the Ibn Sina Academy Library. It is remarkable and pioneering single-person effort to have built this library. For this, Professor Rahman deserves the gratitude of generations to come. I hope this Academy and its Library attracts scholars from all over the country and abroad. Professor Rahman deserves all encouragement and support for his unique effort." M. Dubey

From: Mr. Rashid Bhikha, President Ibn Sina Institute of Tibb, Johannesburg, South Africa. <tibb@worldonline.co.za>, dated 10.4.2002

"Dear Prof Rahman, I am pleased to inform you that we have finalized arrangements to promote Unani-Tibb in a museum that will be housed in the entrance of the University of Witwatersrand Medical School, which is the leading Medical University in the country. This museum will have a separate section for the Complementary and Alternative Medicine including the Indigenous African Medicine. The museum has been moved from the Medical Research Institute where it was established in 1961.

We have negotiated to provide picture panels of Unani-Tibb Medicine and have also been

allocated a display room wherein, I thought, it would be appropriate to display a Hakim's consulting room that might reflect Ibn Sina in his practice.

The museum will be officially inaugurated by the end of July to coincide with the Earth Summit that will be taking place in South Africa during August 2002. I would appreciate your advice as to what the contents of this room should be, reflecting the practice of Ibn Sina. Do you have any pictures or diagrams of a practitioner's room in Ibn Sina's era? Could you recommend a list of items, i.e. diagnostic equipment, treatment mechanisms, medication jars, books or anything that would be associated with Ibn Sina.

Over and above knowing what the room looked like, we would require the appropriate items that need to go into the display as well. In order for us to plan the display we urgently require pictures of a typical Hakim's consulting room in the time of Ibn Sina. If you have any such available items, kindly email or fax copies of such pictures.

As the above is quite urgent, I would appreciate your kind and urgent response. May I also mention that Unani-Tibb is now formally recognized in the country by the Department of Health and that we are finalizing a proposal for the teaching of Unani-Tibb at a local university by next year. I am attaching for your records correspondence that we have in this regard. As can be seen we have made good progress through the grace of Almighty Allah and would appreciate your assistance in making this showpiece of Unani-Tibb and Ibn Sina a reality in South Africa. Regards, Rashid Bhikha

From: Dr. M. Hasan A. Beg, Consultant Otolaryngologist, Edinburgh (Scotland), [hasanbeg@btinternet.com](mailto:hasanbeg@btinternet.com), dated 3.5.2002

"Dear Prof Zillur Rahman, It was indeed a highly fulfilling day, the 16th April when I visited Ibn Sina Academy. Indeed your effort needs appreciation and support. Your collection is a dedicated single effort, which should be followed, enlarged and preserved. Yours Truly, Hasan Beg"

From: Dr. Mohammad Jamal Makhdom, Consultant & Head Department of ENT, King

Abdul Aziz Hospital, Makkah (Saudi Arabia), dated 7.5.2002

"It gives me a great pleasure to introduce myself as a Consultant & Head Department of ENT, King Abdul Aziz Hospital, Makkah (Saudi Arabia). I am a member of many local and international medical societies and associations. As Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences is one of the international medical academy, I would like to join this academy and have life membership. I am pleased to send you the application form along with my CV and registration fee. With esteem regards, Dr. Mohammad Jamal Makhdom"

### Notices of Publications/Works of Members of IAMMS

1. S. M. R. Ansari, Islamic Astronomy in India during 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and its Interaction with Traditional Indian Astronomy, in: *500 years of Tantrasangraha - A Landmark in the History of Astronomy*, Eds. M.S. Sriram, K. Ramasubramaniam & M.D. Srinivas, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, 2002, pp. 145-156
2. S. Z. Rahman, R. A. Khan & A. Kumar: Experimental Study of the Morphine De-addiction Properties of Delphinium denudatum Wall, *Complementary and Alternative Medicine*, Vol. 2, 2002, pp. 33-36. This article can be downloaded from: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6882/2/6>
3. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman: Hakim Abdul Hameed, *Souvenir*, Tri-State AMU Alumni Association, California, USA, 2002

### Library of Congress (USA) Cataloging in Publication Data

Author: Avicenna, 980-1037

Uniform Title: Risalah Judeiyah. Urdu

Title: Risalah Judeiyah / Tasneef, Abu Ali Ibn Sina; tarjamah wa muqaddamah va rhavashei. Syed Zillur Rahman.

Published: Aligarh: Literature Research Unit, Ajmal Khan Tibbia College, Muslim University, Aligarh, 1971.

Description: 3, 208 p.; 23 cm.

LC Call No.: MLCMA 90/00694 (R)

Notes: Added t.p. in English: Resala-e-joodia.

Other titles: Resala-e-joodia.

Control No.: 78901671

### New Addition of important books/special numbers to the Zillur Rahman Library of Ibn Sina Academy

1. *International Drug Price Indicator Guide*, Ed. Julie E. McFadyen, Management Sciences for Health (Boston, USA) in collaboration with WHO, 2001
2. *Draft Guidelines for Herbal ATC Classification*, The Uppsala Monitoring Centre, WHO Collaborating Centre for International Drug Monitoring (Uppsala, Sweden), 2002.
3. *Report on the Ethics of Healthcare Research in Developing Countries*, Nuffield Council on Bioethics, London, April 2002
4. *Bairam Khan* by Prof. Sukumar Ray, ed. by Dr. M. H. A. Beg, Institute of Central & West Asian Studies, University of Karachi (Karachi, Pakistan), 1992.
5. *Classiky Adabiyat Europe par Islam ka Asar (Dante ke hawale se)*, by Dr. M. Sanaullah Nadvi, Samiya publications, Aligarh, 2002.
6. *Salateen Delhi aur Shariyat-e-Islamia – Aik Mukhtasir Jaiza*, by Dr. Zafarul Islam Islahi, Aligarh, 2002
7. *Seerat Khairul Bashr*, by Allama Muhibuddin Ahmad b. Abdullah Tubri Makki Shafae, Translated by Maulana Mahmood Hasan Gangohi & Maulana Izharul Hasan Kandhlawi, annotated by Maulana Iftikharul Hasan Kandhlawi, Maktaba Noor, Kandhla (Muzaffar Nagar), 2001.
8. *Mufti Ilahi Bakhsh Nishat Kandhlawi*, by Noorul Hasan Rashid Kandhlawi, Hazrat Mufti Ilahi Bakhsh Academy, Kandhla (Muzaffar Nagar), 2001.
9. *Rasail Usool Hadith*, by Mufti Ilahi Bakhsh Kandhlawi, Foreword & Annotated by Noorul Hasan Rashid Kandhlawi, Hazrat Mufti Ilahi Bakhsh Academy, Kandhla (Muzaffar Nagar), 2001.
10. *Shola-i Jaan* (collection of poems), by Zahida Zaidi, Aabshar Publishers, HIG Flat No. 4, Sir Syed Nagar, Aligarh, 2000.
11. *Sardar Jafri – Shakhshiyat aur Fun*, Ed. Asghar Abbas, Dept. of Urdu, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, 2002.
12. *Berar ki Tamadduni wa Ilmi Tarikh (Muslim Ahde Hukumat Mein)*, by Sharfuddin Sahil, Aleem Printers, Haideri Road, Mominpura, Nagpur, 2001.

13. *Nagpur mein Farst*, by Sharfuddin Sahil, Aleem Printers, Haideri Road, Mominpura, Nagpur, 2002.

### News Item

◆ Professor Syed Zillur Rahman was invited to attend the *International Conference on Imam Khument and Palestine*, in Tehran (Iran) on June 2-3, 2002. During his visit to Tehran, he was also invited at the *Encyclopedia Islamica Foundation*. Dr. M. Bagheri of the Foundation introduced Prof. Rahman to the audience. Prof. Rahman delivered a talk on "Medicine of Ibn Sina". In addition, he threw light on the activities of Ibn Sina Academy (Aligarh, India). The Foundation later presented him a volume of the *Encyclopedia* as a token of exchange. Apart from the Foundation, Prof. Rahman visited *Islamic Center and Organisation for Relation* and met its director, Mr. Mahmood Muhammadi Iraqi, deputy director, Mr. Muhammad Reza Bagheri and head of the Indo Sub-continent Section, Mr. Mukhtarian.

In the Library, Museum and Documentation Centre of *Majlis-e-Shoraye Islami*. Prof. Rahman met Mr. Syed Mohd. Ali Ahmadi Abhari (Director), Mr. M. Banaiyam Safid (Director, Public Relations) and Mr. Nader Mottalebi Kashani (Editor-in-Chief of *Namah-ye Baharestan*). He was presented with publications and journals of the library.

In the *Centre for Great Islamica Encyclopedia*, he was received and welcomed by Mr. Enayatullah Majedi, Dean of the Library, and Mr. Younus Karamati, Incharge History of Sciences Department. Furthermore, Prof. Rahman met the very famous Iranian scholar Dr. Ahmad Munzavi, who presented him also a volume of his edited Catalogue of Manuscripts of the Library of the Center. Renowned Iranian scholar Prof. Mehdi Mohaghegh received Prof. Rahman at the *Anjuman Asar and Mafakhir Farhangi* (Cultural Works and Luminaries Society) where he was presented 15 publications on history of medicine.

Prof. Rahman visited *Khordad Foundation*, where Mr. M. Bagheri, Managing Director of the Foundation, informed him about the efforts being made for introducing Tibb-e Sunnati/

Tibb-e Unani in Iran. It is noteworthy that Prof. Rahman is now very well known to various Iranian Scholars and needs no introduction in academic circle there. It was his fourth visit to Iran.

♦ A World Conference on "Allama Abdul Ali Birjandi, a Mathematician and Astronomer of 16<sup>th</sup> Century AD", was held in the city of Birjand (Iran), during May 26-28, 2002. Prof. S. M. Razaullah Ansari (Aligarh) was invited to this Conference to deliver a Keynote Address. He was the only delegate from India. Other delegates from abroad were from Tajikistan and Afghanistan, besides a large number of Iranian delegates. The topic of Prof. Ansari's address was: *Al-Birjandi in India, the Significance of His Works for the Medieval Indian Science.*

The Conference was very well organised by Prof. Ali A. Pouyan, the Chairman of the Organising Committee. There were 39 oral presentations, distributed in two parallel sessions. They covered various aspects and interests of Al-Birjandi and also of his times. Besides a few original writings, Al-Birjandi composed an appreciable number of commentaries on most important treatises concerning exact sciences. A detailed report of this Conference will be published in the subsequent issue of NISA.

### ♦ Quran & Science

Qur'an remains a religious book par excellence and it cannot, of course be expected to have a 'scientific' purpose per se. In fact, it does not deviate an inch from its main purpose, that is, to provide guidance to human beings. Each verse of it is called an *Ayah* meaning 'a sign'. In order to explain its point of view or to put it more effectively and emphatically, time and again Qur'an also draws the attention of human intellect towards various other signs underlying the natural processes & phenomena spread all over the universe. Whenever man is invited to reflect upon the work of Creator / and the natural phenomena he can observe those as 'signs', the obvious intention, is to stress the Divine Omnipotence. While reflecting over all these signs, Qur'an touches upon many scientific themes, ranging from astronomy to zoology. It is extremely astonishing that statements made by Qur'an with respect to these subjects some 1400 years ago, when the term science itself was not

in existence, are not only descriptively precise but are factually accurate also.

What comes as a real surprise to scientists and scholars all over the world is that on a few topics of very recent origin such as genetics and embryology Qur'an presents very graphic description and accurate account of natural phenomena, which have been discovered only in the last decade with the help of most modern techniques and sophisticated instruments. A fact well appreciated by Dr. Maurice Bucaille, a French scholar in his epoch making work "The Bible, the Quran and Science" He says

"What is more in a century where for many scientific truth has dealt a death blow to religious beliefs, it is precisely the discoveries of science that in an objective examination of Islamic Revelation have highlighted the 'Supernatural character' of certain aspect of Revelation".

And thus spoke your Lord Allah in his Holy Book

"We shall certainly show them sure signs in the universe and in their own selves, till it will be very obvious to them that this (Quran) is 'The Truth' [Al-Quran 41:63]

Courtesy: [www.islamvision.com](http://www.islamvision.com)

### Grants/Fellowships

#### Research Travel Grants for the History of Chemistry and the Othmer Library of Chemical History

The Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF) offers travel grants for scholars to conduct historical research at the Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry and the Othmer Library of Chemical History. Applicants are also encouraged to explore other resources in the Philadelphia area, including the University of Pennsylvania and the American Philosophical Society.

Applications must include curriculum vitae, a one-page statement of the research project, and the applicability of area resources. Applicants must also submit a budget estimate, and arrange for a letter of reference to be sent directly to CHF. Grants may be used for travel, subsistence, and copying costs, and is normally in the \$500 range for researchers within the United States. Individuals traveling



internationally may be considered for grants in the \$1000 range.

For details, contact: CHF Travel Grants, Chemical Heritage Foundation, 315 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106, Phone: (215) 925-2222 ext. 271 Fax: (215) 925-1954 E-mail: <travelgrants@chemheritage.org>

### **Dibner Institute Fellows Programs**

The Dibner Institute for the History of Science and Technology invites applications to its two fellowship programs for the academic year 2003-2004: the Senior Fellows program and the Postdoctoral Fellows program. Some twenty-five Dibner Fellows are resident at the Institute each year.

The Dibner Institute is an international center for advanced research in the history of science and technology, established in 1992. It draws on the resources of the Burdny Library, a major collection of both primary and secondary material in the history of science and technology, and enjoys the participation in its programs of faculty members and students from the universities that make up the Dibner Institute's consortium: the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the host institution; Boston University; and Harvard University.

The Institute's primary mission is to support advanced research in the history of science and technology, across a wide variety of areas and a broad spectrum of topics and methodologies. The Institute favors projects that address events dating back thirty years or more; and, while recognizing that overlap between the history of medicine and the history of biology makes strict distinctions impossible, the Institute generally does not support projects in the history of clinical medicine.

The deadline for receipt of applications for 2003-2004 is December 31, 2002. Fellowship recipients will be announced in March 2003. Please send requests for further information to: Trudy Kontoff, Program Coordinator, Dibner Institute for the History of Science and Technology, MIT E56-100, 38 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, E-mail: dibner@mit.edu Website: <http://dibinst.mit.edu>

### **Conferences/Seminars Held**

#### **National Seminar on Development Strategies for Traditional Medicine: Need of the Twenty First Century**

A National Seminar was held under the aegis of Bangladesh Unani Medical Association (BUMA) on 19-20 June 2002. The theme of the seminar was Development Strategies for Traditional Medicine: Need of the Twenty First Century. The main objectives of the seminar are to evaluate the over all situations of Unani and Ayurvedic Systems of Medicine at present prevailing in the country, to take appropriate measures for preparing TM to meet up the challenges of the new millennium, to determine the strategies for its multifaceted development and to put recommendations to the Government of Bangladesh accordingly.

For details, contact: Mahbubur Rahman Saki, Convener, Organizing Committee of the National Seminar on DSTM-2002, BUMA, Tibbia Habibia College Bhaban, 25 Umesh Dutta Road, Bakhshi Bazar, Dhaka-1211, Bangladesh. Fax: 880-2-9560491, 9562482. E-mail: jayson@citechco.net

#### **Medical Heritage and Material Culture**

A seminar on Medical Heritage and Material Culture has been organized by University of Leeds Centre for Heritage Research Seminar in collaboration with the Thackray Medical Museum on 26th June 2002 at Teale Room, Thackray Medical Museum, St James University Hospital, Beckett Street, Leeds.

Speakers to include: Josephine Lloyd - William Hey, 18thC Leeds surgeon; Chris Hammond - medical microscopy; Julie Anderson- artificial hips; Commentators to include: Helen Valier

More information available soon at: <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/heritage/>. E-mail: [g.j.n.gooday@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:g.j.n.gooday@leeds.ac.uk)

#### **History of the Health Sciences: A Two-day Overview**

The University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey- University Libraries are going to present a history of health science course on May 31, 2002 from 1:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. and on June 1, 2002 from 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at

Medical Sciences Building, B610 UMDNJ,  
Newark, NJ

Following are the speakers:

Patricia E. Gallagher, New York Academy of  
Medicine and Stephen J. Greenberg, History of  
Medicine Division, National Library of  
Medicine

Topics Include:

Ancient and Medieval Medicine, 1500 BC-1485  
AD

Midwives and Healers: Nursing in the Pre-  
Professional Era

The Dawn of Scientific Medicine, 1485-1800

Florence Nightingale: the Beginnings of  
American Nursing and Female MDs

'Modern' Medicine, 1914-2000

For a complete course description and printable  
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Densky-Wolff, Head, Special Collections,  
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Avenue, Newark, NJ 07103

### **Museums & Galleries Month 2002**

Local History Week

Sunday 5th May: Cutting Stones - Southwark's  
Sanctuary for the Sick. "I'll do what Mead and  
Cheselden advise / To keep these limbs, and to  
preserve these eyes"

In Europe's only surviving 19th century  
operating theatre, an illustrated lecture on the  
medical metropolis that once existed at London  
Bridge. For six centuries St Thomas's Hospital  
provided treatment for the deserving sick poor,  
and became renowned for surgeons such as  
Cheselden, Cline, and Cooper, all of whom  
operated without benefit of anaesthesia or  
antiseptics

Adult Learners' Week & The Campaign For  
London's Small Museums

Saturday 11th May: **SPEED SURGERY!**  
Demonstrations of Victorian surgery, when  
operations were performed without anaesthesia,  
and a patient's only relief from agony were the  
speed of the surgeon's knife.

Arts at the Old Operating Theatre

Friday 10th - Sunday 19th May: Art works by  
Verina Gfader

The Anatomist's Tale - Seeing With One's  
Own Eyes.

Saturday 18th May: An illustrated lecture on  
how surgeon-anatomists, from Vesalius and  
Harvey to the Hunter brothers and the  
waxworks of Joseph Towne, used the visual  
arts to demonstrate the bio-mechanical secrets  
of the body, as revealed in the dissecting room.  
From microcosm to macrocosm, a voyage into  
the fabric of the body made visible.

The Old Operating Theatre, Museum and Herb  
Garret is open 7 days a week.

The museum and Galleries is located and is 2  
minutes walk from London Bridge  
Underground Station.

### **Forthcoming Conferences/Seminars**

#### **4th Conference on The Role of Arab Muslim Science in Western Science Achievements**

Jordanian Society for the History of Science is  
going to organize its 4<sup>th</sup> Conference on the  
Role of Arab Muslim Science in Western  
Science Achievements during 14-16 December  
2002. For further information, please contact:  
Prof. Abdulkader M. Abed, Department of  
Geology, University of Jordan, Amman 11942  
(Jordan) /E-mail: <aabed@ju.edu.jo>

#### **Conference to Commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Sir Henry Wellcome**

A two-day conference, jointly sponsored by  
the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of  
Medicine at UCL, The History of Medicine  
Panel of the Wellcome Trust & The American  
Association for the History of Medicine,  
marking the sesquicentennial of the birth of Sir  
Henry Wellcome. Sir Henry was born and  
raised in the Upper-Midwest of the U.S.; he  
was the joint-founder of Burroughs, Wellcome  
& Co. in the U.K. and founder of the  
Wellcome Trust. The conference will be  
devoted to themes in the history of medicine  
and related fields that reflect elements of  
Wellcome's own interests. Papers will be  
especially welcomed on the history of British-  
American medical relations, British and

American pharmaceuticals, collecting books and establishing libraries, Collecting and exhibiting of objects, ethno-pharmacology and medical anthropology, the field of the history of medicine and philanthropy and medicine

Those who wish to present a 20-minute paper at the conference are asked to submit a one-page abstract of no more than 350 words by 16 October 2002 to:

Debra Scallan, PA to the Director, the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at University College London, 24 Eversholt St. London NW1 1AD (UK). E-mail: <d.scallan@ucl.ac.uk>

### **Documentation**

#### **Beckman Center & Chemical Heritage Foundation**

The Chemical Heritage Foundation was established in 1982 by the joint action of the American Chemical Society and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. Public education programs and academic initiatives are undertaken through the Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry. The Othmer Library of Chemical History supports the programs of the Beckman Center. The library maintains a wide array of reference books, journals and secondary literature, collects the archives of professional organizations and the personal papers of historically significant chemists and industrialists, and has an extensive pictorial collection.

#### **Science City, Kolkata**

After the success of the Evolution Theme Park, the Science City is gearing up for its next big attraction – the Flyer's Theme Tour. This tour will mark the hundredth year of human flight and the Wright Brothers occasion.

Consisting of working models, exhibitions, panels and graphics, Flyer's Theme Park will be a one-stop place for understanding organisms that can fly. The touring area will be divided into four sections – insects, amphibians, reptiles and mammals. Under every section, species will be displayed that are attractive both scientifically and biologically. Flyer's Theme Park, started with an initial budget of about 10 lakh, is an alternative to the aviary that was planned two years ago. Apart from Flyer's

Theme Park, the Science City will also have a Maritime Museum. A lot of people are curious about how ships work, the mechanism involved and maritime activities like offshore docking. Here, all will be explained using 3-D models and animation. The museum building (resembling a ship) will be unique in more ways than one. The Maritime Museum will arguably be the first building in Kolkata to be 100% accessible to the handicapped. For the physically challenged, lifts are arranged while for the visually impaired, Braille facility have been provided. Nature Trek will be a journey on foot through Nature. All along the way, planting rare trees are being done. Flight simulator and balloon flight inside the Science City area are being under construction. Both are extremely expensive ventures and need careful planning.

**Dinosaurs Alive:** Twenty fully computerized robotic dinosaurs in action in a recreated Jurassic forest, which is a much-improved version of the models already displayed in India.

**Butterfly Corner:** Colourful butterflies of different species catch your imagination; this is the only place in India for butterfly breeding in captivity.

**Life in water:** A 40-tank aquarium with aquatic life of exotic varieties in their natural underwater environment.

**World of Insects and Reptiles:** An amazing display of live insects and reptiles in their natural habitat.

There are 71 animal models of which 46 are robotic. There are various types of plant models of different ages. Some examples of animal models are: Giant Squid, Giant Scorpion, Trilobites, Dimetrodon, Eusthenopteron, Diplodocus, Longisquama, Scelidosaurus, Dragon Fly, Cynognathus, Tuojiangosaurus, Land scorpion, Brachiosaurus, Cynognathus, Archaeopteryx, Stegosaurus, Parasaurolophus, Volcano, Spinosaurus, Psittacosaurus, Corythosaurus, Velociraptor, Oviraptor, Anatosaurus, Triceratops, Ankylosaurus, Tyrannosaurus rex, Pteranodon, Pachycephalosaurus, Diatryma, Mocertherium,

Megatherium, Uintatherium, Proconsul Ape, Lemur, Dinotherium, Baluchitherium, Musk Ox, Woolly rhinoceros, Giant Deer, Smilodon, Mammoth, Gylptodon, Neanderthal man, Neanderthal man, Neanderthal man, Neanderthal boy, Neanderthal woman.

#### Notices of Publications/Works

1. Journal of the International Society for History of Islamic Medicine, Ed. Abdul Nasser Kaadan, Vol. 1, No.1, 2002. This journal is bi-annual.
2. Newsletter of the International Society for History of Islamic Medicine, Ed. Abdul Nasser Kaadan, Vol. 1, No.1, 2002. This newsletter is bi-annual.
3. Nick Hopwood, Embryos in wax: Models from the Ziegler studio, with a reprint of "Embryological wax models" by Friedrich Ziegler. 216 pp. (32 pp. in full colour), 100 halftone Paperback, ISBN 0-906271-18-5, Price £13.50, Euro 22.25, \$19.50, The Wulppel Museum of the History of Science, University of Cambridge and the Institute of the History of Medicine, University of Bern.

*The embryos that we see today on our computer and television screens were first visualized over a hundred years ago, but in very different media. While much has been written about the remarkable transformation of embryology during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Embryos in wax highlights the role of three-dimensional models for the first time. It is about the finest wax embryos, the extraordinary objects that Adolf and Friedrich Ziegler cast for universities and museums around the world. For decades indispensable in teaching and research, these models opened up new visions of pregnancy and evolution. Discovering how they were produced and used gives our understanding of embryos a whole new dimension, and challenges the monopoly of books in histories of science.*

*This is an accessible history of embryos in wax, and a comprehensive guide to the most numerous and diverse embryological models in collections today. Lavishly illustrated with dozens of historical photographs, 32 pages of colour plates, and a reprint of a rare catalogue, it is an essential resource for anyone interested in the history of biology and medicine.*

#### Useful Sites

<http://www.muslimphilosophy.com>

The site is designed and maintained by Muhammad Hozien. This website is dedicated to the study of the philosophical works of Ibn Sina. The aim is to provide original language works, translations and scholarly articles, to encourage fellow scholars and students to join in this noble effort. The initial efforts will be to collect as much source material as possible. It is hoped that it will offer not only in digitized form but e-texts as well of Ibn Sina's works. Everything that available locally on this site is provided free of charge.

Recent additions to the Ibn Sina page include the entire *Isharat* (in Dunya's edition) in pdf format, available for downloading. Mr. Hozien has plans to add more "e-texts" of Ibn Sina's works (contingent on their copyright-free status, like Dunya's edition).

<http://www.medbeats.com/sopi.html>

This is an official website of Society of Pharmacovigilance, India (SOPi). The society is affiliated with International Society of Pharmacovigilance (ISoP). ADR Monitoring Cell of Ibn Sina Academy is working in collaboration with SOPi.

#### Drug History

Phenformin was introduced in 1957 in the wake of the development of the sulphonylurea oral antidiabetic drugs. It is a biguanide analogue of the alkaloid galegine obtained from *Galega officinalis*, goat's rue.

Galegine was the first of several guanidines investigated in the 1920s to see clinical application. It was somewhat toxic. Slotta and Tschesche synthesized biguanide analogues of galegine, one of which was marketed by Schering in 1926 under the name Synthelin. It was still too toxic and had to be replaced by Synthalin B. This was withdrawn in the 1940s on account of its hepatotoxicity.

Courtesy: Dr. Walter Sneider, Department of Pharmaceutical Science, University of Strathclyde (UK)

## **T**ibetan medicine as practised in Germany - Obstacles and legal limitations

Probably from its beginning Tibetan medicine has been an inseparable blend of Buddhist philosophy with a theory of medicine based on the 3 humours. The doctrines of karma, reincarnation, of the subtle body and the 3 poisons of the mind as cause of disease are purely Buddhist as well as certain spiritual techniques of healing and last not least the bodhisattva idea underlying the ethic of a Buddhist doctor.

The traditional medicine in Lhasa/Tibet has omitted the Buddhist part and one might think that the Tibetan doctors in exile would adhere ferociously to the orthodox line of their tradition. Surprisingly the contrary is true. The younger generation of doctors proposed in 1994 to split the education of a traditional doctor into 2 parts. One following the monastic line, which accentuates the Buddhist thought and the Buddhist rituals in healing and the other, more important part should be the forming of a modern scientific academy teaching also Western medical science. These young doctors had the backing of the Dalai Lama, who says that one has to go with the times and one should make research into what can be omitted today and what should be preserved. He feels that the allopathic and the traditional system are complementary with the same goal. The patient should try out both and see, which one suits him best. But so far nothing has been changed in the traditional way of training a doctor.

In Europe there is a growing demand for a soft or so called natural medicine. Patients like to take herbal pills instead of more powerful medicine with a lot of side effects. But in Germany everything in the medical field is controlled by law. Only licensed doctors and licensed natural healers are allowed to practice medicine. Also our fees are regulated by state law, and German patients are not very willing to pay for something that is not covered by social or private insurance companies - like Tibetan or any other traditional medicine. Therefore it is difficult to incorporate Tibetan medicine into what you might call a normal practice, even a

purely private one. Also our patients are different of course from those in the 3rd world. From a doctor they expect that he uses all means of modern medicine to make a diagnosis. If he fails to do so, he risks a lawsuit. The patients that a Tibetan doctor on his tour in the West may see, have usually gone through all that, they are just not content with the doctor's treatment.

One should be aware that also our own European medical tradition has always been a holistic one, which has stressed the importance of a sound balance between body and mind and has had very specified rules, how to keep the body healthy by proper diet and proper behaviour. I think the problem of today's Western medicine lies only partly on the site of some of the doctors that have lost any trace of our tradition and are content to just repair the physical ailments of their patients, but to some extent also on the site of the patients themselves.

They are not used to a holistic thinking that takes into consideration the body as well as the mind as cause of disease, even if they are talking all the time about the bad Western medicine that has lost its holistic aspect. They are in fact pretty afraid something might be wrong with their soul or mind and tend to agree to any physical treatment, but they are far away from admitting that the cause of their illness may be what the Tibetans call the 3 poisons of the mind. Taking Tibetan medicine for them is like putting on a different dress, but underneath they don't change. To rely on pulse diagnosis alone, which is the only way a Tibetan doctor diagnoses disease, can be very dangerous for Western doctors in case they overlook an underlying pathology that may demand an active intervention. This is obvious for all cardiological and many gastroenterological cases, for suspected metabolic and endocrinological diseases including diabetes, for diseases of inner organs, for cases with suspected malignancy, for infectious diseases, not to mention other specialties.

To give an example I like to mention the metabolic syndrome, a deadly quartet of obesity, high blood pressure, high blood fats and diabetes that leads to arteriosclerotic vascular disease. It has a prevalence of 15-30% in the population of industrial nations. Early detection and appropriate treatment with

\* Dr. Egbert Asshauer, Quickborn (Germany)  
e-mail dr.asshauer@snafu.de

specific drugs combined with a change of eating habits and physical training can prevent long suffering or early death. This syndrome is rare among Tibetans in exile: Can it be detected by pulse diagnosis in all its details and does anybody know, what effect - if any - herbal pills have on the metabolic changes? And then: Where and how should a European doctor get the necessary training in pulse diagnosis?

But of course I will do, what Tibetan doctors in Lhasa do: I take lab tests, make ECG's, ultrasound-, endoscopic- and x-ray examinations and so on as I do with my patients that I treat with acupuncture. I will take the pulse and give herbal pills to pacify humours that have gone out of control. But instead of patients with organic diseases I should rather concentrate on the multitude of patients that suffer from functional and often psychosomatic disorders, which are mostly wind or loong diseases in Tibetan terminology. These are the ones that can profit from Tibetan medicine the most and that are very often so difficult to treat with our drugs. Psychotherapy is rather useless in these cases, takes a lot of time and costs a lot of money. A Tibetan doctor may tell you that is not necessary trying to get any insight into the mind of one's patient, because with his methods of treatment he will reach the mind anyway, which is bound to the subtle winds. But I cannot quite content myself with this rationalizing, especially in the type of patients we have. So I shall give herbal pills, but I shall also ask questions and listen to the patient.

Besides certain external methods of treatment like moxabustion and others that belong in our country to the spectrum of so called alternative treatment, Tibetan doctors use ready-made herbal pills, altogether around 140 different types or more, which are usually directed against a broad spectrum of symptoms. Lets say one pill brings down high blood pressure, helps also against dizziness and influences the function of the stomach, which provides part of the life energy and is regarded as the source of wrong winds.

But how can I get the appropriate medicine to balance the disturbed harmony of the 3 humours? This question leads us to the legal problems that are connected with the use of Tibetan drugs in Germany. The German drug law allows only veterinarians to sell their drugs. I am not allowed to sell medicine. Practically all-Tibetan drugs belong to a category that can

be sold only through a pharmacy and needs a prescription by a licensed doctor or healer. In some other European countries traditional herbal drugs may be sold outside of pharmacies as a food supplement. The German law does not provide this possibility.

Official registration is possible for traditional drugs with the exemption of those that contain certain ingredients like mercury. The producer has to declare the ingredients and must give a guarantee in lieu of oath. This procedure seems not very reasonable for Tibetan drugs, which contain usually 5-10 ingredients, up to 100 and more in some special pills, because its costs a lot of money and the market are very small. In the moment German authorities have blocked this possibility anyway because of legal uncertainties connected with the European Common Market. It remains only the legal import from a first class producer like the Tibetan Medical & Astro Institute in Dharamsala. A reliable producer is very important because of the quality control. But in Dharamsala quality control is done only by viewing the raw material, mainly to detect an infestation with fungi - and this is not at all sufficient according to our laws. Not to speak of their shortage of healing plants from the high Himalayas. Of all existent medical systems the Western one has been the most successful. We in the West should certainly adhere to it. I believe that Tibetan medicine as a whole - and not only the art of healing separated from Buddhist thinking - should be preserved and could be integrated into the Western practice of medicine as a complementary aspect, but in a very limited way only. Western and Tibetan medicine look at the microcosmos of man from different angles. Both systems describe a different reality, but it is a reality nevertheless. I believe

Conclusion: Pulse diagnosis and herbal medicine are certainly of greatest value in countries of the 3rd world, in the West one cannot rely on it alone for medical and legal reasons. The difficulties for Western doctors to be trapped in pulse diagnosis and in obtaining Tibetan drugs are the main reason that Tibetan medicine remains a very interesting field of knowledge, but is practiced mainly by traveling Tibetan doctors from India and only by a handful of European doctors - fulltime by none. To a far lesser degree this applies also to ayurvedic medicine, but not at all to traditional Chinese medicine, especially acupuncture, which is being used widely.



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