



# Newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy (NISA)

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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.

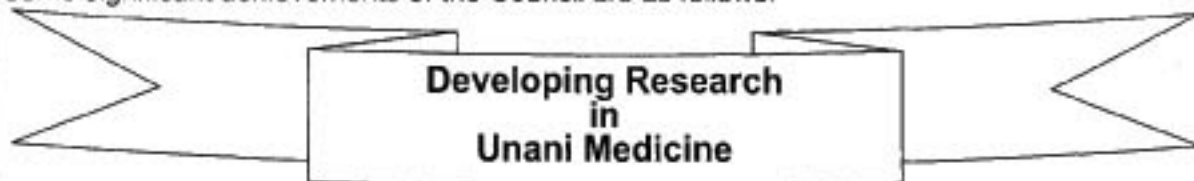
***THE AREAS OF ACTIVITY***

The Research Programme of the Council has four major components:

- \* Clinical Research
- \* Drug Standardization
- \* Literary Research
- \* Survey & 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 medical 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 General

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**AMMS ACTIVITIES**  
**Events Held at Academy**  
**(From Jan. – March 2010)**

**FOURTH IBN SINA MEMORIAL  
LECTURE**

The Fourth Ibn Sina Memorial Lecture 2010 was held on 11th January 2010 at the Library Hall of Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh. Prof. Irfan Habib, an eminent historian, delivered this lecture on "Civilization & Science in Medieval India". Prof. Jamal Khwaja, Former Dean Faculty of Social Science, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, presided over the function.

The National Council for the Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL), Department of Education, Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India, sponsors this memorial lecture.

Delivering this fourth Ibn Sina Memorial Lecture, Professor Irfan Habib stated that Sanskrit and Persian scholars played a significant role in the advancement of science and culture. He further stated that Al-Biruni came to India and stayed here for many years learning Sanskrit and Hindu customs as well as Indian culture and traditions from the pundits. Based on this knowledge he wrote a book named *Kitāb mā lil Hind* which dealt with Indian sciences, philosophy and culture.

Speaking on this occasion he deemed it a great honour delivering this lecture which in the past years has been delivered by Mr. Saiyid Hamid ex-Vice Chancellor of AMU and present Chancellor, Jamia Hamdard; ex-Vice-Chancellors of Jamia Millia Islamia Prof. Mushirul Hasan and Prof. Shahid Mahdi. He lauded the efforts of the Academy in different spheres. Prof. Jamal Khwaja delivered the presidential remarks. The President of the Academy, Professor Syed Zillur Rahman in his speech hailed Prof. Habib as a man of great scholarship. Professor Razaullah Ansari (General

Secretary) presented the vote of thanks.

A number of learned personalities from different walks of life graced this occasion which was held in the Library Hall of Ibn Sina Academy, eminent amongst them being Prof. Shan Mocharamad, Prof. Fasih Hassan, Prof. Ainer Siddiqi, Prof. Zakia Siddiqi, Prof. M. Saeeduz Zafar Chughtai, Prof. Hashim Rizvi, Prof. I. P. Verma, Prof. Muhammad Monsin, Prof. Aslam Qadeer, Ms. Saira Irfan, Dr. Abdul Latif, and Dr. Mudassir Ali, etc.

**LECTURE SERIES**

Prof. Stefan Reichmuth, Director, Institute of Islamic Studies and Islamic Sciences, (Ruhr University, Bochum, Germany), delivered a lecture at the Dept. of Ilmul Advia (A.K. Tibbiya College, AMU) on March 18, 2010 on "*Between Medical Canon and Belles-Lettres: The Fate of the Case History in Graeco-Arabic Medicine*". Prof. S. M. Razaullah Ansari introduced Prof. Reichmuth while Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman presided over the function.

Prof. Reichmuth delivered a very innovative lecture on the history of Unani Medicine especially elaborating his work on case studies of eminent Unani Physicians. He highlighted the work of Ibn Sina, Zakaria al-Razi and several other Muslim physicians who excelled in medical sciences in their times. The programme concluded with the vote of thanks passed by Dr. Abdul Latif (Joint Secretary). The faculty members of Aligarh Muslim University, post graduate students of various departments of Tibbiya College were present in the programme.

**MUSHAIRA ON THE OCCASION OF  
REPUBLIC DAY**

On the occasion of Republic Day, *Aazar Harf*, a literary and cultural society, organised a literary Urdu Mushaira at Ibn Sina Academy on 26th January 2010. The programme, which was presided by Prof. S. Zillur Rahman, witnessed by several guests including Professor Munibur Rahman, renowned scholar from USA as

Chief Guest and Prof. Saghir Ifrahim, Dept of Urdu, as Guest of Honour. Mr. Afroz Alam from Kuwait, Prof. Zahida Zaidi, Prof. Mehtab Haider Naqvi, Dr. Siraj Ajmali, Dr. Zoya Zaidi, Mr. Musharraf Hussain Mehzar (Secretary, *Aazar Harf*), Mr. Nasir Jalali, Dr. Mujeeb Shahzar, Mr. Shakir Ali Ashar, Mr. Razi Hasnain, Dr. Rizwanur Raza Rizwan, Mr. Ali Imam, Mr. Meraj Lucknawi and a host of other scholars, poets and lovers of Urdu poetry attended the Mushaira.

### POETRY RECITATION PROGRAMS

Two more poetry recitation programs (Mushaira) were organized late in the evening of March 18 and 20th, 2010 at the Library Hall of Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh, in collaboration with *Harf-e za* and *Bargah-e Aseer*, respectively. A large number of Urdu poets attended the Mushaira.

The first mushaira was a sort of *She'ri Nashist* in honour of Anjum Usmani (from New Delhi) and Prof. Anis Rafi (from Kolkata) on 18.03.2010. Janab Musharraf Husain Mahzar, Janab Raisuddin Rais, Janab Rahat Hasan, Janab Abid Ali Abid, Janab Qaiser and many more were present as guest poets (shu'ara-i karam).

The second *Mushaira* was held on 20.03.2010 and was presided over by Professor Munibur Rahman (USA). In the programme, Professor Stefan Reichmuth (Germany), Prof. Zahida Zaidi, Dr. Zoya Zaidi, Raisuddin Rais, Amanatullah Asir, Dr. Muazzam Ali Khan Moazzam, Nasim Noori, Rashida Baqi Haya (Delhi), Shakil Shifai (Ghaziabad) and others participated. Janab Shakil Shifai Sahib also presented his translation work in Urdu (*Mera Safar*, 2004) based on Malayalam poetry of A.P.J. Abul Kalam (Ex- President of India) at the Library of Ibn Sina Academy.

For documentation purpose, voice recording of some poetic verses (*Asha'ar*) of each important poet was done by Mr. S. H. Zahid Jamal.

### EK SHAAM MUSHTAQ YOUSUFI KE NAAM

To celebrate the works of Mushtaq Yousufi prominent Urdu humorist of India-Pakistan, a reading of his unpublished prose (received by Ibn Sina Academy through Prof. Abdur Raheem Kidwai) was organized at Ibn Sina Academy. This text, which was written by Mushtaq Yousufi after the death of his friend Ibn Hasan Burney, has many references to Aligarh and AMU. Dr. Usmani, Lecturer (Dept of Urdu, AMU) recited the prose before the audience at the Library of Ibn Sina Academy. Prof. Fasih Ahmad Siddiqui, who is a nephew of Prof. Rasheed A. Siddiqui, and who is himself gifted with a fabulous sense of humor, presided over the program. In his remarks he delved deeply into the literary style of Mushtaq Yousufi. He also hailed the efforts of Ibn Sina Academy in the fields of science and literature. He appealed to all to join hands with Ibn Sina Academy in forwarding the cause of science and culture. Prof. S. Zillur Rahman, President of Ibn Sina Academy, threw some light on the writings of Mr. Mushtaq Yousufi and his relation with AMU. Prominent amongst those who attended the program were Nawab Ibn Saeed Khan of Chhatari, Prof. Zahoouruddin (ex-Chairman, Dept of Urdu, Jammu University), Prof. Ather Siddiqi, Prof. Zakia Siddiqi, Prof. A. R. Kidwai, Prof. Hashim Rizvi, Prof. S. M. Razaullah Ansari, Prof. Tajuddin, Prof. M. Zahid, Prof. Sagheer Ifrahim, Prof. Shan Mohammad, Ms. Hina Rasheed, Prof. Husamuddin Farooqui, Dr. Abdul Latif, etc.

### AMU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN (USA) SCHOLARSHIP

A function was organised at the Academy on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010 where several students of AMU received award letters of the scholarship, conferred already by AMU Alumni Association Michigan, USA. Students from all the 17 halls of residence and NRSC were present to receive their award letters from Prof. (Hm) Syed Zillur Rahman, Director Ibn Sina Academy. In all 159 students were awarded this scholarship. This was the fourth year

when these need based scholarship have been awarded after rigorous interviews conducted by University teachers. Although on all previous occasions someone from Michigan was present but this year nobody could come due to some reason. Unfortunately Prof. Tariq M. Haqqi from Cleveland, who was in the town and promised to come, also could not make it due to illness. Dr. Sabir once again thanked the Alumni association in Michigan for giving him this opportunity to be associated with this noble cause. It is hoped that in future too it will continue to help the needy and deserving students of AMU.

Submitted by Dr. Suhail Sabir, Coordinator (Scholarships), AMU Campus & Executive Member, IAMMS.

#### **CONDOLENCE MEETING**

"Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences has lost its one of the sincere well-wishers", said Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman (President). He was referring to Hakim Mohammad Aslam Siddiqi, Founder Manager, Dawakhana Tibbiya College, AMU, Aligarh, who had died on March 18, 2010. Born on 15th January, 1915 at Ghazipur (UP), he came to Aligarh in 1935 to study Tibb-i Unani Medicine in Tibbiya College (now Ajmal Khan Tibbiya College), Aligarh University. After graduation in 1940, Shifaul Mulk Hakim Abdul Latif Falsafi, to whom he was very sincere, appointed him the first manager of the Dawakhana Tibbiya College. Hakim Mohammad Aslam Siddiqi was quite active in students' politics, and also faculty's politics.

In his life time, he wrote 7 books on *Tibb* and *Islamiyat*. May God rests his soul in peace bestow consolation to his friends and family. He is survived by one son Mr. Masood Siddiqi and four grandchildren.

#### **FORTHCOMING ACTIVITY AT IAMMS**

##### **WORLD HEALTH DAY**

For the last many years the academy has been observing and celebrating WHD on 7th April in collaboration with other

institutes and organisations such as Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University, and Indian Medical Association (Aligarh Branch).

Last year on the occasion of WHD, the Academy displayed and exhibited medical postal stamps on WHD theme; the message of the Director, WHO SEARO and other materials (WHO KIT) along with the calendars of 2009. In addition, a separate lecture on WHD theme by the eminent epidemiologist Dr. D.P. Singh Toor was also organised.

This year in 2010, the Academy will try to organise similar programs along with a memorial lecture on the prominent surgeon of Aligarh – late Prof. M. Nasim Ansari of Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College.

In this regard, WHO has already been approached to provide at least 3 sets of WHO KIT (2010) along with calendars / posters / CDs on "Urbanisation and Health" for the WHD programs. This upcoming event has also been posted at the WHO website.

#### **Collaborative Efforts between the Institute for the Preservation of Medical Traditions (USA) and Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Sciences (India)**

Official collaborative efforts are being made between the Institute for the Preservation of Medical Traditions (USA) and Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Sciences (India). Prof. Alain Touwaide (Scientific Director, IPMT) and Prof. S. Zillur Rahman (President, IAMMS) are in touch with each other and looking into the areas of mutual cooperation between the two organizations. At present, exchange of publications is via electronic media to come close to each other

#### **MEMBERS ACTIVITIES:**

**Prof. S. M. Razaullah Ansari** (General Secretary, Ibn Sina Academy and Former Professor of Physics, Aligarh Muslim

University) was invited by the Asiatic Society (Kolkata) to participate and to give a talk at the National Seminar on International Year of Astronomy: Perspective and Challenges, held in Kolkata during November 20-21, 2009.

The Year 2009 was declared by UNESCO as the Year of Astronomy. It was celebrated the world over. The Seminar was inaugurated by Prof. Yash Pal, Chancellor of JNU (New Delhi). It comprised talks by eight speakers on astronomy in India. Prof. Ansari's talk was the only one dealing with history of astronomy in Medieval India. The topic of his talk was "*Reception and Assimilation of Modern Astronomy by Persian-Knowing Scholars of Medieval India*". In this talk Prof. Ansari gave an account of Persian writings of two well known scholars who traveled to Europe to have a firsthand knowledge of European sciences, namely, Hakim Mir Muhammad Hussain Landani of Murshidabad (d.1790), in Europe during 1774-77 and Mirza Abu Talib Landani (d. 1805/6), in Europe during 1799-1803. They referred in their writings the theories of Copernicus (1473-1543), Galileo (1564-1642), Kepler (1571-1630) and Newton (1642-1727). Prof. Ansari dealt in his talk also with two more scholars: Ghulam Hussain Jaunpuri (d.1862) and the poet and historian Raja Ratan Singh Zakhmi of Lucknow (d.1851), who studied themselves modern European astronomy and even carried out some observational work in their private observatories. Prof. Ansari delineated some important features of the "Encyclopaedia of (mathematical) Sciences" (*Jamī Bahadur Khani*) by the former and of the mathematical treatise: "Gardens of Astronomy" (*Hada'iq al-Nujum*) comprising 1000 pages by the latter. Both these treatises were printed in India during 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Prof. Razaullah Ansari was also invited as a guest speaker to Tehran (Iran) to present his specialized studies on sciences in Medieval India. The Terbiat Modares University in Tehran organised an

International Congress on History of Mathematics and Astronomy in Islamic Countries during Islamic Middle Ages during Dec. 8-10, 2009. The topic of Prof. Ansari's talk was "*The Mathematicians' Family of Ahmad Ma'mar: Ataullah, Lutfullah, Khairullah and their Descendants*". Ata'ullah, who flourished in the reign of Emperor Shahjahan, translated from Sanskrit into Persian Bhaskaracharya's *Bijganit*, a book of algebra. Lutfullah (d. 1682) was the author of 10 works in Persian, out of which 5 dealt with mathematics. He is especially known for his *Muntakhab*, written in 1681, which is actually a translation cum commentary on *Khulasatul Hisab* by the Iranian Bahauddin al-'Amili (d.1622), whose books on mathematics and astronomy were very popular in Indian madrasahs. Khairullah Khan Muhandis (d.1748) son of Lutfullah was the director of Raja Sawai Jai Singh's observatory at Delhi, in which capacity he compiled the *Zij-i Muhammad Shahi*. Muhammad Ali Riyazi bin Khairullah had to his credit three mathematical tracts. Bismillah Beg and Gul Beg Munajjim, grandsons of Muhammad Ali were also mathematicians. Prof. Ansari gave details of the works of these mathematicians. In this talk, he collaborated with Dr. Mrs Shaukat Nihal Ansari.

Prof. Razaullah Ansari is a well known historian of science, both nationally and internationally. He is currently a member of Indian National Commission for History of Science, and a Member Secretary of Indian National Committee for IUHPS.

**Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman** (President, Ibn Sina Academy and Former Professor of Ilmul Advia, Aligarh Muslim University) has been elected as Member to the AMU Court under the category of 'Learned Professions, Industry and Commerce', for a period of three years with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2010. This was the second consecutive term and he was hence congratulated by several dignitaries for instance,

"Kindly accept my heartily congratulations on being elected as the Member of the Honourable Court of Aligarh Muslim University, a high seat of learning in India in its meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2010. The member who have elected you have admitted and appreciated your high and clean past and prestigious image in the field of Education and admired your potentiality for the betterment and the services to Muslims for which you are known to have worked. I hope that the University will do its best for Muslim's education under your able guidance" -- Dr. S. Javed Akhtar, Director (Finance), Unani & Ayurvedic Medical College, Aligarh

"I feel privileged in congratulating you for becoming an elected Hon'ble Member of Court, the highest governing body of Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. I pray to Almighty Lord and also hope that you will prove to be the assets to restore the gradually losing glory and internationally acknowledged academic status of this institution of Minority Community i.e. Muslims of India. As per my understanding, unfortunately something went wrong in recent past with this globally well known University for academic excellence and moral/ethical values. And so, some corrective measures are required to be initiated at micro and macro level both so as to bring AMU back at par with Oxford and Cambridge Universities of UK as it used to be called "Oxford of East". My humble services are always at your disposal for any sort of developmental / constructive assignment commensurate with my limited abilities and recourses" -- Nadeem A. Faruqi, Former member of AMU Court, Farrukhabad

"Kindly accept my sincere and warmest congratulation on your election as a member of AMU court. I am sure your active participation in its deliberation and constructive suggestions for the University functioning will always be in the larger interest of the institution". -- With profound regards, Dr. Shahid Qamar Qazi, Member, University Court, Aligarh.

"I am very glad to know that you have been elected as a Member of AMU Court. I myself and the office staff of the Aftab Hall heartily convey congratulations to you". -- Mohd Adil Rao and all office staff, Aftab Hall, AMU, Aligarh.

**Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman** has also been invited to participate at the following conferences, seminars and meetings.

1. Editorial Board Meeting, *Jahan-i-Tibb*, CCRUM Headquarters, New Delhi, 31.12.2009.
2. Delivered Keynote Address, at the Conference on "Effective Health and Education", organised by UP Rabita Committee, Aligarh, February 8, 2010.
3. Spoke on the occasion of felicitation function organised in honour of Mr. Moosa Raza (IAS and Former Secretary, Govt. of India) on his being awarded with *Padma Bhushan* on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010 by the Confederation of Muslim Education Institutions of India (CMEII) at India International Centre, New Delhi. Mr. K. Rehman Khan, Hon'ble Deputy Chairperson Rajya Sabha, presided over the function, while Prof. P K Abdul Azis, Vice Chancellor, AMU was the Guest of Honour. Kamal Farooqui, General Secretary of the CMEII, conducted the Programme. Prof. Rahman in his speech congratulated Mr. Raza and told about his keen interest and the association with Urdu literature and the poetic taste that he carries.
4. Chief Guest, Valedictory Function of the National Conference on Role of Museum in Environmental Education and Interpretation, Conference Hall, Administrative Block, AMU, Aligarh in collaboration with National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi, 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2010.
5. Executive Committee Meeting, All India muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat, New Delhi, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2010.
6. Delivered First Ross Masood Memorial Lecture, Ross Masood Hall, AMU, Aligarh, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2010 (Also see page 7).

7. Presided, the Lecture of Professor Stefan Reichmuth (Bochum, Germany), A K Tibbiya College, AMU, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010 (also see page 2).
8. Presided, Inaugural Function, Literary and Cultural Festival, M M Hall, AMU, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2010.
9. Released a book, *Tarikh-e Bilgram*. This book which was originally written by Safir Bilgrami, a prominent scholar of his times and a student of Ghalib, is edited with preface by Murtaza Hussain Bilgrami. The releasing ceremony was held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at Ghalib Institute, New Delhi. The other book which was released at the same function was *Tazkhira Jalwa-e Khizr* of the same author by Saddiqur Rahman Kidwai, Director, Ghalib Institute. Safir Bilgrami was the maternal grandfather of Mr. Murtaza Hussain Bilgrami.

#### **Annual Lecture on Ross Masood**

Ross Masood Hall has initiated an annual lecture to commemorate the personality of Ross Masood, the illustrious grandson of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan. The first lecture was delivered recently by Professor S. Zillur Rahman, President of Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh. Prof. Rahman threw light on the life and times of Ross Masood from his early days through his education at Aligarh followed by his stints at Oxford and London. He also gave a detailed overview of his career as a lawyer and his services in the field of education at Patna, Cuttack, Hyderabad, Bhopal and Aligarh. His period as the Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University is considered as a golden time of the university. He promoted science education establishing a number of laboratories. He was also instrumental in bringing a number of experts from outside India to instruct the students at AMU. Ross Masood was a strong proponent of education in the mother tongue. Along with Maulvi Abdul Haq and others, he reformed the educational system on these lines at Osmania University. He also served as President of Anjuman Taraqqi-e-Urdu for over a decade.

A large number of students attended this lecture which was presided over by Prof. Nawab Ali Khan, Provost of Ross Masood Hall. Prof. Rahman congratulated Prof. Nawab Ali Khan for undertaking this initiative which can go a long way in inspiring the young minds.

**Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman** (Asst. Professor, Department of Pharmacology, JN Medical College, AMU, Aligarh and Treasurer, Ibn Sina Academy) has proceeded to the School of Medicine, University of Western Sydney, Sydney (Australia) to pursue Ph.D. course. Earlier, the University of Western Sydney has offered Dr. Rahman the prestigious 'International Endeavour Award' for his research work. He will work under the guidance of Associate Prof. Gerald Muench, a renowned medical scientist in the field of Alzheimer's disease.

Dr. Rahman has also been inducted as a member of the National Academy of Medical Sciences (MNAMS).

Dr. Rahman also attended following conferences, seminars and workshops:

1. Nobel Prize Winner Professor Elizabeth Blackburn Lecture on "Telomerase and Telomere Biology", University of Sydney, Sydney, 12 March 2010.
2. Introduction to Ethics Workshop, Parramatta Campus of the University of Western Sydney (UWS), 3rd March 2010
3. The Human Research Ethics Workshop, Frogmore House, Werrington North Campus of UWS, Sydney, Australia, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2010.
4. 2010 Environmental Education Conference, The Environmental Education Unit, The NSW Department of Education and Training, Campbelltown Campus of UWS, Sydney, Australia, 9 February 2010.
5. Mini Symposium on "New Directions in Membrane Trafficking Research", Satellite meeting of ANS/AuPS 2010, School of Medicine, Campbelltown



Campus of UWS, Sydney, Australia, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

### MEMBERS PUBLICATIONS

1. *Tazkera Atibba-l-Asr* (2010), by Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman. The book is having biographies of 38 physicians of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century of India.
2. *Kitabul al Murakkabat* (2010) by Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman. This is the third revised edition. The first edition was published in 1991 and the second in 1998.
3. "Pharmacovigilance in Unani Medicine – A challenge" (Chapter 7) by Syed Ziaur Rahman, Rahat Ali Khan and Abdul Latif. In *Elements of Pharmacovigilance - An Update*. Editor Dr. Raman Sehgal, Konposh Publications, New Delhi 2010: pp 78-86.
4. "Gynecomastia: An ADR due to drug interaction" (Short Communication) by Umme Aiman, M.A. Haseen and Syed Ziaur Rahman. *Indian Journal of Pharmacology*, 2009; 41 (6): 286-87
5. "Lifestyle drugs in India: are we ready for them?" (Editorial) by Syed Ziaur Rahman, Varun Gupta, Amit Dang, Anupama Sukhlecha. *Australasian Medical Journal*, 2010; 1 (3): 186-189.

### VISITS OF PERSONALITIES AND DELEGATES

Following dignitaries / delegates visited the academy:

1. Delegates to the Refresher Course (Basic Sciences), 25<sup>th</sup> January 2010.
2. Delegates to the Refresher Course (Women's Studies), 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2010.
3. Delegates to the Orientation Programme, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

On these occasions, Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman addressed the participants and gave an account of the History of Unani Medicine in India and about the values of culture and heritage in History of Medicine and Sciences. He also showed them both museums of Ibn Sina Academy.

4. Members, Group Study Exchange Programme 2009-2010 Team India. Among the delegates the following were present: Linda Murray (Team Leader, Washington DC, USA), Kristin Parsons (Coordinator, Seattle WA, USA), Allen Heinrichs (Paramedic, Canada), Lori Froese (Health Care Administrator, British Columbia, Canada) and Betty jo Anzaldua (Realtor, Washington DC, USA), 15<sup>th</sup> January 2010.
5. Prof. Munibur Rahman, USA, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010.
6. Dr. Husain Nagamia Brandan FL, USA, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010.
7. Iranian Delegation: Syed Ali Sadat Fakh, Habeeb Qaharmani, Mohammad Baghistani and Syed Mohsin Mir Sindosi, Hauza Islamia Qom. The delegation was accompanied by Prof. Maulana Syed Ali Mohammad Naqvi, Chairman Department of Shia Theology, AMU, Aligarh, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2010.
8. Mohd. Ebadiani, Prof. of Tibb-e-Sunnati, Tehran, Iran, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2010.
9. Mr. Samiruddin, Sydney, Australia, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2010
10. Prof. Zahooruddin, Eminent Urdu Writer & Former Chairman, Department of Urdu, Jammu University, Jammu.
11. Dr. B. Venugopal, Executive Member, International Council of Museums Committee on Natural History and Director, National Museum of Natural History, Ministry of Environmental and Forest, Govt. of India, New Delhi, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2010. Following persons accompanied him: Devraj (Director, Tanjaro Museum), Abhinav (Consultant), Usha Menun (Scientist, National Museums of Natural History), Naaz Rizvi (Head of Department of National Museums of Natural History), S. Sita Ramayya (Photography Officer, IGNC), Dr. D. P. Singh (Scientist, National Museums of Natural History), Payal, Indira, Ali Nasir and Gunjan (Students of National Museums of Natural History).

12. Professor Dr. Stefan Reichmuth  
Lehrstuhl fuer Orientalistik, Ruhr-  
University, Bochum, Germany, 14<sup>th</sup>  
March 2010.

#### **FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES**

##### **Fifth Congress of the International Society for the History of Islamic Medicine**

The International Society for the History of Islamic Medicine will hold its fifth congress in Istanbul on 25-28 October 2010. Papers are invited in both English and Turkish.

The objective of the congress is the exchange of information and ideas on subjects including the historical development of Islamic medicine and its contribution to world medicine; interaction between Islamic and Western medicine; the development of medical education and the development of health institutions and medical associations in Islamic societies; the diagnosis and treatment of diseases in Islamic medicine; Islamic medical ethics; knowledge of historic figures who have contributed to practice and literature in the field of health in the Islamic countries; the place of the Turkic world in Islamic medicine; research and presentation of manuscripts, rare printed works and archive documents relevant to the history of Islamic medicine; preparing a union catalogue of manuscripts and early printed medical books in world libraries; and the conservation of historic buildings that have played a part in the history of medicine.

Those wishing to present a paper at the conference should send a summary using the form provided on the website to the e-mail: [ishim2010@gmail.com](mailto:ishim2010@gmail.com) by 01 May 2010.

For more information, see the following website: <http://www.ishim2010.org>

##### **World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies**

During the upcoming World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES), there

will be a special session on "Science in Medieval Arabic-Islamic Societies: Achievements and Prospects" under the aegis of the IUHPS Commission for the History of Islamic Science and Technology at Barcelona from July 19th to 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

The scientific and technological legacy of Islamic societies, which constitutes one of the most brilliant chapters in the history of human civilization, has been studied by a large number of scholars from all around the world since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Their research has not only given a good account of multifarious areas encompassed within the field of History of Arabic-Islamic Science and Technology but also placed this legacy in the rank that the extent of its contribution gives it the right to occupy. Notwithstanding the progress made, particularly during the last decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there is much still to accomplish. On the one hand, the intrinsic importance of the Islamic contribution to science and technology is not always acknowledged as it should be and sometimes it is the target of deliberate attempts to underrate its historical role. On the other, the vast majority of the scientific sources written in Arabic or in any other Islamic language remains unedited, all too often unstudied and sometimes even unexplored.

The Commission on History of Science and Technology in Islamic Societies (within the Division of History of Science and Technology of the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science), as one of the most important world organizations devoted to the study of these matters, would like to review the most salient results achieved in recent time by scholarly research, as well as to discuss which are the most promising areas for future research and the measures that could be adopted in order to foster it and to promote the knowledge of the scientific legacy of Muslim societies. A panel of renowned specialists of the Commission will speak about their particular areas so as to provide with a wide perspective of the ongoing and

future state of affairs of the History of Science and Technology in Islamic Societies.

The members of the panel are: President, M. Comes (U. of Barcelona), Emilia Calvo (U. of Barcelona, astronomy), Jan P. Hogendijk (U. of Utrecht mathematics), Mohammed el Faiz (U. of Marrakech, agronomy) and Cristina Álvarez de Millán (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Madrid, medicine).

#### DOCUMENTARY

#### **Change of IIM as National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH), Hyderabad**

The Indian Institute of History of Medicine (IIM), Hyderabad under Central Council for Research in Ayurveda & Siddha, Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India, has been upgraded as a National Institute and is named as "National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage, Hyderabad".

#### **The AVICENNA Directories**

The Avicenna Secretariat is engaged in a systematic survey of the world's medical schools to collect up-to-date, more accurate and more comprehensive information about the schools and their programmes in basic medical education. We contact each school individually and invite the school to provide information for the Directory. This is neither quick nor easy and it would require a large staff if we were to contact all the medical schools of the world at the same time. We contact schools by groups of countries and we expect it will take another 18 months to two years before all schools have been contacted.

Schools, which have not been contacted by the Avicenna Secretariat yet may, however, provide information for the directory by completing the Avicenna questionnaire for medical schools, which can be accessed by registering at the Avicenna Directories website:

[http://avicenna.ku.dk/For\\_institutions/](http://avicenna.ku.dk/For_institutions/). To be listed in the Directory, schools must meet

specific criteria. The policy on listing entry in the Avicenna Directories and on how we validate information concerning medical schools is also available on this webpage.

Sincerely, Lene Kristensen, the AVICENNA Secretariat University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Health Sciences, Blegdamsvej 3B, DK-2200 Copenhagen N

#### **Source: Correspondence with Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman**

AVICENNA Directories ([www.avicenna-directories.org](http://www.avicenna-directories.org)) is the global directory of educational institutions for Health Professions. It's a partnership of WHO and the University of Copenhagen and will be a publicly accessible database of schools, colleges, and universities for education of academic professions in health. The database will, in sequence, include medical schools, schools of pharmacy, schools of public health and educational institutions of other academic health professions. For medical educational institutions, this will replace the World Directory of Medical Schools published by WHO since 1953.

#### **Graeco-Arabic Medicine Society Inc.**

<http://traditionalmedicine.net.au/graecarb.htm>

In Australia, I came in touch with a renowned scholar of Graeco-Arabic Medicine - Dr. Paul Hysen, who is also active in maintaining a Graeco-Arabic Medicine Society Inc. at Elizabeth, South Australia. Here are the few excerpts of his e-letters that he wrote to me in reply to my emails, which I am reproducing with his permission.

Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman

- 1 -

Graeco-Arabic Medicine was the standard philosophy in Western medicine throughout Europe well into the 19th century. In fact, it was still a well used philosophy in many quarters in Europe in

the early part of the 20th century. Until that time there were ongoing contributions to Graeco-Arabic Medicine, and as its foundations lie with Hippocrates of Cos (c.400 B.C. - and probably more accurately with Thales of Miletus some two centuries earlier) calling it medieval medicine is not particularly accurate. As the philosophy of Graeco-Arabic Medicine answers many questions as to "causes" that stump modern medicine, it is not surprising that Traditional Healers like myself still use this philosophy. After all, Traditional Healers or as we are more popularly know, practitioners of traditional medicine, are at the end of the "medical food-chain" and see the carnage of modern medicine as well as its limitations on a daily basis (after all modern medicine kills more than 18,000 people in Australia alone each year, and permanently maims many times that number).

What never ceases to amaze me is that when modern medicine threw out the "old superstitions" it also turned its back on its past and became sterile and without philosophy and spirituality (atheistic), rather than adopting new science and technology and adding it to older still effective approaches.

Interestingly, China never made that mistake; but then the Chinese are known for their pragmatism.

So I would not see modern medicine as an enlightened force, but as a collection of bits and pieces that represent a means to an end, but provides no real answers to the meaning of life, the universe and everything - as traditional medicines do. Thus your ancestors were more likely to have had those answers than any professor at UWS (the University of Western Sydney).

I am always happy to communicate and share information and insights, but if you had not already guessed it, my Ph.D. is not in modern medicine but in Western Medical History, so you have been forewarned.

Sincerely, Dr. Paul Hysen Ph.D. - Acting Secretary - Graeco-Arabic Medicine Society Inc. (31.12.2009)

- II -

Like you, I have the deepest respect for I those who follow traditional medicine, whether this be Chinese Medicine, Unani Medicine or any other form of traditional healing. What is so important about traditional medicine that it is not just a method of healing others, but also a personal quest? That is why the Greeks called a physician "Doctor" which means (enlightened) teacher. Equally in Arabic a traditional Unani healer is called "Hakim" which I understand translates to "holy man". Modern medicine provides no such pathways. I was therefore rather surprised that someone like yourself with a Unani Tibb background would want to do Western medicine, which does not have particularly admirable principles or ethics, in fact medical doctors in Australia are little more than public servants who do as they are told by the Government. But I guess Western medicine is "used" in China by the Chinese, without ever compromising their principles or traditions; so I should have thought a little longer, my apologies.

As far as Avicenna is concerned, most of the English translation I have seen of his Canon of Medicine are terrible and make this lucid work sound like a labyrinth of confusion. I read a version translated into Dutch when I was about 14 years old and found it quite easy to follow. As my Arabic language skills are very limited, that is as far as I have progressed with Avicenna.

I think the main difference between the North European flavour of Graeco-Arabic Medicine I practice and the Unani Tibb you are familiar with, are the medicines used. I was originally trained to use the principles of Graeco-Arabic Medicine in conjunction with the local "traditional" herbal medicine of Northern Europe, and I presume you would use the traditional Middle Eastern and Eastern medicines of old. Having said that, the chronic

unavailability of good traditional medicines in Australia has forced me, over the years, to add quite a few North American herbs to my repertoire. Some years ago the Australian Government became even more restrictive, as a result I decided to start using Chinese medicine, as for some strange and obscure reason the Australian Government does not touch Chinese Medicine. I have since adapted Chinese medicine to the principles of Graeco-Arabic Medicine, because both my wife (who is a Registered Nurse, but also practices traditional healing) and I myself feel most comfortable with this medical philosophy. You may well say, why do you not get Unani medicines from India? To that all I can say is, try to import some medicines from India into Australia and see how you go. Even getting raw herbs from India is pretty well impossible (I use raw herbs as I make most of my own preparations). I will let you work out for yourself why the Australian Government discriminates in this way between India and China.

Just as an aside, I have nothing against the middle Ages; I am well aware that they were far from "dark", as is claimed by most Western historians. Many years ago I fell in love with Medieval Alchemy, when I realised that it was a form "Western spiritual yoga" rather than a chemical quest; the latter concept was merely a ruse to hide it from the Church's prying eyes (falling foul of the Church was a serious health hazard in those days).

Anyhow, now you know a little more about us and what we do.

Sincerely, Paul Hysen Ph.D. (1.1.2010)

- Ili -

Many of the herbs I used to collect in Europe for my mentor were official to the Pharmacopoeia, but quite a few were not listed. It is interesting to note that very little progress was made in herbal medicine in Europe by the establishment (Graeco-Arabic Physicians until the mid 1800s) from the time of Dioscorides. The

focus was on mineral medicines, such as mercury, antimony and arsenic, with which they killed people by the droves; and if your doctor did not manage to kill you with the medicines, the bleeding and purging usually did the trick. The grand delusion that "more powerful" medicines are better exists to this day.

What I was brought up with is the vernacular medicine of the people, the (usually) gentle herbs, dietary methods and physical therapies that were the mainstay of the true Ionian medicine of Hippocrates.

I spend my childhood in an ancient medieval town that still had its gates, walls (stone with earth heaped behind them) and a moat. When it was dedicated a town in the 14th century, it was a big event; religious dignitaries came from all over Europe, and particularly from what is now Italy, and brought soil to place on its walls in a symbolic gesture to make it a part of the "Holy Roman Empire" (so I was told; I was not present at the time). So just about any plant that grew anywhere in Europe could be found growing on its walls - climate permitting.

Just a bit on our background as a profession, from the early 1970s to the late 1990s we actually ran a college that taught Unani Medicine. From the late 1980s to its closure in the 1990s its courses were Government accredited. From the mid 1990s our courses were linked in with the Flinders University here in South Australia. It was at that point that the Government thought we were getting too smart for our boots and set out to undermine us. We closed down voluntarily in 1998 simply because we had all had enough after years of bullying tactics and witch-hunts by the Government.

As far as recognition of Graeco-Arabic Medicine is concerned, we tried to accomplish this about 14 years ago; but our letters either got ignored by the Australian Government and in the rare instance we got a reply, we were told that unless we had the finance to carry the

Legal expense to challenge this, we were best of just calling ourselves "naturopaths". In truth, we have never been a large organisation and mounting a High Court challenge was out of the question. As we got sidelined by the Australian Government many of our members became disheartened and either quit practicing or decided to follow the Government's advice. The result was a rapid decline in membership to 12. As time has gone on, a number of members have either retired, have moved overseas to greener pastures, or have passed away due to old age, so there are only a few die-hards left who keep the tradition going because of our love for it; some of these are in Australia, while others are overseas.

Further, the relationship between Ayurveda and Unani is different in Australia to that in India, as Ayurveda is not part of our cultural or ethnic background. Therefore, those of us that are left are unlikely to be happy to compromise by joining with Ayurveda, as this would take away the very academic reputation we tried to foster for Graeco-Arabic Medicine; Ayurveda is generally seen in Australia as a fluffy Yoga spin-off, primarily because of the large number of untrained or poorly trained practitioners that are associated with this discipline in this country. This is not intended to be derogatory to Ayurveda, which in itself is a very worthy medical discipline - I personally know this as I met some excellent practitioners of this discipline while in Sri Lanka - but it is the reality here in Australia.

I never owned the Dutch version of the Canon of Avicenna, I borrowed it from the local library; I was a nerd and a bookworm as a kid and the pet of the chief librarian in the above town, who gave me special permission to borrow non-fiction books from the "adult" collection. As a result I devoured hundreds of books covering astronomy, physics, palaeontology, history, medicine and religion from that library, one of these

books was the Canon of Avicenna. I must say though, that I would love to own a copy in Dutch; I only have the English translation, which as I said before, is gosh-awful.

Sincerely, Paul Husen Ph.D. - GAMS Inc.  
(5.1.2010)

- 13 -

It is also my understanding that it is a way of life (referring to Ayurveda), and one that is not easily integrated into other religious and regional cultures.

Interestingly early Greek medicine also had only three humours: blood, phlegm and bile (sanguis, phlegma, cholera), which had many analogues to the vata, kapha and pitta of Ayurveda. It was Thales and perhaps other ancient travelers that added black bile so that the Greek medical philosophy would line up more with that of ancient Egyptian medicine, which was greatly revered in the ancient world. This would give a common origin to both Ayurveda and Unani Tibb, the first of which is likely to have originated from the invading Aryans who shared cultural and language links with the Hittites, who in turn became the ancient Greeks. So the roots of Unani Tibb and Ayurveda may go back at least 3500 years.

As far as your father is concerned, if he can read and write English, we might be able to establish a mutually beneficial form of correspondence utilizing what is commonly called "post". As I collect postage stamps - it helps me get a broad perspective of the world, and it is plain fun - it might help my collection. If one of your family also collects postage stamps, so much the better.

You are right about the effort we put in to get Graeco-Arabic Medicine recognised in this country. But after putting in nearly 20 years of hard work, and a lot of our own money, which really amounted to nothing in the end because of the dirty tricks by the powers that be, forgive us if we are a little disheartened.

I still read a great deal, both a variety of books and scientific magazines, but also spend a lot of time doing research or just studying on the Internet. There are some wonderful medical sites and I try from time to time to branch into a new area of medicine (knowledge wise) just to keep the old brain going. The Internet allows me to find information very quickly and helped me greatly when I did my Ph.D. I have been fiddling with and using computers for about 24 years, I built my first computer up myself from a hacked basic home kit that used a tape recorder and turned it into a machine that was quite useful with 1 mb of memory and disk drives that held 1.2 Mb of data (in those days one such a floppy was enough to hold all my word processors, databases and other programs, the same went for the memory). Ah, the heady CP/M days.

As far as the Dutch translation of Avicenna is concerned, I seem to remember that the library from which I borrowed it was called the "Nederlandse Staatsche Bibliotheek" (Dutch National Library) or something similar. It was the Dutch Government's initiative to have branches in just about every town, and I accessed the one in the town where I lived. They would also get me books in, if I asked, from Amsterdam. I think I "ordered" the Canon of Avicenna in this way. I cannot now find any reference to this library on the Web. Strange, it is only 50 years ago I used it last. All I could find is this information:

[http://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Koninklijke\\_Bibliotheek\\_\(Nederland\)](http://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Koninklijke_Bibliotheek_(Nederland)). They (the Koninklijke Bibliotheek - Dutch for the Royal Library) would surely have a copy of Avicenna's Canon of Medicine translated in Dutch, and may already have digitised this, and if not, may be amenable to someone doing this for an international collection.

Sincerely, Paul. (8.1.2010).

### **Jabir Ibn Hayyan**

Father of chemistry, known as Geber in the West, he was the son of an Arabic druggist. He flourished in Kufa around 776 A.D. and practiced medicine during the reign of Haroon ar-Rashid.

The fame of Jabir rests on his alchemical writings. From his hundred books we know only 80 in philosophy, logic and alchemy. Ibn Hayyan is considered one of the first modern chemists for his discoveries of acids and distillation of sulphuric acid, extraction of sodium carbons, potassium, arsenic and silver nitrate. His famous laboratory was found in ruins about two centuries later.

### **Abu-Yusuf Yaqub Ibn Ishaq al-Kindi (d 873 A.D.)**

Al-Kindi "the Philosopher of the Arab" was the first significant Muslim philosopher to utilize and develop the philosophical concepts of Greek thought. His works are extensive in both number and subjects. He composed in Arabic well over 300 treatises and translations on various topics. Mediaeval Europe was familiar with his writings. Al-Kindi was also one of the first Muslims authors to write on the relation between astronomy-astrology and medicine, a subject which becomes known later as al-Tibb al-Nujumi. Throughout his career al-Kindi held a position as court scholar in Baghdad.

### **Muhammad Ibn Kathir al-Farghani (832-903 A.D.)**

One of the astronomer-astrologers employed by the Abbasid Caliph al-Mamun was born in Farghana, Transoxania. He supervised construction of Nilometer at Fustat. It was completed in 861 A.D.

His Principal works, which still survive in Arabic at Oxford, Paris, Cairo and the library of Princeton University. Al-Farghani also wrote two books on the astrolabe '*al-Kamil Fi'l Asturlab*' and '*Fi San'at al-Asturlab*'. The Arabic text is extant in Berlin and Paris. It has been translated into Russian.

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