

Newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy (NISA)

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CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN UNANI MEDICINE
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS (Literary Research) (Urdu)

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Aljamili Maf. Vol-I (U) _(O/P Rs. 71/-)	275.00
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AMU Alumni Associations of Michigan and Texas Scholarship Award Letter Distribution Ceremony

The Aligarh Muslim University Alumni Association of Michigan and Texas, USA has awarded scholarships to 125 students pursuing various courses in AMU.

The above Association awarded scholarships to 100 students worth Rs. 5,000 each while scholarships of Rs. 4,000 were given to 25 students at a function held at Ibn Sina Academy. The Pro-Vice Chancellor of AMU, Brigadier Syed Ahmad Ali (Retd.) distributed the scholarship award letters among recipients. Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman presided over the function.

Thanking the Alumni Association on behalf of the recipients, the Pro-Vice Chancellor, Brig. Ali urged the students to work hard and attain excellence in their studies. He also emphasized the importance of forthcoming visit of NAAC Peer Team to AMU and exhorted all concerned to put up a great show during the visit.

Prof. Zillur Rahman appreciated the efforts of the present AMU Administration to strive in making the University number one by the year 2017. He also congratulated Dr. Suhail Sabir (Convener of the Award Committee) for his selfless efforts and taking keen interest in disbursing various scholarships to AMU students.

Dr. Suhail Sabir, Coordinator, Scholarship Programme conducted the proceedings. 125 students of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) received their scholarship award letter on 3.2.2015.

Apart from students, few teachers of AMU and other guests attended the program.

A grand meeting of "The Wings of Desire"

"The Wings of Desire", an NGO based at Aligarh and working on many areas, organized a grand meeting of its volunteers on 22.3.2015 for the isolation and distribution of various projects, related to Women Empowerment, Child Labour, Domestic Violence and Anti-cancer. On the same occasion, prizes were also distributed to the winners of a competition held earlier at AMU Women's College on the theme "Women Empowerment".

Indo-Iran Dialogue

Ibn Sina Academy organised a one-day symposium on Indo-Iran Dialogue during 22nd February 2015. The participants in the discussion were Ms. Suri Riaz (Toronto, Canada), Ms. Homa Khaboshani (Tehran, Iran), Ms. Khadijeh Riaz (Tehran, Iran), Ms. Ashraf Sharif (Tehran, Iran), Ms. Zahra Hashemi (Aligarh, India), Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman (Aligarh, India), Ms. Ahmadi Begum (Aligarh, India) and Mr. S. Zahid Jamal (Aligarh, India).

Members of Ibn Sina Academy invited to visit "Indian Heritage in Science & Technology"

Members of Ibn Sina Academy comprises of Dr. S. Ziaur Rahman, Ms. Zahra Hashemi, Mr. S. Mohammad Azfar (Restore Heritage), Mr. Habib Ibrahim (Arts and Craft Museum) were invited to visit "Indian Heritage in Science & Technology" at National Science Centre, Delhi. They were taken around of the whole museums

particularly how dioramas are maintained. Among many dioramas, one was depicting 'Indian surgeons were performing surgery' from Sushruta Samhita and another depicting 'Ancient Indian Chemical Laboratories'. It was a great experience for all the members to visit the Museum *ex gratia*.

MEMBERS ACTIVITIES

Yash Bharti Samman to Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman by Uttar Pradesh State Government for the year 2015

Yash Bharti Award is one of the highest state level awards, conferred for excellence in literature, fine arts, folk music, classical music and sports by Uttar Pradesh Government. It carries a cash prize of Rs 11 lakh, a citation and a shawl. This award for the year 2015 was given by the Chief Minister, Shri Akhilesh Yadav on February 9, 2015 at a grand ceremony at Ram Manohar Lohia Park, Lucknow.

Prof. Rahman has earlier been bestowed with several national and state awards including Padma Shri by Government of India in 2006, President of India Award for outstanding contribution to Persian Language in 1995, WHO Consultant for Bangladesh in 1996 and Honoris Causa degree by Jamia Hamdard, Karachi (Pakistan) in 2014.

Prof. Rahman's prominent contribution is the establishment of Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Sciences in 2000. The library of the academy has a large collection of more than 20,000 precious and valuable books mainly on history of medieval medicine, 600 manuscripts and thousands of thematic periodicals on history of medicine. This is only library in India, which is listed in the 'National Library of Medicine, History of Medicine

Section, National Institute of Health, USA. Similarly, the museum of the academy also houses a large number of artifacts and memoirs. CNN Channel has listed the museum as one of the top 10 museum on International Museum, Day (May 18) 2013. The Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has provided accreditation to the Academy in 2004 and promoted it as a 'Centre of Excellence' in 2008. Prof. Rahman is the author of 45 books and more than 200 papers.

Prof. Rahman announced that he will donate the total amount of Yash Bharti Award to enrich the corpus fund of Ibn Sina Academy. Several felicitation programs were arranged by his friends and well-wishers. Here are few of the activities held in his honour.

Felicitation by UGC Academic Staff College during Literary Evening on 16.3.2015

Aligarh Muslim University Pro Vice Chancellor, Brigadier S Ahmad Ali (retd), who attended the evening as the Chief Guest urged young AMU teachers to follow examples of the eminent Professors who continue to make exceptional scholarly contributions even after retirement. He also honoured Padma Shri Professor Syed Zillur Rahman, former Chairman, Department of Ilmul Advia and Founder President Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh on receiving the Yash Bharati Samman (Uttar Pradesh Government's highest civilian award) for his selfless services in preserving the Indo-Islamic Culture.

In the same function, AMU Pro Vice chancellor Brigadier Ali's wife Mrs Rizwana Ahmad Ali, who attended the evening as the Guest of Honour distributed certificates to 39 newly appointed Assistant Professors in the

Faculties of Engineering and Commerce. Around 105 University / College lecturers assembled from all over India to attend the Orientation Programme, SRC Agricultural Sciences and Computer Applications course. Course participants of the UGC ASC course Ms Kakoli Boruah of Assam and Dr Shabina Ghafir of New Delhi welcomed the guests.

Prof. Saghir Afraheim, Department of Urdu, AMU gave a brief introduction of Padma Shri Prof Syed Zillur Rahman. Professor Abdur Raheem Kidwai, Director UGC ASC, AMU applauded the authors on whom honour the literary evening was arranged. Dr. Faiza Abbasi, Asst Professor, UGC ASC, AMU conducted the programme and thanked everyone.

Felicitations by Ilma Educational Society

Prof. Rahman was felicitated during the Annual Expression Day and Cultural Programme of Ilma Public School (Senior Wing), Aligarh held on 28.2.2015 at Imperial Lodge, Jamalpur, Aligarh. Mr. Ikhlas Ahmad Sherwani (Secretary, Ilma Educational Society) organised the programme.

Felicitations by Vivek Bansal, Ex-MLA and spokesperson All India Congress Committee

A special Felicitations function by Mr. Vivek Bansal, Ex-MLA and spokesperson All India Congress Committee was also arranged at Ibn Sina Academy.

Letters of appreciation on the conferment of Yash Bharti

"It is a great honor for Prof. Rahman and for entire Aligarh fraternity. We are proud of him. On behalf of AMU Alumni Riyadh Chapter, I congratulate him for his honour that has been conferred upon

him in recognition of his great educational services to the community. May Allah bestow good health to him for many more such recognitions and awards. Warm regards, **Dr. Mohammad Ahmad Badshah**, President, AMU Alumni Riyadh Chapter, Saudi Arabia"

"Dear Prof. Zillur Rahman Sahib, Congratulations on this prestigious award. Your encouraging and indefatigable effort in the development of history of Unani Medicine in India has been immense. You are source of great encouragement to all those who work in this area of research. With regards, **Rais Akhtar** (Professor, Medical Geography)

Mr. Ahmad Ali Barqi Azmi of Delhi composed a poem (Nazm) after the conferment of award.

Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, former Dean, Faculty of Unani Medicine, Aligarh Muslim University and Founder President, Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh has been invited to participate in the following conferences / seminars / meetings:

1. National Seminar on Role of Unani Medicine in Non communicable diseases, organized by Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine at India Islamic Cultural Centre, New Delhi during 14th-15th January 2015. Prof. Rahman also chaired a technical session on Ilaj Bit Tadbeer in Non-communicable Diseases.
2. Meeting of Unani Pharmacopoeia Committee at CCRUM Headquarters, New Delhi, on 19th January 2015.
3. Annual Meeting of Executive Body, Darul Uloom Nadwatul-Ulama, Lucknow, 29.3.2015
4. Unani Pharmacopoeia Committee, 23.3.2015 at CCRUM Headquarters, New Delhi

Prof. Rahman was also invited as chief guest / guest of honour / president of the following programmes:

1. Certificate Distribution Ceremony during Satyendra Kumar Kashyap Merit Scholarship for the year 2014 at a function organized at Ibn Sina Academy on 24.1.2015. Satyendra Kumar Kashyap Merit Scholarship is given by the Aligarh Education Endowment Fund (AEEF), USA in memory of Satyendra Kumar Kashyap, an alumnus who obtained BE (Mechanical Engineering) degree from Zakir Husain College of Engineering and Technology, way back in 1966. He died in June 2010.
2. *Rashtriya Aikta ainw Sadhbhawna Sammelan*, Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition, 6.2.2015. The programme was organized by *Ahinsa* Foundation, Aligarh
3. Guest of Honour, National Urdu Science Congress, 20 March 2015 (See report on page 9)
4. Guest of Honour, Valedictory Function of Short Term Training Programme, 1.3.2015
5. Guest of Honour, Seminar on Hazrat Khwaja Khanon Sahib (Shah-e-Willayat) and Tasawwuf, 19.2.2015. *Khwaja* Rashid Khanooni, Dr. Aijaz Khanooni
6. Guest of Honour, Valedictory Function of the Training Programme on "Traditional and Modern Materials and Techniques of Façade Adornment in Islamic Structure", by The Heritage Cell, AMU, in collaboration with the Centre for Excellence in Islamic Architecture, on 2.3.2015
7. Subject Expert, recruitment of contractual TKDL Project Staff for CSIR-TKDL Unit for Unani Stream, 11-12.2.2015 at Ghaziabad
8. National Health and Educational Conference, under the aegis of All India Graduate Association and UP

Rabita Committee, Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition, 10.2.2015.

9. *Aik Shaam Shahryar Ke Naam*, under the aegis of AMU Old Boys' Aligarh and Al-Mansoor Aisha Educational Welfare Society, Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition, 15.2.2015.

10. *Mudra Mahotsava*, National Exhibition cum Fair of Coins, Banknotes and Stamps, Ruby Hotel, Aligarh, 22.3.2015. The Mahotsava was organized by Mr. Vikas Varshney, Rohan Baljiwan, Mukesh Verma under the aegis of Aligarh Philatelist Coin Society.

Ibn Sina Academy congratulates the whole team of Aligarh Philatelist Coin Society for organising 3 days "Mudra Mahotsava" at Ruby Hotel during March 22-24, 2015. The Academy is also thankful to Mr. Vikas Varshney, Mr. Rohan Baljiwan and Mr. Mukesh Kr Verma for providing some rare paintings, photographs and currency notes to its Museum.

Visit of Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman to Saronj (MP)

He visited Saronj (MP) where he was felicitated by a group of Unani physicians, Urdu and Arabic scholars including Hakim Farooq Beg, Hakim Hafeezul Hasan, Mr. Mukhtar Shamim, Dr. Shaan Fakhri, Dr. Azizuddin Nadvi and Dr. Sadiq Ali Khan on 22.2.2015.

Prof. S.M. Razaullah Ansari (General Secretary, Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Sciences) has been nominated as a member of International Working Group Ibn Al-Haytham by UNESCO, to coordinate the "International year of Light 2015" Programme. He has been also nominated for election as a member of the IAU Division C Steering Committee. IAU stands for the International Astronomical Union. Prof. Ansari is an

elected member of IAU since 1973. He had been the President of its Commission 41 (History of Astronomy), during 1994-1997. The Academy wishes him all success for his election.

Prof. Ansari participated in the First Urdu Science Congress, held at Zakir Husain Delhi College, Delhi, 20-21 March 2015. His invited lecture was on "*The Role and Promotion of Science in Islamic Societies*". He presented a brief survey of selected *major* scientific works translated into Arabic and Persian, and their transmission into Medieval India. In conclusion, he emphasized that it is high time that translations of this Islamic scientific classics should be carried out in Urdu, and possibly also in Hindi, as the translation of Sanskrit texts of ancient Indian mathematics and astronomy are being carried out extensively in Hindi, and also in other modern languages of South India.

Dr. S. Ziaur Rahman, Hony. Treasurer, IAMMS, successfully submitted CMCL-FAIMER Project Report, at second session, CMC, Ludhiana. His reflections after completion of the second session are given on page 10.

Dr. S. Ziaur Rahman, Associate Professor Department of Pharmacology, JNMC, AMU, Aligarh, has also been invited as keynote speaker during the ICMR sponsored National Symposium on "Pharmacovigilance in India: Perspectives and Prospects" held at Sir Madanlal Institute of Pharmacy, Etawa. His topic of presentation was all about the innumerable publications on Pharmacovigilance. He discussed the significant contribution of individual researchers, WHO Collaborating Centre for International Drug Monitoring (UMC), various NGOs, National Coordination Centre for Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (PvPI), national and

international societies working on Pharmacovigilance, and large number of publishers publishing literature on Pharmacovigilance. In addition, he threw light on veterinary Pharmacovigilance and the impact of Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products (PPCPs) on environment. Dr. Rahman is very well known in the field of Pharmacovigilance. He gave the concept of environmental pharmacology and coined the term "Pharmacoenvironmentology" for the study of therapeutic drugs and its effect on aquatic and terrestrial environment. He is closely associated since the inception of the Society of Pharmacovigilance India (SoPI) and started as editor its official *Journal of Pharmacovigilance & Drug Safety*. He held various key posts of the society and presently representing as national secretary.

Forthcoming Activity at IAMMS

National Seminar on Life & Contribution of Ibn al-Haytham Ibn Sina Academy is planning to hold a "National Seminar on Life & Contribution of Ibn Haytham (Alhazen in Latin)" during 10-11 October 2015, to commemorate the 1000th Anniversary of the Compilation of Ibn al-Haytham's remarkable seven-volume treatise on optics: *Kitâb al-Manâzîr* in Arabic and as a part of UNESCO's declaration of International year of Light 2015 (IYL 2015).

The idea is actually to review Ibn al-Haytham's multidimensional personality and to span his contributions in the field of science, vision, optics and light. The forthcoming seminar will bring together expert scholars to discuss topics on various themes. The programme will comprise of invited lectures, besides oral and posters' presentations.

In addition, a unique exhibition of books/treatises written by Ibn Al-Haytham, various memoirs in the form of postal stamps, currency notes, and posters issued on his honour from various parts of the world and extant at Ibn Sina Academy, will also be arranged.

Participants are requested to present a paper in any area of their expertise. Please inform us the title of your talk as early as possible. We shall appreciate, if you send your abstract of not more than 300 words until 31st August 2015 (email: ibnsinaacademy@gmail.com).

Looking forward to active participation in making this event a grand success, and waiting for a prompt response, Syed Zillur Rahman (Organising Secretary).

Visit of Personalities / Delegates

Following dignitaries / delegates visited the Academy:

1. Delegates, Subject Refresher Course in Social Science, UGC Academic Staff College, AMU, Aligarh, 2.2.2015
2. Delegates, Subject Refresher Course in Hindi, UGC Academic Staff College, AMU, Aligarh, 4.2.2015
3. Delegates, Orientation Programme, UGC Academic Staff College, AMU, Aligarh, 17.2.2015
4. SRC-RM, Agricultural Sciences, 7.3.2015
5. Delegates, Subject Refresher Course in Computer Applications, UGC Academic Staff College, AMU, Aligarh, 11.3.2015
6. Delegates, Orientation Programme, UGC Academic Staff College, AMU, Aligarh, 24.3.2015

On these occasions, Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman (President, IAMMS) addressed

the participants and gave an account of the aims and objectives of the establishment of Ibn Sina Academy and its museums.

7. Qaisra Shahraz, an eminent British short story writer from Manchester (UK), 20.2.2015

She wrote in her blog (<http://qaisrashahraz.com/memories-of-india-ibn-sina-academy/>):

“Aligarh Muslim University arranged a visit for me to a local museum during my recent tour. Located in the middle of a bustling bazaar, the Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Science is run by an illustrious family of ‘Hakims’, doctors, devoted to medieval and modern medicine and Muslim Scientists. The museum and academy is named in honour of the famous Muslim scientist Ibn Sina (980-1037 AD, who is better known in the West as Avicenna.) I was fascinated and delighted to be taken on a personal tour by the proprietor, Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman, whose father founded this academy. Later, I enjoyed warm hospitality in their home, downstairs, and heard wonderful stories about their family links to Iran by his lovely wife, who is half Iranian”.

Releasing Ceremony of “A December Evening”, of Fatima Khan published by Ibn Sina Academy

“A December Evening” book of short stories by Fatima Khan, was released by Mr. Jerry Pinto, eminent writer and journalist from Mumbai on Friday, 20th March 2015 at the inaugural session of The AMU Literary Fest. Fatima is a final year medical student of Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University. This is her second book after “Feelings Take Flight” which was released in May last year. Commending Miss Fatima on excelling both in her

studies and writing, Mr. Jerry Pinto wished her success for the future. He hoped that Fatima would encourage other University students to passionately pursue their dreams of writing too. The function was graced by worthy wordsmiths from all across the country, Manisha Sethi (Author of *Kafkaland: Prejudice, Law and Counter-terrorism in India*), Prof. Siraj Ajmali (President, University Literary Club), Prof. F. S. Sherani (Coordinator CEC), Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman (Ibn Sina Academy), Dr. Asim Siddiqui, Mrs. Sami Rafiq, Prof. Samina Khan, Dr. Aysha Munira Rasheed, Mr. Iqbal Ahmed (BBC London) and many other University Staff and Students were present to applaud the endeavour of Fatima Khan.

DOCUMENTATION

National Urdu Science Congress organised at Zakir Husain Delhi College

The very First National Urdu Science Congress, was organized by the *Anjuman Farogh Science* (Organisation for Science Promotion, Delhi), at Zakir Husain Delhi College, Delhi, India during 20-21 March 2015.

This first event had over a hundred delegates from across the nation with over twenty-five presentations. The conference had successfully attracted scientists; renowned scholars of Arabic Urdu and Persian languages; educators; writers; poets; historians; heads of institutions; science reporters and Islamic scholars.

The first Urdu Science Congress aimed to foster communication between scientists and researchers interested in presenting their works in Urdu language. The Conference covered the following topics: The Problem of Teaching Science in Urdu Medium Schools,

General Understanding of Scientific Literature in Urdu, Environment and Scientific Literature, Scientific Experiments in Urdu, Teaching and Learning of Science in Madrasas, Modern Medical Knowledge and Scientific Literature and Islam and Science.

Prominent members of Ibn Sina Academy such as Prof. S. Zillur Rahman, Prof. S.M. Razaullah Ansari, Prof. H.S.A. Yahya, Prof. Rashid Hayat, Dr. Abdul Moiz Shams, Dr. Asad Faisal Farooqui participated and presented papers.

The conference had a very rich programme including: keynote talks by renowned speakers and oral presentations. A brief documentary with the title '*Muslim Heritage in our World*' was also screened.

At the end of the two day Congress, there were several recommendations. The first and foremost recommendation was to recognize and give credit to the place of Urdu in the Indian society. It is to be recalled that the Urdu is the official language of five Indian states (Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana, Jammu and Kashmir).

It was recommended that the basic education of children should be done in their mother tongue. It was further said that in the Urdu Medium Schools, should have a strong programme in Hindi and English languages; this will enable the students to pursue higher studies in can continues in other mediums of instruction.

Anjuman Farogh Science is a registered non-governmental organization (NGO), established in 1992 through the efforts of Dr. M. Aslam Parvaiz, Principal Zakir Husain Delhi College. It works towards

the promotion of scientific attitude and popular science and environment among Urdu speaking masses. Since, 1994, it has been regularly publishing a popular science monthly magazine, *Urdu Science Mahnamah* (Urdu Science Monthly), edited by Dr. Parvaiz. It has also held science popularization conferences in Urdu. It organizes an award giving function, recognizing school students with highest scores in science subjects.

Reflection on the second session of FAIMER Fellowship

By Dr. S. Ziaur Rahman (FAIMER Fellow 2008)

I still remember when Dr. Dinesh Badyal from my discipline reminded me in late 2007 to take CMCL-FAIMER Project at CMC (Ludhiana). I was little bit concerned what to take as an innovative project. I discussed many of my colleagues, but then Prof. Usha Singhal (Dean F/O Medicine) and Prof. RA Khan (Chairman D/O Pharmacology) helped me in finalizing my topic of project, which I took as CMCL-FAIMER Project. Prof. Usha Singhal, now a retired teacher, used to take interest in medical education technology and arranged many workshops specifically on PBL. She herself availed ECFMG Fellowships 2 times and visited Rush University Medical Center (Chicago) and Illinois University School of Medicine in 1994 and 2000 respectively. We all know FAIMER is an extension of ECFMG's outline and program for international medical educators that came into existence in 2000.

Fortunately, my project was selected for the session 2008 where I had a chance to elaborate and modify my project further. I participated in ML web throughout the year 2008, but then in February 2009, I was awarded International Postgraduate Research

Scholarship to pursue PhD from the University of Western Sydney (Australia) and could not attend the second session in 2009. In Australia, I further realized the importance of medical education. I had a long discussion whenever I had time particularly with two teachers of MEU, Professor Ian Wilson and Professor Wendi Hu, and noticed that the MEU there is responsible for promotion of real scholarship of learning and teaching through research, curriculum design, blended learning, assessment and evaluation for both UG and PG medical programs. On the other hand, MEUs in India during 2009-10 were struggling for its existence and not involved truly in all these educational activities. Ironically, MEUs in India are still mainly concerned to arrange CMEs, lectures and various courses; and now basic and advance courses of MET in the light of MCI guidelines. Being a part of MEU at our college since 2007, I always have a desire to do more and make MEU a self-sufficient Department. FAIMER Regional Institutes in India could provide a platform, with which we can update our MEUs. For the same reason, after returning from Australia, I applied Professors Tejinder Singh and Dinesh Badyal to allow me to continue and complete my project. They discussed my case and as per the criteria, informed me that I could present my report in February 2015. I thank from the core of my heart to both of them that they allowed me to continue and to contribute online discussions for next one year as year 2 fellow. I really appreciate here that FAIMER, which is truly interested in serving global health by improving health professions education, is also a very flexible program.

What happened?

I planned to reach Ludhiana on 7th February 2015 at 5 am with an intention

to take a tour for Amritsar. I was told that bus for FAIMER Fellows from CMC would go at 7 am. Unfortunately, my train got late and reached Ludhiana at around 11 am. I missed that golden chance to see the "Golden Temple".

Since, CMCL-FAIMER was going to celebrate its 10 years of existence, for this reason, they also organized a special International CME on "Horizons in Medical Education" for all CMCL Fellows. Luckily, I attended that CME on 8th February 2015. The lectures arranged were all very informative and were delivered by eminent authoritative personalities of medical education (Ralph Graves, DK Srinivas, BV Adkoli, Janet Grant, Avinash Supe, Vinay Kumar and Bipin Batra). The lecture by Prof. K Ramnarayan on 'large group teaching' impressed me more. His innovative idea and explanation by demonstrating how much students could grasp the content of the subject and understand the topic was superb.

Actual FAIMER program for year 2 fellows was started from 9th February. We were all welcomed warmly by year 1 fellows. That started my new innings and again a strong bond with both year 1 and year 2 fellows. We were introduced each other and shared our experiences while taking "gallery-walk". Introduction by putting our profiles was very touching. When my turn came, I informed all attendees there that I was a bit old participant who joined FAIMER Fellow in 2008 but could not continue because of PhD work. I also told that I had a typical hobby as well as passion to preserve Indian medical heritage and established "Ibn Sina Academy" at Aligarh. Many were quite impressed with this work on history of medicine and later on asked the detail during the late cultural evening.

On the same day, we had a chance to review projects of year 1 (fellows 2005) and to give our comments. All new projects were fantastic based on new innovations and new ideas. I hope they could accomplish all these projects and would present their work next year as year 2 fellows. Nothing is impossible, if we all take continuous feedback in a constructive way and try to complete our projects.

Next day, during poster presentation session, we need to present our work in groups of 5-6 people. After all presentations, a year 1 volunteer from each group had to present the project works of year 2 in front of all fellows. Dr. Hem Sagar from Nepal presented my work very nicely. This way, year 1 fellows came to know various accomplished projects of year 2 fellows. On the same day, during graduation ceremony for 2013 fellows (year 3), I could manage to interact many senior fellows, faculties and few of my batch-mates such as Ciraj, Anupama and Bharti. The graduation ceremony was quite impressive when senior graduates and administrators were all wearing different designed-gowns. The speeches made by Drs. Janet and Ralf were very energetic and inspiring. I wish I could be able to attend similar function next year.

On 11th February, we were taught the basic value of educational scholarship - a criteria, which is fulfilled whenever there is a peer reviewed novel, innovative and creative ideas and that has a direct impact on any discipline or community of people, and requires a high level of expertise to make it public by using certain platform to build upon. True scholarship can be applied in any clinical set-up, teaching, outreach program and research. This advanced lecture was followed by interactive session on abstract writing. We had a

chance to write a scholarly abstract on any discipline in groups. We were also given a chance to improve our already submitted abstracts as per RGS guidelines. Dr. Anil Kumar, faculty of our group, particularly suggested me how could I further extend my project. That gave an idea that my project is still incomplete and needs lots of work before final scholarly publication.

The lectures on SNAPS by TS Sir and Microteaching by Dr. Sheena followed by role-play by Dr. Daljit, Dr. Dinesh, Dr. Hemlata, Dr. Mrunal were marvelous. The concept and idea of ML web discussion in group was further refreshed by TS Sir along with hands-on active participation. Other sessions on Mini CEX, small group learning and teaching were taken by TS Sir, Dr. Jugesh, Dr. Dinesh and Dr. Gagan. The way all these faculties used to acknowledge our queries in almost all sessions, were very inspiring to me and I learned how to be courteous and respect other comments.

So what?

Since I joined CMCL-FAIMER, I felt obvious difference in my way of medical teaching. Frankly speaking, I am still learning a lot from many experienced medical educationists through FAIMER-Institute Listserv. I have been trying to explore new avenues in teaching medical education. I made some changes in my way of teaching either for small group of students or larger group since I joined CMCL-FAIMER.

Although, my CMCL-FAIMER project was all related to teaching rational use of investigations (P-Investigations) while managing patients as a part of GCP, but the entire experience provided me a broader perspective in dealing other projects systematically and steadily. I assigned a part of my FAIMER project

work to one of the UG students as ICMR-STC. My PhD work was itself a part of another project awarded by Sax Institute (Australia). During my first contact session in 2008, I got impressed by Dr. Dinesh Badyal's innovative project, "implementation of computer simulation models as replacement of animal experiments in teaching UG Pharmacology". Soon, after coming back to my department, I tried to transform the teaching of animal experimentation. I created a separate lab on alternative to animal experimentation with new modules of pharmacology teaching through e-learning and software. This newly created lab in 2008 was the first in India as it was not a lab with few computers at a corner of old animal experiment lab! No medical college at that time had similar separate lab. It is now a full-fledged lab like any other Pharmacology lab. Because of uniqueness in its existence, Pharmacology teachers from other colleges came to witness our lab so that they could also replicate the same in their own medical colleges. In 2009, I also wrote an exclusive guide for easy understanding of alternative to animal experimentation; the third revised edition of the same came in 2015.

The college administration also retained me as member of MEU in spite of 2 years-term completion. In addition, I am presently entrusted with a responsibility as secretary, International Association of Medical Colleges (www.iaomc.org). Earlier in 2006, I was nominated as member of its Advisory Council (Section 1) and then elected as "Chair of the Advisory Council (Section 3) in 2010.

In this way, FAIMER helped me a lot in broadening my horizon both academically and administratively in the field of medical education. The way the FAIMER faculties used to acknowledge

each comment in all sessions, was very much inspiring. I learned how to respect everybody's comments. I thank FAIMER Fellows particularly for their constant advice and active support.

What next?

Whatever I learned during the whole first and second contact sessions related to various processing, time management, conflict management, improving projects, scholarly work, I would imply the same and try to practice myself. I am happy that we are now having 3 CMCL-FAIMER Fellows in our college. Prof. Tamkin and Dr. Salman are other Fellows. As a team, we will try to involve other faculties and take responsibility for the promotion of scholarship of learning and teaching through research, curriculum design, blended learning, assessment and evaluation through MEU. Last but not the least, I will try to motivate other colleagues from my institute to get enroll in FAIMER project, which is now gaining momentum after current MCI guidelines.

Book Review

Ibn Sina and the Canon of Medicine

By Dr. K. Sohail (www.drsohail.com)

When I was a medical student at Khyber Medical College, Peshawar Pakistan, I loved to read the college magazine *Sina* as it was named after the famous Persian physician, philosopher and scholar Ibn Sina, known in the Western world as Avicenna. In my final year I felt proud to be the editor of that prestigious magazine.

When I was in Iran, I worked in a children's hospital in Hamadan. From the window of my clinic I could see the tomb of Ibn Sina. Ibn Sina spent many years of his life in Hamadan creating his masterpieces in medicine and philosophy. It gave me great pleasure to

walk on the streets that Ibn Sina had walked a thousand years ago.

When I came to Canada I had the honor of befriending Zakaria Virk, a Pakistani scholar who had written extensively on the life and legacy of the scientist and scholar Abdus Salam, the Nobel Laureate of Pakistan. Zakaria Virk has a keen interest in the writings of scholars and philosophers from the Muslim world. His latest book is titled *Commentators and Translators of Ibn Sina's Canon of Medicine*. It is an English translation of Professor Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman's book in Urdu, published by Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh, India. It is a goldmine of information and an extensive anthology of more than two hundred writers and scholars from all over the world who have written translations and commentaries on Ibn Sina's *Canon of Medicine*.

Zakaria Virk's translation is a great gift to all who have an interest in the history of medicine and in the writings of Muslim scholars, especially Ibn Sina. I feel honored that Zakaria Virk consulted me when he was working on this book. I congratulate Zakaria Virk and Professor Zillur Rahman for their dedication and commitment to the advancement of knowledge and wisdom. I would also like to congratulate Ibn Sina Academy India for publishing this book, a treasure of our medical heritage. I wish there were more scholars like Zakaria Virk who would translate the precious works of Eastern scholars into English so that Western readers could benefit from Eastern wisdom and feel part of the global village in which we all live.

To offer a better appreciation of Zakaria Virk's gift to humanity, I would like to elaborate a little on Ibn Sina and his *Canon of Medicine*.

Ibn Sina was born in 980 in Afsana, a village near Bukhara. His father Abdullah, a well-respected scholar, made sure that Ibn Sina received the best education available. As a teenager, Ibn Sina developed a strong interest in medicine and philosophy. He was troubled by Aristotle's *Metaphysics*; he read it many times and did not rest until he read the commentary by al Farabi.

As a young adult, Ibn Sina traveled to many cities, countries and cultures. He read and wrote extensively. Finally he settled in Hamadan where he died in 1037. He summarized his philosophy thus: "I prefer a short life with width to a narrow one with length."

Ibn Sina had a wide range of interests from medicine to psychology, poetry to philosophy, logic to theology. He considered prophets "inspired philosophers" and human intellect "divine light". George Sarton, author of *The History of Science*, described Ibn Sina as "one of the greatest thinkers and medical scholars in history."

Ibn Sina wrote about more than two hundred works, the two most famous of which are *The Book of Healing* (*Kitâb al-Shifâ'*) and *Canon of Medicine*. He completed his five-volume masterpiece *Canon of Medicine* in AD 1025. In that book he synthesized and integrated Hippocratic, Aristotelian, Galenic, Chinese, Arab and Persian traditions. It was like an encyclopedia of medicine. The term canon had Latin and Ancient Greek origins that meant measuring rod and standard. It is one of the most respected books of medical history and remained a textbook in universities all over the world for nearly eight hundred years.

In the *Canon of Medicine*, Ibn Sina stated that medicine was a science as

well as an art. He wrote, "Medicine is the science by which we learn the various states of the body; in health, when not in health, the means by which health is likely to be lost, and, when lost, is likely to be restored. In other words, it is the art whereby health is concerned and the art by which it is restored after being lost." Ibn Sina made significant contributions to Humoral Theory and added a psychological dimension to physical medicine. In his book he wrote a special chapter on Melancholia, now known as Depression.

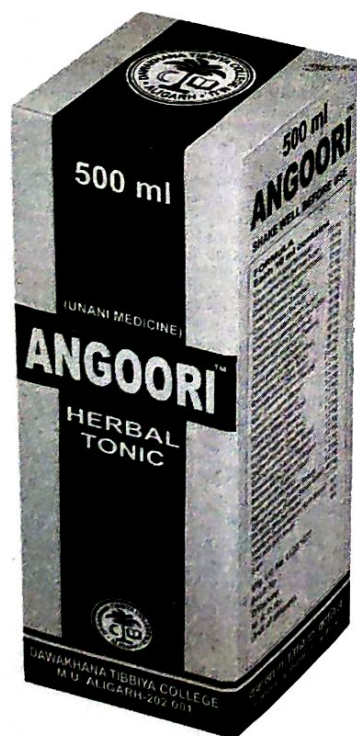
Ibn Sina's *Canon of Medicine* has been translated into many languages. Zakaria Virk's book provides an excellent overview of more than two hundred translators and commentators of that book. It is a valuable addition to the history of medicine and an impressive contribution to the work of the renowned Muslim scholar Ibn Sina.



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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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Public Relation Officers:

Er. Khalid Faridi & Dr. Mujeeb Shehzar

Circulation Officer: Dr. Masroor Ahmad

Print at: Muslim Educational Press, Aligarh, India

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