

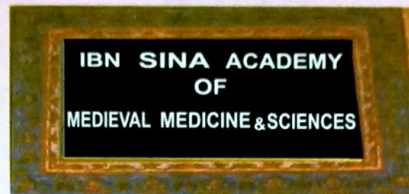
Vol. 13

No. 1

Issue 48

January-March 2013

ISSN No.: 0972-6411



# Newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy (NISA)

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Published by the Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences





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

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. The CCRUM was established on 30 March 1978. However, it started functioning in January 1979, and since then the Council 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 of research in Unani Medicine.

**THE NETWORK**

The CCRUM has 23 Research Centers functioning in different parts of the country, besides its headquarters New Delhi.

**THE AREAS OF ACTIVITY**

The Research Programme of the Council has four major components:

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

**THE MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS**

Some of the significant achievements of the Council are as follows:

**Clinical Research**

- Has developed 27 Unani drugs, which are purely natural, standardized and without any side-effects, for successful treatment of leucoderma, sinusitis, viral hepatitis, eczema, malaria, rheumatoid arthritis, bronchial asthma and some other common ailments.
- Has obtained patents on seven Unani drugs. Applications for Patents on 35 drugs are under active consideration of the concerned authority.

**Drug Standardization**

- Has developed pharmacopoeial standards for 298 single and 100 compound drugs. Besides, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for manufacture of 100 compound drugs have also been developed.
- Has published six volumes of National Formulary of Unani Medicine. six volumes of Unani Pharmacopoeia of India (UPI), Part I (on single drugs), and two volumes of the UPI, Part 2 (on compound drugs).

**Survey and Cultivation of Medicinal Plants**

- Has collected over 72,000 specimens of medicinal plants belonging to 1800 species from the wild.
- Undertaking successful cultivation of 15 important medicinal species.
- Has gathered and documented over 1,500 folk medicinal claims.

**Publications**

- Has produced over 1800 research papers and brought out 250 publications, besides regular publication of a bimonthly bulletin CCRUM Newsletter, quarterly Urdu Journal Jahan-e-Tib, quarterly English Journal Hippocratic Journal of Unani Medicine and Annual Report.

For further information please contact:

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Developing  
Research  
In Unani  
Medicine



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**EVENTS AT IBN SINA ACADEMY**  
**(October – December 2012)**

**Seventh Ibn Sina Memorial Lecture by Moosa Raza**

The seventh Ibn Sina Memorial Lecture was delivered by Mr. Moosa Raza on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2012. He spoke at length on the great personalities of Al Fārābī and Ibn Sina. He told that Al Fārābī was not only a renowned scientist and philosopher of the Islamic Golden Age but also was a cosmologist, logician, and musician. Similarly, Ibn Sīnā was a Persian polymath. His corpus also includes writing on philosophy, astronomy, alchemy, geology, psychology, Islamic theology, logic, mathematics, physics, as well as poetry. He told some anecdotes of those great teachers and why their works was not challenged even at that era of immense scholarship.

The lecture was presided over by Prof. Irfan Habib, who also threw light on al Farabi and Ibn Sina and appreciated the scholarly lecture by Mr. Moosa Raza.

Prof. Abdur Rahim Kidwai, Director, UGC Academic Staff College, AMU, Aligarh introduced the Academic Staff College activities in conjunction with Ibn Sina Academy. More than a thousand teachers participate every year. All of them come to Ibn Sina Academy. 90% of whom is non-Muslims coming from different provinces of India. Unaware of Muslim culture, they go from here carrying high impression of Islamic values and cultures. Prof. A. R. Kidwai appreciated the efforts of Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman and Ibn Sina Academy in promoting the medieval heritage.

Before the Lecture, president of Ibn Sina Academy, Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman introduced Mr. Moosa Raza as Chairman of the South Indian Educational Trust. He said, Moosa Raza has opened a

College and with every soon it is destined to become a University. He has been awarded the Padma Bhushan for the year 2010. He joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1960 and rose to be the Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister of Gujarat. He then served as Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir, Advisor to the Governor of Uttar Pradesh and, in Delhi, as Secretary to the Government of India in the Cabinet Secretariat and in the Ministry of Steel. He works on Ghalib. He has translated Ghalib's Persian poetry in Urdu Nazm which is a unique contribution not done so far by anyone else. He is also translating the Persian work of Maulānā Rūmī and also working on the contribution of Maulana Rūmī's contemporaries. We are grateful that a person of such a stature is delivering the 7<sup>th</sup> Ibn Sina Memorial Lecture on our invitation.

Prof. Rahman also thanked the audience, especially Moosa Raza, Prof. Irfan Habib, Nawab Ibn Saeed Khan Chattari and Prof. A. R. Kidwai. He also highlighted the financial assistance of National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language for the said lecture.

Prof Zakia Siddiqi at the end moved for vote of thanks, thanked the Chief Guest and appreciated the role of Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman for promoting the vision of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and the culture of Aligarh. The function was attended by over 150 learned audience of different disciplines and interests including Prof. Ather H. Siddiqi, Prof. S. M. Razauallah Ansari, Prof. Hisamuddin Farooqui, Prof. Anis A. Ansari, Prof. Masood Hasan, Prof. Naeem A. Khan, Prof. Wamiq Amin, Prof Iqbal Ahmad, Prof. Shan Mohammad, Prof. Shah Mohammad Waseem, Prof. Saiduz Zafar Chughtai, Prof. Abul Kalam Qasmi, Prof.



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Tajuddin, Prof. Hashim Rizvi, Prof. Humayun Murad, Prof. S. Kamal Rizwi, Dr. Mohsin Raza, Prof. Masood Hasan etc.

Ibn Sina Memorial Lecture was created in 2006 with the collaboration of NCPUL, New Delhi, for which renowned scholars from history, medical humanities, and social life are invited. These lectures are treasure for future generation! All the lectures delivered so far are very scholarly and important from the perspective of researchers. We thank Saiyid Hamid for delivering the first lecture (2006) followed by Prof. Mushirul Hasan (2007), Mr. Syed Shahid Mehdi (2008), Prof. Irfan Habib (2009), Prof. Sadiqur Rahman Kidwai (2010), Dr. Ahmad Abdul Hayi (2011) and Mr. Mbose Raza (2012).

#### **AIGA Extension Lecture**

All India Graduate Students Association (AIGA) arranges extension lectures on topics of various issues. On 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2012, it was arranged at Ibn Sina Academy. Dr. Shariq Aqeel [MBBS, MD (Paediatrics)], Casualty Medical Officer, AMU, Aligarh, delivered this extension lecture on "Importance of celebration of Eid-ul Azha: The Real Message Behind". Dr. Shariq said that it is only through hard work and belief in Almighty God that one could achieve success. He said that Prophet Ibrahim is recognized in Islam as a prophet and apostle of God and patriarch of many peoples. He fulfilled all the commandments and trials which God tried him with over his lifetime. As a result of his unwavering faith in God, Abraham was promised by God to be a leader to all the nations of the world. The Islamic holy day Eid al-Adha is celebrated in memory of the bravery of Abraham, and Muslims perform the pilgrimage to pay homage at the Kaaba which Abraham had set up and reformed. Dr Shariq further stressed, that we should follow his footsteps and should never give up and keep on trying our best.

The programme was started with the recitation of holy Quran by Dr. Syed Ahmad Zia. Introductory remarks were delivered by Dr. Mohd. Kashif Razi, president AIGA. He warmly welcomed the guest and the audiences. A greater emphasis was laid on active participation of IDB students in AIGA activities. Vote of thanks was moved by Dr. Syed Ahmad Zia, Vice-president AIGA UP Chapter.

#### **Memorandum of Understanding**

Jum'a Al-Mâjid Center for Culture and Heritage in Dubai and Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Sciences have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on 13.12.2012 on mutual interests.

Jum'a Al-Majid Center for Culture and Heritage in Dubai is considered as one of the landmarks visited by all those who come to United Arab Emirates since it contains the academic heritage and the contemporary scientific civilization.

It was founded by Mr. Juma' Al- Majid who was overwhelmed by a desire to serve the citizens of United Arab Emirates, in particular, and academic research scholars worldwide, in general. Mr. Juma' Al-Majid, being a sensitive man and a lover of knowledge, felt that research scholars suffer hardships getting books they need. Hence he sought to alleviate their sufferings and overcome the difficulties they face obtaining the desired book. In 1989, he laid the foundation-stone of the building which gradually grew and developed till it became full of treasures of knowledge which he put within reach of scholars wherever they may be. He broke through his local limits to international dimensions. He goes to any place, however far off, to acquire an old manuscript or a rare book if it comes to his knowledge that there is one, a manuscript or book which was once the beacon of light, in the hope that acquiring it will dispel the gloom of darkness.



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**An evening with Ms. Banu Sartaj**

A literary evening with Ms. Banu Sartaj, a noted Urdu poetess from Chanderpur, Maharashtra, was organized by the Ghalib Study Centre on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at Ibn Sina Academy and presided over by Prof Fasih A. Siddiqi. Mr. Syed Moinuddin Alvi, convener, introduced and explained the purpose of the said evening. Ms Banu Sartaj enlightened the audience with excerpts of her selected collection on prose writings (Afsana khwani). Dr. Shakir Hussain Abbasi from Nagpur was the guest of honour, while few of the local poets presented their best poems. To name a few prominent poets, Prof Habibur Rahman Chigani, Ms Sabiha Sumbul, Mohammad Khalid Faridi Khalid, Dr. Zoya Zaidi and Prof MSZ Chaghtai.

In the end, vote of thanks was presented by Prof S. Zillur Rahman.

**Visit of dignitaries**

- Dr. Azzeddine Benzeghiba, Head of Studies, Publication and External Affairs, and Syed Hashim Nadvi Bhatkali, Department of Manuscripts, from Juma Al-Majid Center for Culture and Heritage, Dubai visited the Academy on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2012 and mooted the idea to work together in the discipline of digitalizing of medical manuscripts.
- Brigadier Iqbal Shafi from Pakistan visited Ibn Sina Academy on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2012. Brigadier Shafi was born in 1926 at Aligarh. He passed MA in 1946, and then joined Doon Academy. He founded Sir Syed Institute of Character Building and Leadership at Islamabad. He interacted the members and executive committee of Ibn Sina Academy and shared some joyful memories.
- Dr Anwar Yausouf CARA, a scholar from Mauritius, working at Islamic Foundation, Leicester, UK visited Ibn Sina Academy on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2012. His field of interest is History of Islamic

Manuscripts. He also owns Kube Publishing Ltd, Leicestershire, UK, which handles the well-established Islamic Foundation imprint, with over 350 published titles.

- Dr Ibrahim Shaikh, Fellow of the Manchester Medical Society, 19.11.2012
- Delegates, Subject Refresher Course on Human Rights, UGC Academic Staff College, Aligarh Muslim University, 6.12.2012.
- Delegates, Subject Refresher Course on Library and Information Science, UGC Academic Staff College, Aligarh Muslim University, 11.12.2012.
- Delegates, Subject Refresher Course on English, UGC Academic Staff College, Aligarh Muslim University, 15.12.2012.

**Visit of Iraqi Medical Faculty Members**

In its first ever venture to train foreign teachers, the UGC Academic Staff College, Aligarh Muslim University organised the Teachers' Training Programme for Iraqi faculty. 49 senior Iraqi teachers, mostly Professors from different universities and colleges of Iraq in Baghdad, Basra, Babylon, Karbala, Kufa, Mosul, Musaib and Tikrit attended the one-month long Course. The group included seven female teachers and represented various disciplines of studies like Agricultural Sciences, Zoology, Humanities, Physical Education and Sports, Clinical Biochemistry, Pathology and Anaesthesia.

The participants received exposure to the functioning of the relevant departments of studies where they attended lectures, seminars and visited libraries and laboratories. General lectures on communication skills, counseling and mentoring, personality development, teaching techniques, Information and Communication Technology, research methodology, academic writing, e-



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resources and digital library were delivered by eminent resource persons.

In order to make these foreign delegates aware of the culture of India and the academic nature of AMU, visits were also organized to Agra, the AMU campus, Maulana Azad Library, K. A. Nizami Center for Quranic Studies, Sir Syed Academy, Ibn Sina Academy, University Museum and the AMU Fort.

Professor A. R. Kidwai, Director, UGC Academic Staff College, arranged the visit of these teachers to Ibn Sina Academy on 28.11.2012. Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman, president of Ibn Sina Academy welcomed the participants at the Academy and gave an account of the history of medieval medicine particularly on social values of medical culture and heritage and showed the glimpses of Medical History Museum.

**Books Collection Received to the Library of Ibn Sina Academy**

Following books and rare collection have been added to the Library of Ibn Sina Academy:

- Hakim Abdul Samad of Hyderabad donated 32 books on Unani medicine including 18 medical manuscripts. One of the manuscripts is Qarabadin (unpublished in 2 volumes) of Hakim Abdul Majeed (nephew of Hakim Abdul Aziz).
- Books on Dr. Mohammed Iqbal from the personal collection of Prof Iqbal Ahmad Ansari due to the courtesy of Dr. Afzal Ansari and Mrs. Syeda (Mrs. Prof Iqbal Ansari).
- Ahmad Said Nadwi of Bhopal donated 35 books including 9 manuscripts on theology. The books especially belonged to the history of Bhopal State. This donation is a good addition to the academic collection on 'Bhopaliat'

The executive committee of Ibn Sina Academy is thankful to the above donors.

**Condolence meeting**

A condolence meeting on the sad demise of Mr. Nazirul Haq Ajmal, a well-wisher of Ibn Sina Academy was held at the premises of the Academy on 11.12.2012. Nazirul Haq was the younger brother of Maulana Badruddin Ajmal, National president of All India United Democratic Front, Member of Parliament and managing director of Ajmal Group of Companies. The meeting was presided by Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, who briefed the works of Mr. Nazirul Haq Ajmal as the fifth director of Ajmal Group of Companies. He told that Nazirul Haq Ajmal extended the network of the Companies from India to abroad. He was also very active in running the various programs for community on educational and social welfare under the financial aid of Ajmal Group of Companies and was patron of some of these programs. For the last few years, he was suffering from kidney diseases and at last succumbed to death due to heart attack in Dubai on 10<sup>th</sup> December. He is survived by his wife, three daughters and one son.

Prof. S. M. Razaullah Ansari, Dr. Abdul Latif and Dr. Abdur Rauf, also spoke and threw light from different perspective of the life of Mr. Nazirul Haq Ajmal. The meeting was also attended by Dr. Fakhre Alam, Dr. Rizwanullah Khan, Dr. Masroor Ahmad, Mr. Nafees Ahmad, Mr. Shamim Alam, Mrs. Tayyabat Bari, Mr Naimuddin, etc.

**MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES**

**Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman** (President, Ibn Sina Academy) attended following seminars and meetings.

- Meeting of the Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat on 6th October, 2012 at the Central Office of the Mushawarat.



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- Board of Studies Meeting, Department of Tashreehul-Badan, AK Tibbiya College, Aligarh Muslim University as a special invitee on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2012.
- Chief Guest, Sir Syed Day Function, S. S. Hall South, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012. The provost Prof Tajuddin and his team of president, wardens and students including Dr. Akram Javed (Geology), Dr Abdul Aziz (Hifzane Sehat) and Senior Hall, welcomed Prof S. Zillur Rahman, who not only addressed the students during the function but also released the Hall Magazine.
- Presided a function organized in honour of Dr. Ibrahim Shaikh while being greeted at Arts Faculty Lounge, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2012. Dr. Ibrahim Shaikh is a man of history of medicine, a surgeon by profession and Fellow of the Manchester Medical Society. He also delivered a lecture on Muslims' contribution in medicine. Prof Mohd. Zahid of Urdu Department organised this program while Dr. Mahtab Haider Naqvi of the same department conducted the program. Dr. Syed Mohd. Hashim of Urdu Dept also spoke on this occasion. In the end, Prof Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman concluded with his presidential remarks. A large number of teachers and students attended the function.
- Delivered invited lecture on history of medicine, during the "India Education Conclave 2012", a conference of International Institute of Islamic Medicine (IIIM) and Islamic Medical Association of North America (IMANA) Conference. The conference was organized by MESCO at Hyderabad from 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012 and sponsored by National Commission for Minority Educational Institution, Ministry of HRD, New Delhi along with few organizations working in India and

abroad for the educational upliftment of minorities. Prof. Rahman was also honored with Shawl and a memento for his works on history of medicine.

- Attended the meeting of All India Unani Tibbi Conference, Hyderabad Branch. He was welcomed by the president of the Conference Hakim Syed Ghausuddin.

**Prof. S. M. Razaullah Ansari** (Secretary, Ibn Sina Academy) has been invited to write a chapter in the *Oxford Encyclopedia for Islam, and Philosophy, Science and Technology* to be published by Oxford University Press, New York (USA). The title of his chapter is "Transmission of Modern Science to the Muslim World".

Prof. Ansari's article "On Khayrullah Khan Muhandis" (in Persian), has now been published in *Encyclopaedia of the World of Islam (Dâish Nâma'-i Jahân-i Islâm)*, edited by Golâm 'Ali Haddad 'Âdel, Tehran (Vol. 16 (2011) pp. 608-611).

He has been invited to attend the international Conference on "India, the Portuguese and the Indian Ocean Societies, Exchanges and Engagements", to be held in New Delhi, during Feb. 11-13, 2013. His paper is on "Calendars of Islamic Countries and of Medieval India"

**Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman** (Treasurer, Ibn Sina Academy and currently PhD candidate of School of Medicine, University of Western Sydney) has been elected as Secretary of the International Association of Medical Colleges (IAOMC). He won this election in an e-mail voting system soon after the end of the term of Dr. William James Appleyard, FRCP (Lon), FRCPCH (UK).

International Association of Medical Colleges (IAOMC) is a professional association, basically meant for peer evaluation of the medical education and



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maintaining uniform standards and recognition of physician's qualifications provided by individual medical schools anywhere in the world (Wikipedia).

In a statement to IAOMC board of trustee, Dr. Rahman thanked all the members of the trustee in laying confidence on him. "I'd like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to all the office-bearers of their respective sections to elect me as new secretary of IAOMC. I know it's an additional responsibility with burden by so many expectations, but with the support and cooperation of all the members and office bearers..."

Dr. Rahman further stated that "it is an objective to have nations recognize IAOMC's standards and recommend its medical schools to become accredited. Medical Council of India (MCI) did before the legislature removed its charter on the grounds of corruption and formulated new 'Board of Governors'. My top priority would be to pursue MCI Board of Governors to speedily take action in this regard".

#### **World Mental Health Day Observed**

Ajmal Khan Tibbiya College, Aligarh, celebrated World Mental Health Day (WMHD) by organizing a national workshop on 10th October as a mark to create awareness to bring attention to 'Mental Illness' and its major effects on peoples' life.

Dr. S. M. Safdar Ashraf, chairman and organizing secretary of the national workshop on mental wellbeing – an imperative dimension of health" mentioned the purpose of holding this workshop, while introducing the chief guest Prof. Depki Nandan (former DG, National Institute of Health and Family welfare and Chancellor, Santosh Medical College), Dr. Arjun Singh (Chief Medical Officer, Aligarh), Dr. M.H Beg (Dean, Faculty of Medicine, JNMC, AMU, Aligarh), Prof

Mashkooor Ahmad (former Dean, Faculty of Unani Medicine, Hamdard University, Delhi) and Prof S. Zillur Rahman (President, Ibn Sina Academy).

Every year, WMHD raises public awareness about mental health issues. The day promotes open discussion of mental disorders, and investments in prevention, promotion and treatment services. The theme for the 2012 was "Depression: A Global Crisis" (WHO).

Depression affects more than 350 million people of all ages, in all communities, and is a significant contributor to the global burden of disease. Although there are known effective treatments for depression, access to treatment is a problem in most countries and in some countries fewer than 10% of those who need it receive such treatment (WHO).

#### **Forthcoming Seminar / Conference**

#### **Hamdard International Unani Medicine Conference-2013**

#### **"Unani Medicine: Education and Research in the Contemporary World"**

The conference will be held from Monday 25th to Wednesday 27th February, 2013 at Bait al-Hikmah Auditorium, Hamdard University, Madinat al-Hikmah, Karachi, Pakistan (*Please also refer previous issue of NISA Vol. 12 No. 4*).

Following is the program finalized so far:  
First Day (Monday, February 25, 2013) -  
Education: Promotion and Development of Unani Medicine  
09:00 - 10:00hrs. Registration Time  
10:00 - 10:45hrs. Inaugural Session

Welcome Address: Prof. Dr Hakim Abdul Hannan (President, Pakistan Association for Eastern Medicine and General Secretary, International Association for Unani Medicine)



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Introductory Address: Vice Chancellor,  
Hamdard University

Key Note Address: Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur  
Rahman (Vice President, International  
Association for Unani Medicine)

Inaugural Address: Chief Guest

Presidential Address: Mrs. Sadia Rashid  
(Chancellor, Hamdard University)

Vote of Thanks: Ms Fatema Munir  
(Mutawallia, Hamdard Foundation  
Pakistan)

09:45 - 10:00 Tea Break  
10:00 - 13:00 First Scientific Session  
13:00 - 14:00 Lunch & Prayer Break  
14:00 - 15:30 Second Scientific Session  
15:30 - 15:45 Tea

Second Day (Tuesday, February 26,  
2013) - Unani Medicine: Opportunities and  
Prospects

09:00 - 10:30 Hakim Mohammed Said  
Memorial Lectures: Life and Works of  
Hakim Mohammed Said

10:30 - 10:45 Tea Break  
10:45 - 13:00 Third Scientific Session  
13:00 - 14:00 Lunch & Prayer Break  
14:00 - 15:00 Fourth Scientific Session  
15:00 - 15:45 Tea

Third Day (Wednesday, February 27,  
2013) - Research: Progress and  
Validation of Unani Medicine

09:00 - 10:30 Oration for Mrs Sadia  
Rashid by Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur  
Rahman

10:30 - 10:45 Tea Break  
10:45 - 13:00 Fifth Scientific Session  
13:00 - 14:00 Lunch & Prayer Break  
14:00 - 15:30 Concluding Session

Key Note Address: Dr. Navaid ul Zafar  
(Managing Director, Hamdard  
Laboratories (Waqf) Pakistan)

Concluding Address: Chief Guest

Vote of Thanks: Hakim Rahat Naseem  
Sohdrvi (Vice President, Pakistan  
Association for Eastern Medicine)

15:00 - 15:45 Tea

**"Histories of Medicine in the Indian  
Ocean," from 26-27 April 2013**

The Indian Ocean World Centre (IOWC) is looking for papers that address any aspect of medicine in the region of the Indian Ocean world, including Northeast, East and South Africa; the Middle East, the Indian Ocean islands; South, Southeast and East Asia, in any historical period. The aim of the conference is to interrogate the concept of the Indian Ocean as a "world" using the exchange of medical goods, texts, instruments and ideas as a lens through which to examine how far the region may be regarded as a cultural entity. As well as being an article of trade, medicine is associated with religious, spiritual, and cultural ideas about the body and its relation to the environment. These ideas both govern the acceptance, modification or rejection of medicines and medical ideas, and are altered by them. Medical exchanges can thus be used to provide a cultural perspective on historical events and trends, such as the spread of Islam and other faiths, the movement of migrant and diaspora communities, free and enslaved, and the rise and fall of empires in the region.

The conference being multidisciplinary, papers from geography, sociology, anthropology and area studies as well as the history of medicine and science are welcome.

More information about the conference can be found at:  
<http://indianoceanworldcentre.com/medicine2013>.



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**Forthcoming Scholarship / Fellowship**

**Harvard University South Asia Institute  
Postdoctoral Fellowship in South Asia  
Studies for the Academic Year 2013-  
2014**

Applications for South Asia Institute Fellowship are invited for fellowship 2013-2014 with a stipend of \$50,000 plus health insurance and round trip travel funds. The Postdoctoral Fellows are expected to be resided in the Cambridge/Boston area and participation in SAI activities are required during the appointment. Postdoctoral fellows will be expected to present through the SAI Seminar Series. During the term of appointment, postdoctoral fellows will have the option to teach one course, or co-teach an existing course with a current faculty member.

**Eligibility:** Applicants must have received their PhD degree in 2008 or later in South Asia Studies in any area of the humanities or social sciences. Those who are chosen to receive fellowships must have completed all requirements for the PhD degree by July 1, 2013.

**Deadline:** March 1, 2013 (applications must be postmarked by March 1, including all materials.) Applicants will be notified by email upon receipt of their applications.

For further information, contact: Nora Maginn, maginn@fas.harvard.edu; South Asia Institute, Postdoctoral Fellowships, 1730 Cambridge Street, Room S427, Cambridge MA 02138 USA

**DOCUMENTATION**

**Our Stay in Aligarh – A report by  
Elisabeth Vogt-Mahmoud<sup>1</sup> and  
Mohamad Adam<sup>2</sup>**

Elisabeth Vogt-Mahmoud and Mohamad Adam visited the Aligarh in October and

<sup>1</sup> Medical Practitioner, Niedererbach, Germany

<sup>2</sup> Doctor of Internal Medicine, Darmstadt, Germany

November 2012. Both came to India to deepen their knowledge of Unani Medicine.

Ms. Vogt-Mahmoud lived for over 10 years in Egypt where she got in touch with the traditional herbal medicine. Back in Germany she became a medical practitioner and started to study old German medical books to learn about the forgotten traditional medicine in Germany (Humoral Medicine). This task was not easy and by chance she got to know about Unani Medicine in India. Humoral Medicine and Unani Medicine present the same medical system.

Dr. Mohammad Adam studied allopathic medicine and is practicing since 2008 in Germany first in the field of orthopedic and now in internal medicine. 2010 he additionally started to study Osteopathy at the International Academy of Osteopathy. But since the beginning of his medical carrier he also attended courses in *Tibb-e-Nabawi*, Leeching, and Hijâma in Cairo and at an herbal clinic in Jordan. He is motivated to combine the positive aspects of allopathic medicine with Osteopathy, Acupressure and the Unani Medicine to get the most suitable therapy for the patients.

Ms. Vogt-Mahmoud and Mr. Adam had intensive talks at AMU. They visited the library of AMU and saw precious old scripts and books of Unani Medicine. Later they visited the Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Science and met Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman. They attended lectures: "Mizaj (temperament) and its Scientific Relevance" by Prof. Anis Ansari, "Pharmacology of Unani Medicine" and "Nabeez" by Dr. Abdul Latif.

To see the practical side of Unani Medicine they visited the Department of Ilaj bil Tadbir, where they were introduced to cupping, cupping procedures and the applications to the patients; venesection



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and leech therapy. On behalf of Dr. Abdul Latif they visited the clinic of Hakim Kalimullah and attended the clinic. They got information about the patients, their problems, reading the pulse and drug prescription. Later on they visited the pharmacy, where more than 300 Unani herbs are used for the formulations.

The visit to AMU deepened their interest of Unani Medicine. Soon both will attend a newly established 4 month course of Unani Medicine for foreigners with medical background at the Jamia Hamdard University in Delhi. After the course, they have a plan to introduce and to practice Unani Medicine in Germany.

Ms. Vogt-Mahmoud and Dr. Adam are very thankful to the Dean of the Faculty of Unani Medicine Prof. (Ms) Shagufta Aleem and to Dr. Abdul Latif. With much personal effort he enabled for them pleasant and most informative days at AMU.

**Biography of Saiyid Hamid by Prof. Mohammad Aleem - A review by Dr. Obaidur Rahman**

Biography enables a reader to know more about the individual and to determine what makes him or her special. Here words paint a picture of events or actions that broaden the reader's thought and imagination. It provides a doorway to the reader to have a glimpse of the individual and the time period in which he or she lives.

A recent addition in the list of Biographies is 'Saiyid Hamid - A Relentless Reformer'. It relates to a personality who is well known for his humbleness, unique talents and passion for social reforms. As an officer of Indian Administrative Service in various Departments, as a Bureaucrat, and as a Vice-Chancellor of a pioneering Institution and his alma mater, Aligarh Muslim University, he worked beyond the call of his duties, accepted difficulties and

challenges with great charisma. He helped in realizing the dream of Hakeem Abdul Hameed to establish Jamia Hamdard. It was due to his efforts that the University was conferred deemed to be University status. Hamdard Education Society is yet another glaring example. Many caravans dedicated to education, health, communal harmony and justice brought awareness among the people. Apart from all such zeal and keenness, he earned a great reputation as a literary critic and a poet. Like so, he achieved a mark in all his official as well as personal responsibilities.

Saiyid Hamid's contributions to academic arena and social field are well recognised. It is, of course, a matter of pride for us that he is still working for the wellbeing and security of the weaker sections of the nation.

Mohammed Aleem is the author of memoirs, who is a commended novelist, playwright and script writer. It is not only the life story of the multi-dimensional persona, Saiyid Hamid, but it provides a glimpse of good and bad days, ups and downs, dark and bright seasons with the author's deeper understanding of the events and actions and that too in a very clear, coherent, lucid and vigorous manner. It is an example of a sunny piece of narration for which the author deserves appreciation.

The book has eight chapters with suitable headings that give an outlook of the text inside. Bibliography and Index are also included for ready reference. The author has dedicated the book to Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and Hakeem Abdul Hameed, the two great advocates of education and culture. And, Saiyid Hâmid followed the same path of progress to diminish illiteracy and ignorance from the society. That way, the dedication of the book is quite expressive and the author again deserves appreciation for the same.



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In Prologue, the author with all his sincerity and naturalness has reported the beginning of the project in a very interesting way and expressed gratitude for the moral support received from Hamid sahib and his admirers. The other chapters are: The Early Days and Education, Stepping into the Public Life, The Big Challenge, A Multifaceted Reformer, The Organisational Link, A Poet, A Scholar, A Writer. These titles are self-explanatory and unfold the subject from beginning to at present. The 'Early Days and Education' spread over the period 1920-1942 describes in detail the family and the relatives as well as gives a historical preview of the birth place, Faizabad.

The chapter 'Stepping into the Public Life' records events of 1943-1980. It covers his first assignment, further placements, routine experience, and his love for games, especially Hockey, reading and writing. 'The Big Challenge' is the most important chapter of the book which shields happenings between 1980 and 1985. It depicts the days at his alma mater, Aligarh Muslim University as its Vice-Chancellor. These were the days of many ups and downs and several tough decisions.

The university was side-tracked due to anarchy and many other campus hitches. The explanation given in the book of tackling the problems proves the administrative skills of Saiyid Hamid. About his passion of bringing education and economic prosperity to the community and efforts made in this direction, the chapter 'A Multifaceted Reformer' speaks a lot. It provides summaries of various educational institutions and caravans meant for educational, health, communal harmony, justice and awakening of women. 'The Organisational Link' is a testimony to Saiyid Hamid's association and active participation with numerous Commission Reports and Organisations

working for the prosperity of the society. This chapter refers Sachchar Committee Report, Anjuman Taraqqi Urdu Hind, Maulana Azad National Urdu University and Jamia Hamdard, apart from the launch of fortnightly magazine Nation and the World. The chapter "A Poet, A Scholar, A Writer", is all about his literary attainments, books and lectures. A total of 21 such publications are appended in Bibliography. References of few books written about Saiyid Hamid's literary accomplishments and his eminent personality by other writers are also included. Index is a very important part of a book, in general, and for a biography, in particular. Name of places, monuments, personalities, organisations, events etc. referred to in the text are also entered in the Index.

The Epilogue is an appropriate concluding part of the book. Here, the author has very truthfully offered views about his subject and confirmed that Saiyid Hamid always offered his full energy and brain to his office and duties. After his superannuation he happily accepted the most difficult job of the time, the Vice-chancellorship of Aligarh Muslim University. Still he is attached with his routine and serving as the Chancellor of Jamia Hamdard. The author also opined that although Saiyid Hamid has more than 18 very important books on different topics related to society, education, culture, literary criticism etc., yet he couldn't get much attention by Urdu critics. At the same time, it is also a fact that he is very popular among Urdu readers, scholars and critics. The author rightly observes that the reason may be that he took it as second hobby and kept himself busy with missionary, educational and welfare activities that were more important for the community to prosper.

The biographical work on a respected civil administrator, a real lover of the community, a distinguished poet and a



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renowned critic, and a devotee to sports, Saiyid Hamid, is an addition to the category of such non-fiction writings. For this Biography, the efforts and research done by the author, Mohammed Aleem, is exemplary. The Gloriords Publications, New Delhi, also deserve gratefulness for the beautiful lay-out, get-up and overall presentation.

Mohammad Aleem belongs to Hindi Department, Aligarh Muslim University. The last novel of Mohammad Aleem ("Mere Nalon Ki Ghumshudah Awaz") was published by Penguin Books, India, in 2008. The newly appointed CEO of Prasar Bharti, Mr. Jawahar Circar, has asked Doordarshan to produce T.V serials on all his works: "Jo Amaan Mili to Kahan Mili" and "Rabia". He has also translated Mani Shankar Ayer's book, "Confession of a secular fundamentalist from English into Hindi" "Mahmud Mamdani's book, "Good Muslims Bad Muslims", from English into Hindi. Both these books have been published by Penguin Books, India. He has also translated, Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman's book, "Hakim Ajmal Khan" from Urdu into Hindi, published by the National Book Trust, India.

### **Medieval Masters of Mechanics<sup>3</sup>**

Automation has taken over industry especially the routine and repetitious tasks. But when did automatic, programmable devices first appear on the scene? Was it just a couple of centuries ago during Europe's industrial revolution? You may be surprised to learn that automatic machines were invented much earlier.

During the early part of the era known as the golden age of Islamic science, from the 8th to the 13th century C.E. and beyond, Middle Eastern scholars translated into Arabic scientific and

philosophical texts that preserved the works of such renowned Greeks as Archimedes, Aristotle, Ctesibius, Hero of Alexandria, and Philo of Byzantium. Having these and other sources, the Islamic Empire—which stretched from Spain across North Africa and the Middle East to Afghanistan—possessed the knowledge that made it possible for them to make automatic machines.

Those machines, says historian of technology Donald Hill, could "continue working for long periods—hours, days or even longer—without human intervention." Why? The engineers had invented effective control mechanisms that made automation possible. The machines used water from elevated tanks to provide a steady supply of energy. Automatic switching opened and closed valves or changed the direction of water flow. The machines also had feedback systems, as well as what Hill calls "precursors of fail-safe devices." Consider some examples.

### ***The Ingenious Banu Musa***

The three Banu Musa—Arabic for "sons of Musa"—lived in ninth-century Baghdad. They drew on the works of their Hellenistic forerunners Philo and Hero, as well as Chinese, Indian, and Persian engineers, to make over 100 devices. According to science writer Ehsan Masood, these include water fountains that changed their patterns at intervals, clocks with visual gimmicks, and vessels that served drinks automatically and replenished themselves using clever combinations of floats, valves, and siphons. According to historian of science Jim Al-Khalili, the sons of Musa also built rudimentary life-size automatons—a "tea girl" that actually served tea and a flute player, "possibly the earliest example of a programmable machine."

These automatic systems had much in common with modern machines. However, "they used mainly water under

<sup>3</sup> Reproduced with courtesy: Awake! November 2012



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pressure rather than electronics, but many of the operating principles are the same," says science writer Ehsan Masood.

**Al-Jazari—“Father of Robotics”**

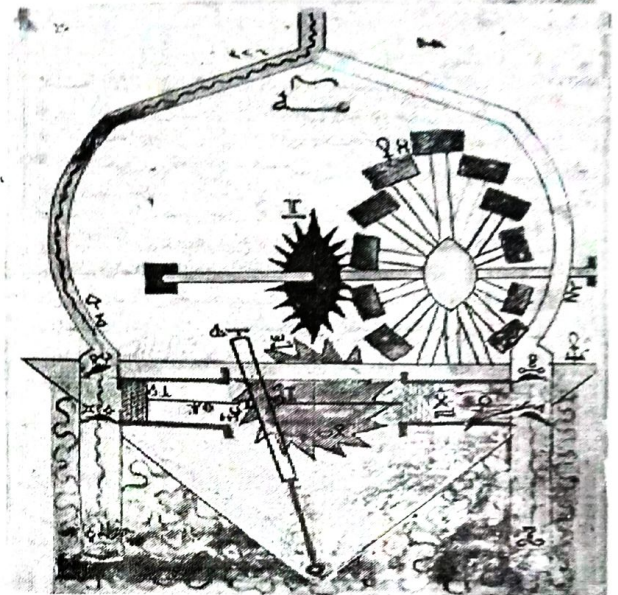
In 1206, Ibn al-Razzaz al-Jazari completed his work, sometimes translated *Compendium on the Theory and Practice of the Mechanical Arts*. It has been called “a study in systematic machine design.” Some of al-Jazari’s technology went far beyond that published by the Banu Musa, and his descriptions and diagrams are so detailed that modern engineers can recreate his devices.

Al-Jazari’s book illustrates water-raising devices, water clocks, candle clocks, water dispensers, musical automatons, and a pump that converted the rotary motion of a waterwheel into the back-and-forth movement of a piston that pumped water with great force. Historians give al-Jazari the credit for designing hydraulic pumps three centuries before the same basic design appeared in the West.

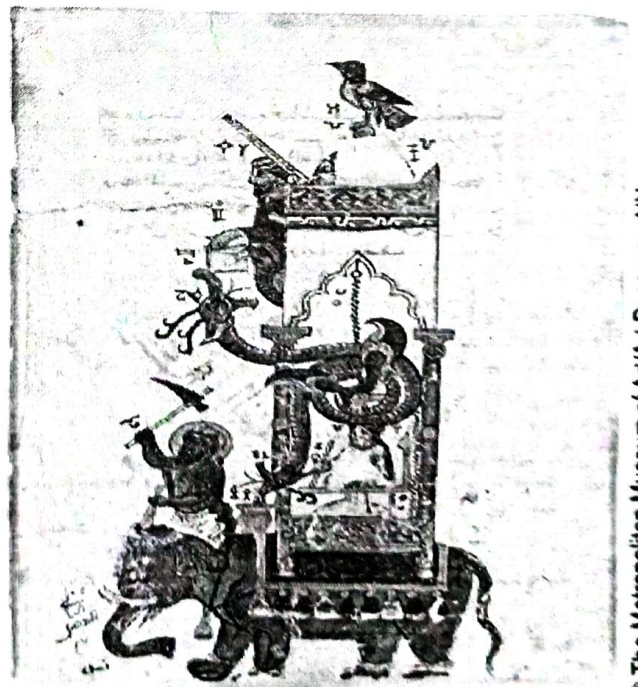
Al-Jazari also produced whimsical, yet functional, clocks. The one illustrated here has been reconstructed in a Dubai shopping mall. The timing mechanism is a perforated bowl that sits in a water reservoir inside the elephant’s belly. The bowl becomes full in 30 minutes and then sinks, triggering a series of actions that utilize ropes and balls that are released from the “castle” on the elephant’s back. When the half-hour cycle ends, the water bowl is automatically refloated, and the process starts over. This device and other automatic machines attributed to al-Jazari have earned him the title “father of robotics.”

The story of man’s ingenuity is truly amazing! Yet, that story is more than just interesting history. It also gives us a sense of perspective. At a time when many boast about modern technology, we are

reminded of just how much we owe to the brilliant and fertile minds that preceded us.



**Al-Jazari’s two-piston suction pump**



**Al-Jazari’s 13th-century manuscript illustrating his Elephant Clock**

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The News items, small notices or short communication on informative researched topics should be sent at least four weeks prior to publication, and whenever possible through e-mail or disk (Microsoft Word or Page Maker 6.5), accompanied by a hard copy.:

Please send all newsletter correspondence to

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Copies are free to members of the Academy, also available for \$ 20.00 / Rs. 150 per annum to non-members and institutions.

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**Circulation Officer:** Dr. Md. Tauheed Ahmad

**Print at:** Muslim Educational Press, Aligarh, India

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