



NEWSLETTER OF IBN SINA ACADEMY NISA

أبو علي ابن سينا

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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.

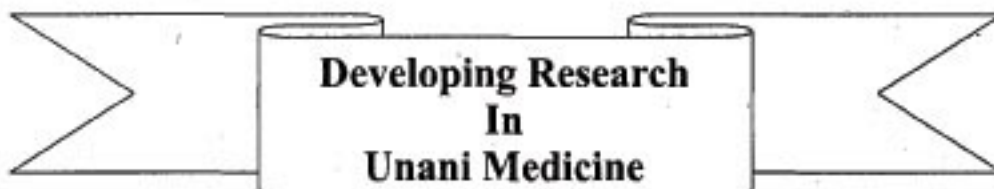
THE AREAS OF ACTIVITY

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

Director

CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN UNANI MEDICINE

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IAMMS ACTIVITIES

Global Health Council (USA) granted membership to Ibn Sinā Academy

Ms. Molly McHugh, Membership Coordinator, Global Health Council, Washington, USA, informed that due to the courtesy of Melinda and Bills Foundation, Global Health Council, is extending partner members for global outreach in health sector particularly in sharing information related to health. Ibn Sinā Academy has thus been selected in this scheme. This organizational membership has been activated for 2 years

The Academy has already been receiving publications of Global Health Council: *Global HealthLink* and *Global AIDSLink* in the Library of AIDS Cell, Ibn Sinā Academy for the past 2-3 years. It is great honour that the Global Health Council has considered the library of Ibn Sinā Academy as one of its members. Members of the Ibn Sinā Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences can now access all sections including paid journals and other literature through the website of Global Health Council (www.globalhealth.org) by using username and password.

AIDS campaigners gather in Aligarh

Aligarh (21.5.2007): The 24th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Day late Sunday was observed by the AIDS Cell, Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh, in association with the Indian Medical Association (Aligarh Branch) and The Global Health Council (Washington, USA). The candlelight march was started from NRSC Club of Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, through main roads of the city till the residence of District

Magistrate (DM) where a memorandum regarding some facts about HIV / AIDS with a few demands was submitted for prompt action. The procession saw more than 300 people holding candles, banners and posters. Every third Sunday in May, communities around the world gather to light candles in memory of those affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The annual International AIDS Candlelight Memorial, a program of the Global Health Council, is one of the oldest and largest campaigns for AIDS awareness in the world. Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Candlelight Coordinator, told that this is being organized in Aligarh for the first time and the theme of this year's candlelight memorial was "Leading the Way to a World Without AIDS". Before the procession, a programme with brief introduction of the event followed by guest lectures on HIV/AIDS was arranged. A panel of eminent physicians comprising Dr. Raj Kumar, Dr. Rajeev Sharma, Dr. Pradeep Kumar, Dr. Rajeev K. Varshney, Dr. Rajeev Gupta, Dr. M. Ather Ansari and Dr. Monil Singhai answered many questions raised by general public and students. Earlier, Mr. U. C. Tiwari, District Judge (DJ), inaugurated a photo display of memorials, posters, books and CD ROMs from all around the world.

Students of Aligarh Muslim University including members of the Drug Society, JN Medical College decorated the symbolic red ribbon with candlelight that was looking very elegant. Many renowned citizens of Aligarh including community health workers, social activists, doctors, teachers, students, researchers, business people and concerned individuals were part of the programme. Professor Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, President AIDS Cell of the Ibn Sina Academy and Dr. S. P. Sharma, Vice President UP State IMA were also a part of the campaign.

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Many representatives of diverse organizations were involved for the success of the above programme. The role of following organizations is worth mentioning: AIDS Cell, Ibn Sina Academy, Indian Medical Association, Aligarh Branch, Rotary Club, Aligarh Branch, Lions Club, Aligarh Branch, Vyapar Mandal, Bharat Vikas Parishad, Aligarh Chartered Accountant Association, Ahimsa Foundation, Jain Samaj, Aligarh Aikta Jaycees, Agarawal Samaj, Varshney Yuva Sangathan, Varshney Samaj, Agarawal Yuva Sangathan, Drug Society, JN Medical College of AMU, Homeopathic Medical Association, National Integrative Medical Association, Aligarh Gram Bank Association and Medical Representatives Association. It was resolved in the meeting that NACO should take much responsibility in expanding the efforts at par with the magnitude of the problem. The health system must reach out to the poorest and most marginalized people affected by the AIDS epidemic, so that they can receive free HIV testing in their first contact with a health care provider, if they are showing possible symptoms of HIV, or as routine screening for pregnant women and people with tuberculosis. We should not neglect and deny the basic human rights of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWA) in India. In the memorandum, the government was asked to lower the cost of medicines used for treating AIDS. Generate "Centres" in Aligarh for HIV testing and counseling people with HIV. Take steps to protect their health and that of their partners, and help people who test positive. There is need of expansion of existing VCCTC and PPTCT in Aligarh. There is also a need of opening of CD4 test Centre, ART Centre, STI Clinics and availability of full time AIDS counselors who must respond to the needs of HIV+ people in Aligarh. Get the information they need to stay uninfected and healthy. There are many organizations

working in the field of HIV/AIDS in Aligarh District, promote such nonprofit HIV/AIDS organization(s) in Aligarh; help them to continue to provide their services and information to those in need. Public support is important to their survival. There is need to organize meaningful functions at district level on World AIDS Day (1st December); National HIV Testing Day (27th June); World AIDS' Orphans Day (7th May), etc., and intensive awareness campaigns in the red-light areas.

(The above report, photographs and media newspaper article will be included in future Candlelight publications - Julia Masters, Public Outreach Assistant, The Global Health Council)

Visits of Prominent Personalities at IAMMS

Dr. Alok Dhawan, JTRC, Lucknow, India (4.4.2007); Dr. Tayyaba Kidwai, Muscat, Oman (7.4.2007); Maulana Salman Nadvi, Lucknow, India (7.4.2007); Dr. Jaleh Tajaldini, Kirman, Iran (9.4.2007); Prof. Shamim Hanafi, New Delhi, India (28.4.2007); Mr. Abdul Jabbar, Abu Dhabi, UAE (30.4.2007); Dr. Abdul Qayoom Naik, Srinagar, India (2.5.2007); Dr. Shams Badauni, Bareilly, India (2.5.2007); Mr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq, Member of Parliament, Moradabad, India (6.5.2007); Dr. Barbara Castleton, USA (14.5.2007); Mr. Masroor Ahmad Khan and Ms. Saeeda Masroor Khan, Sharifi Manzil, Delhi (22.5.2007); Dr. S. Mohsin Raza, Muscat, Oman (1.6.2007);

Team of UNICEF comprising Ms. Benin Chaturvedi, Mr. Dhananjay Srivastava, Dr. Syed Ahmed A. Agha, Ms. Anamika Rai, Mr. Ganesh Yadav, Mr. Raghvendra, Mr. Amar Singh, Mr. Bhuneshwar Sharma, visited Academy on 15.5.2007.

Welcome Ceremony to Mr. Vivek Bansal

The Academy arranged a welcome ceremony in honour of Mr. Vivek Bansal, Secretary, All Indian Congress Committee, New Delhi and Member of Legislative Assembly, Aligarh District, on 8th April 2007. A large number of politicians, academicians, businessmen and social workers attended the meeting.

Book Releasing Ceremony

The Ibn Sinā Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences arranged 'Book Releasing Ceremony' of Prof. Iftikhar Alam Khan on 18th April 2007. The book, entitled, *Sir Syed – Daroon-e-Khana* of Prof. Iftikhar Alam Khan, Former Director, Sir Syed Academy, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, was inaugurated by Prof. Masoodul Hasan, Former Head Department of English, AMU, Aligarh. A large number of senior teachers of AMU attended the function including Prof. Surraya Hussain, Prof. Aulad Ahmad Siddiqui, Prof. Ather H. Siddiqi, Prof. AMK Shahryar, Prof. Zakia Siddiqi, Prof. Hissamuddin Farooqui, Prof. Nafees Baig, Prof. Syed Salahuddin Shah, Dr. Nilofer Izhar, Prof. Abul Kalam Qasmi, Prof. H. R. Chigani, Prof. SMR Ansari, Dr. Anjuman Ara Anjum, Prof. Rais Akhtar, Mr. Meher Ilahi, Dr. Rahat Abrar, Prof. Mohd Zahid, Mr. Abid Ali Abid, Mr. M. Shamim Riaz, Dr. Tariq Chattari, Prof. Ishrat Farooqui, Mr. Syed Naqi Hussain Bilgrami, Mr. Zahoor Mohammad, etc..

INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES OF IAMMS MEMBERS

Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman, president, IAMMS, has been elected as member of the AMU Court; nominated member of the Governing Body, National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore; Pharmacopoeia Committee (Unani) and Drug Technical Advisory Committee, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

Ayurveda and Unani Colleges of UP State Cricket Tournament

Prof. Rahman has been invited as chief guest in the valedictory function during inter-college cricket tournament amongst UP state and private colleges of Ayurvedic and Unani Medicine, which was organized by Chattarpati Sahuji Maharaj University of Kanpur. The valedictory function was held on 10th May, 2007 at Swami Kalyan Dev Government Ayurvedic College, Rampur, Muzaffarnagar (UP) under the guidance of Prof. Vishnu Dutt Agarwal, Principal and Dean Faculty of Ayurvedic and Unani Medicine, Chattarpati Sahuji Maharaj University, Kanpur. Swami Umanand Brahmachari, the great disciple and successor of Swami Kalyan Dev Ji Maharaj, also dressed a shawl of religion during the above ceremony.

150th Anniversary of First War of Independence (1857)

Prof. Rahman was invited as guest of honour to the function organized on the occasion of 150th Anniversary of 1857. To celebrate 150th anniversary of the first war of Indian independence (1857), a function was organized at Shikarpur, Bulandshahr (UP) on 9th May 2007 by the residents of Shikarpur. SO Shikarpur and Director Rashtra Vandna Mission, Mr. Vidhyarvi Sharma was the chief organizer while many other members of different organizations including school children participated in the function. Apart from Prof. Rahman, other guests of honour were Captain Abbas Ali (Member, Azad Hind Fauj of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose), Padma Shri Bharat Bhushan (Yoga Acharya), Mr. Sudhir Vidyarthi (Revolutionary Writer) and Mr. AshfaqUllah Khan (Great grandson of Shaheed AshfaqUllah Khan of Kakori). All guests of honour and other noted members of national choral societies remembered freedom fighters in a very touching and emotional way. Prof. Rahman also briefed

his family members contributions and sacrifices in the 1857 struggle

Gracious Mushaira (poetical recitation)

Bargah-e Adab, Aligarh, organized a gracious mushaira under the president-ship of Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman. The mushaira was held on 2nd June 2007 at Zia Compound, Marris Road, Aligarh. A large number of Urdu poets recited their poems including Jameel Mazhar, Rashida Baqi Haya (of Delhi), Musharraf Husain Mahzar, Arshad Mansoor Ghazi, Fasih Choudhry (of Hapur), Shabnam Naseem and Tabassum Ashfaq. Mr. Naseem Noori convened the mushaira under the stewardship of Hazrat Malikzada Javed Sahib (of Noida).

Prof. S. M. Razauallah Ansari, General Secretary, IAMMS, has been awarded Humbolt Fellowship to work as scientist in Germany for 6 months (July-December).

Prof. Anis Ahmad Ansari, Member Executive Committee of IAMMS has been nominated as member of the Drug Technical Advisory Committee, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

Dr. Abdul Latif, joint secretary, IAMMS has been honoured by the International Who's Who of Professionals, which is an international organization based in Washington, USA. The Organization took his interview for their 2007-2008 edition of International Who's Who of Professionals.

Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman, treasurer, IAMMS, has been appointed as Coordinator of International Candlelight Memorial by the Global Health Council, Washington (USA); Member - Country Focal Point by AIDS Care Watch, Chiang Mai (Thailand); Nominated Member by the Society for AIDS in Africa, Abuja, Nigeria; and Joint Organizing Secretary, 2nd UP

State Working Committee Meeting of Indian Medical Association, Aligarh (India), June 24, 2007.

Dr. M. Tauheed Ahmad, Circulation Officer, NISA of IAMMS has been awarded the Premio Speciale Award at the Twelfth Premio Letterario Internazionale held at Sissa (Italy) on 28th May 2007. This was conferred on him for his first collection of poems in English, 'The Timeless Epitaph and other New Poems', which was released recently by a renowned Urdu Poet Prof. AMK Shahryar at the Library Hall of Ibn Sinā Academy. A number of international experts have appreciated his work and it has already been translated into French, German and Portuguese.

Dr. Misbahuddin, Honorary Consultant, AIDS Cell of the IAMMS, is representing AIDS Cell during the 3rd International Congress on Traditional Medicine and Materia Medica at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 17th July to 20th July 2007. He will present a paper entitled, "Unani Medicine Approach in HIV/AIDS".

Dr. Misbahuddin also participated in a national workshop on "Intellectual Property Rights", at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur during 31st March to 1st April 2007 and a short course on "Biostatistics", at Christian Medical College, Vellore (Tamil Nadu) during June 4 to 9, 2007.

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

International Conference on Holistic Approach of Unani Medicine in Lifestyle Diseases

PG Department of Kulliyat (Basic Sciences of Unani Medicine), Faculty of Unani Medicine, Ajmal Khan Tibbiya College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh 202002, India, is hosting an international conference on 'Holistic Approach of Unani Medicine in

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Lifestyle Diseases' from November 5-7, 2007. For further information and details, please contact: Prof. Anis Ahimad Ansari (profaaansari@yahoo.com / icum2007@gmail.com), Organising Secretary, Department of Kulliyat, Ajmal Khan Tibbiya College, AMU, Aligarh 202002, India. Prof. Anis A. Ansari is member of Executive Committee of Ibn Sinā Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences.

7th Annual Conference of the Society of Pharmacovigilance, India

7th Annual Conference of the Society of Pharmacovigilance, India (SoPI) is scheduled to be held from 23-25 November 2007 at National Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS), Shobha Nagar, NH 8, Jaipur (Rajasthan). Jaipur is a city on the top of tourist map of India.

Apart from workshop, a session on pharmacoenvironmentology and herbal pharmacovigilance is also being organized during those days under the direction of Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman (Treasurer IAMMS). A large number of national and international participants are expected to attend this annual meeting including Prof. H. S. Zillur Rahman, President, Centre for Safety and Rational Use of Indian Systems of Medicine, Ibn Sinā Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences, Aligarh, India; Prof. Anwar-ul-Hassan Gilani, National Professor and Program Director, Drug Discovery and Natural Products Research, WHO Advisor on Drug Policy and Management, Department of Biological and Biomedical Sciences, Aga Khan University Medical College, Karachi (Pakistan); Prof. Abdul Hannan, Dean, Faculty of Eastern Medicine, Hamdard University, Karachi (Pakistan); Prof. Dr. Usman Ghani Khan, Principal, Hamdard Al-Majeed College of Eastern Medicine and Head, Department of Basic Clinical Sciences, Faculty of Eastern Medicine, Hamdard University, Karachi (Pakistan) and other faculty members of

WHO Collaborating Centre for International Drug Monitoring, UMC, Uppsala (Sweden).

For more information including brochure, please send your complete mailing address along with telephone/mobile/fax nos. and e-mail address to Dr. Anurag Tomar, organizing secretary, SOPI-2007, NIMS City Centre, 4 Govind Marg, Near Moti Dongri, Jaipur (Rajasthan). Tel.: 0141-2604040 (O); 09829061020 (M); E-mail: sopijaipur@rediffmail.com

Islamic Medical Knowledge in Iran and India during the Modern Period

The aim of this conference is to bring together studies on the history of Islamic medicine in Iran and India during the Modern Period, from the coming to power of the Safavids in Iran and the Moghuls in India, until the reform phase of traditional medical knowledge and practice which took place under the pressure of colonial science and technology.

Until the 18th centuries the Iranian and Indian Muslim medical worlds made up a unified scientific *milieu*. The Indian Muslim medical elite was mainly composed of Iranian emigrants who often also held important political positions. Other than the Moghul courts, the sultanates of the Deccan, Bijapur, Ahmadnagar and Golconda, which intermittently adopted Shi'ism as the state religion, were the centres that attracted the majority of these Iranian scholars. This epoch generated numerous studies and works on philosophy, rational and natural sciences, medicine, pharmacology, and the heritage of the main authors of the Safavid-Mughal's age exerted a lasting influence on late authors and the curriculum of studies. The medical works composed in Persian, and to a lesser extent in Arabic and later in Urdu, in the Indo-Iranian field constitute the most important corpus of medical literature

produced in the Islamic world during this period. Pharmacology is, without doubt, the most developed medical discipline in the Indo-Iranian world and this development also came about thanks to the influence of knowledge of Indian origin. The process of circulation and adaptation of Indian medical knowledge into Persian works must be considered among the most important movements of scientific translation realised in the Muslim world during the Modern Age. There were even Persian compendia of Indian medicine dedicated to Aurangzeb, a figure whom Western historiography has made us think of as the most radical of the anti-Hindu Muslim emperors.

The most important phase in the Muslim doctors' encounter with modern medical knowledge started in the nineteenth century. The criticisms made of traditional medicine came from the very ranks of Islamic and Indian culture's elites that were the social class more open to the influence of modern scientific thought. Ghandi's critical speech about the immobility of traditional medicines delivered at the opening of Delhi's Ayurvedic and Unani Tibbia College is emblematic in this regard. On the other hand, there was no lack of eminent scholars, such as Muhammad Karim Khan (d. 1871) in Iran and the doctors from the 'Azizi family in India, who opposed the penetration of modern medicine.

The Proceedings of the Conference will be published and articles will be accepted after a scholarly reading committee nominated by IFRI (French Institute of Research in Iran) has given its approval.

The International Conference will be held in Tehran on the 12th and 13th February 2008. The abstracts (about 20 lines) should be sent by October 1st to the following address:

1. Fabrizio Speziale, Directeur du programme de recherche sur l'histoire de la médecine Institut Français de Recherche en Iran 52, Rue Adib, Ave Vahid Nazari, Ave. Felestin, Téhéran, B.P. 15815-3495
2. Professore incaricato, Istituto di Studi su Religioni e Culture Pontificia Università Gregoriana Piazza della Pilotta, 4 - 00187, Roma
3. Farid Gassemlou, History of Science Dept., Encyclopaedia Islamica Foundation, P. O. Box 14155-6195, Tehran, Iran

PAST ACTIVITIES

History of Biomedicine (BRHIG) Seminar at the NIH

Dr. Paul Theerman, Head of the Images and Archives Section of the History of Medicine Division of the National Library of Medicine, presented a lecture, titled "A Center for Documentation in the History of Medicine: The Role of NLM's History of Medicine Division" on Tuesday, June 12, 2007 at Old Medical Board Room, NIH.

About the speaker:

As Head of the Images and Archives Section at NLM, Dr. Paul Theerman oversees programs in archives and manuscripts, prints and photographs, and historical films and videos. He is particularly concerned with encouraging donations of historical collections to the Library, and with outreach and education efforts based on the collections. One such effort is "Profiles in Science," a project to scan and mount significant selections from the manuscript collections of biomedical researchers and figures in public health.

About the commentator:

Ms. Deborah Ozga, Biomedical Librarian of the NIH Library and Chair of the NIH

Institutional Repository Planning Group, will provide a formal commentary.

Abstract of the lecture:

A Center for Documentation in the History of Medicine would aim to be a national resource for primary sources in the history of medicine, in the areas of manuscripts and archives, prints and photographs, and audiovisuals and sound collections. I will discuss a range of projects that such a Center could undertake: for instance, (1) a survey of significant figures and institutions in the history of medicine, and a concerted effort to place their papers in repositories; (2) a finding aid consortium—a project for shared finding aids in the history of medicine, as well as image and audiovisual consortiums; (3) a revitalized oral history program, including increased efforts to take in oral histories from other projects; (4) providing guidance and assistance to smaller repositories in processing their history of medicine collections, including producing EAD-based on-line finding aids for manuscript collections, and MARC-based records for still and moving images; and (5) assembling compendia of best practices in the administration of image and archive collections in the history of medicine; providing training courses; and mounting symposia on pressing issues in images and archives of science, technology, and medicine.

This presentation was co-sponsored by the Office of NIH History and the Biomedical Research History Interest Group (BRHIG).

Submitted by, Dr. Buhm Soon Park
(parkb@mail.nih.gov)

OTHER NEWS

New Vice Chancellor at AMU

Prof. PK-Abdul Azis has joined the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), Aligarh as the new vice chancellor. Earlier, he was the vice chancellor of the Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi (Kerala).

Being a scientist of international repute. His research work on seawater desalination and power industry has been globally recognized by the desalination industry. He is a leading ecology consultant for urban development projects and has been associated with the Kerala Agricultural University for 27 years. As an academician, he has been involved in the study of the ecology of different aquatic ecosystems in coastal waters, beaches, estuaries, fresh water lakes, rivers and the impact of river basin projects and other human activities on ecosystems and their sustainability. He has authored more than 77 research papers. He also served as Professor, Research and Development Centre, Saline Water Conversion Corporation, Saudi Arabia. The University of Kerala in the year 2004 conferred upon him a Doctorate of Science (DSc) in recognition of his contribution to the field of ecology.

After a gap of many years, AMU has got a very bright academician as vice chancellor and it is a good opportunity to give the university a new dimension in achieving the academic excellence to fulfill the demands of the 21st century. In any academic setting, teachers are the backbone in building up the reputation and glory of the institution. Selection of good teachers is very important and must be based on their academic achievement, which includes individual research, collaborative research and research publications in international refereed journals, citations, research grants and participation in conferences/symposia.

Similar criteria should be applied for the promotions of teachers and not any way based on keeping administrative positions like the provost, warden, in charge of departmental library, etc. Teachers should stay full time in the department so they can justify their job and spend more time for academic improvements. The normal practice in AMU is that most of the teachers come in the department only according to their teaching schedule and spend little time in the department.

The executive committee and members of the Ibn Sinā Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences welcome the newly elected vice-chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University and wish him all success at the historic city of Aligarh.

International Project in the Department of Community Project

To prevent anemia in children, a project is to be started very soon with the collaboration of Helen Keller International and Heinz Foundation of USA in the Department of community medicine, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India.

To discuss the proposed project, a meeting was held in Heinz India Ltd., Aligarh. Dr. Najam Khalique (Chairman & Coordinator), Prof. Zulfia Khan, Dr. M. Ather Ansari, Dr. A. R. Siddiqui and Dr. Iqbal Mohd Khan from the Department of Community Medicine, while Prof. Young and Miss William from Heinz Foundation, Miss Susan and Miss Martini from Keller International, Mr. Pradeep Batra, Mr. Sharda, Mr. Surve and Mr. Shahab from Heinz India Ltd., Aligarh, India, attended the meeting. The meeting was followed by presentation on iron containing sprinkle powder. This powder had been used in Indonesia and very encouraging results were found. This powder is sprinkled over common

homemade foods fed to children. The use does not alter the taste, smell and colour of the food, moreover, children readily accepted it. In phase 1, this powder will be given to children aged 3-5 years and later in phase 2; it will be given to older children of 6-12 years. This pilot project in India will be started in the registered villages under 'Rural Health Training Center', Jawan, fall under the department of community medicine. In the 2nd phase, it will be implemented in whole Aligarh District.

The powder is named as 'Vitalita' in Indonesia. To make it familiar and understandable particularly in rural areas, Dr. M. Ather Ansari (Life Member of Ibn Sinā Academy) proposed the name 'Balvita' for the powder, which has been appreciated by all members in the meeting. According to Dr. M. Ather Ansari, all senior teachers from the Department of community medicine will monitor the project so that the project could run effectively and more and more children will get benefit from it.

New Course on Pharmacovigilance and Pharmacoepidemiology

Symogen Ltd is starting the first ever Certificate Course in Pharmacovigilance and Pharmacoepidemiology in India from September 2007. The class intake is limited to only 30 students and there will be two courses in a year one in New Delhi and the other in Mumbai every year. This course is recognized, supported and endorsed by the WHO Collaborating Centre for International Drug Monitoring, Uppsala Monitoring Centre, Uppsala (Sweden) while Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine of The Royal College of Physicians, London, UK has approved of 90 Credits (7.5 Credits CME/CPD for each module) for the Certificate Course. This course will be taught by an International Faculty who are experts in the field of Pharmacovigilance and Pharmacoepidemiology, many of them

from Uppsala Monitoring Centre (Sweden). Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman (Treasurer, IAMMS) is also invited to deliver lectures in this upcoming course.

Those who are genuinely interested in gaining practical hands on knowledge and understanding of Pharmacovigilance and Pharmacoepidemiology, should visit the website of Symogen Ltd at www.symogen.net and go to the "EVENTS" page where details about the course is available or contact Dr. Pipasha Biswas (b_pipasha@yahoo.co.uk). Please note that the last date for submission of CVs for admission to the course is July 7, 2007, for the batch starting in September and seats are limited.

DOCUMENTATION

Library of Ibn Sinā Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences

The library of IAMMS at present houses one of the most precious and valuable collection of manuscripts, books, special numbers of magazine, paintings, postal stamps, coins and specimens of oriental calligraphy. The collection is still being raised. Many scholars and generous contributors are now furnishing the library with books, periodicals and rare novelties.

The Library has several thousand books in many languages like Arabic/ Persian/ Urdu/ Sanskrit/ Hindi/ and English, on a variety of subjects like History of Medicine and Sciences, Unani/ Islamic Medicine, Ilmul Advia/ Pharmacology, Religion and Urdu Literature besides thousands of bound volumes of periodicals.

The Manuscript (Mss) section of the Library consists of over 500 manuscripts. Most of the manuscripts are very rare and some are unique. Especially the copies of the Holy Quran are extremely beautiful specimens of the art of calligraphy. A few illuminated

copies of the Holy Quran having beautiful frontispieces and embellished borders are so alluring, and eye-catching that any one who looks at them is dazzled, and stands spell-bound in wonder. Microfilming of 300 manuscripts have already been done and published as a catalogue by the Noor Microfilm Centre, Iran Cultural House, Embassy of Iran, New Delhi.

(<http://www.noormicrofilmindia.com/zillure11.htm>;
<http://www.noormicrofilmindia.com/zillur11.htm>
and <http://www.noormicrofilmindia.com/cata.htm>)

The Mss Section is also member partner of National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM), Government of India, for Conservation and Preservation of rare manuscripts. In addition, there are beautiful calligraphic Toghra; intricate works of calligraphy in different styles using verses from the Quran along with various geometric and floral designs. It is the single library of India, which is listed in the Directory of History of Medicine Collections, US Department of Health and Human Services, National Library of Medicine, NIH, USA.

(<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/directory/151.html>)

Publications related to Maulana Shibli Naumani extant in the Library of Ibn Sinā Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences

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The Society for AIDS in Africa

The Society for AIDS in Africa is a Civil Society Organization that has been working for the last 15 years.

The Goal of the Society is "to mitigate the impact of HIV/ AIDS in Africa". The three major objectives of the Society are:

- 1) Promotion of policy environment
- 2) Promotion of Research
- 3) Knowledge and information sharing on HIV/AIDS and other STIs.

The Society is the organizer of the International Conference on HIV/ AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa (ICASA). It inflicted many new members in the Society including Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman (Treasurer, IAMMS, Aligarh, India).

(Courtesy: Secretariat of The Society for AIDS in Africa, Abuja, Nigeria. Telephone numbers: + 234 96720215; + 234 8055354791; + 234 8034941210. Emails: lucbodea@safrica.org / seun@safrica.org. Website: www.safrica.org)

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Pharmacoenvironmentology versus Eco-pharmacology

It is with great pleasure to inform that our paper on recent coinage of the term '*Pharmacoenvironmentology*' has been published in *Environmental Health* as 'Commentary'. Such articles are usually related to a contemporary specific issue, such as recent research findings, and are

often written by opinion leaders invited by the Editorial Board.

In the paper, we wanted to make aware the scientists and environmentalists about the impact of drugs on environment and surroundings. The existing term '*Ecopharmacology*' is too broad and not even defined in a clear manner. The term '*Pharmacoenvironmentology*' seeks to deal with the environmental impact of drugs given to humans and animals at therapeutic doses.

In addition, we suggested that *Eco-pharmacology* should be described as 'entry of chemicals or drugs into the environment through any route and at any concentration disturbing the balance of ecology (ecosystem), as a consequence. While, drugs entering through living organisms via elimination subsequent to pharmacotherapy, should be a specific domain of pharmacology and not of environmental studies. This domain may be referred as *Pharmacoenvironmentology*. Apart from that, *Ecopharmacology* as a major term should be restricted to studies of "PPCPs" irrespective of doses and route of entry into environment. PPCPs comprise a very broad and diverse collection of groups of chemicals substances comprising all human and veterinary drugs (available by prescription or over-the-counter; including the new genre of "biologics"), diagnostic agents, nutraceuticals (bioactive food supplements), and other consumer chemicals, such as fragrances, cosmetics and sun-screen agents, excipients (called inert ingredients), biopharmaceuticals, dyes, pesticides, and many others. This broad collection of substances refers, in general, to any product consumed by individuals for personal health or cosmetic reasons. The term *Pharmacoenvironmentology* can be used for this specialty dealing specifically with pharmacological agents and their

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impact on the environment, after elimination from humans and animals as post-therapy.

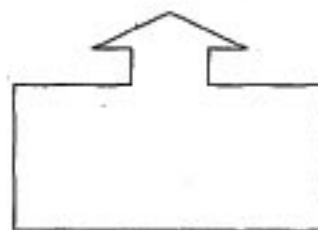
Pharmacovigilance pertains to the activities of adverse effects of drugs at therapeutic doses on animal and human beings. In this context, *Pharmacoenvironmentology* may be an extension of Pharmacovigilance dealing specifically with the effects pertaining to the environment and ecology of drugs given in therapeutic concentrations. Pharmacologists having this particular expertise (pharmacoenvironmentologist) may be made a compulsory component of the team assessing different aspects of drug safety.

Environmental Health is published by BioMed Central and is an Open Access, peer-reviewed, online journal that considers manuscripts on all aspects of environmental and occupational medicine, and related studies in toxicology and epidemiology. *Environmental Health* is aimed at scientists and practitioners in all areas of environmental science where human health and well being are involved, either directly or indirectly. *Environmental Health* is a public health journal serving the public health community and scientists working on matters of public health interest and importance pertaining to the environment. This journal is the only truly Open Access, peer-reviewed journal devoted exclusively to *Environmental Health*, and thus serves the important objective of making reliable and important scientific information widely and easily available, without charge, to readers worldwide. It is indexed in PubMed, PubMed Central, MEDLINE, Thomson Scientific (ISI), CAS, CABI, Scopus and Embase. *Environmental Health's* articles are also archived in the US National Library of Medicine's full-text repository of life science literature, and also in repositories at the University of Potsdam in Germany, at

INIST in France and in e-Depot, the National Library of the Netherlands' digital archive of all electronic publications. The journal is also participating in the British Library's e-journals pilot project, and plans to deposit copies of all articles with the British Library. BioMed Central is working closely with the Institute for Scientific Information to ensure that citation analysis of articles published in *Environmental Health* will be available.

According to the Dr. Philippe Grandjean (Professor and Chair of Environmental Medicine, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark, and Adjunct Professor of Environmental Health, Harvard School of Public Health) and Dr. David Ozonoff (Professor of Environmental Health, Chair Emeritus, Department of Environmental Health, Boston University School of Public Health, Boston, USA), Editors-in-Chief of *Environmental Health*, our paper is unique in the sense that nobody till yet thought in this direction even experts of UMC (WHO Collaborating Center for International Drug Monitoring, Uppsala, Sweden).

Submitted by
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(Treasurer, IAMMS, Tijara House, Dodhpur, Aligarh-202002 (UP), India)

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