

Newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy (NISA)

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman

Editor

Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman

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Aligarh, India**



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لوگوں کے لیے مددگار ہے۔

★ دماغین خوش ذائقہ تازگی و توانائی سے بھرپور ہے۔

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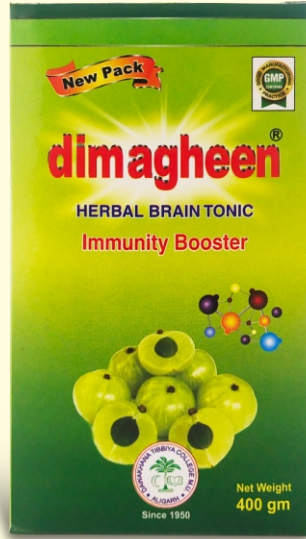
★ دماغین یکسوئی کو بڑھاتی ہے اور تھکان کم کرتی ہے۔

★ دماغین میں دوائی و غذائی اجزاء سے بھرپور مشہور پھل

آملہ اجزاء اعظم کے طور پر استعمال ہوتا ہے۔

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EVENTS AT IBN SINA ACADEMY

(April – June 2024)

Remembering the eventful life of late Prof. Fasih Ahmad Siddiqi

Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Sciences organised a commemorative event titled “Remembering the eventful life of late Prof. Fasih Ahmad Siddiqi” on Sunday, May 19, 2024, in Aligarh to honor the life and contributions of the late Dr Fasih Ahmad Siddiqi, Professor of Chemistry in AMU, a philanthropist, an academic administrator, and thinker. The event witnessed participation of scholars, students, family and community members. The event aimed to celebrate the profound impact of Professor Siddiqi's work and his enduring legacy.

Professor Abdur Raheem Kidwai, Director of the KA Nizami Center for Quranic Studies at AMU Aligarh, presented an insightful article covering the life of Professor Siddiqi. Professor Kidwai detailed the early years of Professor Siddiqi, his journey from Lucknow to Aligarh and then to the rest of the world, his deep association with Avadh culture, his passion for literature, and his dedication to education and community service. His autobiographical account *Yadoñ ki Mehak* is insightful saga of his times. He highlighted the effort of Prof. Fasih Ahmad Siddiqi in turning around ABK Union high school, and making it a significant part of AMU. He was fortunate to receive all-round support from the then Vice-Chancellor Dr Mehmoodur Rehman.

Professor Parvaiz Talib of Dept. of Business and Management Studies, AMU, Aligarh, recalled his association with Professor Siddiqi's as a student of BSc and how he continued to guide and inspire him to contribute as an academic. He specially acknowledged his contribution in helping him write better.

Professor Afzal Anees of Dept. General Surgery, JNMC, AMU, spoke about deep commitment of Professor Siddiqi, particularly his passion for motivating students to achieve

greatness. He recounted numerous instances of Professor Siddiqi's encouragement and guidance that led students to remarkable accomplishments, including his own success in medical entrance exam.

Dr. Shaad Abqari, Dept. of Paediatrics, and close relative of Professor Siddiqi, shared his personal reflections on the profound influence Professor Siddiqi had on those around him. Dr. Abqari's too highlighted Professor Siddiqi's role as a mentor and guide.

Mr. Bakhtiyar Khan shared his experiences with Professor Siddiqi. He, as firm believer in transformative power of education, exhorted every member of his family to ensure best education for the younger generation.

In his presidential address Padma Shri Professor Syed Zillur Rahman, recalled his long association with Professor Siddiqi's, beginning way back in 1946 in Nadwa of Lucknow. He shared that Prof Siddiqi's father Master Abdul Sami, had the rare distinction of being offered a house in the premises in Nadwa. He also informed that Master Abdul Sami taught me English during my Nadva days of studying. Prof. Siddiqi's association continued to gain strength and especially highlighted how he was deeply committed to Ibn Sina Academy. Professor Rahman's address encapsulated the spirit of the event, celebrating a life dedicated to the betterment of humanity through education.

Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman presented the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all the speakers, attendees, and organizers who contributed to making the event a success and their heartfelt tribute to Professor Siddiqi's legacy.

An interactive meeting with the team of SSGE & Rahmani 30

An interactive meeting with the team of SSGE & Rahmani 30 was held on 1.5.2024 at Ibn Sina Academy. The meeting was attended by

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the members of the SSGE Core Team comprising of Prof. Suhail Sabir, Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Prof. Adnan Hafiz, Engineer Fareed Nazim Farooqui, Mr. Ahmad Raza Naqvi, Mrs Sadia Ayub and Mrs Nishat Shakeel while Engineer Sudip Jha and Mr. Nooruddin as representatives of Rehmani 30 group. The meeting was convened under the direction of Mr. Fahad Rahmani, CEO for Rahmani Foundation, Engineer Rizwanullah Khan from USA and Mr. Haroon Akmal Ayyubi from UAE.

Both the parties after formal introduction explained their fundamental works. SSGE core team threw light on its scholarship programme with the sole aim that no student should drop out from AMU schools due to lack of financial resources or guidance (Mentorship). Rahmani30 was started with the vision to search and train the talented students for prestigious engineering institutions like Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) at an affordable price in a residential atmosphere. They explained that there is a proper process in selecting students. They further informed that Rahmani30 has recently started its centre in Aligarh with complete supervised hostel accommodation at a private school.

Both parties agreed to work in collaboration and would help each other. Rahmani30 needs students from UP and adjoining areas of Aligarh, In this direction, SSGE would help in getting bright students from AMU Schools.

Rahmani30 centre in Aligarh is catering resident students of grade 8th, 9th and 10th. The students of SSGE attending grade 8th, 9th and 10th as day scholars can be accommodated in Rahmani30 centre provided the management committee allows them! SSGE students do not need hostel facilities, it was explained. However, SSGE core team would bear the cost of tuition fee of all SSGE students if selected for Rahmani30 centre. Likewise, students of SSGE from 11th grade can take admission to other centres of Rahmani30 like in Bangalore, Pune and Patna.

SSGE Class 10 students who have recently taken their board exams are eligible to fill out the form. If they are selected after the Rahmani 30 interview, they would get the opportunity to attend the other centres of Rahmani30 in Bangalore, Pune and Patna for their IIT JEE preparation. Engineer Sudip Jha provided the link for the admission form (Class 10th appearing students):- <https://tinyurl.com/r30-std-form-2024>

In the end, the team of Rahmani30 had a tour of the museum of Ibn Sina Academy. Dinner was served with the courtesy of SSGE Core Team.

Mentorship & question answer session for students of SSGE Scholarship

The Core Team of the School Support Group for Education (SSGE) at Ibn Sina Academy organized interview sessions for AMU students on April 20th and 21st, 2024. The sessions were attended by numerous student beneficiaries, their parents, and core team members including Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Dr. Misbahuddin Azhar, Engineer Adnan Hafiz, Dr. (Mrs.) Rehana Ahmad, Mr. Fareed Nazim Farooqui and Mr. Ahmad Raza. The event received media coverage, possibly as part of an educational series.



Ibn Sina Academy is a signatory with other international organization for the MSF to reconsider its decision to stop meaningfully engaging in access work.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) announced last week that after 25 years, the Access Campaign would be shut down. MSF is describing it as a 'restructure', but the Access Campaign will be closed as such, and replaced by a handful of staff with dedicated expertise on a fraction of Access Campaign issues and focused inwardly on MSF procurement / operational issues. Staff are facing layoffs and will have to reapply / compete for the handful of roles that will be kept in the new structure.

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According to plans, MSF will no longer work on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Hepatic C-Virus (HCV), Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), Intellectual Property (IP), Free Trade Agreement (FTAs), Research and Development (R&D), transparency, or cross-cutting access issues. The loss of expertise in these key areas and institutional knowledge is irreparable.

A huge group of folks working in this space have written a letter asking MSF to reconsider their decision to stop meaningfully engaging in access work when there is still tremendous need.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

1. School Staff, Sultan Jahan Public School, Aligarh, 24.5.2024. Dr. Aisha Nawaz, Principal, Sultan Jahan Public School thanked and stated that the visit led the teaching staff to explore the collection extant at the Academy
2. Educational Tour, School Students of Class 4th and 5th, Sultan Jahan Public School, Aligarh, 13.5.2024
3. Educational Tour, School Students of Class 3rd, Sultan Jahan Public School, Aligarh, 14.5.2024

Dr. Faiza Abbasi, Treasurer, Sultan Jahan Public School arranged these visits of the teaching staff and school children.

MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman, President, Ibn Sina Academy, was invited to chair the Essay Writing Prize Distribution Programme on 20.4.2024, held at Conference Room of the K. A. Nizami Centre for Quranic Studies, AMU, Aligarh. The programme was held under the guidance of Prof. Abdur Raheem Kiwai, Honorary Director, KAN Centre.

Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman was also invited as Guest of Honour during the International Seminar on Museum for Educational and Research, Department of Museology, Aligarh

Muslim University, Aligarh, 18.5.2024 (See detail on page 11-12)

Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Hony. Treasurer, Ibn Sina Academy, had been elected as Fellow of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine (FFPM).

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine (FPM) is a faculty of the three Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom viz the Royal College of Physicians London, the Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Glasgow. FPM recognises excellence in the science and practice of pharmaceutical medicine, including education, teaching, policy, and engagement. These fellowships are presented annually in recognition of those who have worked towards the mission to advance the science and practice of pharmaceutical medicine by developing and maintaining the competence, ethics and integrity and the highest professional standards in the specialty for the benefit of the public.

Dr. Rahman as a pharmaceutical physician and faculty of FPM will supervise the Pharmaceutical Medicine Specialty Training (PMST) as well as running the Diploma and Certificate in Pharmaceutical Medicine for pharmaceutical physicians, the Diploma and Certificate in Human Pharmacology (DHP and CHP) and Diploma in Experimental Therapeutics examinations which have been designed to provide accreditation to all professionals with an interest in exploratory drug development. FPM coordinates the continuing professional development (CPD) of its members and is also, as a member of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC), working with the General Medical Council (GMC) on the framework for revalidation for pharmaceutical physicians.

Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman has also been appointed as Co-opted Committee Member, Faculty of Dentistry, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, for a period of three years (2024-2027). In addition, he was invited as guest in the following events:

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1. Guest Lecture on Animal Screening Methods for Morphine Addiction, "Training Programme in Animal Handling and Drug Administration", Central Animal Facility, NIPER-Raebareli, 6.5.2024
2. Resource Person, 3-day Post-graduate National Workshop on Good Clinical Practice, Protocol Writing, Hands-on Training for SKILL and Computer Aided Learning Lab, and ACLS/BLS, Department of Pharmacology, Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar Government Medical College (BRRAGMC), Kannauj, 2-4 May 2024
3. Resource Person, Sensitization-cum-Stakeholder Meeting, Uttar Pradesh University of Medical Sciences, Saifai, Etawah, April 30, 2024 in collaboration with National Coordination Centre (NCC) for Materiovigilance Programme of India (MvPI), Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC). In the presence of Vice Chancellor, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Registrar and HoDs, shared the experience on reporting adverse events following coronary stent implantation as a health care professional.
4. Chaired, Technical Session, Paediatric Endocrine Symposium, Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP) Aligarh Branch, 19.5.2014
5. Presented INSA Project, Scientific validation of the factors affecting Ageing defined in "Ainul Hayat" by Muhammad ibn Yusuf al-Harawi (fl. 1492-1518 and died 1542), INSA, New Delhi, 16.5.2024
6. Fundamental Research Sub-committee Meeting, CCRUM Headquarters, Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India, New Delhi, 2.5.2024
7. Meeting of the Faculty of Dentistry as Co-opted Committee Member, Faculty of Dentistry, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, 16.5.2024
8. Interview Panel Meeting for Professor / Associate Professor and Assistant Professor, Directorate of Medical Education (DME), MPPHSCL, Bhopal, MP, 3.4.2024

Dr. Rahman was invited to visit the National Institute of Complementary Medicine (NICM)

of the Western Sydney University, Westmead Campus, Sydney, Australia, on 18.6.2024.

National Institute of Complementary Medicine (NICM) is the only Health Research Institute (NICM HRI) in Australia, maintained by 'Western Sydney University'. It is pioneer in integrative and complementary medicine research and policy. The Institute's research includes clinical trials, laboratory testing, and policy work, with a concentrated effort in few clinical areas.

"I'm impressed with the research work that they are doing on TM for the last many years. After a gap of 14 years, I visited the NICM once again. Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India has established an 'Ayurveda Chair' in NICM, where Prof. Rajagopala Shrikrishna, is deputed. The whole staff including the Director NICM Prof. Dennis Chen welcomed me and had a detailed discussion on many aspects of Indian System of Medicine".

Dr. Rahman in an official capacity also visited following institutions:

1. Haryana Public School, Ferozepur Jhirka, Haryana, 22.5.2024
2. Shaheed Hasan Khan Mewati Govt. Medical College, Nalhar, Nuh, 22.5.2024
3. KD Medical College, Mathura, 9.5.2024 and 10.5.2024
4. KM Medical College, Mathura, 12.5.2024

Engineer Rizwan Khan from the USA penned a poem after his friend Engineer Hasan Siddiqui's visit from Brisbane, to meet Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman in Sydney, Australia on June 2nd, 2024.

*In Sydney's embrace, where the oceans meet
the sky,*

*Two friends reunite, as time whispers by.
One journeyed from India, a new life to begin,
The other now visits, where old bonds deepen.
Amidst the Opera House and the Harbor's
bright gleam,*

*Memories unfold, like a beautiful dream.
Laughter and stories fill the warm Aussie air,
As friendship rekindles, so precious and rare.
In this vibrant city, where new paths are laid,
Together they wander, through sun and*

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through shade.

*Old worlds and new, in a seamless blend,
Sydney's the backdrop, where hearts never
end.*

*So here's to your meeting, under the Southern
Cross,*

*In moments of joy, and the absence of loss.
May your days be filled with laughter and
cheer,*

As you celebrate friendship, year after year.

Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman visited Australia during 29.5.2024 to 19.6.2024 to get his children admitted in 'Robert Townson High School' at Raby, Sydney. They joined the school on 12.6.2024. It was a family dream of fulfilling their academic journey ahead! Earlier Dr. Rahman completed his PhD from the same country in 2015.

**UPCOMING
CONFERENCES/SEMINARS**

"Abu Ali ibn Sino (Avicenna) – The Pearl of the Medicine"

Avicenna Public Foundation together with the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Khokimiat of the Samarkand region and the Samarkand State Medical University going to organize the III International Scientific and Practical Conference on Traditional (Folk) Medicine with the theme, "Abu Ali ibn Sino (Avicenna) – The Pearl of the Medicine" on October 12th, 2022 in Samarkand city, Republic of Uzbekistan.

The purpose of the conference is to study and analyze the process of formation, development, dissemination of traditional medicine in the context of healing culture; to consider the level of knowledge of problems, to draw attention to the study of Ibn Sina's legacy and its contribution to the development of medical science.

Likewise, the main objectives of the conference is to acquaintance with new trends and achievements in traditional (folk) medicine; popularization and introduction of the traditional (folk) medicine's methods into

everyday life to prevent the various diseases; to study the methods of various centers, institutes, schools, systems and programs of complex human regeneration; to unite the organizations and specialists in the field of folk, traditional and alternative medicine in order to form a single data bank and improving the professional level of the services provided.

The main scientific directions of the Conference are as follows:

1. The history of the development, formation and expansion of traditional (folk) medicine on the "Great Silk Road".
2. The role and significance of the scientific heritage of Abu Ali ibn Sino (Avicenna) in the development of traditional medicine.
3. Issues of studying and training of the specialists of traditional (folk) medicine: continuing education programs in Uzbekistan.
4. Formation of a specialist in traditional medicine: the experience of foreign countries, modern approaches.
5. Issues of accreditation of educational programs, specialization and licensing of specialists in traditional medicine.
6. The role of traditional medicine in modern pharmacology.
7. Folk medicine: infectious and non-infectious diseases.
8. From traditions to science: methods and clinics of traditional medicine in Uzbekistan.
9. Traditional medicine at the intersection of cultures and sciences

The official languages of the conference will be Uzbek, Russian and English. All the materials of the scientific-practical conference will be published in conference proceedings.

Interested participants may submit the abstract to the organizing committee of the conference by e-mail: ibnsino_conf2024@mail.ru by August 20th, 2024. No more than 2 abstracts are accepted from one author. Send the application and abstracts in one letter with different attached files (in Word format - the surname of the first author. The subject of the

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letter is "Conference". All works will be checked for plagiarism. In case of non-compliance with the requirements for registration or when sending abstracts later than the specified period, the submitted materials will be rejected by the editorial board.

For further query, please contact the organizing committee:

Sharafova Inobat Axmedjanovna, Avicenna Public Foundation, 51“a” Parkentskaya str., Tashkent, 100007, tel/fax (+99871) 268-08-97, e-mail: ibnsino2013@yandex.com; ibnsino_conf2024@mail.ru. Mobile: +998 91 528 30 70

22nd Annual Meeting of Society of Pharmacovigilance, India (SoPICON 2025)

Society of Pharmacovigilance, India (SoPI) is going to organize its International Conference on Safety of Medicine and 22nd Annual Meeting of SoPI (SoPICON 2025) from 5-7 February 2025 at AIIMS Bhopal. The scientific events would include two prestigious orations, guest lectures, free papers, poster presentations and quiz competition for medical students. The orations and guest lectures will be delivered by eminent invited speakers. For any queries, please contact, Prof. Ratinder Jhaj, Dept. of Pharmacology, AIIMS Bhopal; Email: adr@aiimsbhopal.edu.in; or call Ms. Deepa at 9827422094, or Mr. Sandeep at 9754117479.

CME on Adverse Events in Dentistry: Understanding the Risks of Dental Devices and Strategies to Improve Monitoring

Medical Device Adverse Events Monitoring Centre (MDMC) of JNMC, AMU, Aligarh is going to organise a CME on ‘Adverse Events in Dentistry: Understanding the Risks of Dental Devices and Strategies to Improve Monitoring’ on 10th August 2024 at the College Auditorium of the Dr. Z. A. Dental College, AMU, Aligarh.

“MDMC of JNMC, has been working for the last three years and this programme is being organised for the first time as a part of sensitization of the Dental College staff under

the guidance of Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission, Ghaziabad”, informed by Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Coordinator, MDMC, JNMC, AMU, Aligarh.

For more information, please contact, Prof. Pradhuman Verma, Chairman, Dept. of Oral Medicine and Radiology, Dr. Z. A. Dental College, AMU, Aligarh, or Mr. Gufran Ali, Pharmacovigilance Associate, PvPI, JNMC, AMU, Aligarh. 6396616011 (M); Email: ali.gufran79@gmail.com

MPSCON2024

Medical Pharmacological Society (MPS) is going to organize the MPSCON 2024 with theme, ‘Innovations in Pharmacology: Bridging Research, Industry, and Healthcare’ at Saveetha Medical College, Chennai, Tamil Nadu on 29-30th August, 2024.

For more information, please contact: Dr. Shiva Murthy. N, President, Medical Pharmacologists Society, Kothanur Dinne, JP Nagar, Bangalore-560076. Contact No through +918884328275

SCHOLARSHIP/FELLOWSHIP

PAL Visiting Fellowships 2025 (1-3 months)

The project Ptolemaeus Arabus et Latinus (PAL) is dedicated to the edition and study of the Arabic and Latin versions of Ptolemy’s astronomical and astrological texts and related material. These include works by Ptolemy or attributed to him, commentaries thereupon and other works that are of immediate relevance to understanding Ptolemy’s heritage in the Middle Ages and the early modern period up to 1700 AD.

The project is hosted by the Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften in Munich for a period of 25 years from 2013 to 2037. It is supervised by Prof. Dr. Dag Nikolaus Hasse (University of Würzburg) and carried out by five scholars, including two research leaders, Dr. David Juste and Dr. Benno van Dalen, two post-doctoral researchers and one doctoral student.

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We welcome applications for visiting fellowships tenable in Munich for a period of one to three months between 1 January and 30 November 2025.

- The fellowships amount to EUR 4000 per month for senior scholars (PhD degree awarded before 1 January 2020), EUR 3000 per month for postdocs (PhD degree awarded after 31 December 2019) and EUR 2000 per month for doctoral students. In special cases an additional travel grant may be awarded to overseas applicants. The fellowships are not liable to taxation in Germany and do not include health insurance or social benefits.

- Fellows will be offered office facilities at the Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften in Munich, together with the research team, and are expected to work in Munich most of the time. Fellows will be given access to the research facilities of the project, including the project's digital reproductions of over 2,500 Arabic and Latin manuscripts.

- Fellows are expected to do research in an area relevant to the project and to share their experience and insights with the other members of the research team. Research proposals to deal with Ptolemaic sources in languages other than Arabic and Latin (especially Greek, Syriac, Hebrew and Persian) are also welcome.

Applications should be sent in English to Prof. Dr. Dag Nikolaus Hasse by email: (applications@ptolemaeus.badw.de) before 2 September 2024. Applications should include a complete CV with a list of publications and a research proposal of no more than 500 words. Applicants are asked to state in their research proposal the preferred duration of the fellowship (one, two or three months) and to propose a starting date.

Receipt of the application will be acknowledged and the outcome of all applications will be notified by email no later than 15 October 2024.

For further information, please visit our website <http://ptolemaeus.badw.de>. & for further enquiries, contact Dr. Claudia Dorl at applications@ptolemaeus.badw.de.

2024–25 Fellowships in Aerospace History.

The American Historical Association and the History of Science Society, in partnership with the Society for the History of Technology, are now accepting applications for the 2024–25 Fellowships in Aerospace History. Please help us circulate this information and encourage applications by April 1.

Supported by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), these three annual fellowships fund projects that undertake advanced research in all aspects of aerospace history, from the earliest human interest in flight to the present, including cultural and intellectual history, economic history, history of law and public policy, and history of science, engineering, and management.

Applicants must possess a PhD in history or in a closely related field or be enrolled as a student (having completed all coursework) in a doctoral degree-granting program. Preference will be given to scholars at early stages in their careers. Stipends may be awarded only to US citizens or permanent residents.

The fellowship term is for a period of at least six months, but not more than nine months, and should commence no later than January of the fellowship term. The stipend is \$22,550 for a six- to nine-month fellowship, which includes travel expenses.

For more information, please see our <https://www.historians.org/community-careers/awards-grants/>. Applicants will be considered for all three fellowships. The deadline is April 1, 2024. If you have any questions, please contact the awards staff at awards@historians.org.

Submitted by, Dana Schaffer, Deputy Director

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BMC Medical Ethics calling for submissions to the collection on Islamic medical ethics.

This collection seeks to advance the field of Islamic medical ethics through discourses that bridge traditional Islamic ethical reasoning exercises, frameworks, norms, and concerns with contemporary healthcare values and practices. Welcoming diverse perspectives, the collection invites scholars investigating:

(i) foundational concepts within medical ethics discourses such as the sanctity of life, informed consent, autonomy, justice, and compassion through the lens of Islamic jurisprudence and or philosophy, as well as those (ii) critically analyzing modern clinical practices and their attendant bioethical challenges from the vantage point of Islamic morality, or (iii) comparing secular and religious discourses over the role of physicians, patients, and society in healthcare. In addition to these more conceptual and theoretical pieces, we also invite practical and applied clinical ethics submissions that (iv) discuss and debate the intersection of Islamic values with medical culture and the delivery of healthcare to Muslim patients, as well as those (v) analyzing the ethical dilemmas Muslim providers face in delivering healthcare.

Submission Deadline: 16 December 2024

Guest Editors: Rosie Duivenbode, Aasim I. Padela & Inass Shaltout.

<https://www.biomedcentral.com/collections/islmeth>

Postdoctoral Fellowship Opportunity: "Astral Sciences in Trans-Regional Asia" (MPIWG, Berlin)

The Max Planck Research Group "Astral Science in Trans-Regional Asia" at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (MPIWG) in Berlin invites applications for a 12-month Postdoctoral Fellowship position (stipend) starting September 1, 2024.

ASTRA studies the transmission, translocation, and transcreation of astral knowledge in Asia. The researchers in this group use philological, mathematical and

sociohistorical methods to explore this rich intellectual tradition.

Early-career scholars with a strong research background in the history of astral sciences, particularly in Southeast or Central Asia are encouraged to apply. Applications are also welcome from researchers with expertise in other geographical areas, provided their work aligns with ASTRA's core interests.

How to apply:

- Review detailed information about ASTRA and the application process: <https://www.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/news-events/career/opportunities>, under Postdoctoral Fellow ("Astral Science in Trans-Regional Asia")
- Submit your application by the deadline: May 1, 2024 (23:59 CEST)

For more information, please contact Univ.-Prof. Dr Anuj Misra (amisra@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de).

ASTRA encourages applications from highly motivated young scholars passionate about exploring the history of astral sciences in Asia.

Submitted by, Anuj MISRA, Ph.D

Senior Research Scholar

Dept. III Artifacts, Action, Knowledge,
Max Planck Institute for the History of
Science, Berlin, Germany

DOCUMENTATION

Annual Avicenna Clinical Pharmacology Quiz 8.0

The team of Muhammad Haris Khan and Areeb Shahid Rao won the first prize in the annual Avicenna Clinical Pharmacology Quiz 8.0, hosted by the Department of Pharmacology, JN Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University, in collaboration with Ibn Sina Academy, leaving behind 19 teams of enthusiastic students eager to put their clinical pharmacology knowledge to test. The team of Harim Kausar and Mariyam Rehman claimed the second place while the third place went to the team of Mudassir Ali and Gopal Gupta.

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All winning participants earned both certificates and cash prizes worth of Rs. 10,000 for their outstanding performances.

The competition kicked off on May 13th, 2024, with the screening round, where teams engaged in a battle of intellect. Following this, the second round, focusing on clinical-based questions, and the third round, featuring image-based queries, took place on May 14th, 2024. After three rigorous rounds, ten teams emerged as finalists, earning their spot in the Rapid-Fire round.

Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Chairperson, appreciated the enthusiasm of the participants and urged the students to take part in such extra-curricular activities in a large number as they will help them not only in their academic pursuits but also help in their personality development.

Dr. Jameel Ahmad served as a distinguished jury member, offering valuable insights and judgment throughout the proceedings.

The organizing team, led by Senior Residents Dr. Mahendra Rathour and Dr. Ahmar Hasan, along with dedicated postgraduates from the department, worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth execution of the event. Dr. Abhijeet Shridhar and Dr. Bharat Srivastava conducted the program with finesse, guiding participants through each round with expertise and professionalism.

The Annual Avicenna Clinical Pharmacology Quiz 8.0 is sponsored by Dr. Misbahuddin (an alumnus of JNMC and settled in Saudi Arabia) not only showcased the academic excellence of JNMC, AMU, students but also provided a platform for learning and growth in the field of clinical pharmacology. It served as a testament to the institution's commitment to nurturing talent and fostering a spirit of intellectual curiosity among its students.

International Seminar on Museum for Educational and Research

The Department of Museology, Aligarh Muslim University organised an international

seminar on "Museum for Education and Research", in collaboration with the International Council of Museums (ICOM-India) and the International Council for Biodeterioration of Cultural Property (ICBCP), marking the International Museum Day on 18.5.2024.

Highlighting the objectives of the International Council of Biodeterioration of Cultural Property (ICBCP), founded by Dr. O.P. Agarwal in 1989, the chief guest, Dr. Virendra Nath (President, ICBCP and former Scientist, NBRI, Lucknow), said that the ICBCP aims at diffusing the knowledge of biodeterioration and allied science all over the world by holding meetings, conferences, seminars, workshops, lectures, etc. He said, "Museums are an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among peoples".

Prof. Ambika Patel (President, ICOM-India and Head of the Department of Museology, MS University, Baroda) explained that ICOM is dedicated to promoting and protecting natural and cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, for present and future generations.

The guest of honour, Mr. Rajkumar Patel (Superintendent, ASI, Agra Circle) emphasised the significance of preserving our cultural heritage and the importance of museums' educational role. He also discussed the history and origin of site museums in India through the formation of different societies.

Another guest of honour, Prof. Hakeem Syed Zillur Rahman, former Treasurer, AMU and Director, Ibn Sina Academy, stressed the importance of education through museums and urged the students to take an interest in museum visits.

Delivering a keynote address online, Prof. Amareswar Galla (UNESCO Chair for Inclusive Museum, Australia) elaborated on the issues pertaining to cultural preservation and heritage conservation and stressed the need for including the Unani medicine of Asia

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in the Intangible Cultural Heritage list. He emphasized the importance of museum education and research and stressed that the National Education Policy and Aligarh Muslim University should promote research through museums.

Earlier, welcoming the guests, the Organizing Secretary and the Chairperson of the Department, Prof. Abduraheem K. discussed the role of museums in the development of society and as a future classroom. He shed light on ongoing researches in the department. The conference brochure was also released by the guests on this occasion.

Dr. Danish Mahmood, Convener of the seminar conducted the programme while the Coordinator of the programme, Dr. Ameer Zarrin extended a vote of thanks.

An essay writing competition was also organized to celebrate the day, in which around 50 students from different AMU and private schools participated under two categories – Junior Category (from IX to X class) and Senior Category (from XI to XII class). All the participants received certificates of participation, while the best performance award will be given to the junior and senior category winners later.

International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking observed at JNMC

On the occasion of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the Department of Pharmacology, JNMC, AMU, organized a Public Lecture on drug abuse by Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Chairman, Department of Pharmacology. He elaborated the importance of the International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking and discussed the theme of this year entitled “The evidence is clear: invest in prevention”, He shared his experience on animal models for morphine addiction and briefed about the total MD theses work on morphine de-addiction. The overall gist of his lecture was to learn and relearn the consequences of drug abuse and its social, economic and medical impact. The lecture was attended by faculty members,

Residents and Non-teaching staff. Participants also took part in an e-pledge as directed by the Narcotics Control Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India.

A visit to Ibn Sina Academy Museum – Adventures in Aligarh’s culture Repository

By Affan Shikoh

<https://medium.com/@affanshikoh/a-visit-to-a-museum-4d81da075787>

Recently a blend of intentional and fortuitous turn of events prompted me to visit Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Sciences, Aligarh, for the first time in my life. In many ways this visit was like a better researched, more informed version of my earlier visit to the Jewish haven at Chabad Street in New Delhi. I had to, for a task assigned to me at University, access a particular document reportedly available only at this place.

After procrastinating this visit for two days, I decided to finally make it. At first, I did not know much aside from the fact that students go there to study and prepare for their upcoming competitive or academic examinations (I had some contacts who had perused that space). When I reached however, it was almost closing time, but still I tried to reach out to the curator who was responsible for the section I needed to access.

A middle-aged, clean-shaven gentleman asked me what my business was, and I told him everything about myself (or at least as much as I was allowed to reveal at that point). He asked me to write down my name and the 'artefact' I wanted to access, and give it to him. He went inside the large house that was attached to the academy and came out 5 minutes later to tell me that I should come the next day at 11 AM. So I waited for a day to visit again.

As soon as I arrived the clean-shaven gentleman asked me what my business was, in a fashion not unlike the one of previous day. Taken aback, I mumbled that I had visited a day before too, around 2:30 in the evening. He looked puzzled, and said "2:30 in the

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evening?!" In this part of the world, and really much of anywhere, there is no such thing as an evening at 2:30, PM or AM. I quickly said "Yes I meant I came at closing time," and explained how he had me write a note and asked me to visit again.

That caused him to recollect, and he went inside the house attached to the academy complex and came out 10 minutes later to tell me that "Sir" was calling me inside. I promptly walked in, rehearsing all my lines; who I was, where I was from, why I was here. I was reminded of the scene from James Joyce's *Ulysses*, when the character Leopold Bloom, an Adman, nervously approaches Nanetti the editor in chief of the newspaper he is working for. There is an air of intimidation and anticlimax about this scene, like knowing that one is about to meet someone much greater in stature than themselves.

An aged man, of around seventy years, sat looking at a sheaf of tattered papers in his hands. I resisted the urge to look around and scan the room and focused on the ancient human being in front of me. He gestured for me to sit, and I took the chair opposite him. For those of you who are not familiar with Aligarh luminaries, this gentleman was none other than Professor Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman. I didn't know in that instance that I was setting myself up for a very unplanned, very hasty interview with someone who most likely stays aloof from media and local journalists. I don't know why he decided to give me that much time, given he seemed to be a very busy and very important personality.

Maybe he wanted to open my philistine eyes to the richness that I had stumbled upon? Maybe he wanted to show me the true worth of my heritage as an Indian Muslim? Whatever the actual reason for this encounter be, I did have a lot of food for thought after the discussion ended, and the chronicle of this encounter I present before you to read and relish. At first the usual expected questions began, him asking me where I was from, what I was studying, and why I was here. Everything except my name. I addressed each query truthfully.

After I was finished, the monologue began. This institute, he claimed, was created for a purpose. The purpose is very specific, he said, and it is to collect, preserve, and bequeath our heritage to the next generation. He complained of the rot, the decay, the stagnation that has infected the collective consciousness of Muslims in India. This decay is owing to ignorance and indifference, of our neglect of our culture and values.

As he was speaking, one of the people working in his house yelled something loudly to another person, giving me a start. I thought I was being called. Sir stopped in the middle of his speech and called out to the man who was doing the yelling and gave him a piece of his mind. "Learn some manners." He said gently. Then he continued. He was talking about the rot and neglect within the Indian Muslim psyche before the interruption, and he expanded on it by saying that this is because of the indifference we have with regards to our mother tongue: Urdu. Urdu, he said, is the single thing that opponents of Indian Muslims have a grudge and fight against. They do not have a problem if Muslims own land, or follow their religion, or pray to a single God. It is the 'language' in fact that threatens the oppressor. Having studied a paper on Language and Identity in class, I could see where he was coming from. Language shapes a large part of our thinking, and owning our language is owning our unique culture and associate our identity with that culture. African postcolonial writer Ngugi Wa Thiongo talks about this radical linguistic counter-imperialism in his seminal book "Decolonising the Mind". Others like Chinua Achebe or writers like Raja Rao take a more moderate approach and make room for writing in English, as it has already irreversibly seeped into our consciousness.

He gave me a brief background of what this academy was all about, something I had briefly done my research on before arriving. Without getting too technical, he focused on aspects a layperson like myself would be able to grasp. He said that people donate artefacts to the museum (which, he added, the staff would

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show me around shortly) for three reasons. First, he said, they want to gain some repute or long-lasting fame, as anyone visiting the museum would see the donator's name associated with the artefact. Second, it would further academia, by encouraging research on newly unearthed artefacts and pieces of antiquity. Third, and perhaps most importantly, it would help a person in the future trace his origins through a piece of cloth, or a device donated several decades ago to a museum, where it will be preserved for generations to come.

The Professor also told me about the academy's rich library, which is home to tomes of literature in Urdu, Persian, Arabic, and even English. He added, with somewhat thinly garbed disdain, that not a single volume of Hindi text can be discovered in these shelves. Sir illustrated the power of language through two examples.

First was the example of India's two partitions. Had people really prioritised religion over linguistic identity, Bangladesh would have remained a part of Pakistan. Religion can transcend borders, but a common brotherhood within the hands of a universal life code may be susceptible to collapse. I could see this made sense, as we have seen Muslims persecute Muslims solely on linguistic difference in recent history and news (Darfuri genocide in Sudan, and the systematic excesses against Kurdish Muslims in Turkey, and Iraq). The second example was the antithesis of the failure of the partition. He reminded me that the Jews of the world didn't have a common land for over a thousand years, since their expulsion from Arabia. But they kept their language alive through spoken and clerical discourse, and when finally, they re-formed into a nation, they became a formidable force in the world. Hebrew is now a language used openly in the press, in arts, and in secular academia. This is the power of language and unity through a common tongue.

Finally addressing me as a "youth" or a young face, he asked me to convince my friends and family to engage with the Urdu language as

much as possible, to not let it die out, and to buy and support Urdu newspapers and magazines. He complained that today if a man starts a donation service for building a Mosque or a Madrasa (Islamic School), he would garner unanimous support. But when cultural preservation comes to the fore, people hold an attitude of apathy and indifference. This is because they realize the importance of Mosques and Schools, but they don't associate a similar value with museums and repositories.

I feel I agree with him here. To add to what he said, Islam may not rely on the number of followers or devotees to stand the test of time, in fact *it* doesn't need anyone, rather it is a need for human beings. But Urdu, being a language, does need us, as much as we need it. He finally asked me the omitted question—what was my name? I told him. He told me to write it down, and I wrote it in Urdu: عفان. He reminded me that the third Caliph Uthman's father was named that. I nodded, indeed.

After the discussion ended, I was given a tour of the museum and the library's various sections, and I was in awe of what I saw. I cannot urge all my friends enough to visit this place at least once.

The academy's services to Indian Muslims cannot be understated, and the philosophy behind this effort, which I am now exposed to, seems highly potent. The herculean task that Professor Zillur Rahman has taken upon his shoulders requires support from the rest of the Muslim community in India, who need to recognise that aside from the immutable way of life that Islam presents through its universal code for humanity, as Indian Muslims, we hold a claim to a distinctive culture and tradition which binds us through the sweet language, the لسان شیریں (Sweet tongue)

That Urdu is. Cannot wait to unearth more such gems in my city.

Note: I was not able to find exactly what I went looking for to the museum, but I did take away a lot from this visit.



CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN UNANI MEDICINE

Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India

The Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India. It was established on 30 March 1978; however, it started functioning in January 1979. Since inception, the Council has been busy in researching 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 in New Delhi.

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

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

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

Clinical Research

- Developed 27 Unani drugs, which are purely natural, standardized and without any side-effects, for successful treatment of vitiligo, sinusitis, infective hepatitis, eczema, filariasis, malaria, rheumatoid arthritis, bronchial asthma and some other common ailments.
- Obtained 15 patents on for developing certain novel therapeutic compositions and SCAR primers.

Drug Standardization

- Developed pharmacopoeial standards for 298 single and 150 compound drugs. Besides, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for manufacture of 50 compound drugs have also been finalized.
- Published six volumes of *National Formulary of Unani Medicine*, six volumes of *Unani Pharmacopoeia of India* (UPI), Part 1 (on single drugs), and three volumes of the UPI, Part 2 (on compound drugs).

Survey and Cultivation of Medicinal Plants

- Collected over 104,568 specimens of medicinal plants belonging to 1,800 species from the wild.
- Undertaken successful cultivation of 33 important medicinal species.
- Gathered and documented over 16,261 folk medicinal claims.

Literary Research

- Translated 56 volumes of 21 classical books/manuscripts from Arabic/Persian into Urdu and other languages.
- Prepared a database of 2,400 manuscripts of Unani Medicine.
- Reprinted over 70 rare classical books.
- Compiled Standard Unani Medical Terminology for 4,028 terms of Unani Medicine.
- Developed 'Standard Unani Treatment Guidelines for Common Diseases'.

Publications

- Produced over 2,000 research papers and brought out about 400 publications, besides regular publication of a quarterly bulletin *CCRUM Newsletter*, quarterly Urdu Journal *Jahan-e-Tib* and quarterly English Journal *Hippocratic Journal of Unani Medicine*.

For further information please contact:

Director General

CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN UNANI MEDICINE

Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India

61-65 Institutional Area, Janakupri, New Delhi – 110 058 (India) | Tel: 91-11-28521981

E-mail: unanimedicine@gmail.com Website: <http://ccrum.res.in>



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Editor, NISA

Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences,
Tijara House, Dodhpur, Aligarh-202002, U.P. India
E-Mail: ibnsinaacademy@gmail.com
Website: www.ibnsinaacademy.org

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OWNER, PRINTER & PUBLISHER

Professor Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman
Publication Division, IAMMS
Tijara House, Dodhpur, Aligarh-202001, U.P. India
Mobile No. 09358259740
E-Mail: rahmansz@yahoo.com

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