

Newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy (NISA)

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Contents

IAMMS Activities	3-4
Visits of Personalities and Delegates	4-5
Members Activites	6-7
Conferences and Seminars	7-8
Scholarship/Fellowship	8-10
Documentation	10-11
Journals/Publications	11-14

A view of 5th Ibn Sina Memorial Lecture



(From R-L) Mrs. Tarannum Aqil, Prof. Fasih Ahmad Siddqiu, Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Prof. Hakim S. Zillur Rahman & Prof. Razaullah Ansari



Prof. Sadiqur Rahman Kidwai, Delivering the Lecture



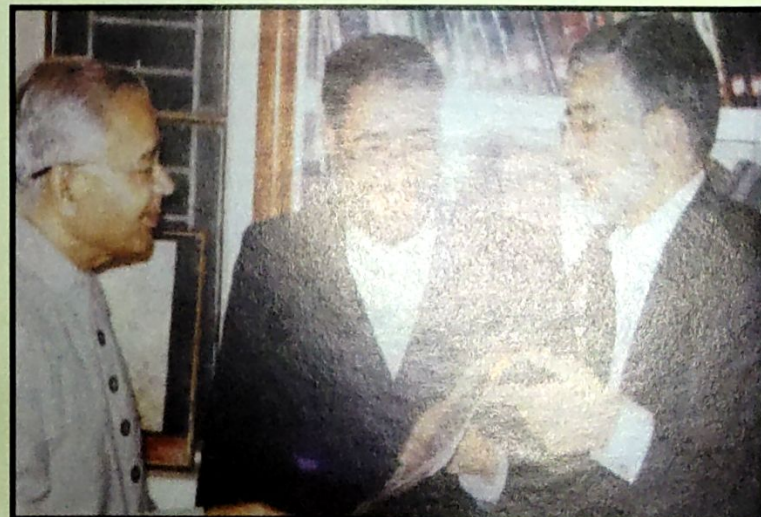
A view of Audience



Mrs. Tarannum Aqil, Delivering the Presidential Address



Dr. Gholam Ali Haddad-Adel & Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman signing on the MoU



(From R-L) Dr. Gholam Ali Haddad-Adel, Dr. Karim Najafi, & Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman exchanging the MoU

IAMMS ACTIVITIES

EVENTS AT IBN SINA ACADEMY (From January to March 2011)

Fifth 'Ibn Sina Memorial Lecture (2010)

The Fifth 'Ibn Sina Memorial Lecture (2010)' was delivered by Prof. Sadiqur Rahman Kidwai, Secretary, Ghalib Institute, New Delhi, on 14th February 2011 at the Library Hall of Ibn Sina Academy (Aligarh). Ms. Tarranum Aqil, Vice-chairperson, UP Urdu Academy, chaired the lecture. After the lecture, participants took part in the deliberations about Urdu and its problem. The lecture was held by the courtesy of National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language, Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India New Delhi.

Memorandum of Understanding signed in between Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Sciences (India) and the Academy of Persian Language and Literature (Iran)

It is a pleasure to record that these two academies have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on March 15, 2011 for mutual cooperation in many areas of interests. The MoU resolved that both the academies would work for the exchange of information and researches regarding manuscripts, ancient sciences and traditional medicine of India and Iran, delegations and publications. These academies will cooperate fully in holding international conferences/symposia on the afore-mentioned studies, and jointly run academic and cultural projects with regards to the objectives of two academies. This MoU is signed by Gholam Ali Haddad-Adel on behalf of the 'Academy of Persian Language and Literature' Tehran, Iran and Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman on behalf of the Ibn Sina

Academy of Medieval Medicine and Sciences, Aligarh.

It may be recalled that Ibn Sina Academy had signed already on February 23, 2009 a MoU with the "Anjuman Athar wa Mafakhir-I Farhangi, Tehran (President, Dr. Mehdi Muhaghegh)

Mushaira by Ghalib Study Centre

Ghalib Study Centre, Ibn Sina Academy, organised on 23.02.2011 a Mushaira in honour of Dr. Jamil Manavi (a senior poet and essayist) and Shakil Ahmad Wajih (Social worker) under the presidentship of Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman. The mushaira was conducted by Ilyas Naved Gunnori and was convened by Engineer Khalid Fareedi. In the Mushaira, following poets presented their recent poetic compositions: Arshad Mansoor Ghazi, Dr. Jamil Manavi, Dr. Moazzam Ali Khan, Engineer Khalid Fareedi, Dr. Ilyas Naved, Sabiha Sumbul, Rehana Shaheen, Dr. Razi Amrohvi, Danish Marehravi, Meraj Nishat and Babar Ilyas. Amongst audience following prominent persons were also present: Afshan Malik, Yasmin Zaidi, Jamshed Zaidi, Kahkashan Jabin, Moin Alvi, Dr. Obaid Iqbal Asim, to name just a few.

Mushaira by Aazar Academy

Aazar Academy organised a Mushaira Jashn-i Zubair Farooque on February 20 in honour of Dr. Zubair Farooque (UAE) under the presidentship of Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman. The chief guest of the function was Mr. Jawed Anwar (Editor, Tahreek-i Adab, Banaras) while Dr. Syed Jawed Akhtar was guest of honour. Before, the mushaira, Dr. Saghir Afrahim (President Aazar Academy) welcomed the guests followed by introduction of Dr. Zubair Farooque by Prof. Abdul Alim (Advisor, Aazar Academy). Farooque has published about 40 Majmu'a of his Kalaam; his Dewaan consisting of 1001 poems is also published; of which he presented a copy to Ibn Sina Academy. The compositions of Arab poets were very

well received. His Arabic pronunciation was excellent. Apart from local poets, ADM Aligarh Mr. Akhilesh Kumar Mishra also attended the program and presented a few couplets of his own poetry. 'Aazar Award' was later presented to Dr. Zubair Farooque along with the title, 'Safeer-i Urdu', a memento and a citation. In the program, a citation was also presented to Mr. Jawed Anwar and Dr. Syed Jawed Akhtar. Mr. Jawed Anwar was also proclaimed as 'Shahryar Qalam'.

The programme ended successfully with concluding remarks by Professor Anis Ahmad Ansari (Patron, Aazar Academy) and vote of thanks by Musharaf Hussain Mahzar (Secretary, Aazar Academy).

AMU Alumni Association Michigan USA Scholarship Award Ceremony

A grand function was held on 16th January 2011 at Ibn Sina Academy by Dr. Suhail Sabir (Executive Member IAMMS) for the AMU Alumni Association of Michigan (USA). In the programme, Prof. Ishrat Farooqui, Chief Guest, and Dr Abdul Latif, Guest of Honour, presented scholarship award letters to 160 students of AMU. Prof Hakeem Syed Zillur Rahman presided over the function.

Visits of Delegates and Personalities

Following dignitaries and personalities visited the Academy:

1. An Iranian delegation from 'Hauza-illmia', Qom visited Ibn Sina Academy on February 19, 2011. The delegation was consisting on Yaqub Ali Burji, Faculty member and Head of Islamic Law and Juris-prudential principles, Dept. Qom, Muhammad Ashkiyan, Qom and Dr. Parviz Nayyeri, Tehran. They particularly interested to explore new avenues in strengthening Indo-Iranian cultural relations with reference to the influence of Iranian physicians in Unani system of Medicine.

Interestingly, the library of Ibn Sina Academy (Aligarh) and the library of Mar'ashi Najafi (Qom) already shared and exchanged catalogues of manuscripts extant in both the libraries way back in 2001.

2. Dr. Zubair Farooq, Dubai, UAE, 20.02.2011
3. Dr. Humra Mahmood, New York, USA, 27.02.2011
4. Delegates Refresher Courses and orientation Training Program Library and Information Science on 05.02.2011 orientation program 114 on 9.2. Physical Health & Sports Education on 14.2, orientation program 115 on 22.2.11, SCR in to the Agriculture Science on 28.03 and SRC in Hindi on 31.3.2011
On these occasions, Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman addressed the participants and gave an account of the History of Unani Medicine and about the values of culture and heritage. He showed them also the Museums of Ibn Sina Academy.
5. Delegates to the International Conference on Chemistry: Frontiers and Challenges, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, on March 5.
6. Dr. Shaheer Khan, Kollin, Foster City, USA, 08.03.2011
7. Dr. Ravindra Kumar, Editor Science Ki Dunya, NISCAIR, CSIR, New Delhi, 15.03.2011
8. Dr. Gholam Ali Haddad-Adel, Tehran, Iran, 15.03.2011
9. Dr. Karim Najafi, Cultural Counselor, Iran, New Delhi, 15.03.2011
10. Zille Hasan Abedi, Victoria, Australia, 19.03.2011
11. Participants to the National Seminar on Maternal and Child Health, organized by Dept. of Amraze Niswan wa Atfal, A. K. Tibbiya College, AMU, Aligarh on 21-22.03.2011.
12. Participants to the International Conclave on Unani Medicine, organized by Dept. of Kulliyat, A. K. Tibbiya College, AMU, Aligarh on

26.03.2011, Omboon Vallisuta, Head Deptt. of Pharmacogonosy, Faculty of Pharmacy, Mahidol University Bangkok, Thailand, Song Xiam (Arabic name Masoud) Vice President of the China, Maritime History Studies Association, Hai Dian District, Beijing, China, Gulkhumor Tuychieva, Director, National Civic Education & Research Centre, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Azipeva Gulnoza, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Prof. Shohistahon Uljaeva, Chairman of the History of Uzbekistan and Political Sciences of the Tashkent, Institution, Tashkent, Orit Baruch O. Israel, Dr. Abdul Nasser Kaadam, President, International Society for the History of Islamic Medicine Aleppo, Syria and Prof. Dr. Faisal Abdullatif Alnasir, General Secretary, International Society for the History of Islamic Medicine, Bahrain.

NISA is accessible at Wellcome Trust Library of UK

The Newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy (NISA) is now available at the library of Wellcome Trust, University College of London (UCL), UK. We have been informed that all copies of the newsletter since beginning are available for public inspection. NISA is subscribed by the History of Medicine Collection, Wellcome Trust of UCL.

Ibn Sina Academy pays tribute to Prof. Zahida Zaidi

Prof. Zahida Zaidi's sudden demise on 11 January 2011 came as a stunning and heart-breaking blow to the academic circles in India, particularly Aligarh and Delhi. She had been associated with the Department of English, AMU, Aligarh, for over 30 years and was a highly well-known literary figure. She was fortunate to get the opportunity of earning Tripos in English Literature from the renowned University of Cambridge in 1958. Early in her career she aligned herself with the Leftist party, although the mellowing of

consciousness and sensibility gradually led to the softening of her attitude toward Islam. She was a prolific writer, and published five volumes of poetry (including one in English), four volumes of plays, two volumes of literary criticism (including one in English), besides several volumes of translated plays in Urdu. As a writer her forte was drama. She was very well-read in modern continental drama and had, creatively, expressed its spirit in her collection of plays, "Doosra Kamra", which is a fine specimen of it and is unsurpassed by any collection of plays in Urdu as yet. As an ancillary to it, she also directed staging of plays both in Aligarh and Delhi. She had a special knack for it and possessed its required expertise. She also contributed critical articles for the benefit of non-Urdu readers on two major poets, Ghalib and Iqbal, on very well-known figures, Faiz Ahmad Faiz, Akhtarul Iman, Munibur Rehman, Ali Sardar Jafri and Makhdoom Muhiuddin. Prof. Zaidi had imbibed the enviable heritage of the finesse of the Muslim cultural tradition of her forefathers like Maulana Altaf Hussain Hali and extended it considerably. She was highly capable of integrating her creative and critical talents into a unified whole. She was incessantly engaged, with remarkable consistency, to achieve her targets till the very end. May her soul rest in abiding peace!

The library of Ibn Sina Academy has almost all of her books. The last programme that she attended at Ibn Sina Academy was on 23rd November 2010 when she stayed till the end of the last session. In the evening, when the program was over, she was taken to her house by Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman, (Treasurer, Ibn Sina Academy). On 10th January 2011 (a day before her demise) she greeted Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman at her residence, when he paid visit to her home.

MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

1. **Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman**, President, Ibn Sina Academy, has been awarded by UP Urdu Academy, Lucknow for his latest book: '*Tazkira Atibba-e 'Asr*', which has been published by Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh, 2010.
2. Professor Syed Zillur Rahman delivered a lecture on the topic, "History and Development of Unani Pharmacy with Special Reference to the Contribution of Pioneers of Unani System".
3. Attended the special meeting of the AIMMM of the All India Muslim Majlis-e-Moshawarat, New Delhi on 15 January, 2011.
4. Prof. Rahman presides over the National Unani Health Conference on "Effective Health Care" on February 06, 2011 organized by All India Graduates Association and Salamevatan, Aligarh.
5. Road Show: This Road Show was organized on 23.02.2011 for creating awareness on Urdu Language. The purpose was to request all Urdu lovers to purchase Urdu Books, Newspapers and periodicals at any cost.
6. Prof. Rahman inaugurated two day (27-29 of February, 2011) Science Fair on the National Science Day 2011, organized by District Science Club, Aligarh, coordinator Dr. Ram Swarup.
7. Prof. Zillur Rahman participated in the National Seminar on "Heritage of Science in Urdu" organized by Urdu Academy, Delhi on 5th & 6th March, 2011 and presented a paper entitled "Qadeem Muslim Danishwaron ki Sciency Khidmat".
8. Prof. Rahman inaugurated one day 24.03.2011 Farmer – Scientist Meet at Ambedkar Village Kutubpur, Block Charra for the Scientific Awareness Amongst Rural Masses for their

Harmonious Development. This meet held under the auspices of District Science Club, Aligarh, coordinator Dr. Ram Swarup.

9. Prof. Z. Rahman organized a "Panel discussion on Globalization of Unani Medicine under the auspices of the Ibn Sina Academy on 27th March 2011. The following specialist participated in the discussion, Dr. Claudia Preckel, Wiss. Mitarbeiterin, RuHR–University Bochum, Germany. Dr. Amina Akram, Bangalore, Dr. Abdul Latif, Dr. Abdur Rauf, Aligarh etc.
10. Prof. Rahman was the Guest of Honour on 27th March, 2011 for Inaugural Function of Workshop on "Research Methodology" organized by Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine, Aligarh, under the aegis of Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine and Deptt. of AYUSH, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India, New Delhi. Prof. Rahman also presided the valedictory function of the workshop on March 29, 2011.

Prof. S. M. Razaullah Ansari (General Secretary of Ibn Sina Academy) was invited by the Dean, Faculty of Unani Medicine (Tibbia College, AMU, Aligarh) to deliver a special Lecture at the International Conference on Integrative Medicine and First SAARC Conference on Unani Medicine, held in AMU (Aligarh), during Feb.2-4, 2011. The topic of his Lecture was: "Promotion of Science and Medicine during the Medieval Period".

Prof. Ansari has been invited also by the Indian National Science Academy (New Delhi) to participate at INSA Annual Project Investigators' Workshop and also at the Meeting of Research Council/National Commission for History of Science, to be held on 13-15 April, 2011. Prof. Ansari is a member of the

Indian National Commission for History of Science.

Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Treasurer, Ibn Sina Academy has been invited in the following programmes:

1. Attended 'DHARMA Project Focus Groups Meeting' with many community leaders of India along with Dr. Ritin Fernandez, Dr. Bronwyn Everett and Ms. Charmaine Miranda. The discussion was extremely productive - and the consensus on a range of issues really reinforced how important it is to develop a culturally sensitive cardiac health intervention for people in the Indian community.
2. Workshops by AMU Alumni Association of Australia (AAAA). AAAA has been providing scholarships to Indian students particularly to students of AMU on merit-cum-means basis for the last 15 years! This year, three consecutive workshops were organised by the Association on need for revision and restructuring the activities for educational upliftment in India. Each workshop was a sort of brain storming session that ended with lots of constructive deliberations. Mr. Fasihuddin Khan (Chairman, Scholarship Committee) deserves appreciation for organising these workshops very successfully.
3. *Jashne Buzurg* (Eldercare Festivity), organised by South Asian Muslim Association of Australia (Inc) on March 12, 2011 at Auburn Town Hall, Sydney.
4. Special Seminar, School of Medicine, University of Western Sydney, Campbelltown, Sydney, 18th March. Professor Jens Rettig from the Institute of Physiology, Saarland University, Homburg, delivered his talk on "Making vesicles ready to fuse: molecular determinants of the priming process", while Daniela Sarfor from Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics

Unit, The University of Melbourne delivered her talk on "Gut-brain signaling and blood pressure regulation: potential role in obesity-related hypertension"

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS ON HISTORY OF MEDICINE AND SCIENCES

Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Annual Meeting

Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) is going to organize its annual meeting at Crown Plaza Cleveland City Center Hotel, from November 2-5, 2011 on the topic 'Medical Imaginaries and Technological Futures: Transformations of Subjectivity in Science and Medicine'

Although medical technologies may be created to serve specific pragmatic purposes, they also carry out their own "social lives". They operate in myriad ways: as valued commodities, as unintended actors, as mediating lenses, etc. From proliferation to distribution and use, the ever-evolving life course of a technology is embedded in an equally fluid, complex network of actors and institutions, which in turn transforms the cultural meaning of these objects over time. This panel will shed light on the reciprocal, diachronic relationships between humans and technologies, broadly conceived, and their effects on conceptions of identity, subjectivity and personage. In particular, how do changing medical imaginations reshape medical, technological, and social futures? How is the future of health and humanity imagined, and how does the production of new technologies reflect or reconceptualize these futures? How do technological transformations of both selves and socialities through social networks, technologies of relationship, and technologies of the self; change contemporary understandings of technology and subjectivity? How do new technological mediations of selfhood,

subjectivity, and sociality transform experiences of science, medicine, and the body?

Papers are welcome in exploring these and related questions about subjectivity, technology, and medicine. Please send abstracts to: Tazin Karim (karimtaz@msu.edu) and Aaron Seaman (ats2@uchicago.edu)

Co-organizers: Betsey Brada, Tazin Karim, Ramah McKay, and Aaron Seaman on behalf of the Science, Technology and Medicine (STM) Interest Group, Society for Medical Anthropology

3rd Amphictyony of Societies of History of Medicine & Ethics in Medicine

The 3rd Amphictyony of Societies of History of Medicine & Ethics in Medicine (Pentecost) will be held on 10-13 June 2011 at the International Hippocratic Foundation of Kos, Kos Island, Greece. The main topics of the forthcoming Congress are "Asclepieia" and "Healing gods and Saints". Updated information regarding this Congress can be found at the website: www.amphictyony2011.gr

Submitted by: Prof. Stefanos Geroulanos

Fourth International Conference on Inclusive Museum

The fourth International Conference on Inclusive Museum will be held at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa from 30 June to 3 July 2011

At this time of fundamental social change, what is the role of the museum, both as a creation of that change, and perhaps also as an agent of change? The International Conference on the Inclusive Museum is a place where museum practitioners, researchers, thinkers and teachers can engage in discussion on the historic character and future shape of the

museum. The key question of the conference is 'How can the institution of the museum become more inclusive?'

In addition, the conference will include numerous paper, workshop and colloquium presentations by practitioners, teachers and researchers. Presenters may choose to submit written papers for publication in *The International Journal of the Inclusive Museum*. If you are unable to attend the conference in person, virtual registrations are also available which allow you to submit a paper for possible publication in this fully refereed academic journal.

Full details of the conference, including an online proposal submission form, are to be found at the conference website - <http://www.Museum-Conference.com/>

Submitted by: Professor Amareswar Galla, Ph.D.; Convener, Pacific Asia Observatory for Cultural Diversity, in Human Development for the Advisory Board, International Conference on the Inclusive Museum and the International Journal of the Inclusive Museum

SCHOLARSHIPS / FELLOWSHIPS

Truman G. Blocker, Jr. History of Medicine Fellowship

The Moody Medical Library of the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston is pleased to offer the Truman G. Blocker, Jr. Fellowship to support research related to the history of medicine conducted at the Moody Medical Library.

The Truman G. Blocker, Jr. Fellowship will provide between \$2,000 and \$4,000 per year to support travel, lodging and incidental expenses for the period between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011. Upon completion the recipient will deliver a paper at the University of Texas Medical Branch outlining the research, provide an expense report and a copy of the final research product. The

University of Texas Medical Branch also reserves the right to post excerpts from the work, a photograph and biographical material of the Fellow on our website <http://www.utmb.edu/>.

The fellowship proposal must demonstrate that the Truman G. Blocker, Jr. History of Medicine Collections contain resources central to the proposed topic. These collections consist of over 18,000 titles and 10,000 pamphlets and reprints documenting the development of Western medicine and allied sciences. The Moody Medical Library's holdings of books printed prior to 1501 place it among the top medical sciences libraries in the United States. Collection strengths include fundamental and secondary works in anatomy and surgery, anesthesiology, immunology, and occupational medicine. The Titus Harris Collection of the History of Psychiatry maintains over 4,500 volumes and is considered one of the most comprehensive accumulations of works on the subject.

The archival collections housed at the Moody Medical Library are among the largest and most significant in the history of the biomedical sciences in the southern United States. These collections provide records of state and national organizations, and professional societies in medicine and related fields in addition to the private and professional papers of University of Texas Medical Branch faculty, staff, students and alumni. An inclusive list of these archives may be found at the Texas Archival Resources.

Applicants should submit a fellowship proposal outlining the subject and objectives of the research project and historical materials to be used, (not to exceed 2 pages), a project budget including travel, lodging and research expenses, curriculum vitae and two letters of recommendation by April 1st, 2011. Award decisions will be made by May 1st,

2011. Applications should be mailed to: Robert O. Marlin IV, Archivist, Truman G. Blocker, Jr. History of Medicine Collections, Moody Medical Library, University of Texas Medical Branch, 301 University Blvd. Galveston, TX 77555-1035

Visiting Fellowship Program at Rotman Institute of Philosophy

Rotman Institute of Philosophy (<http://www.rotman.uwo.ca>) invites applications to its 'Visiting Fellows Program for 2011-2012'. The program offers scholars the opportunity to spend one or two semesters as part of an active, diverse and welcoming intellectual community working at the intersection of philosophy and the sciences. Applications are welcome from scholars holding doctoral degrees who are pursuing research projects that engage contemporary science from the perspectives of ethics, epistemology, history or policy.

Visiting Fellows have no formal duties beyond an active participation in the intellectual life of the Rotman Institute. They are encouraged to participate in the many reading groups, seminars, talks, workshops and other ongoing projects at the Rotman Institute, and to give talks introducing their own research projects to the Institute. They are invited as well to take advantage of the broader activities of the Department of Philosophy including colloquia, conferences, and graduate seminars (with instructor permission). The University of Western Ontario's Department of Philosophy is one of the most distinguished in Canada.

Each Visiting Fellow is provided with an office in the Rotman Institute of Philosophy equipped with a desktop computer; modest office and IT support; and full access to the library facilities and services of The University of Western Ontario. Visiting Fellows receive a

supplementary stipend of \$1,300 per month to help defray the cost of relocation.

For more information, see <http://www.rotman.uwo.ca/files/who/rotman-visitingfellow.pdf>

Submitted by: Trevor Pearce, Postdoctoral Fellow, Rotman Institute of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, Stevenson Hall Building 2150G, The University of Western Ontario, London Ontario N6A 5B8

DOCUMENTATION

Dawakhana Shifaul Amraz

Dawakhana Shifaul Amraz (Regd.) was a Unani pharmaceutical company established in 1894 at Tijara, India. It was one of the largest manufacturers of many Unani medicines before the partition of India (1)

History

Dawakhana Shifaul Amraz (DSA) was a registered Unani polyclinic and pharmaceutical company established in 1894 by Hakim Syed Karam Husain at Tijara, Rajputana, (Alwar). It was a flourishing Dawakhana until 1947 (2, 3). After the partition of India, it was relocated and moved to Jinsi Road, Jahangirabad, Bhopal. In 1975, another branch of the 'Dawakhana' was set up at Aligarh where it lasted till 1994. The main Dawakhana at Bhopal existed till the year 2000 A.D.

Consulting physicians

A team of consulting Unani practitioners used to examine patients and dispense some patented Unani medicines of the Dawakhana. Prominent physicians of the team were Hakim Syed Karam Husain (1870–1953), Hakim Mohammad Mubin Ahmad (1901-1963), Hakim Hafiz Syed Atiqul Qadir (1910–2000), Hakim Syed Fazlur Rahman (1912–1994) and Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman (b. 1940). They reviewed large number of patients as per the principles of traditional system of

Unani medicines and prescribed their own patented medicine (4, 5).

Hakim Mohammad Mubin Ahmad in 1947 migrated to Pakistan and settled at Tando Allahyar, where he gained both name and fame in Unani practice.

Proprietary medicines

Out of 275 proprietary medicines of the Dawakhana, some common polypharmaceutic preparations and products were Iksir Atfal, Hubub M'uawin Shabab, Jawarish Saqanqoor, Box Ganjina-i-Bah, Hab Tark Afun, Jaibi Hakim, Arq Mufid Niswan, Roghan Gaisu Draz, Iksir Kharish, Hubub Mumsik, Shifaul Amraz, Zimad Muhallil, Roghan Muqqawi Badan

Post Office Dawakhana

At Tijara, DSA grew to the extent in terms of the demand and distribution of its drugs that the Indian Postal Service, during the British rule of India, had to establish a separate post office at the premises of the Dawakhana itself. A British postmaster Mr. Bolard (Superintendent Post Offices, Rajputana) and Superintendent Maulvi Sabihuddin (Latterly became Post Master General, Panjab Circle) visited Dawakhana and approved its need. It was established in 1930 and existed till August 1947 (6). It was unique attempt at that time granted to any private company. Many prescription letters and registered parcels including Value Payable Posts (VPP) were dispatched from this Dawakhana Post Office to different cities and countries. This exclusive postal service also worked as an additional post office at the city of Tijara.

Monthly periodical

Dawakhana Shifaul Amraz under the editorship of Hakim Syed Karam Husain started a monthly 24 pages periodical in the name of 'Masiha-e Zaman' in January 1927. During those days, it was very difficult to issue a periodical from any

princely state of India. The publication of '*Masiha-e Zaman*' owed the intervention of Alwar State Government and the political agent of the Rajputana Agency.

It covered literary articles, news, debates and other information on complementary and alternative medicines especially Unani medicine. On 27 August, 1928, Maharaja Jai Singh Prabhakar praised the issue of this periodical, which on his behalf, Pandit Ram Bhadr Adhyaji, Judiciational Minister of Alwar state honoured after reading it.

Maulana Hakim Mufti Abdur Rahim (Mufti-e Âlâ, Alwar State) and Syed Shabbir Hussain Akhtar Alwari while reviewing '*Masiha-e Zaman*' praised the efforts of Hakim Syed Karam Hussain. Similarly, some literary magazines like '*Al Hakim*' (Monthly from Lahore), '*Jamia*' (Monthly from Delhi) and '*Ma'arif*' (Monthly from Azamgarh) published reviews of this periodical.

The price of the periodical was Indian Rupees Two. Since there was no printing press at Tijara, Dawakhana published this periodical in 5000 copies first from 'Hindustan Electric Printing Works' (Delhi) and then from 'Matba Abul Alai' (Agra) and 'Mahboobul Matabi' (Delhi). It continuously published for 18 years and eventually stopped publishing in 1944 due to printing difficulties.

Qazi Faizuddin, Mir Mumtaz Ali, Shabir Husain Akhtar, Qazi Abul Hasan Wahidi were closely attached to the Dawakhana particularly with its publication of '*Masih-e Zaman*'.

Source: The above article is retrieved on 22nd March 2011 from Wikipedia, an online encyclopedia.

Maimonides' Medical Aphorisms

The third volume of Maimonides' medical aphorisms covers treatises 10-15. The volume consists of a critical edition of the Arabic text with modern English translation, along with an introduction and English index. The main subjects treated in this volume are: fevers, periods and crisis of a disease, evacuation by means of bleeding, evacuation by means of purgatives and enemas, vomiting, and surgery. The volume has been published under the auspices of the Middle Eastern text initiative at Brigham Young University's Neal A. Maxwell Institute for religious scholarship.

Benchmarks for Training in Unani Medicine by World Health Organisation

WHA62.13 resolution urged Member States to consider, within their national context, the inclusion of traditional medicine in their national health systems and establishing systems for the qualification, accreditation or licensing of practitioners of traditional medicine. In consequence, WHO has recently published series of benchmarks for training for selected types of TM/CAM care including Unani Medicine.

(Ibn Sina Academy wishes to congratulate Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad Saifi from U.A.E. for helping WHO in publishing this Benchmark)

Studies in Al-Kimya – Critical Issues in Latin and Arabic Alchemy and Chemistry. Hildesheim (Germany) 2009, Georg Olms Verlag

This book discusses eight critical issues in the history of Latin and Arabic alchemy and chemistry, which are currently accepted without concrete evidence, and are based mainly on conjecture. The essays in the book are based on extensive research into Arabic manuscripts and Latin literature.

The results of this research are challenging. They prove the Arabic origin of the *Summa Perfectionis* and the other Geber Latin works. Thus the prevailing conjectures about assumed Latin authors are refuted on the basis of ample evidence.

The book discusses the Arabic original of *Liber de compositione alchimiae* that was the first treatise on alchemy to appear in the West. It brings into light for the first time Jabir's book of recipes on the colouring of glass and his other chemical industrial recipes. An essay discusses potassium nitrate and nitric acid in Arabic and Latin sources. Both were known before the 13th century. Explosive gunpowder with the ideal formula and portable cannon were known in Arabic military treatises in the 13th century. The book gives an essay on the distillation of wine and alcohol since the eighth century. The final essay is on the composition of Damascus steel.

(Courtesy A.Y.Al-Hassan)

**Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
Academy of Persian Language and
Literature of the Islamic Republic Iran
& Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval
Medicine and Sciences (India)**

To commemorate and to institutionalize an academy named after Abu Ali Sina (980-1037), Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Sciences (Aligarh, India) was founded on March 1, 2000. The Academy has been registered under Indian Trusts Act. 1882 on August 14, 2000. Department AYUSH, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India, gave accreditation to the academy in 2004 and designated as "Centre of Excellence" in 2008. The primary aim and objective of this academy is to promote original research studies in the works of physician and scientist, particularly Ibn Sina and his contemporaries during the medieval

period and to sponsor researches in the field of history of Unani Medicine and history of sciences particularly.

The academy of Persian Language and Literature is well known body in the Islamic Republic of Iran which established to preserve and to develop Persian Language and to enhance its efficiency to meet the increasing cultural, scientific and technical needs.

The academy of Persian Language and Literature (Tehran, Iran) and Ibn Sina Academy (Aligarh, India) sign herewith a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation. Both academies resolve further,

1. Exchange of information and research regarding the manuscripts, ancient sciences and traditional medicine of Iran and India.
2. Exchange of their publications
3. To cooperate fully in holding international conferences / symposium on the aforementioned studies.
4. To jointly run academic and cultural projects with regards to the objectives of two academies.
5. Two academies agreed to exchange delegations at least once a year.

Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding shall be construed as giving grounds for an international treaty or an agreement legally binding in public international law, nor shall be Memorandum confer any rights under domestic laws of the parties.

This Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation shall come into effect on the date of its signing by the representatives of the Parties and shall remain in force for a period of five years. It shall be automatically renewed for an equal period unless either of the parties informs the other, at least three months in advance, in

writing of its intention to terminate this Memorandum.

In witness whereof, the representatives of both institutions hereto have signed this Memorandum of Understanding in two copies in English and Persian Language, each text being equally authentic. In case of conflict, the English text shall prevail.

Gholam Ali Haddad Adell
President
Academy of Persian Language and Literature, Islamic Republic Iran, Tehran

Syed Zillur Rahman
President, Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Sciences, Aligarh, India

A SURVEY OF ARABIC-PERSIAN SOURCES ON ASTROLABE EXTANT IN INDIA AND ON THE INDIAN SCHOOL OF ASTROLABE-MAKERS

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ABSTRACT

It is well known that the most important instrument developed by Islamic practical astronomers was the *Astrolabe* (in Arabic *Aṣṣūrlâb* or *Asṣūrlâb*). According to Matvievskaia and Rozenfeld (1983), 45.5 % of all tracts written on astronomical-mathematical instruments are on planispheric astrolabe. Here we are interested in presenting particularly the

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contribution of Medieval Indian astronomers to the promotion of this important instrument and its literature.

We present first details of extant standard treatises/tracts on astrolabe: four Arabic tracts by al-Bîrûnî (d.1048) are extant in Indian collections. Others are: One tract by Aḥmad al-Farghânî (d. 867) and three tracts by Bâhâ'uddîn al-'Âmilî (d.1622). A Persian tract *Twenty Chapters on Astrolabe* by Naṣîruddîn Ḥûsî (d.1270) is extant with about 70 manuscripts in India and Pakistan. Second, we present essential information of a few tracts/treatises extant in Indian collections written by Medieval Indian scholars.

A school of astrolabe-makers sprang up in India during the Mughal period. This school of Alâhadâd and his descendants: The Lahore School, became famous for making astrolabes and also celestial globes. Its specimen are spread over the world museums. We list only those which are extant in Indian Museums.

During the Sultanate (pre-Mughal) period, a court astronomer of Sulṭân Fîrûz Shâh Tughlaq (d.1388), Mahendra Sûrî wrote in Sanskrit the *first* book on astrolabe: *Yantrarâja*. This book initiated a spade of Sanskrit tracts on astrolabe. We report briefly the

recent research findings on "astrolabe labelled in Sanskrit".

* * * * *

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NEED OF DATABASE RESEARCH IN UNANI MEDICINE

Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman

Prior to the mid-20th century, individuals searching for published literature had to rely on printed bibliographic indexes and catalogues. During the early 1960s computers were used to digitize text for the first time; the purpose was to reduce the cost and time required to publish these indexes and catalogues. By the late 1960s many agencies of digitized alphanumeric information, known as bibliographic and numeric databases, constituted a new type of information resource. Online interactive retrieval became commercially viable in the early 1970s over private telecommunications networks. These commercial services offered a few databases of indexes and abstracts of scholarly literature. The database containing bibliographic descriptions of journal articles were searchable by keywords in author and title, and sometimes by journal name or subject heading. The user interfaces were crude, the access was expensive, and searching was done by librarians on behalf of 'end users'. These bibliographic database was a database of bibliographic records, an organized digital collection of references to published literature, including journal and newspaper articles, conference proceedings, reports, government and legal publications, patents, books, etc. In contrast to library catalogue entries, a large proportion of the bibliographic records in bibliographic databases describe analytics rather than complete monographs, and they generally contain very rich subject descriptions in the form of keywords, subject classification terms, and or abstracts.

In medicine too, particularly in alternative and complementary section, the academia has brought up several databases dedicated to medicinal herbs data and on alternative medicine research. They can be a primary source of medical herbal data, offer a certain level of analysis (processed data) or even online data mining. Like TKDL, which is a strong database of traditional knowledge of classical medical literature, several other databases can also be created particularly for Unani medicine such as Unani clinical trial database, Database of standard Unani text books, Unani comprehensive database of research article titles and abstracts, article titles focused on single drugs and or compound drugs. Similarly, database on many aspect of Unani medicine is needed which can help in cross section study of the cohort as well as in longitudinal study. To understand these databases for undermining hard core research, we can later on introduce biostatistics courses for Unani students during undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum.

To start with for a strong cohort database, a baseline questionnaire can be prepared to distribute amongst a sample of population about the participants' information on knowledge, aptitude and practices (KAP) of Unani medicine along with their demographic and social characteristics including lifestyle, personal health behaviours, and other general health related data. Repeat questionnaires can be sent to all study participants to update exposure and health status data every five-six years. The size of the cohort and the range of questions asked in the questionnaire may provide a rich source of information and answer to putative questions, which would allow comprehensive investigation of risk and protective factors for several readouts in identifying and targeting prevention and early intervention strategies in Unani Medicine.

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:



**Developing Research
in
Unani Medicine**

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
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CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN UNANI MEDICINE

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3. Addresses:
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4. Are you actively engaged in work concerning history of medicine & sciences:

5. Field of specialization:

6. Type of membership desired:
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Date

Signature

The admission fee of Rs. 50/- shall be chargeable at the initial admittance to the academy. All the payment be made either in cash, or through demand draft in favour of "TREASURER IAMMS" and should be sent along with this form completely filled-in and mailed to the treasurer. Please add Rs. 50/- for outstation cheques.

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