

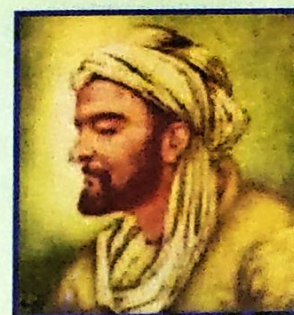
Vol. 15

No. 1

Issue 56

January - March 2015

ISSN No.: 0972-6411



# Newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy (NISA)

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**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:

Director General

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Developing  
Research  
In Unani  
Medicine

**International Seminar on Life & Contribution of Ibn Sîna (Avicenna) from 25-27 October 2014**

Inaugurating a three-day International Seminar on "Life and Contribution of Ibn Sina" at the Kennedy Auditorium, Aligarh Muslim University, Mrs. Sadia Rashid, President, International Association for Unani Medicine and Chancellor, Hamdard University, Karachi (Pakistan) said that Ibn Sina studied, researched and wrote about almost everything from physiology to psychology, physics to philosophy and mathematics to music. She said that countless men in all these disciplines and more, from East to West, reached the heights of fame in their fields standing on his shoulders.

Mrs. Sadia said that there is no dearth of details into which "I can go about this doctor of doctors, the giant figure in the world of knowledge". Mrs. Rashid pointed out that in this age of specialization, "We can only gaze in admiration at the mere idea of the learned men of old age, who knew no such boundaries to their curiosity or learning". She expressed her deep sense of gratitude to the Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Sciences and the Aligarh Muslim University. She further said that AMU's place in education, not only in the subcontinent but also among the whole *Ummah*, is 'second to none'.

Dr. Ahmad Mahmoud Al Hussein who had come to attend the seminar from Jordan said that it is shocking that people in Middle East countries have forgot the contributions of the Father of the Medicine, Ibn Sina. However, universities and governments in the

Indian sub-continent have kept alive the Unani Medicine system. He added, "When I return to my country I will share the experience of this seminar with scholars there". He further hoped that the governments in Arab countries will realize the healing powers of the Unani Medicine.

Justice Salahuddin Siddiqui of Nepal said that it is unfortunate that people in Nepal are ignorant about the works of Ibn Sina. He said that he had little knowledge about him; however it was surprising that Ibn Sina laid emphasis on the importance of physical exercises for healing several hundred years ago. He said that the concept of 'Yoga' is now being popularized as a healing process. He said that he was highly impressed by the contributions of Ibn Sina and decided to publish a book in Nepali language on "healing process" to promote Yoga in Nepal, for which he would need support from the scholars of Ibn Sina Academy.

Professor Shakir Jamil, Director General, CCRUM, New Delhi said that a lot of work has been done in Preventive Cardiology in Unani Medicine. He urged the World Health Organization, which has already spent a large fund on Preventive Cardiology, to consider Unani medicine for this purpose as well. In his presidential remarks, the Aligarh Muslim University, Vice Chancellor, Lt General Zameer Uddin Shah (Retd.) said that he has maintained it was the Unani Medicine Faculty and its high quality researches that had potential to elevate AMU to the number one position among Indian universities. He said that AMU aimed at raising many Ibn Sinas. The Vice Chancellor hoped that the

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development of Unani Medicine in AMU will provide better and affordable health facilities to people of nearby areas.

Gen. Shah said that the Aligarh Muslim University is joining the membership of Federation of the Universities of Islamic World. He appreciated the establishment of Ibn Sina Academy and the efforts of Prof. Hakeem Syed Zillur Rahman in organizing the three day International Seminar, in which Delegates from eleven countries are were participating.

Dr. Hasan Beg (ENT Consultant, Scotland) in his speech, paid rich tribute to Ibn Sina and appreciated the works being done at Ibn Sina Academy on the personality of Ibn Sina.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Prof. S. Zillur Rahman, Organizing Chairman of the seminar said that in order to commemorate the 1000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the compilation of Ibn Sina's "*Kitab Al-Qanun*", the Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh decided to hold an international seminar. Highlighting the achievements of 'Ibn Sina Academy', Prof. Zillur Rahman said that the academy has published 30 books of different fields in Unani Medicine since 2000. He urged the scholars to work for the development of Unani Medicine.

The program was conducted by Prof. F. S. Sheerani and vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman. Meanwhile, a special award of Rs 25,000 was given to Mohammad Khalil, Editor, *Monthly Science* for promoting scientific temperament and Unani medicine through Urdu language. Dr. Asma Kazmi of AMU presented a life-size painting on Ibn Sina to Mrs. Sadia Rashid.

During the inaugural function, three books were released apart from a special issue on Ibn Sina Academy of a monthly magazine: "*Negahdasht Sehat*" from Hyderabad and Souvenir of the Seminar:

1. *Commentators and Translators of Ibn Sina's Canon of Medicine*, by Prof. S. Zillur Rahman, and Translated into English by Zakaria Virk.
2. *Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman Mazameen key A'ine Main*, Edited by Dr. Aisha Kafeel, and published by Hamdard Foundation, Karachi, Pakistan.
3. *Jism wa Jaan*, by Dr. Abdul Moiz Shams.

104 scholars presented their papers on diverse themes of Ibn Sina from across the World. It was a good re-treat for scholars working on Ibn Sina. As a part of cultural programme on the occasion of Seminar, a *mushaira* was also held which was presided by Prof. Hakim Abdul Hannan, Vice Chancellor Hamdard University, Karachi (Pakistan), while General Zamir Uddin Shah was the chief guest.

### **An evening in the name of Sanjay Misra**

An evening with Sanjay Misra 'Shauq' was held at Ibn Sina Academy on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2014. On the same occasion a programme of recitation of poetry was arranged, wherein many local poets participated and presented their beautiful compositions. On the same occasion, books "*Nai Ruton ka Safar*" by Abdul Wahab Siddiqui and "*Ghubar-e Fikr*" by Salim Shuja Ansari, were also released.

### **Indian Heritage in Science & Technology**

Members of Ibn Sina Academy were invited to visit "Indian Heritage in

Science and Technology" at National Science Centre, Delhi. In the science museum, there are many models, specimens and artifacts including dioramas on science and medicine. One is depicting 'Indian surgeons are performing surgery' from Sushruta Samhita and another depicting 'Ancient Indian Chemical Laboratories'.

### Visit of Dignitaries at IAMMS

1. Delegates, XIV Annual Conference of Society of Pharmacovigilance, India (SOPICON'14) and International Symposium on "Safe Medicine and Safe Patient", on 2.12.2014 (For detailed about the conference, please see page??) The Academy also hosted a Dinner in honour of all delegates and guests on the same day.

2. Educational tour was arranged by UGC-Academic Staff College, AMU, Aligarh, for delegates participating in the Subject Refresher Course on Disaster Management (11.12.2014), on Women's Studies (10.12.2014), on Library & Information Science (5.11.2014), Special Winter School (8.12.2014), and Orientation Programs (OP-133 on 7.11.2014 and OP-134 on 24.11.2014).

4. Dr. Farah Usmani (New York, USA), United Nations International Civil Service. Focus: Global Women's Development Issues, Asia-Pacific, India & Uttar Pradesh, on 17.12.2014.

5. Maulana Syed Salman Nadwi (S/o Maulana Syed Sulaiman Nadwi), Durban, South Africa.

6. Dr. Azzeddine Benzeghiba, Head of Studies, Publication and External Affairs, Editing Director of 'Afaq al-Thaqafawa al-Turath' Magazine, Dubai, UAE and Syed Hashim Nadwi.

### MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

**Prof. H. S. Zillur Rahman**, President, IAMMS, has been appointed as member of the "Advisory Committee for revamping and development of Ayurvedic and Unani Tibbiya College and Hospital". As a member, he attended three meetings in Delhi. In pursuant to the decision of the Advisory Committee five sub-committees have been constituted, vide office order No. 1(178) 2014-TC dated 20.9.2014 to deliberate upon the overall development of the College. Prof. Rahman has been appointed as member of three sub-committees: (a) Academic sub-committee, (b) Student Welfare sub-committee and (c) Infrastructural sub-committee. The first meeting of the above sub-committees was held on 24.12.2014. Hon'ble Lt Governor of NCT, New Delhi, convened a meeting for revamping and redevelopment of Tibbiya College on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014. Prof. Rahman attended both meetings.

Prof. Rahman has also been appointed as member of the Advisory Board, *Jareeda Tarjuman-i Tibb*, National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore. He has been invited to deliver a lecture as a resource person on 18.12.2014 during the six-day Continuing Medical Education (CME) Programme in Ilmu Advia at National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore, 15-20 December 2014.

Prof. Rahman has been invited as guest of honour in the following functions:

1. Inaugural Function of the Seminar on "The relevance of modern methods in Unani Medicine", 27-28 November 2014 (See detail at page 7).
2. Urs Celebration of Hazrat Khwaja Nazir Nizami, Gwalior, on 12.11.2014.

3. Releasing Ceremony of *Aabru-e Falak* by Abida Khan Kahkashan and Mushaira, hosted by Bazm-e Naved Sukhan (Regd.) at Senior Secondary School (Boys), AMU, Aligarh, on 19.11.2014.

**Prof. S. M. Razullah Ansari** (Secretary of Ibn Sina Academy) has been invited by Prof. Boudrioua Azzedine (Paris, France) to join the *International Working Group "Ibn Al-Haytham"*, which has been founded in order to explore and determine the best ways to celebrate the wonderful 1000-year anniversary of the works of Ibn Al-Haytham, that are mentioned in the UN Resolution (and also the contribution of other Arabic scholars). This IWG includes more than 20 leading scientists from America, Asia, Europe and Africa. Prof. Azzedine is the chairman of this Working Group.

The establishment of the IWG is in consonance with a resolution of United Nations, which emphasizes the importance of photonics technology as a scientific and technological issue of the 21st century. The resolution underlines also the coincidence of this event with the anniversaries of a series of important milestones in the history of the science of light, including the works on optics by Ibn Al-Haytham in 1015.

Please note that in the section: Documentation, we publish the most recent publications of Prof. S.M.R. Ansari.

**Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman**, Honorary Treasurer, IAMMS, successfully organized 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Society of Pharmacovigilance, India (SOPICON 2014) at JNMC, AMU, Aligarh, from 1-3 December 2015. During general body meeting, he is also

elected as Secretary of the Society (See detail at page 8).

He has also been invited to deliver a guest lecture on Paediatric Pharmacovigilance, during the "IV Annual Conference of Infant and Young Child Feeding" (IYCNCON-2014) & "International Workshop on Paediatric Nutrition and Drug Safety", Indian Academy of Paediatrics, NIMS University, Jaipur, 5-7 December 2014.

#### FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES / SEMINARS/LECTURES

##### **Ancient Greek Medicine in the Mediterranean and beyond**

Lecture by Alain Touwaide: "Ancient Greek Medicine in the Mediterranean and beyond", January 8, 2014 from 10:30 am, under the aegis of National Hellenic Research Foundation - Leonidas Zervas Amphitheatre, Greece.

##### **National Seminar on the role of Unani Medicine in Non-Communicable diseases**

Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) has decided to organize two days National Seminar on the role of Unani Medicine in Non-Communicable diseases (NCDs) during 14-15 January 2015 at India Islamic Cultural Centre, New Delhi. Mr. Shripad Yesso Naik, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of AYUSH, Govt. of India will inaugurate the seminar on 14 January 2015 at 10.00 AM. Mr. Nilanjan Sanyal, Secretary to Govt. of India, Ministry of AYUSH, will preside over the inaugural function.

For more detail, please contact, Prof. Shakir Jameel, Director, CCRUM, Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India.

### The British Society for the History of Science Postgraduate Conference

The British Society for the History of Science Postgraduate Conference is an annual conference for postgraduate scholars in the history of science, technology, and medicine interested in meeting and sharing research with other postgraduate scholars. This is a great opportunity to build professional and social networks within a supportive and constructive environment.

It will be hosted at UCL (University College London), from 7-9 January 2015. The call for papers is now open, individual papers and paper sessions are invited.


For further details, see this website: <http://www.bsbs.org.uk/.../p.../2015-postgraduate-conference-ucl>

The Vice-Chancellor also said that the Ancient Greek Medicine, which evolved into Unani System, has always been a preferred medical treatment in our country. He added that even in modern times Unani Medicine is some time preferred treatment for many diseases.

Professor Singhal, Vice-Chancellor, NIIMS, Jaipur and the Chief Guest on the occasion said that in recent years, various clinical as well as experimental studies have been conducted globally to evaluate the efficacy of Unani Medicine in various ailments using standardized outcome measures. He told that these measures have proved to be beneficial in micro-surgeries and curing other ailments. He also added that it is necessary, however, that Unani Medicine should adopt Reverse Pharmacology in practice.

### PAST CONFERENCES / SEMINARS

THE CLASSICAL ENTERTAINMENT SOCIETY PRESENTS



**BERTOLT BRECHT**

**LIFE OF GALILEO**

Thursday Nov 20th 8:30 pm  
Followed by our group of the Open Air Society hosted by S&P

Saturday Nov 22nd 2:00 pm  
Saturday Nov 22nd 8:00 pm

**BOND CHAPEL**  
Directed by Rebecca Small

Tickets are 10 in advance and 15 at the door. Visit <http://www.classicalentertainment.org.uk>

### Seminar on the relevance of modern methods in Unani Medicine

Lt General Zameer Uddin Shah (Retd.) said that in the new era, Unani Medicine could not be put in isolation but need to be effectively moved with modern times. General Shah was addressing a seminar at the Ajmal Khan Tibbiya College, Aligarh Muslim University, organised by Department of Ilmul Advia, AK Tibbiya College, AMU on 'Relevance of Modern Method of studies in Unani Medicine' under the UGC DRS Program.

Dr. Firdaus A Wani, Registrar, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi and the Guest of honour said that like any other form of medical science, Unani Medicine also strives to find the best possible ways by which a person could lead a healthy life with the least possible sickness. Dr. Wani suggested Unani Medicine to catch up with the practices of modern times.

Professor Hakim Zillur Rahman expressed his views on the practice of Unani Medicine in modern times and highlighted the history and stressed its importance. Professor Naeem Ahmad Khan, Dean, Faculty of Unani Medicine urged to give more importance to Unani Medicine so that this traditional medicinal practice reaches out to masses in the country as well as abroad. He also said that even today, Unani Medicine is the only remedy for various ailments and diseases.

Dr. Abdul Latif, Chairman, Department of Ilmul Advia pointed out that there are forty shops of Unani Medicine in Germany and the awareness of this system and its treatment are also spreading in other countries of Europe.

Dr. Saud Ali Khan, Principal, Ajmal Khan Tibbiya College proposed the vote of thanks. Prof. F. S. Sheerani conducted the Program. The lifetime achievement awards were given to Prof. Wazahat Hussain and Prof. Anis Ahmad Ansari, former faculty members of Department of Botany and Department of Kulliyat, AMU respectively.

Professor Kunwar Mohd Yusuf Amin also graced the occasion.

**XIV Annual Conference of Society of Pharmacovigilance, India (SOPICON'14) and International Symposium on Safe Medicine and Safe Patient**

The Department of Pharmacology, J N Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University hosted 'International Symposium on Safe Medicine and Safe Patient' and XIV Annual Conference of Society of Pharmacovigilance, India (SOPICON'14).

Dr. S. S. Agarwal, President elect, Indian Medical Association and the Guest of honour on the occasion spoke about the risks pertaining over-the-counter and with the use of traditional medicines. He also discussed ways to reduce risk involved while treating children and expectant mothers with the use of medicines, preventing disorders of the heart and stroke, and treating cancer and kidney ailments. Dr. Agarwal further said that this Symposium would be of particular interest for health professionals including doctors, pharmacists, nurses and managers working in referral, district and

community hospitals, community pharmacists, experts involved in supply of medicines, professionals interested in pharmacovigilance, and medical students.

Dr. K. C. Singhal, Vice Chancellor, NIIMS, Jaipur said that there is a need of such seminars as well as National Conferences for promotion of Pharmacovigilance in India and the program would include all safety issues of medicines. He also said that safety of people is the supreme priority and suggested to keep away from drugs which are occasionally more harmful than beneficial.

The Aligarh Muslim University Vice Chancellor, Lt General Zameer Uddin Shah (retd.) while presiding over the seminar said that reporting of adverse drug reactions is a major activity of Pharmacovigilance and is a responsibility of all persons involved in healthcare, including patients. He also pointed out that there is a need to develop a culture of reporting whenever medicines show adverse effect.

Professor Tariq Mansoor, Principal and Chief Medical Superintendent, J N Medical College, AMU urged participants to assure that each and every adverse Drug reaction has to be brought to the notice of relevant authorities so that necessary steps could be taken to prevent them in future.

Dr. Eugene Van Puijenbroek, Netherlands, while addressing the seminar stated that the Symposium is timely in building an effective strategy for pharmacovigilance and developing educational systems so as to enhance good practice in use of medicines. He added that the Symposium would provide important updates for doctors, pharmacists and nurses on reducing risk



from the use of high risk medicines which are often used.

Meanwhile, Brigadier S. Ahmad Ali (retd.), the Pro Vice Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University, congratulated the organisers and hoped that this symposium would prove to be a good platform for exchange of ideas among experts in the field and all the participants would benefit from the interaction with the distinguished speakers.

The Dean, Faculty of Medicine, JNMC, Prof. Shahjahan Bano informed that the adverse effects of drugs could lead to harm, ranging from minor troubles to even death, due to which pharmacovigilance hold the key to prevent these unwanted outcomes.

Professor Tariq Mansoor, Principal and Chief Medical Superintendent, J N Medical College, AMU urged participants to assure that each and every adverse drug reaction has to be brought to the notice of relevant authorities so that necessary steps could be taken to prevent them in future.

Dr. Salman Shah conducted the inaugural program while the vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Organising Secretary of the Symposium.

Prof. Herve le Louet, President, International Society of Pharmacovigilance (ISoP) remarked that he was, for the first time, witnessing any such type of conference on Pharmacovigilance in India. He was addressing the valedictory function of XIV Annual Conference of Society of Pharmacovigilance of India (SOPICON-14). He further suggested holding a joint meeting of Society of Pharmacovigilance of India (SoPI) and

ISoP to bring more experts from India and abroad to deliberate on a common topic of interest.

During the valedictory function, various prizes were also given to winners by the Chief Guest and Guests of honour. First, Second and Third Uppsala prizes were awarded in the best poster presentations category to Dr. Abhishek Goyal, Department of Pediatrics, JN Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University, Mr. M Ramya, KVSR Siddhartha College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh and Mr. Jamshed Ahmad, Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (PvPI), Department of Pharmacology, MAMC, New Delhi, respectively. In addition, Dr. Niteen Ahire, Department of Pharmacology, Shri Vasant Rao Naik Government Medical College, Yavatmal, Maharashtra got Consolation prize in the same poster competition category. P N Saxena Award for best oral presentation was awarded to Dr. Abhay Joshi, Department of Pharmacology, Gandhi Medical College, Bhopal. However, in the National Pharmacovigilance Quiz, the team comprising of Mr. Vishwanath Reddy Gampala and Mr. Hemanth Kumar Namuri, Vaagdevi College of Pharmacy Warangal, Telangana got the first prize. A very special prize for non-research poster presentation was also awarded to Ms. Gulfisha, student of Diploma in Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, AMU.

Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Organizing Secretary informed that the conference that there were 104 registered delegates, 46 guest speakers including 6 from abroad. Both orations and keynote lecture were delivered by eminent speakers Dr. Noel E Cranswick from Australia, Dr. Eugene van Puijenbroek from the Netherlands and Dr. Herve le Louet from France whereas

a large number of young scholars from different parts of India, participated in both oral and poster presentations.

Prof. K. C. Singhal, Vice Chancellor, NIMS University, Jaipur and the guest of honour on the occasion remarked that he was proud to attend the conference at his own alma mater, where he previously served as a faculty member for more than thirty five years. He further informed that he also initiated a scientific programme for Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring with the support of enthusiastic physicians from many parts of the country and established Society of Pharmacovigilance, India (SoPI).

Dr. Ruth Savage, Secretary International Affair, SoPI from New Zealand thanked distinguished speakers and experts from India as well as those from abroad. She expressed confidence that the conference cum symposium provided a good opportunity to discuss various aspects of Pharmacovigilance.

Prof. Barna Ganguly, President Elect, SoPI, thanked the organisers for the efficiently organized conference. She appreciated the content of all the lectures including orations, meticulously framed symposiums on burning topics and University hospitality

### **Fellowship, Scholarship**

#### **Fellowships in the History of Science, Technology and Medicine**

The Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine invites applications for fellowships in the history of science, technology and medicine, broadly construed. Opportunities include: Short term Research Fellowships for use of member institutions' collections -nine-month Dissertation Writing Fellowships -a nine-month NEH Postdoctoral Fellowship

Applications for 2015-2016 must be submitted by February 4, 2015. Letters of support are due by February 11, 2015. For the application portal, application instructions, and a list of past fellows, visit [www.chstm.org](http://www.chstm.org). Please forward this message to any colleagues and students at your institution who might be interested. If this message should have gone to someone else at your institution who could forward it as appropriate, please let us know by replying to this email. To remove your email from the "History of Science Departments" mailing list, click here: <http://www.pachs.net/?ACT=5&id=EgtsM2MCHO>

#### **2015 Hippocrates Prize**

There are three award categories within the 2015 Hippocrates Prize, which is being organised by clinical pharmacologist Professor Donald Singer and Michael Hulse, an international poet on the University of Warwick's Writing Programme.

The 2015 judging panel members for the Open International and NHS Awards are poet Rebecca Goss, broadcaster and author John Humphrys and poet and psychiatrist Professor Femi Oyebode. There is an open category for any UK or international member of the public and a separate award for current or former NHS-related staff and students, both with a £5,000 first prize. NHS-related entrants can also enter the open award. There is also a £500 award for young poets aged under 19 years. Medicine is to be interpreted in the widest sense. Themes could include health and poetry; impact of health and disease on the poet; the nature of the body, and anatomy; the history, evolution, and future of medical science; the nature and experience of tests; the experience of doctors, nurses and other staff in hospitals and in the community;

the experience of patients, families, friends and carers in these situations; the experiences of acute and long-term illness and dying, of birth, of cure and convalescence; the patient journey; the nature and experience of treatment with herbs, chemicals and devices used in medicine; poetry as therapy.

### DOCUMENTATION

*Al-Qanun fit Tibb* (The Canon of Medicine) is one of the most famous and widely read books of the medical history. It was originally written in Arabic language, the book was later translated into a number of languages including Persian, English, Latin, German, Chinese, Uzbek, Turkish, Urdu and Hebrew, etc. A number of commentaries have also been written on the entire book or its parts in different languages showing its importance, worldwide acceptability and its immense relevance to the medical science. It was completed in 1025 AD and remained an authoritative medical text up to early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Because of the systemic and organized composition and very clear presentation of almost all the important topics related to health care and medical education and training, it became instrumental in setting the standards for medical education and its practices not only in the Islamic world but also in Europe. It is also considered to be the basis of Unani medicine practiced currently in Indian subcontinent and other parts of the world with different other titles..

Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman focused his attention towards compiling a book comprising the introduction and evaluation of writings on Al-Qanun in any language and searched tirelessly its translations, commentaries, summaries, indices and other works carried out on any aspect of Al-Qanun, published, in

the form of manuscripts, or its translations. He has introduced 219 writings on Al-Qanun by different authors in different languages and has given a decent account of authors and their works. His book includes notices on 151 treatises in Arabic, 22 in Persian, 20 in Urdu, 7 in German, 6 in Latin, 5 in Turkish, 2 each in English, Hebrew and French and one in Uzbek language. The title of the book is "*Qanun Ibn Sina ke Sharehîn wa Motarjemîn*" (henceforth QISM). Needless to say that this mammoth work obligated Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman to run from pillar to post in search of the works related to Al-Qanun for about 10 years. He did not leave any relevant material, and even an iota of information. Distant places kept him perturbed until he procured it or satisfied himself with personal visit and necessary inquiry. He visited a number of institutions and libraries in India and abroad and collected the information about the authors and their works on Al-Qanun. He managed to get the copies of manuscripts and rare books on the topic and critically evaluated them so as to authenticate the extant works before including them into his book.

In India, Ibn Sina has been appreciated as the most prolific, versatile and influential Islamic writer, thinker, philosopher and physician of exception. His writings, especially Al-Qanun, have got a special place in the teaching, training and research on medieval medicine. The scholars who had command over Al-Qanun and were involved in its teaching, were treated as venerated geniuses. It is obvious therefore that they compiled their, illustrations and commentaries, etc. on Al-Qanun more enthusiastically as it was considered to be the token of scholarship and sublimity. It is therefore not surprising that the quantum of work prepared by Indian scholars in the form

of translations, summaries and commentaries etc. in Urdu, Persian and Arabic languages amount to about one third of the total work done worldwide on Al-Qanun.

Noteworthy is that this treatise *Q/SM* was translated in to Persian language under the aegis of renowned scholar Dr. Mahdi Mohaqqiq and published from Tehran in 2004. It has also been translated now into English by none other than the renowned scholar and researcher Zakaria Virk, a Pakistani national who is settled now in Canada. However, Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman is still reworking on his book and wishes to update his original Urdu version, which was published by the Publication Division, AMU, Aligarh in 1987. The English translation of its updated version therefore will be published shortly.

Ibn Sina is the most favourite writer and a role model for Prof. Rahman, who finds solace in being associated with Ibn Sina by exploring his personality and writings and also by assimilating his thoughts to form a new body of knowledge or to formulate a hypothesis from Ibn Sina's insights as reflected in his writings. This treatise and other works of Prof. Rahman on history of Unani medicine, especially on the subcontinent, have furbished his personality and his name has already earned him worldwide recognition in the field of history of Medieval Medicine.

Contributed by Dr. Ghufraan Ahmad, AKTC, AMU, Aligarh

### **Arabic scientific manuscripts go live in Qatar Digital Library**

The British Library Qatar Foundation Partnership has launched the Qatar Digital Library, a new bilingual, online portal providing access to previously undigitized British Library materials on

two major themes: Gulf history, and the history of the sciences in the Arabic-speaking world. The portal hosts content ranging from archives, maps and manuscripts to sound recordings, photographs and much more. All of the content will be complemented with explanatory essays in both Arabic and English.

A key part of this project is the digitization of a selection of Arabic manuscripts from the British Library Collections dealing with scientific subjects such as medicine, mathematics, astronomy, engineering, chemistry and many others. It was by no means an easy task to prioritize the manuscripts for digitization. With over 500 Arabic scientific manuscripts in the British Library, there were just too many to choose from!

See more at:

<http://britishlibrary.typepad.co.uk/asian-and-african/2014/11/arabic-scientific-manuscripts-go-live-in-qatar-digital-library.html#sthash.u5xjb8LH.dpuf>

### **Activities of Interest at McGill University, Montreal (Canada)**

1) The Canada Research Chair in the History of Science in Islamic Societies has been renewed for another 7 years, until March 31, 2021. This means Dr. Jamil Ragep will be able to accept new students at the Institute of Islamic Studies for the next 4.5 years. Superior students will be eligible for a financial package including a stipend, tuition and fees.

2) Dr. Sally Ragep, Senior Researcher at McGill's Institute of Islamic Studies, successfully defended her dissertation on the *Mulakhkhas fi 'ilm al-hay'a* by al-Jaghmini on October 1, 2014. The complete dissertation will be available (open-access) in March 2015

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at eScholarship@McGill. In the meantime, here is a link to the table of contents and abstract: [https://www.rasi.mcgill.ca/Abstract\\_Ragep\\_Sally\\_PhD\\_McGill\\_2014.pdf](https://www.rasi.mcgill.ca/Abstract_Ragep_Sally_PhD_McGill_2014.pdf)

3) Prof. Faith Wallis and Dr. Jamil Ragep have edited a volume of papers on the *Herbal* of the 12<sup>th</sup>-c Andalusian scholar al-Ghafiqi that includes a facsimile of the magnificent manuscript of the work housed at the Osler Library, McGill (Osler Library MS 7508): <http://www.mqup.ca/herbal-of-al-ghafiqi-the-products-9780773544758.php>

4) Dr. Taro Mimura and Dr. Jamil Ragep are nearing completion of the edition and translation of Epistle 3 ("On Astronomy") of the Ikhwan al-Safa'. It should appear sometime in 2015 (Oxford Univ. Press).

5) Profs. Anila Asghar (Education, McGill) and Ehab Abouheif (Biology, McGill) and Jamil Ragep have recently launched the McGill Centre for Islam and Science: <http://www.islam-and-science.org/>

6) The team launched initially about 150 scientific codices (with metadata and data) from the Staatsbibliothek (Berlin). This is part of Islamic Scientific Manuscripts Initiative (ISMI), which is a partnership between the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (Berlin) and McGill.

Submitted by Jamil Ragep

### **Condolence to Mr. Saiyid Hamid**

The light has gone out! Saiyid Hamid, a man of illustrious personality, a man having many achievements to his credit, a man having versatile qualities, a man embodying the finest values and the beacon of absolute honesty, love and commitment is no more. Yet he is alive

and shall remain alive for generations to come for his massive socio-educational reformations and renaissance movements that shall continue to inspire all.

He breathed his last on 29.12.2014 in Majeedia Hospital, New Delhi and buried in Hazrat Nizamuddin Graveyard on 30.12.2014. Ibn Sina Academy pays heart-felt condolence to his family members especially his eldest son Mr. Samar Hamid.

[At the time when Hamid was chancellor of Jamia Hamdard, Hakim Zillur Rahman of Ibn Sina Academy in Aligarh was in the academic council. Rahman reminisced: "Hamid sahib had been a bureaucrat and head of AMU. He took decisions keeping in mind political realities of the country, and guided us in difficult times. His way of working was above sectarian, communal and regional considerations. That, along with his speeches and writings, kept us all inspired. – AMU mourns death of its former VC, Times of India, December 29, 2014].

### **Notices about some Recent Publications**

–A new journal, *Nazariyat: Journal for the History of Islamic Philosophy and Sciences*: (<http://nazariyat.org/index.php/nazariyat>) has been launched. Vol.1, No.1, November 2014 is available on the Internet.

*Nazariyat*, Journal for the History of Islamic Philosophy and Sciences, issued twice a year in English and Turkish (*Nazariyat, İslam Felsefe ve Bilim Tarihi Araştırmaları Dergisi*), is a refereed international journal. It publishes original studies, critical editions of classical texts and book reviews on Islamic philosophy, kalâm,

theoretical aspects of Sufism and the history of sciences. The goal of Nazariyat is to contribute to the discovery, examination and reinterpretation of theoretical traditions in the history of Islamic thought with giving special attention to the post-classical period of it. The journal will be issued twice a year in both Turkish and English. Enquires can be sent to: editor@nazariyat.org.

–Peter E. Pormann & Emilie Savage-Smith (eds.), *Medieval Islamic Medicine*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2007, 240 pages, ISBN-10: 1589011619. Reviewed by Mustakim Arı cı (Istanbul University), *Nazariyat*, Vol.1, No.1(2014), pp.174–179.

–Ahmad Dallal, *Islam, Science and the Challenge of History*, New Haven & London. Yale University Press, 2010, 239 pages, ISBN-10:0300177712. Reviewed by Hasan Umut (McGill University), Vol.1, No.1(2014), pp. 191-196.

–John M. Steele, Ed. *Calendars and Years II: Astronomy and Time in the Ancient and Medieval World*, Oxford/Oakville: Oxbow Books, 2011.

– Knudsen, Toke, and Plofker, Kim. “Calendars in India” in *Ibid*, pp. 53-68.

– Hockey, Thomas, editor-in chief , *The Biographical Encyclopaedia of Astronomers*, Springer Science+ Business Media , New York. First Ed. 2007, Second Ed. 2014.

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–*The Oxford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Science, and Technology in Islam*, 2014. New York, Oxford Univ. Press.

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–Ansari, S. M. Razaullah (2013), “The Compilation of Zijes in India” (in Persian), in the *Encyclopaedia of Persian Language and Literature in the Subcontinent*. Editor, Muhammad Reza Nasiri, The Academy of Persian Language and Literature, Tehran, Vol. III (2013), pp. 533–536. An updated version in English will be published in the *Indian J. of History of Science*, Jubilee Volume (2015).

–Ansari, S. M. Razaullah , “A Survey of Calendars of Islamic Countries and Medieval India”,

–*Proceedings of the International Seminar on Indo-Portuguese History–XIV*, held on 11-13 February 2013 in New Delhi. Edited by Pius Malekandathil, Lotika Varadarajan and Amar Farooqui. Ratna Sagar Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi, in press, expected in the summer of 2015.

–Ansari, S. M. Razaullah (2015), “Astronomical Activity in Medieval India in Sixteenth–Seventeenth Centuries”,

–*Proceedings of the International Symposium on Ottoman Science and Philosophy in XVIth Century in Memory of Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of Aydin Sayili*, held in Kastamonu (Turkey), 13–15 November 2013. Edited by Yavuz Unat, Ankara (Turkey), in press, expected in 2015.

–Ansari, S.M.Razaullah, (2014), articles on “Astronomy in Medieval India”, “Ghulam Hussain Jaunpuri” and “Raja Ratan Singh”, in *Encyclopaedia of the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine in Non-Western Cultures*, Springer Science+Business Media, Dordrecht, 2014.

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**NISA** is an official quarterly newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences - a non governmental, non political and non-profit trust.

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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