



NEWSLETTER OF IBN SINA ACADEMY NISA

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NEWS ITEMS OF IAMMS

Ibn Sina Academy signed MoU with Bu-Ali Sina Scientific & Cultural Foundation

Scientific and Cultural Cooperation Memorandum between the Bu-Ali Sina Scientific and Cultural Foundation in Islamic Republic of Iran and the Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences in India.

The Bu-Ali Sina Scientific and Cultural Foundation in Islamic Republic of Iran and Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Sciences in India for a period of two years (beginning from Azar 1385/ December 2006 to 2008) will cooperate concerning studies and activities on Bu-Ali Sina: introduction, review and application of medicinal herbs, exchanging studies and information about Ibn Sina and related educational Programmes and conferences within the framework of the current regulations of Islamic Republic of Iran and India.

If one of the two parties does not inform the other one about the extension of this agreement exactly three months before the end of above-mentioned period, this memorandum of cooperation will not be valid for a further period of two years".

Signed by Mr. Yousef Shah Hosseini, Head, Bu-Ali Sina Scientific and Cultural Foundation in Islamic Republic of Iran and Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, President, Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences, India.

Sir Syed Day Celebrations - 2006

A painting competition for school children on the theme: 'Sir Syed and Aligarh' was organized by Ibn Sina Academy on 28th October 2006 as a part of Sir Syed Day celebrations. 135 students from various schools of Aligarh participated in the competition. On the next day, 29th October,

an exhibition of books and periodicals on the same theme was inaugurated at 11 AM by Engineer Jamil A. Khan, a distinguished old boy of the university and Chairman of the Samiah International Builders, New Delhi, as the chief-guest. The prize distribution ceremony followed the exhibition. Prizes and certificates were distributed to the winners. In all 16 students were honored with first, second, third ranks and special prizes. Expressing his views on the occasion, the Chief Guest lauded the efforts of the Academy in forwarding the cause of Aligarh Movement. He said that a treasure of literature on Aligarh movement had been preserved at Ibn Sina Academy, and which can be of great interest to any lover of Aligarh. In his speech, Prof. S. Hashim Rizvi said that he had been a regular visitor to the library and during his tenure as director of Centre for Promotion of Science (Aligarh Muslim University), he has been highly benefited by the collection that is extant in the Academy. Prof. S. M. Razaulah Ansari in his presidential address exhorted the old boys to come forward in realizing the dreams of Sir Syed. Prof. S. Zillur Rahman, President of the Academy, thanked the guests and distinguished audience. After the programme, the visitors were shown round the Library and Museum. It is worth mentioning that apart from a very rich section on Sir Syed and Aligarh Movement, the Academy has special sections devoted to history of medicine and sciences, complementary and alternative traditional medicines like Unani, Ayurveda, pharmacology, manuscripts' catalogues, biographies including Ghalibiat and Iqbaliyat.

Consultative Meeting Tarjumân Aligarh (Urdu Weekly)

A consultative meeting under the chairmanship of Prof. H. S. Zillur Rahman to discuss the issue of a special number of 'Tarjuman Aligarh' on ASAS was held on 5th November 2006 at 5:00 PM. Following persons attended the meeting: Arif Marehravi, Prof. Saud Alam Qasmi, Mr. Arshad Mansoor Ghazi, Mr.

Mubashir Karimi and Mr. Arif Hussain Shaheed.

World AIDS Day – 2006

AIDS Cell of Ibn Sīnā Academy organized a two-day programme to mark the World AIDS Day – 2006 in collaboration with Indian Medical Association (IMA), Aligarh Branch and Faculty of Law, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. The programme, which comprised of a series of symposia, exhibition and students' sensitization, was inaugurated at 11:00 AM in the Library Hall of Ibn Sīnā Academy. Prof. M. Saleemuddin, Pro Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University, the chief guest on the occasion, said that there was a need to magnify the scale of efforts to control AIDS. There are a number of issues on which the local communities have to develop their own method of action. He called for wider research on different aspects of HIV/AIDS in the settling of current rise of AIDS in India. - In the same programme, the souvenir edited by Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman and Dr. Mohd. Tauheed Ahmad as well as the exclusive CD Rom of the AIDS Cell was released. Dr. S. Jawed Akhtar, Director, Aligarh Ayurvedic & Unani Medical College, was the guest of honour. Prof. S. Zillur Rahman introduced the activities of the Academy to the distinguished audience. A large number of academicians, doctors and students attended the programme.

The inaugural programme was followed by the Students' Sensitization drive in different schools of Aligarh. AIDS Cell resource persons interacted with High School & Senior Secondary School students. In the afternoon, the symposium on medico-social implications of HIV/AIDS was organized from 3:00 p.m. onward. Eminent academicians, viz., Prof. Abida Malik (Incharge VCCTC, J.N. Medical College), Prof. Rajeswari Sharma (Incharge PPTCT, J.N. Medical College), Dr. M. Athar Ansari (Reader, Deptt. of Community Medicine, JNMC) and Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman (Lecturer, Dept. of

Pharmacology, JNMC), presented their lectures on different aspects of HIV/AIDS in relation to their subjects of specialization respectively. The session was chaired by Prof. Abu Qamar Siddiqi, Dean Students' Welfare, AMU, Aligarh and Dr. Raj Kumar, General Physician, Aligarh.

A special session on Law and Ethics in relation to HIV/AIDS followed, in which Prof. Faizan Mustafa, Registrar, Aligarh Muslim University, and Dean Faculty of Law delved into the different ethical concerns in relation to HIV/AIDS. He informed the audience about the legal rights, rules and regulations framed for HIV/AIDS patients in different countries. He also discussed laws in relation to social stigma and discrimination. Prof. Usha Singhal, Dean Faculty of Medicine and Dr. C. P. Gupta, General Surgeon, chaired this session. Both these scientific sessions were very well attended by members of IMA and Ibn Sīnā Academy. At the end, Dr. Abdul Latif, Joint secretary, Ibn Sīnā Academy, presented a vote of thanks.

On the following day, the second phase of students' sensitization was convened and a number of schools in Aligarh were covered. This was followed by another symposium of free papers and poster presentation with Professor Ashraf Malik, former chairman Department of Paediatrics in chair. Dr. Shoeb Ahmad (PG Scholar, AK Tibbiya College, Aligarh), Dr. Varun Gupta (PG Scholar, JN Medical College, Aligarh) and Dr. Monil Singhai (PG Scholar, JN Medical College, Aligarh) presented their papers in free papers' session.

[The above news also appeared in South Asian Public Health Forum and India-Drug Communication Network. The souvenir brought out on this occasion is available at: <http://www.solutionexchange-un.net.in/aids/resource/res-01-18120601.pdf>]

Individual Activities of IAMMS Members

Prof. S. Zillur Rahman

1. In recognition of Prof. S. Zillurrahman services, Bazm-e Aseer organized a Mushaira (Poetical Recitation) on 11th November 2006 at Chowk Sarai Rahman, Aligarh. The programme was organized by Amanatullah Aseer, Jt. Convener, and Dr. Mohd Ilyas Taibkhaibadi. They presented him a shawl and citation.
2. Participated in the Workshop on Research Methodology, held under the aegis of Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, Government of India, in collaboration with WHO India Office at ASSOCHAM House, New Delhi during December 4-5, 2006. Prof. Rahman also presided over the valedictory session.
3. Attended Mushaira (poetry recital) as Chief Guest, organized by Habib Khan Memorial Trust, Jamalpur, 28th December 2006. The second part of the evening was devoted to the International Mushaira. The Urdu language is known for bringing people together through its rich poetry. Urdu poets from Pakistan and India were present at this event. Urdu Mushairas are an intellectual feast to experience. The language has an amazing treasure chest of verse, symbolism and wordplay. Some say that Urdu has received this gift from Arabic and Persian. But for any listener and viewer, the involvement of the audience is an added plus. And that was the experience that every one had in this event in Aligarh.

Prof. S. M. Razaullah Ansari

Prof. S. M. R. Ansari, Secretary of Ibn Sina's Academy, was invited to join the International Board of Advisors of the Project: *Islamic Scientific Manuscripts Initiative* (ISMI), and to attend its first Meeting and Workshop held in Berlin, September 18-19, 2006 in Berlin (Germany).

Islamic Scientific Manuscripts Initiative is the worldwide online database for information about the exact sciences in the pre-modern Islamic world. It will span thousands of manuscripts concerning various subjects like astronomy, mathematics, mechanics, physics, geography and related disciplines. This project is being managed by a number of institutions, in particular by Max Planck Institute for History of Science (Berlin, Germany) and Department of Islamic Studies of McGill University (Montreal, Canada)

Prof. Ansari was the only participant in the Berlin Workshop representing South Asia that is, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh etc. He presented an annotated review of the library collections through out India and Pakistan, highlighting particularly those that had been neither examined seriously nor mentioned in well known catalogues, for instance, *Catalogue of Islamic Scientific Manuscripts*, edited by B.A. Rosenfeld and E. Ihsanoglu (Istanbul 2003). He pointed out that, although there has been recently established an Indian National Missions to preserve library manuscript collections in India, much more needs to be done.

It is a matter of great pleasure for Ibn Sina Academy, that Prof. S. M. R. Ansari has recently been appointed a Research Consultant to the Project: *Islamic Scientific Manuscripts Initiative*, both because of his professional eminence in the field and because of the importance of including manuscript information from South Asia in the ISMI database.

Prof. Ansari attended in Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium) a meeting of the Commission for the History of Ancient and Medieval Astronomy, on Sept.29, 2006. It was resolved that the Commission should explore the financial possibilities of organising a Symposium on "Ptolemy and His Times", in Oct. 2007 at Louvain-la-Neuve.

Prof. Anis Ahmad Ansari & Dr. Iftikhar A. Saifi

Professor Anis Ahmad Ansari, Advisor (Unani) in the Government of India represented Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of AYUSH) in WHO Consultative Meeting on Phytotherapy of Unani System of Medicine at Milan, Italy during November 20-23, 2006.

Professor Anis Ahmad Ansari participated in the WHO Consultation on Phytotherapy to review the WHO Guidelines on Basic Training and Safety in Phytotherapy. A working group was formed comprising of **Professor Anis Ahmad Ansari**, Advisor (Unani), Professor Said Ahmad Gill (England, U.K), Dr. Mona M. Hejres (Bahrain), Dr. M. Mosaddegh (Iran), **Dr. Iftikhar A. Saifi (UAE)**, Dr. M. T. Umme Zareena (Sri Lanka), Dr. Dorai Raja (Malaysia), Dr. A. Rahman Bouraqui (Tunisia), as members and Mrs. Vicki Pitman (England) as rapporteur. The group discussed the draft of WHO guidelines on basic training and safety of Unani Medicine particularly herbs; modules of full course and limited course for medical and allied professionals, paramedical technicians pharmacists, etc. Course contents were prepared to popularize the Unani system of Medicine on uniform level.

On behalf of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, copies of the *Unani Pharmacopeia of India*, volume 1, *National Formulary of Unani Medicine*, volumes 1, 2, 3 and 4 were handed over to Dr. Xiaorui Zhang, Coordinator, Traditional Medicine WHO for reference and record at WHO Headquarter. Brochures on Unani Medicine in India published by the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM), New Delhi, was also distributed to all participants.

Dr. Abdul Nasser Kaadan

It is a great honour for all of us that one of our editorial board members of this

newsletter has been bestowed with prestigious Bassel Al-Assad Prize in the field of Science and Medical Research by the Council of Aleppo City, Syria. It is the hard work, sincerity and dedication towards his interest in this field of science and medical research particularly in the history of medicine that paid him a lot in this achievement. On behalf of Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences, we send our heartfelt applause on this grand success to Dr. Abdul Nasser Kaadan.

The celebration for this occasion will take place in Aleppo City, under the patronage of Her Excellency Dr. Najah Al-Attar the Vice President of Syrian Arab Republic.

Dr. Abdul Latif participated in the following scientific event:

1. National Symposium on Relevance of Herbal Pharmacovigilance, Department of Pharmacology, held under the aegis of Society of Pharmacovigilance, India (SOPI), November 4, 2006. During the symposium, Dr. Latif also chaired a scientific session.

Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman participated in the following scientific events:

1. National Symposium on Relevance of Herbal Pharmacovigilance, Department of Pharmacology, held under the aegis of Society of Pharmacovigilance, India (SOPI), November 4, 2006.
2. 39th Annual Conference of Indian Pharmacological Society (IPS), December 21 to 23, 2006, Jaipur. He presented a paper, entitled, Pharmacoenvironmentology – A Component of Pharmacovigilance, wherein he put his views on Environmental Pharmacology as a new discipline of Pharmacology. He also laid the differentiating points for Ecopharmacology and Pharmacoenvironmentology. It is noted here that Dr. Rahman coined the term 'Pharmacoenvironmentology' for the study of drugs at therapeutic doses on environment eliminating from living organism.

Dr. Razi Ahmad participated in the following scientific events:

1. National Symposium on Relevance of Herbal Pharmacovigilance, Department of Pharmacology, held under the aegis of Society of Pharmacovigilance, India (SOPI), November 4, 2006.
2. 39th Annual Conference of Indian Pharmacological Society (IPS), Jaipur.

Mr. S. H. Zahid Jamal & Mrs. Sabiha Khatoon participated in the following scientific event:

1. Workshop on 'Care and Prevention Conservation of Manuscripts', National Mission for Manuscripts (New Delhi) in collaboration with Manuscripts Conservation Centre (Delhi) and Indian National Trust for Arts and Cultural Heritage (Intach) – Indian Conservation Institute (ICI) of Lucknow, November 7-11, 2006

Dr. Ahmad Najmi participated in the following scientific events:

1. National Symposium on Relevance of Herbal Pharmacovigilance, Department of Pharmacology, held under the aegis of Society of Pharmacovigilance, India (SOPI), November 4, 2006.
2. International Workshop on Herbal Drug Therapy & Research, Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute, University of Delhi, Delhi, 9-10 December 2006.
3. 39th Annual Conference of Indian Pharmacological Society (IPS), Jaipur. He presented a paper, "Comparative Study of *Nigella sativa* Oil and HMG Co-Enzyme A Reductase Inhibitors in the Treatment of Dyslipidemia".

Dr. Misbahuddin participated in the following scientific events:

4. National Symposium on Relevance of Herbal Pharmacovigilance, Department of Pharmacology, held under the aegis of Society of Pharmacovigilance, India (SOPI), November 4, 2006.

5. International Workshop on Herbal Drug Therapy & Research, Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute, University of Delhi, Delhi, 9-10 December 2006. He presented a paper, entitled, "Asthma 5, a novel formulation for Asthmatics".
6. 39th Annual Conference of Indian Pharmacological Society (IPS), Jaipur. He presented a paper, entitled, "Bioethics in Clinical Research – The Indian Scenario".

Publications:

1. S. Z. Rahman, R.A. Khan. Environmental Pharmacology – A new discipline (Editorial). *Indian J Pharmacol* 2006; 38 (4): 229-230
2. S. Z. Rahman. Inter-Relationship of Pharmacovigilance, Pharmacogenetics and Pharmacogenomics. *The Pharma Review* 2006; 4 (23): 41-44

Visit of notable figures from abroad at IAMMS

Following dignitaries from abroad visited Ibn Sina Academy during October to December, 2006: Prof. Munibur Rahman (USA), Mr. Mahmood Toorawa (Mauritius), Prof. Shawkat Toorawa (USA), Ms. Holly Donahue Singh (USA), Mr. Shah F Alam (USA), Ms. Bano Ghazanfar (USA), Mr. Azad Jamua (Mauritius) and Mr. Ghazanfer Ali (USA).

Views Entered in "Visitor's Book"

"This is a Centre where more and more people should visit and associate themselves with the footsteps taken by Prof. S. Zillur Rahman for community and social work. If it happens, then our new generation will become conscious of our heritage in future"

Er. Jamil A. Khan, Chairman, Samiah International Group, New Delhi

"May God reward you richly for this splendid initiative. You not only set the example, and the high standards by preserving and promoting the legacy of Indian civilization,

but you also thereby become a part of this greatness"

Prof. Showkat M. Toorawa, Arabic Literature and Islamic Studies, Cornell University, New York, USA

"Professor Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman is undoubtedly a *Jannati*. May God cast His choicest blessings on Prof. Rahman. His contributions to knowledge has no similarity in anywhere"

Mr. Mahmood H. Toorawa, Port Louis, Mauritius

"I am pleasantly surprised and delighted to have come here. I am most impressed and pleased to see this wonderful collection of literature and manuscripts. Hope, this work will continue and may God give this coordinator the strength and blessings"

Er. Abdul Hai Mohammad Wadi, St. Helens, Merseyside, UK, WA 9HL

PAST CONFERENCE

National Symposium on Relevance of Herbal Pharmacovigilance – A Report

Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman

A one-day National Symposium on Relevance of Herbal Pharmacovigilance was organized on November 4, 2006 by the Department of Pharmacology, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Aligarh, under the aegis of the Society of Pharmacovigilance, India (SOPI). Inaugurating the symposium, Prof. M. C. Sharma, Director National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, expressed his sense of satisfaction in organizing such programme on herbal drug Pharmacovigilance. He said, "There is a great need on working herbal drug safety particularly that of Ayurvedic medicine". He further told his own experience while working on herbal drug safety and efficacy in Department of Dravyaguna. After his Keynote Address, Prof. K. C. Singhal, (Honorary Consultant to WHO Collaborating Centre for International Drug Monitoring,

UMC, Sweden and Patron SoPI) briefed on the importance of organizing this symposium. Being one of the pioneers in the field of Indian Pharmacovigilance, he threw light about the scope of herbal Pharmacovigilance and thanked Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, for sponsoring to organize the programme in Aligarh. Prof. Usha Singhal, Dean Faculty of Medicine, JN Medical College, expressed her pleasure in having such an academic programme at the Faculty of Medicine. She praised the contributions of Prof. K. C. Singhal and of other staff of the Department of Pharmacology for organizing this relevant symposium on herbal Pharmacovigilance at JN Medical College. It was her opinion, that with such activities both our junior residents and faculty members always get benefited. She also released 'ADR Dictionary', which is translated by Prof. K. C. Singhal on the pattern of WHO Programme on International ADR Monitoring. Prof. M. Mobashir, (Principal and Chief Medical Superintendent, JN Medical College and Hospital) addressed on the use of heavy metals in herbal drugs preparation, and released also the Souvenir cum Proceedings. At the end of the inaugural function, Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman, moved a vote of thanks. He said, "To present a vote of thanks in a befitting manner on behalf of the organizing committee is quite a difficult task". He thanked individually each of the persons who really worked hard to make the symposium successful, particularly guest speakers, because no academic programme could be possible if there were no excellent faculty and guest speakers. The programme was compered by Dr. Saba Qutub, Senior Resident in the Department of Pharmacology

The scientific sessions were followed soon after the inaugural function. The first session was chaired by Prof. Anis Ahmad Ansari, a senior Unani expert and presently Advisor Unani in the Ministry of Health and family

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Welfare and Prof. K. C. Singhal, Former Chairman, Department of Pharmacology. In the same session, Prof. K. K. Sharma, (Principal University College of Medical Sciences and Head Dept. of Pharmacology), Prof. M. C. Sharma of Department of Dravyaguna (Jaipur), Prof. K. C. Singhal and Prof. Anis Ahmad Ansari, presented their papers as Guest Speakers. Prof. K. K. Sharma spoke on Pharmacovigilance: What, Why and How? In the lecture, he discussed in detail the basic concept of Pharmacovigilance and practicalities of detecting ADRs. He also told about the specific drug toxicities unrelated to pharmacological action like that of Carcinogenicity, Endocrinal, Haemopoietic disorders, Ocular toxicity, Ototoxicity, Cardio-hepatotoxicity, Neurotoxicity, Renal toxicity and Teratogenicity. Prof. M.C. Sharma presented a talk on Pharmacovigilance in Ayurveda. Not only he discussed the reasons and causes for unwanted reactions but also told the various steps for better ADR Monitoring of Ayurvedic drugs. Prof. Singhal in his paper enlightened with the Relevance of Pharmacovigilance for Indian System of Medicine including Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha. Prof. Ansari while speaking on Unani System of Medicine and its relevance to Pharmacovigilance, talked on the underlying principles of Unani Medicine and contributions of Unani stalwarts. He pointed out also the mode of enhancing adverse drug reaction monitoring.

The Second session was chaired by Prof. Anil Kumar, current Chairman, Department of Pharmacology, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh and Prof. R. A. Khan, Former Chairman of the same department. In this session, Dr. Chakra Pany Sharma, M. D. (Ayurveda) and Reader at Post Graduate M. M. M. Government Ayurveda College, Udaipur, Dr. K. Shankar Rao of National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur and Dr. Yogesh Goyal of Agra presented their research papers on

"Safety of Ayurvedic Medicine". The last session, which was based on free papers, was chaired by Dr. Abdul Latif, Reader in the Department of Ilmu Advia, A.K. Tibbiya College, AMU, Aligarh and Dr. Amir Abbas, Senior Unani Scientist in the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, AMU, Aligarh. Dr. Phool Chander, MD Scholar, Dr. Ramesh Kr. Pandey, M.D Scholar in the Dept. of D.G Vijnana, M.M.M. Govt Ayurveda College, Udaipur (Rajasthan) and Dr. Alka Yadav of Agra presented their papers. All scientific sessions were conducted by Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Lecturer in the Department of Pharmacology. Nearly 150 medical scientists including Unani and Ayurvedic practitioners registered for the said symposium. It was a great successful event and every participant appreciated its worthwhile accomplishment.

In the evening after the function, all delegates were invited to visit Ibn Sina Academy to view exhibition on books and periodicals on herbal Pharmacovigilance. The exhibition was inaugurated by Ms. Holly Donahue of University of Virginia, USA. In all, there were 150 books and periodicals including CD ROMs of different agencies like WHO Uppsala Monitoring Centre (Sweden), International Society of Pharmacovigilance (ISoP), Society of Pharmacovigilance, India (SOPI), Lareb (Holland) and other national and international societies.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE / CONGRESS

Inauguration of Karam Hussain Museum of Art, Culture & Sciences

Ibn Sina Academy is presently engaged to give a final shape to the Museum of Art, Culture and Sciences. The inauguration of the Museum is expected to be in the mid of February 2007. The artifacts of the Museum are being organized with great fervour and enthusiasm. It has a large collection of coins,

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postal stamps, paintings, stone engravings, drawings, photographs, colour prints, utensils, garments, sculptures, busts, pens, mementoes, memoirs and relics of some prominent personalities.

Ibn Sina International Seminar

Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) is going to organize Ibn Sina International Seminar on Literary Research in Unani Medicine from February 28 to March 1-2, 2007 at New Delhi. It is being organized to mark the end of celebration of 1025th birth anniversary of great philosopher physician Ibn Sina (Avicenna) By holding this magnificent event, the Council intends to share the wisdom of Unani Medicine in the spheres of preventive / promotive and curative health care enunciated in Unani classics with the scientific world.

The list of topics to be covered in this scientific activity is given below:

- A. Development of Unani Medicine during the aegis (Egyptians, Roman, Greek, Arabs/Iranian/Turkish/North Africa/Central Asia, etc.
- B. Ibn Sina's Life and Works
 1. Avicenna's life
 2. Avicenna's Writings – A critical review.
 3. Al Qanoon fi l Tibbi – Translation and Commentaries
 4. Avicenna and Cardiac Care
 5. Avicenna and Geriatrics Care
 6. Avicenna's views on Unani Fundamentals
 7. Bibliography of Avicenna
- C. Unani Medicine in India
 1. Unani Tibbi Manuscripts in Indian Libraries – An introduction (Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library, Patna; Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi; Maulana Azad Library, AMU, Aligarh; Asiatic Society Library, Kolkata; Govt. Raza Library, Rampur; Salar Jung Museum Library, Hyderabad; Zillur Rahman Library, Ibn

Sina Academy, Aligarh; Tonk Library, Tonk; etc.)

2. Review of catalogues of manuscripts and introduction of important Unani manuscripts available in Indian Libraries.
 3. Arabic / Persian publication of Indian Writers.
 4. Urdu Publications in Unani System of Medicine in India (Before & After 1947).
 5. Translation of Arabic / Persian work in Indian languages.
 6. Some important works carried out in India in Medical field like Ilmul Advia, Moalijat, Kulliyat, Amraz-e Niswan, etc.
 7. TKDL – An introduction and importance.
- D. Desirability and scope of establishing a database on important diseases like HIV/AIDS, Cancer, Hyperlipidemia, Stable Angina and Alzheimer's, etc.
- E. Miscellaneous Topic
1. Digitalization of Unani Medical Manuscripts
 2. Trends and possibilities in Literary Research
 3. Publication of text books – present scenario – redressal mechanism and avenues – Scope and Rationale of Multilingual translation.
 4. Review of publications of Unani Medicine
 5. Unani Medicine on Website
 6. Updating of Unani Medical Curriculum – Problems and Solution
 7. Translation of classical Unani Medical Literature and Preparation of Glossary of Unani Medical terms – Problems and Solutions.

For further information, presentation on any topic mentioned above along with abstract, please contact:

Dr. M. Khalid Siddiqui, Director, CCRUM, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India (Department of AYUSH), 61-65 Institutional Area, Opposite "D" Block, Janakpuri, New Delhi. E-mail: ccrum@rediffmail.com / unanimedicine@gmail.com

SAFCON-2007

A two-day South Asian and VII Annual National Conference of Indian Congress of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology will be organized by Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, from March 24-25, 2007. The theme of this international conference is Current trends in **Medical Ethics and Forensic Medicine**.

The conference is intended to serve as a platform for meeting of eminent Forensic experts and distinguished researchers from India and abroad who will gather here for informed discussions and learned deliberations on topics of interest in Forensic Medicine and Toxicology. Original research papers will be presented during SAFCON-2007 on the theme and various sub-themes. A wide-ranging and enriching academic program is in the offing.

Besides, SAFCON-2007 provides the delegates a unique opportunity to visit the historical sites, buildings, and huge campus of Aligarh Muslim University, the internationally renowned seat of learning founded by the great visionary Sir Syed A. Khan [1817-1898]. This together with a planned visit to Agra, the enchanting city nearby, which is globally known for the majestic Taj Mahal and other medieval architectural marvels will make your trip to Aligarh [India] exceptionally memorable for you and members of your family. The weather is expected to be pleasant in March.

For more information, please contact:
Professor Jawed A. Usmani
Organizing Secretary, SAFCON-2007
Chairman, Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, J N Medical College, AMU, Aligarh-202002, INDIA
<http://www.forensicindia.com> / <http://www.medbeats.com>
Email: safcon2007@yahoo.com

First Indian Congress on Alternatives to the Use of Animals in Research, Testing & Education

The First Indian Congress on Alternatives to the Use of Animals in Research, Testing and Education, will be held in Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute (<http://www.srmc.edu/university>), one of the top medical schools in the nation, under the aegis of I-CARE at Chennai from 29th - 31st January 2007.

For more information, please contact:

Ms. Shiranee Pereira (shiraneepereira@gmail.com) or Dr. Haritha Ramachandran, Congress Communications Officer, The First Indian Congress on Alternatives to the Use of Animals in Research, Testing & Education.
Web address: www.icare-worldwide.org

UP MICRON-2007

3rd Annual UP Chapter Conference of Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists will be held at JN Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh on 24th February 2007.

The conference being organized by the Department of Microbiology of the Medical College invites abstracts highlighting topics on microbiology particularly on clinical importance. Through guest lectures and symposium by eminent national faculty, exclusive scientific meetings are also arranged.

Young scientists will get full opportunity to display their merit and talent in the scientific sessions. Nominations of scientists below 35 years of age are invited for the best paper awards in the following two categories:

1. PC Sen Memorial Award (General Category)
2. Best paper Award on Antimicrobial Drug Resistance (Courtesy: Prof. Archana Ayyagiri)

For more information, please contact:
Prof. Abida Malik, Organising Secretary
Department of Microbiology, Jawaharlal Nehru
Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University,
Aligarh.
Tel.: 09897007606 (Mobile)
E-mail: abidamalik2k@yahoo.com

AWARDS / FELLOWSHIPS

ARHP Soliciting Nominations of Public Health Students for Stewart Award

The planning committee for the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP) is currently soliciting nominees for the 2007 Gary Stewart Scholarship for Research in Public Health.

The scholarship will be given to a student pursuing a post-graduate degree in public health with an interest or focus on reproductive health issues. The recipient will be selected by the annual meeting planning committee and will receive an award of \$2,500, a one-year membership to ARHP, and paid registration and travel reimbursement to the ARHP annual meeting, *Reproductive Health 2007*, for formal presentation of the award. *Reproductive Health 2007* will take place in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 26-29, 2007. We welcome public health faculty and professionals to nominate a student they know, and also welcome self-nominations.

Nomination forms and guidelines are posted at www.arhp.org/rh2007; nominations will be accepted until February 9, 2007. This scholarship is funded through ARHP's *Fund for the Future of Reproductive Health*.

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SHORT COMMUNICATION

IBRO School: A Budding Experience!

Patel, S. F.¹, Sinha, J.K.² Khan, S.³

Mental health has always been a subject of human's primary concern since ancient times. Despite of the advancement in research and technology, Neuroscience still needs more attention to understand various aspects of nervous system disorders. For this purpose and for promoting research in this field, an International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) was founded back in 1960. But it was in 1947 in a meeting of electro-encephalo-graphers in London from where it originated. Later, IBRO was established as an independent, non-governmental organization for the better mobilization and utilization of the world's scientific resources for brain research. Over the years, IBRO has set up a number of Symposia, Workshops and Neuroscience Schools to form interactive networks among students and teachers. The best thing that it offers for budding neuroscientists is the full financial assistance, to attend its schools and workshops.

We had the opportunity to attend the 6th IBRO Asia-Pacific Neuroscience School (Aug 26th- 30th 06) and 1st Neuroscience Orientation Summer Programme (Sept 2nd- 21st 06) held in Tehran, Iran. A total of 23 participants were selected from the Asia-Pacific region and divided into two groups, Electrophysiology (EP) and Molecular biology (MB), according to their opted interests. The programmes consisted of laboratory orientation, workshop and lectures by experienced neuroscientists of various countries. These Programmes were held in collaboration of two of the well-established universities, Tarbiat Modarres University and Shaheed Beheshti School of Medical Sciences in Tehran.

Tarbiat Modarres University (TMU) was established in 1983. It has a total of four campuses: Main, Karaj, Noor and East Tehran, 125 departments and 13 research centers and publishes about 400 papers each year. Shaheed Beheshti University of Medical Sciences (SBUM) consists of Teaching and Non-teaching Hospitals and a number of District Health Centres. It has 19 Departments and about 16 research centers. Research there mainly focuses on Molecular biology, Recombination technology, Tissue engineering and Stem cell research and it publishes about 80-100 research articles annually.

During our visit to IBRO-Associate School (Aug 26th-30th, 2006), students visited electrophysiology (EP) and molecular biology (MB) labs, under the orientation programme at TMU. On our first day we had a PubMed computer class in which we were confronted with many search engines and the particularities involved with it. In the orientation labs MB group familiarized with the latest and sophisticated developments in various fields. In Neuroprotection lab, supervised by Dr. M. Raza, we were shown the animal model of Status Epilepticus and spinal surgery and its recovery. In Single Unit Recording (SUR) by Prof. S. Semnianian, stereotaxy and Long Term Potentiation (LTP) were demonstrated. EP group was served with recent developments in the fields of biotechnology by Prof. M. J. Rasaei. In molecular physiology lab by Dr. M. Javan, fast removal of a part of spinal cord, PCR, Southern blotting, Tail-flick method and Spinal catheterization were demonstrated very well. Kindling in Dr. S. J. Mirnajafi-Zadeh and Brain Ischemia in Prof. S. Hajzaeh's labs were attended by both EP and MB group. There we learnt to develop rat model for temporal lobe epilepsy and basics of electrotherapy using high and low frequency stimulation in kindling and performed the middle cerebral artery occlusion technique to develop Brain

ischemic model and used drug treatment when determining blood flow.

From September 1st to 20th 2006, we had first Neuroscience Orientation Summer Programme scheduled for us. EP and MB group students visited each laboratory for multiple days to grasp the techniques applied there in a very comprehensive manner. At SBMU, MB group visited the labs of genetic engineering by Dr. B. Kazemi, and molecular biology by Dr. N. Maghsoudi. We did DNA extraction, transformation and electrophoresis using different methods for staining. We performed Simple and Reverse transcriptase PCR, while studying the gene expression in Dr. A. Ahmadiani. In the microdialysis lab by Dr. H. Amini we first made the dialysis probe that was an interesting experience and performed stereotaxy and HPLC. EP group in Dr. H. Esteky's lab studied the Event Related Potentials (ERP) and psychophysics in humans and behavioral non-human primate electrophysiology. In Professor F. Motamedi's lab hippocampal functioning in learning and memory, behaviorally and electro-physiologically, were demonstrated. Stereotaxy, electrode implantation and extracellular recording were learnt here. Dr. M. Janahmadi's lab was equipped with *in vivo* and *in vitro* sharp intracellular recording, patch-clamp and SUR technique, in snails and rats. The last two labs were at TMU. MB group did electron microscopy, ultra-microtomy and fixations by Dr. Mohammad Taki Al-Tiraihi. In Eukaryotic cell culturing and transfection lab by Dr. M. Javad Rasaei, real-time PCR, Fluorescence microscopy, SDS-PAGE, Western Blotting and ELISA were demonstrated and explained to us. The EP group visited synaptic plasticity laboratory of Dr. Yaghoob Fathollahi and learnt performing hippocampus sectioning and its recording. In Prof. S. Semnianian's single-unit recording laboratory, *in vivo* and *in vitro* SUR in rats were demonstrated in detail.

On our last day, there was a Poster presentation session in which every participant presented his/her research work to visitors of that gathering. It was a very enlightening and informative session.

Well it seems a bit of tough schedule, but we also had trips to historical places and parks on the official off days. All in all, it was quite a memorable trip. It was a great opportunity for all of us to know about the recent developments in Neuroscience, the sophisticated techniques and especially the work being done in our neighboring countries, the collaboration that we can have with them and the information that we can all use for promoting Neuroscience in this region of the world. Such schools act as a platform for the young budding Neuroscientists and promote the scientific as well as cultural activities among the countries.

We are thankful to these two schools and their organizers, along with the sponsors, for enlightening us and enabling our application of the knowledge to various domains of Neuroscience.

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A Medieval Islamic Vision Test using the Stars Alcor and Mizar?

Prof. Paul Kunitzsch
University of Munich, Munich (Germany)

In the star lore of the Arabs, existing long before their acquaintance with scientific Greek astronomy, the small companion (80, or γ , Ursae Maioris or the Great Bear)

of Mizar (zeta UMa) was well-known; its current name was *al-suha* ("the Neglected One"). It was said that, by means of that little star, people could test their eyes (reported since 9th century A.D. by Ibn Qutayba, Ibn Durayd, al-Farabi, al-Azhari, al-Sufi, al-Jawhari, Ibn al-Ajdabi, etc.). In this connection, also a proverb in Arabic was formed:

"I show him/her (the star) *al-suha* and he/she shows me the moon", in allusion to the comparison of an utterly tiny thing with a conspicuous big one. This proverb was even reported, in Latin, by the German astronomer Peter Apian (d. 1552). See on all that Paul Kunitzsch, in *Journal for the History of Astronomy*, Vol. 18 (1987), pp. 117-124 (on Alcor esp. see p. 122f.) and by the same author a more detailed study of 1986, in German, quoted there on p. 124 (here, on Alcor, see esp. pp. 57-64). Cf. also Lane, *Arabic-English Lexicon*, p. 1456 s. v.

By the way, the modern names of the stars here involved are all corrupted Medieval Latin transliterations of certain Arabic star names: *Alcor* is a corruption of Arabic *al-jawn* ("the Black Horse, or Bull"), name of epsilon UMa, wrongly transferred upon this little star in Renaissance times. The modern name *Alioth* for epsilon UMa is another derivate of the same Arabic name *al-jawn*. *Mizar* for zeta UMa derives from Arabic *al-maraqq* ("the Groin"), which in turn is a translation of Ptolemy's "*Iagon*".

[Courtesy, ISLAMSCI e-mail service, dated 20.12.2006]

History of Medieval Pharmacology

Dr. S. Z. Rahman & Dr. Misbahuddin
JN Medical College, AMU, Aligarh

Pharmacology in medieval times took roots during the 9th century. Yuhanna bin Masawayh (777-857 A.D.) started scientific

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and systematic applications of therapeutics at the Abbasids capital.

His students Hunayn bin Ishaq al-Ibadi (809-874 A.D.) and his associates established solid foundations of Arabic medicine and therapeutics in the ninth century.

In his book *al-Masail* Hunayn outlined methods for confirming the pharmacological effectiveness of drugs by experimenting with them on humans. He also explained the importance of prognosis and diagnosis of diseases for better and more effective treatment.

Pharmacy became an independent and separate profession from medicine and alchemy. With the wild sprouting of apothecary shops, regulations became necessary and imposed to maintain quality control.

"The Arabian apothecary shops were regularly inspected by a syndic (Muhtasib) who threatened the merchants with humiliating corporal punishments if they adulterated drugs."

As early as the days of al-Mamun and al-Mutasim pharmacists had to pass examinations to become licensed professionals and were pledged to follow the physician's prescriptions. Also by this decree, restrictive measures were legally placed upon doctors, preventing them from owning or holding stock in a pharmacy.

Methods of extracting and preparing medicines were brought to a high art, and their techniques of distillation, crystallization, solution, sublimation, reduction and calcination became the essential processes of pharmacy and chemistry.

With the help of these techniques, the *Saydalanis* (pharmacists) introduced new drugs such as camphor, senna, sandalwood,

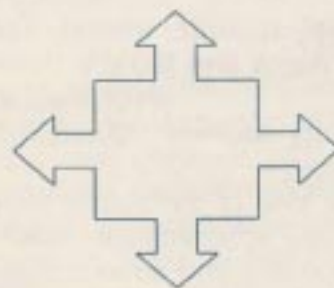
rhubarb, musk, myrrh, cassia, tamarind, nutmeg, alum, aloes, cloves, coconut, nuxvomica, cubebs, aconite, ambergris and mercury.

The important role of the Muslims in developing modern pharmacy and chemistry is memorialized in the significant number of current pharmaceutical and chemical terms derived from Arabic: drug, alkali, alcohol, aldehydes, alembic, and elixir among others, not to mention syrups and juleps. They invented flavorings extracts made of rose water, orange blossom water, orange and lemon peel, tragacanth and other attractive ingredients. Space does not permit me to list the contributions to pharmacology and therapeutics, made by Ibn Sina, Razi, Zahrawi, Biruni, Ibn Butlan, and Tamimi.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Executive Committee & Members of Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences, congratulate Dr. M. Idris, Reader in the Department of Ilmul Advia, Ayurveda & Unani Tibbiya College, Karol Bagh, New Delhi, on receiving "Best Teacher Award – 2006" bestowed by the Govt. of NCT, New Delhi.

Dr. Abdul Latif, Joint Secretary



CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN UNANI MEDICINE
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India
Department of AYUSH

THE COUNCIL

The Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Department of AYUSH. Established in 1978, the CCRUM started functioning from 10 January, 1979, and ever since it has been busy researching into various fundamental and applied aspects of Unani Medicine. Over the years, the CCRUM has emerged as the world-leader in the field.

THE NETWORK

20 research Centres of the Council are functioning in different parts of the Country.

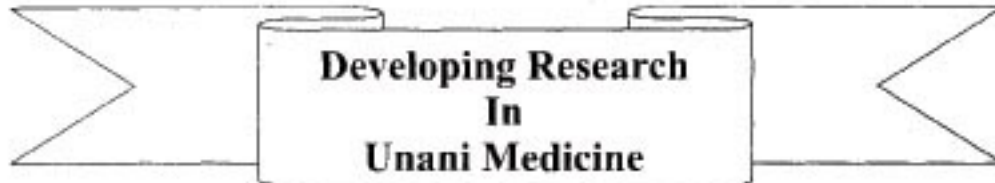
THE AREAS OF ACTIVITY

The Research Programme of the Council has four major components:

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

THE MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Some significant achievements of the Council are as follows:



CLINICAL RESEARCH

- Has developed 24 Unani Drugs which are purely natural, standardized and without any side-effects, for successful treatment of leucoderma, sinusitis, viral hepatitis, eczema, malaria, rheumatoid, arthritis and bronchial asthma.
- Has filed patents on seven of these drugs.

DRUG STANDARDIZATION

- Has evolved standards for 222 single and 385 compound Unani drugs.
- Has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) for taking up advanced research in the field of drug development

LITERARY RESEARCH

- Has translated from Arabic and Persian into Urdu language 25 Unani Medical Classics mostly manuscripts. And has edited and published these works.

SURVEY & CULTIVATION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS

- Has collected 59462 specimens of 1730 medicinal plants from the wild
- Undertaking successful cultivation of four important medicinal species
- Has gathered and documented 6650 folk medicinal claims

PUBLICATIONS

- Has produced over 1000 research papers and brought out 116 research publications, besides regular publications of a bimonthly CCRUM Newsletter, Quarterly Urdu Journal Jahan-e-Tib and Annual Report.

For further information, please contact

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