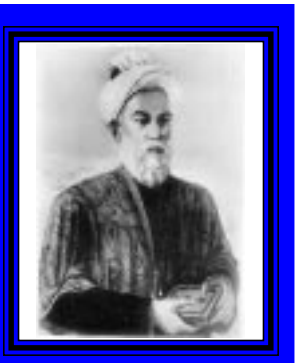
Newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy



Vol. 1 No. 2; May - August 2001

Ibn Sina Academy
of
Medieval Medicine & Sciences

Aligarh, India

Inauguration of Ibn Sînâ Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences

Hon'ble Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University inaugurated Ibn Sînâ Academy on April 20, 2001. Hon' ble Siraj Hussain, Vice Chancellor, Hamdard University, New Delhi presided over the function. Mr. Siraj Husain also inaugurated website of the academy www.ibnsinaacademy.com. Aqa'i Roohi Sefat, Deputy Chief De Mission & Councilor, Islamic Republic of Iran, India and Aqa'i Taqi Rafei of Noor Microfilm Centre, Iran Culture House, New Delhi also graced the occasion. Aqa'i Roohi Sefat inaugurated the Newsletter of Ibn Sînâ Academy (NISA), while Aqa'i Taqi Rafei released a book - Tibbi Taqadme of Professor Syed Zillur Rahman. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, Founder President of the Academy, delivered the welcome address. He introduced the academy and threw light on its activities at length. Prof. Ather H. Siddiqi, Former Dean, Faculty of Life Science, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), compared the program. More than two hundred senior teachers of AMU attended the inaugural ceremony. During the program, the Vice-Chancellor of Hamdard University and the delegation of Iran Embassy presented some publications of their institutions to the library of Ibn Sina Academy.

Mr. M. Hamid Ansari, Vice-Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University, Inaugurating the Academy on April 20, 2001 at 7:15 p.m.

Lecture Series:

First Lecture in the Ibn Sînâ Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences by Professor Mohammad Shafi

The first lecture of the Ibn Sînâ Academy was delivered in the Academy on May 10, 2001 at 7.30 p.m. by Professor Mohammad Shafi, Emeritus Professor of Geography, on Arab's Contribution to Geographical Knowledge.

Professor Syed Zillur Rahman, President of the Academy chaired the session. While introducing Professor M. Shafi to the audience, Professor Syed Zillur Rahman spoke about the academic eminence of Professor M. Shafi, his stature as former Vice-President of the International Geographical Union (IGU), his recognition by the Royal Geographical Society of London, and the conferment of medals by various European Universities, the recognition by the Government of India by awarding him Padma Shri, and the conferment of Bhoogol Ratna by Bhoo Vigyan Vikas Foundation, besides his eminent position in the Aligarh Muslim University as former Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor.

Pre facing his lecture Professor M. Shafi praised the establishment of the Academy in the footsteps of Khalifa Al-Mamun of the Abbasids period who established an Academy in Baghdad to promote the development of Science and Literature by intellectuals. Prof. M. Shafi was all praised to the individual efforts of Professor Syed Zillur Rahman by investing his personal assets in the establishment of the Academy and hoped that a system would be evolved wherein the works of the Academy will assume a permanent shape by the continuation of research in the Academy by intellectuals.

Introducing his lecture Professor M. Shafi mentioned the galaxy of eminent Arab Geographers who had done commendable geographical work to promote knowledge, but he confined his lecture to two geographers: Al-Masudi and Al-Biruni. These lectures will be published in the Journal of the Ibn Sînâ Academy (JISA).

Ibn Sînâ Academy signed the MoU with Ibn Institute of Tibb, South Africa

Ibn Sînâ Academy of Medieval Medicine and Sciences signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ibn Sînâ Institute of Tibb, Johannesburg, South Africa on May 29, 2001. Both the academy and the institute resolved the following points:

1. An exchange of information on the researches done on Ibn Sînâ in the two Institutions and their countries.
2. An exchange of their respective publications
3. To co-operate in every possible way in holding of International Conferences concerning the various studies
4. To interact academically on works-in-progress on international level and
5. To jointly run a website on Ibn Sînâ

The academy also signed the MoU with the **Great Ibn Sînâ Council**, Dhaka, Bangladesh on May 30, 2001.

Web-site Links

ibnsinaacademy.com has been linked with few important sites of world known.

http://home.swipnet.se/PharmHist/

(I feel proud to have the honour of adding a link to the Ibn Sînâ Academy's web site to the link lists of our PharmHist web site. Yours truly, Bo Ohlson, Pharmacist; editor of PerBo's History of Pharmacy Web Site)

http://www.med411.com/

(Your site has been approved and added to the med411 database under medical_associations. Your web site has been reviewed by our content staff and you may display the site for the med411.com "Medical Award". I thank you for helping to build the fastest growing medical portal on the web. Truly, Web Master, Med411, Inc.)

http://www.medbeats.com/

(We are proud to link your site with our link database. I personally found your site worth to be displayed. Webmaster, medbeats.com)

Important Dignitaries Visited Ibn Sînâ Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences

Mr. M. Hamid Ansari (Aligarh), Mr. Siraj Hussain (New Delhi), Aqai Roohi Sefat (New Delhi), Aqai Taqi Rafei (New Delhi), Aqai Mehdi Khajeh Piri (New Delhi), Professor Akhtar Mahdi (New Delhi), Mr. Ali Akbar Rizvi (Pakistan), Hakim Mohammad Muslim (Bangladesh), Mr. Rashid Bhika (South Africa), Hakim Hafiz Azizul Islam (Bangladesh), Hkm A. K. Mahbubur Rahman (Bangladesh), Prof. Mujeeb Ahmad (Pakistan), Mr. Saiyid Hamid (New Delhi), Professor Alauddin Ahmad (New Delhi), Professor B. Shaikh Ali (Mysore), Mr. Ishaq Jamkhanawala (Mumbai), Prof. Tanvir Ahmad Alvi (New Delhi).

Excerpts of few of the remarks made for IAMMS

"Congratulations to Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman Sahib and his Family for completion of this noble project. We need more projects like this for the preservation and promotion of our culture in India".

Dr. Asad Ahmed (Professor Emeritus),Canada.

"Congratulations for the inauguration of the Academy. I will read and see the content of the website and whenever I find something relevant, I will send it for your academy".

Dr. Mohammad Bagheri, Iran

"I consider it a rare privilege to have visited the Library of Janab Hakeem Zillur Rahman Saheb. The layout and furnishings of the library and the arrangement of the books proclaim a mind that is at once inquisitive and fastidious. It is not books alone. Coins and stamps are with them in the adventure of reconstructing history.

It is indeed surprising that he could devotedly satisfy the collector's instinct along with his heavy professional preoccupations. What is refreshing is that the end of the road is nowhere in sight. Hakeem Zillur Rahman's zest for adding books, manuscripts, stamps and coins to his present collection remains undiminished, found to some extent by his worthy son's shared interest".

Mr. Saiyid Hamid
Chancellor Hamdard University, New Delhi

"I am greatly impressed. If Ibn Sînâ were alive he would praise you for honoring him thus. Your efforts will be an inspiration to others and perhaps the world will see another Ibn Sînâ. well done. Good Luck and May God bless you in your efforts to establish Unani in its rightful place".

Mr. Rashid Bhikha
Ibnsina Institute of Tibb , South Africa

"It was indeed a unique occasion to visit this library which is the fruit of ceaseless labour of years together of Hakim Saheb. This could easily become a centre of great research in various subjects of oriental interest whether it is history or theology or philosophy or literature or religion or numismatics. It is a matter of great pride could be done so much in one's own lifetime. This appears to be a work of ages in a way. We place a record our greatest tribute to Hakim Saheb. May God bless him with long life, health and happiness so that we could take this centre to Himalayan heights, Amen!"

Prof. B. Shaikh Ali, Former Vice-Chancellor
Mangalore Univ. & Goa Univ.

"After going through the library and rare collection of coins, manuscripts, calligraphy, I was amazed, how a single individual (Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman) with his tremendous efforts, money and dedication, could achieve to establish this historic museum. His library and museum will be guiding thousands of research workers in the coming years. My heartiest congratulations and appreciation".

Dr. Ishaq Jamkhanawala, Ex-Minister,
Maharashtra State

"Impressed with the vision and personal efforts of Hakim Zillur Rahman Saheb in establishing Ibn Sina Academy - a treasure house of literature for the scholars of today and tomorrow. His plans are

ambitious. I pray God for success in his mission".

Prof. Allauddin Ahmad, Former Vice-Chancellor
Hamdard University, New Delhi

"We are surprised for such a big uncommon collection. The collector deserves warm felicitation for his praiseworthy efforts to live alive past for the next generation; even generation after generation will remember the history as well as the collector".

Hakim Hafiz Azizul Islam &
Hkm A. K. Mahbubur Rahman, Bangladesh

"I am delighted to know that the Ibn Sînâ Academy is rapidly developing as a Centre of International repute of Archives of Medical Sciences. Indeed, respected Hakim Sahib deserves a lot of praise for transforming this mammoth and unimaginable task into a reality. The academy will definitely be an inexhaustible and invaluable source of learning for the generations to come. I am so happy and proud of being attached with it".

Dr. Javed Musarrat (Scientist),USA

"It was a great experience for us to visit the website of Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences. We wish the academy further improvement and expansion to benefit the whole mankind. With best wishes".

Dr. Syed Shoeb Ahmad, KSA

"News regarding inauguration of the academy and Library was quite heartening and everybody here is congratulating you for your work".

Dr. Syed Abdul Mujeeb, Pakistan

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Forthcoming Conferences / Meetings:

Panel on Ibn Sînâ for the World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies

The Avicenna Study Group is organizing a Panel on Ibn Sînâ for the World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies to be held at the University of Mainze, Germany between September 8-13, 2002.

Scholars and doctoral students may submit abstracts or papers on any area of Avicennian scholarship. Topics may include, but are not limited to, any of the following: The life and times of Ibn Sînâ, Mathematics, Source studies, Scientific Contributions, Logic, Psychology, Epistemology, Metaphysics, Physics and Medicine. Last date of submitting abstracts or papers is October 31. For more details, contact e-mail: mcginnis@umsl.edu or david.reisman@yale.edu

Annual Ibn Sînâ International Conferences

Ibn Sînâ Foundation is going to organize the second annual Ibn Sînâ International conferences ("Ibn Sino-Avicenna's International Readings") in Bukhara, Uzbekistan, in the first decade of September 2001. Scientists engaged in study or interested in learning of the Ibn Sînâ's heritage may participate the conference. For more details, contact Professor Shukhrat Irgashev, Chairman of Ibn Sînâ International Foundation and the Organizing Committee, Parkent street 51-A, Tashkent, 700007, Republic of Uzbekistan. Tel.: 998-712-68-72-97, Fax. 998-71-169-17-26 E-mail: uzsinofd@freenet.uz

11th International Hippocrates Colloquium

11th International Hippocrates Colloquium will be held on 28 – 30 August 2002 at University of Newcastle upon Tyne. The purpose of this conference is to encourage research into the Hippocratic writings from the point of view of their relationship with the historical context in which they were written, and the impact they had on ancient society, culture, mentality and morality, language, literature and thought. 'Hippocratic Context' is not restricted to the Greek world, but also includes the medical thought and practice of other civilizations in the Mediterranean, such as Babylonian, Egyptian, Persian and Indian medicine. A further point of interest will be the relations between the Hippocratic writings and non-Hippocratic medical authors of the fifth and fourth century BCE, such as Diocles of

Carystus, Praxagoras of Cos, Philistion, Alcmaeon, Euryphon, Herodicus, Mnesitheus, Dieuches, etc., as well as the relevant works of Plato, Aristotle and Theophrastus.

Furthermore, the conference wishes to encourage research into some of the more neglected works in the Hippocratic Corpus, such as Internal Affections, Decorum (and other deontological works different from the Oath), Coan Prognoses, Sevens, etc.

The conference is meant to assist in opening up Hippocratic studies to scholars who are not specialists in the field but whose research touches on ancient medicine. Ancient historians, archaeologists, historians of philosophy and science, social historians of medicine, medical anthropologists, specialists in Near Eastern and Egyptian medicine, and students of Greek language and literature to whose research the Hippocratic writings are relevant, are all encouraged to participate. The conference will take place at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne from 28-30 August 2002. Further details will be published nearer the time on the Newcastle. For further information contact: Philip J. van der Eijk, Professor of Greek, University of Newcastle, Department of Classics, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU. e-mail: philip.van-der-eijk@ncl.ac.uk

International Memorial Congress on Hakim Syed Ismail Jurjani

The Academy of Medical Sciences of Islamic Republic of Iran organizing a memorial congress in honour of Ismail Jorjani the eleventh century Iranian physician-philosopher on October 2001 in Gorgan, Iran. The main topics of the congress are: Jorjani and his era; the Zakhirh-e-Kharazm Shahi; the prose of Jorjani; the works of Jorjani, Jorjani and philosophy; the influence of Jorjani's predecessors; Jorjani and the renovationof Iranian medicine and the views and impact of Jorjani on fundamental concepts of traditional medicine. Hakim Syed Ismail Jorjani will be held on September 2001. Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman will present a paper, entitled, Life and Works of Hakim Syed Jorjani.

Health and Illness in Middle East Societies

The Department of Middle East Studies, University of the Negev will hold its eighth annual international workshop during the spring semester of this academic year (March-June 2002). It will convene once every second week. This workshop focuses on a variety of issues relating to health and illness in Middle East societies during the pre-modern and modern eras. Throughout history, societies have developed a variety of concepts regarding illness. Consequently, symptoms that have been accepted as evidence of illness in one society have been ignored in another. In this workshop, several aspects of illness, with a strong emphasis on its social and cultural dimensions will be explored. How different medical systems perceive, discuss and explain diseases will be also be explored. The ways in which traditional beliefs and practices may conflict with scientific medical assumptions, and how social circumstances affect health care decisions will be main theme of discussion.

The workshop welcomes scholars from different discipline such as anthropology, sociology, cultural studies, history, and medical sciences. Proposals (1-2 pages) should include a brief statement of the topic, and a description of main sources and methodology, which together explain how the proposed paper contributes to the aims of the workshop as outlined above. The department will offer participants from abroad round-trip airfare and lodging. The deadline for proposals is December 1, 2001. Send proposals and enquiries to: Dr. Aref Abu-Rabia, Department of Middle East Studies. University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva 84105 Israel/Palestine.E-mail: aref@bgumail.bgu.ac.il

Ancient Science in the Renaissance

Panel on the assimilation of ancient science during the Renaissance is being organized under the aegis of Renaissance Society of America, from April 11-13 2002. Following questions are expected to discuss in the panel: collections of manuscripts on

determined topics, the critical editions of scientific texts, their Latin translations and/or commentaries, the market of books, their diffusion and circulation, and, hence, the dissemination of ideas, the introduction of works into the university curriculum (or, on the contrary, the disappearance of some from the curriculum), the effect of the availability of new texts on methods of teaching, their impact on the discipline they deal with (including the polemic they provoked in certain cases), or on the profession they are related with, including the possible effect on society of the phenomenon, or, and among others, the possible re-evaluation of medieval and Arabic culture at the light of the newly discovered works. Of course, all scientific fields are considered, from natural and physical sciences to mathematics and astronomy, for example, including medicine, pharmacy and botany, as well as astrology and alchemy. Deadline for the submission is May 15, 2001. For more details contact at e-mail: atouwaide@hotmail.com

International Colloquium on the History of Mathematics

The ICM-2002 (International Conference of Mathematicians) will be held in Beijing on 20-28, August 2002. Before or after the main conference, some 30 satellite- conferences on various topics of mathematics will be held outside Beijing. Northwest University will be hosting a satellite conference on the "History of Mathematics" (English or Chinese) in Xi'an during the period 15-18 August 2002. For more details, contact: Anjing Qu, Center for the History of Mathematics and Sciences, Northwest University, Xi'an 710069, P. R. China. E-mail: hs@nwu.edu.cn.
website: http://go.163.com/~hismath

Past:

Session on History of Medicine, International Conference on Good Health in New Millenium through Unani System of Medicine

Department of Kulliyat, A. K. Tibbiya College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India organized an International Conference on Unani System of Medicine from May 29-31, 2001. Apart from many scientific sessions, a symposium on History of Medicine was exclusively arranged at the Meet. A large number of participants including from South Africa, Iran, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan attended the conference. The three day conference was started with inaugural session at Kennedy Hall. Prof. Anis A. Ansari, Director International Conference, Mr. M. Hamid Ansari, Vice-chancellor AMU, Prof. Afzal Ahmad, Dean Faculty of Unani Medicine, Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman, Hakim M. Khalid Siddiqui, Dr. Mohsin Wali and Hakim Abdul Mobin Khan spoke at the inaugural session. The valedictory session which was presided over by Professor Syed Zillur Rahman and addressed by Prof. Hakim Hafiz Azizul Islam, Prof. Afzal Ahmad and Prof. Abdul Mobin Khan,was held at the College Auditorium. Prof. Anis A. Ansari presented the report of the conference and Hakim Khalid Zaman Khan delivered the vote of thanks. During the conference, delegates also visited the Ibn Sina Academy.

Islamic Math Symposium

A series of lectures on Islamic mathematics and a presentation of early mathematical books was highlight in the Mathematical Symposium on March 29 - 31, 2001 at the University of Oklahoma Campus. Symposium topics included: Aspects of Islamic Mathematical Sciences and "The Reception and Assimilation of 'Foreign' Mathematics in Islam." Invited speakers included Prof. J.L. Berggren (Simon Fraser, British Columbia), Prof. Jan Hogendijk (Utrecht, The Netherlands), Dr. Elaheh Kheirandish (Harvard), and Dr. Kim Plofker (Dibner Institute, MIT). The symposium was held as part of the Rockefeller Foundation Postdoctoral Program of the History of Science Department.

The events were held in conjunction with the annual Karcher Public Lecture, presented by Karen Parshall, University of Virginia, who discussed

"Historical Contours of the American Mathematical Research Community," on March 29, in Nielsen Hall, 440 W. Brooks Street. The lecture was sponsored by OU's Department of Mathematics, a unit of the College of Arts and Sciences. All events, except for the Karcher Public Lecture, were held in the History of Science Collections, fifth floor, Bizzell Memorial Library, 401 W. Brooks Street. For more information, check out the symposium Web site at: www.ou.edu/islamsci/math%20symposium.htm

International Meeting Astronomical Observatory of Rome

Cosmology through time / la cosmologia nel tempo (Ancient and Modern Cosmologies in the Mediterranean Area) at Monteporzio Catone on June 17-20, 2001 was organized by Osservatorio Astronomico di Roma, Osservatorio Astronomico Di Capodimonte, Osservatorio Astronomico di Palermo, Societ -Aà (B Astronomica Italiana, Universita' di Roma "Tor Vergata", Universite'Hassan II Ain- Chock - Casablanca, Associazione per l'Amicizia e la Cooperazione Italo-Araba.

The Conference official language is English. Special sessions will be held in Italian. Il Congresso sara' tenuto in inglese con apposite sessioni in lingua italiana. Aim of the Meeting Nowadays, we regard cosmology as a modern science, but cosmological thoughts have been part of humanity throughout history. All cultures have a cosmology, because such questions have been asked by all peoples for as long as we have wondered at the stars. The explanations have varied from culture to culture and from time to time, but all of them seek to impose an order upon the cosmos, so as to make it accessible to the human mind. This is just as true of scientific as of pre-scientific cosmologies.

Astronomy has been one of the main scientific areas (the mother of sciences in the Arab tradition) to investigate physical laws using Mathematics since the beginning of early scientific developments. And yet, there is more to it. Astronomy, being the most immediate and useful area of Science at our disposal, had the power to link different civilizations, cultures and religions throughout the evolution of humankind.

While Astronomy withered in Medieval Europe, it flourished in Islam. Renaissance astronomers learned from the texts of Islamic scholars who had preserved and transformed the Science of the Ancient Greek and Arab cultures. Modern Cosmology originates from this historical stage of Cultural Revolution, which brought new scientific concepts into the mathematical framework of Islamic Astronomy. The Mediterranean area has been the cradle of modern Astronomy and Cosmology and still retains the connections between Ancient and Modern Cosmology.This meeting wants to re-discover these ties in the light of our current knowledge of the Universe, of the origin of time and space, in the spirit of the ancient travelers guided by the stars.

Contact address: Dr. Giuliana Giobbi, Scientific Secretary, Osservatorio Astronomico di Roma, Via Frascati 33, I-00040 Monte Porzio Catone - Roma – Italy. E-mail: cosmo01@coma.mporzio.astro.it

NEW PUBLICATIONS

(A) Books:

1. Catalogue of Microfilm of the Persian and Arabic Manuscripts (Extent in the Hakeem Syed Zillur Rahman Library), Vol. III, Noor Microfilm Centre, Iran – India, New Delhi.
2. Aina-e Tarikh Tibb by Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman
3. Tibbi Taqadme by Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman
4. Tareekh Tib Wa Akhlaqiyat by Hakim Ashhar Qadeer
5. Minhaj al-Saidla Wal Kemiya,Vol-II, by Hakim M. Rafiquddin & Hakim Salim Akhtar

(B) Journals:

1. A new journal, Developing World Bioethics Journal [2001; 1(1)], has been launched. The first

issue has some interesting articles on the bioethics and the social responsibility of drug companies. For more details: www.wits.ac.za/bioethics

2. Science and Technology in Islam (2001); a volume in two parts, published by the UNESCO. This is volume four of the six-volume work, entitled, The Different Aspects of Islamic Culture.

3. Traditional South Asian Medicine (previously Journal of the European Ayurvedic Society) Ed. by Rahul Peter Das and Ronald E. Emmerick
Traditional South Asian Medicine (previously Journal of the European Ayurvedic Society) is a scholarly journal devoted primarily to the study of all aspects of traditional South Asian medical systems, particularly, but not exclusively, the Ayurvedic tradition. It features not only historical and philological studies, but also such as concern themselves with living traditions, including their interaction with non-South Asian medical traditions both modern and pre-modern, and their practical application. The journal is, however, also open to research on matters relating to the human body or issues of health and hygiene in traditional South Asia even when not placed within the context of a particular medical system. Since the journal's aim is to publish only contributions of a very high standard, it does not appear regularly, but only when enough contributions of such standard justifying the publication of a new issue have come together. No comparable journal with the characteristics mentioned is currently being published; as such, Traditional South Asian Medicine is unique.
Vols. 1-5 of the journal was published by Inge Wezler in Reinbek and Vol. 6 (2001) onwards by Reichert Verlag, Tauernstr. 11, 65199 Wiesbaden, Germany.

(C) Articles:

1. N. A. Darmani, Avicenna (Ibn Sînâ): The Prince of Physicians and A Giant in Pharmacology
The Journal of Islamic Medical Association of North America, 1995; 26: 78-81

2. Ahmad Y. Al-Hassan, Factors behind the decline of Islamic science, In *Islam and the Challenge of Modernity*, edited by Sharifa Shifa Al-Attas, International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization, Kuala Lumpur, 1996, pp. 351-389.

3. Petra G. Schmidl, Two Early Arabic Sources on the Magnetic Compass, Journal of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Vol. 1 (1996-97): 81-132
http://www.uib.no/jais/v001/schmidl1.pdf

INTERESTING ORGANIZATIONS

Ibn Sînâ Foundation:
Ibn Sînâ International Foundation is an independent, non-government and non-commercial organization. It was founded in the beginning of 1999, in Tashkent, the capital of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The activities and objectives of this Foundation is to study and popularize rich scientific heritage left to the World by Abu Ali Ibn Sînâ, prominent physician, scientist and philosopher. To full fill this task Foundation organizes international meetings on Ibn Sînâ in Tashkent, the capital of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The goal of the Foundation is:

1. To study and popularize (promote) rich scientific heritage left to the World by Abu Ali Ibn Sînâ prominent doctor (physician), scientist and philosopher;
2. To publish books, magazines and articles about the life and scientific heritage of Ibn Sînâ in the country and abroad;
3. To organize of Ibn Sînâ's library and museum;
4. To educate compatriots and particularly young generation for this instructive teaching in different types of sciences;
5. To inform citizens of other countries about the world heritage of the scholar;
6. To organize of "International Ibn Sînâ Readings" for scientific studying the Scholar's heritage in Bukhara-motherland of Ibn Sînâ;
7. To arrange of comprehensive cooperation with UNESCO and other International Organizations;

8. To develop of Eastern (traditional) medical methods of treatment based on Ibn Sînâ's teaching;
9. To establish of centers of gerontology;
10. To open consulting centers of public medical service in urban districts;
11. To open departments of the Foundation in regions of the Country;
12. To open representative offices of the Foundation in foreign countries to establish and develop contacts with different institutions and individuals;
13. To develop humanitarian aids and participate in reforming health service system in the country.

The activities and goals of the Foundation were supported by the Degree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and are based on grants, investments and other charity aids of state, public and commercial organizations as well as individuals.

Ibn Sînâ Institute of Tibb:

Ibn Sînâ Institute of Tibb is a non-profit, non-sectarian organization, that aims to introduce and incorporate the art and science of Tibb into primary health care in South Africa, in order to assist in ensuring accessible health care provision and education for all.

The Institute works under the Bhikha Family Trust as a waqf in a complementary capacity alongside other treatment methods or health care organizations. It strives for a co-operative, supportive relationship with all those involved in the field of health care provision andfunctions at local, regional and national levels.

The Institute will serve as a research and resource centre for the theoretical and practical development of Tibb within South Africa. It will maintain clinical case records of individuals who have been treated with the Tibb system of health and will collect data pertaining to any community health projects or activities of the Institute. A library, incorporating an archives section, contemporary local and international research papers and journals, is being developed, for utilization by members of both the private and public sector.

Tibb Display at Adler Museum of Medicine

The Adler Museum of Medicine is part of the Medical School at the University of the Witwatersrand, which is one of the largest and oldest medical universities in South Africa. Extensive new displays on the history of medicine are being established which will include the different philosophies of medicine.

The Ibn Sînâ Institute of Tibb has sponsored the section of the Museum promoting Unani Tibb Medicine. They will put objects like pictures of Hippocrates, Galen, Ibn Nafees and Ibn Sînâ, plaques, busts, charts, models, equipment associated with Tibb Medicine and copies of the suitable books. Courtesy: Hakim Rashid Bhika, Director Ibn Sînâ Institute of Tibb and Dr. Lelong Immelman, Curator Adler Museum of the History of Medicine.

Adler Museum of the History of Medicine

The Adler Museum was formally inaugurated in the Great Hall of the University of the Witwatersrand in April 1962. It was established that the museum would collect and preserve for posterity all such material as would illustrate the History of Medicine in general and of the Republic of South Africa in particular.

At first the museum was housed in a flat on University property but very soon this accommodation was not large enough for the growing collection and representation was made to the Director of the Medical Research in Johannesburg. The response was favourable and the museum moved to, what used to be, the Director's House in the grounds of the South African Institute for Medical Research, Hospital Hill, where it has, to date, found a permanent home. Soon, the Director's House, too, became too small as the museum just growed and growed. Additional accommodation became imperative and the museum expanded outwards in that brick and prefabricated structures were added in the grounds immediately adjacent to the museum. These rooms house the special exhibits: the pharmacy, Doctor's

surgery, Dental museum, Hospital, Optometry room and Coach House. There is also an authentic reconstruction of an African Herbalist's shop. The main building comprises three-display rooms, library and workroom. In June 1974 the museum was officially handed over the University of the Witwatersrand and its name was changed to the Adler Museum, indicating the great esteem in which Dr. and Mrs. Cyril Adler, former President of Convocation of the University of the Witwatersrand and member of the University Council, are held by the University. They were further honoured by the University when it conferred on them the honorary degrees of LLD and Ph.D. respectively in recognition of their services. Visit the Museum on the Internet at http://www.sunsite.wits.ac.za/museums/adler.html

USEFUL WEBSITES

Islamset - a history of Muslim pharmacy
http://www.islamset.com

Swiss History of Pharmacy Museum in Basel:
http://www.pharmaziemuseum.ch

Perbo´s History of Pharmacy Web Pages:
http://home.swipnet.se/PharmHist/

Pharmaceutical/medical in the fields of acronyms and abbreviations:
http://www.pharma-lexicon.com
(24,000 specialized abbreviations in the fields of pharmacy, agrochemical, biology, veterinary medicine, pharma production, chemicals, public health, toxicology, biology, medical devices/ diagnostics, biochemistry, general medicine, biotechnology, lab equipment, public health, dentistry, geriatrics, pediatrics, nursing, physiotherapy (physical therapy), psychology could be found free on the web).

AWARDS

The Estes Award

The Estes Award has been established in honor of J. Worth Estes in recognition of his many years of invaluable contributions to the American Association for the History of Medicine and to scholarship in the history of medicine. The award will be made annually for the best published paper in the history of pharmacology during the previous two years, whether appearing in a journal or a book collection of papers. The choice of topic reflects Worth Estes' long tenure as Professor of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics at Boston University and his own scholarship in the history of pharmacology. For the purpose of this award, the history of pharmacology will be defined broadly to include ancient and traditional materia medica, folk medicines, herbal medicines, the pharmaceuticals and medications of the modern era, pharmaceutics, and the like. It shall encompass the discovery of medicaments, basic investigations about them, their characteristics and properties, their preparation, and their therapeutic applications.

The nomination should consist of a letter citing the work nominated along with a copy of the paper. For the current award, candidate papers will be those published in 2000 and 2001. Nominations should be directed to the Chair of the Committee, Dr. John P. Swann, History Office, Food and Drug Administration, HFC-24, Room 13-51, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857. Nominations must be received by the Committee Chair by 14 January 2002.

The award will be presented at the annual meeting of the AAHM. As a result of a generous contribution in honor of Worth Estes from a member of the Association, the award will be accompanied by a $500 check.

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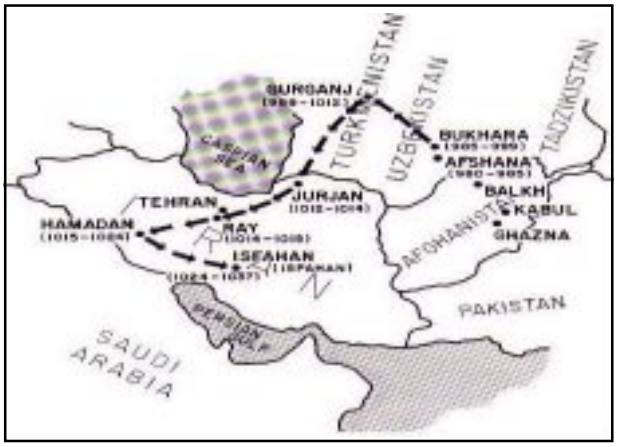
Avicenna: The Prince of Physicians and A Giant in Pharmacology

Dr. N. A. Darmani

Avisenna's "ul-Qanun-fi'l-tibb" (The Canon of Medicine) is thought to be the most famous medical textbook ever written. Between 1400-1600 A.D., it was used as the main medical text in most European universities. Avicenna was more than a famous clinician or an eminent writer. He was a renowned pharmacologist, philosopher, researcher, theorist, poet, and a successful politician, with more than 276 books, essays, and treatises credited to him. European medical historians consider him to be one of the most famous scientists of Islam. The present article describes his origins, gives a brief history of the period in which he lived and a summary of his contribution to both pharmacology and medicine.

Often Western historians consider the era between the sixth and the 12th centuries A.D. as one of the earth's darkest periods of history. Although Europe had lapsed into an epoch of ignorance, some parts of the world continued to grow and flourish during this period. Specifically, in the Islamic world Afghanistan, Arabian countries, Iran and Turkey), a golden age had dawned, and achievements in the arts and sciences of the time can be seen clearly in the development of the medical sciences. Babylonia, Phoenicia, and Judaeh were the most ancient centers of learning and culture from which the Greeks derived their inspirations. Greek wisdom flowed to the East through the Syrian Christian translators who passed Hellenism to the Islamic world. Among the Muslim scholars and philosophers who diverted their legacy to the West and awakened Europe to the dawn of Renaissance, Ibn Sina occupies a prominent place. 'Abu 'Ali al-Husin ibn 'Abdullah ibn Sina was born in August 980 A.D. (Safar 370 A.H.) in the village of Afshana near Bukhara to Abdullah, from Balkh, the local governor of Kharmaithan, and his wife Sitareh, from Afshana (1). Ibn Sina is known to the West by the Europeanised Hebrew translation of his name, Avicenna (Aven Sina). Avicenna was born at a time when Bukhara was the capital and intellectual center of the Samanid dynasty, which ruled over much of Eastern Iran (Persia) and Afghanistan (Khurasan) until the rise of Mahmud of Ghazna of Afghanistan.



[Place of birth and adventures of Avicenna]

According to his autobiography, at the age of five Avicenna moved with his family to the city of Bukhara where he had a greater opportunity to study (1). His early education was religious, and by the age of 10, he knew by heart the whole Qur'an and other available Persian and Arabic literature. Because of Avicenna's remarkable talent, his father employed a private teacher, al-Natali, to instruct him in arithmetic, geometry, logic, natural sciences, and astronomy. Avicenna then turned his attention to physics, metaphysics and medicine. By the time he was 16, Avicenna had mastered all the sciences of his day and was well-known as a practicing physician. Fame and recognition came quickly to the young physician when the Sultan of Bukhara, Nuh ibn Mansur al-Samai, fell seriously ill with a disease that baffled the experienced court physicians, but was successfully treated by Avicenna. For his services, Avicenna was awarded free access to the Sultan's rich library. By the age of 21, Avicenna wrote his first collection of books which include "Kitab al-Majmu" (The Compendium), on mathematics and sciences of the day, "Kitab al-Hasil w'al-Mahsul" (The Import and the Substance), 20 volumes on jurisprudence, and

"Kitab al-Birr w'al-Ithm" (Good Work and Evil), on ethics.

During the first part of the ninth century, the strong authority of the Abbasid empire began to experience political decentralization which led to the emergence of many local monarchs. Although many local kings devoted their main energies to ventures of the sword, they sought to emulate the cultural patterns of Abbasid court life by allowing eminent poets, distinguished scholars, and renowned theologians at their courts. Thus, Avicenna did not have to worry about finding a receptive patron.

Following the death of his father, Avicenna left Bukhara for Jurjaniyah and offered his services to the Khawarzmian dynasty. In this court, he wrote "Kitab al-Tadaruk li-anwa al-Khata' fi'l-Tadbir" and "Qiyam al-'Ard fi wasat al-Sama'" on mathematics and astronomy, respectively. During this period, Sultan Mahmud of Ghazna had also gathered in his court many intellectuals and poets including al-Firdusi, who is considered to be the father of Persian language. Unfortunately, Mahmud of Ghazna was filled with envy at the brilliance of men of science like Avicenna at the Khawarazm court and demanded Avicenna's attendance in his own royal court. However, Avicenna chose to escape to Gurgan and then to Jurjan. Here, he was joined with his lifetime companion Juzjani and composed the "Kitab-al-Mukhtasar al-Awsat," "Kitab al-Mabda' w'al-Ma'ad," and "al-Arsad alKulliyyah," along with chapters which later formed parts of "al-Najat" and "al-Qanun." He then journeyed to Ray and later took service with Prince Shams-ul-Dawlah whose headquarters were at Hamadan. He attained the position of prime minister, an appointment which displeased the military, agian forcing Avicenna into exile. Soon, however, the prince became sick, recalled Avicenna, and, after being cured, reinstated him as the prime minister. Avicenna wrote his peripatetic philosophy, "Kitab al-Shifa" (The Book of the Remedy) and "al-Adwiyat al-Qalbiyyah" The Remedies of the Heart) while he was burdened with state duties. On the death of Shams-ul-Dawlah, his successor offered to keep Avicenna in his post, but he refused, was jailed, and subsequently escaped and went on to Isphahan to serve Prince 'Al-ul-din. During the 15 years of his stay in Isphahan, he compsed numerous books including the "Kitab al-Najat" (The Book of Deliverance) and the "Danishnama-yi Alai" (The Alai-i-Book of Knowledge) which he wrote in Farsi (2). Avicenna died at an early age of 58 while on a journey back to Hamadan (Iran) wher he rests today.

Avicenna was a prolific writer. He wrote "al-Shifa'" (The Healing) at a pace of 50 pages a day while living in hiding from Sama ul-Dawlah. During the four months of imprisonment, he composed a summary of his philosophical system. "al-Hidayah" (The Guidance), the Hayy ibn Yaqzan allergory (Treatise on living, the son of the vigilant), and a short medical treatise on colic "al-Qulanj." These publications cover a variety of subjects, including principles of medicine, diagnosis, diseases, remedies, philosophy, logic, definitions, properties of soul and body, cosmology, metaphysics, mathematics, astronomy, theology, and asceticism. In addition, several works by Avicenna were lost in part or in *toto* when Sultan Mas'ud, son of Mahmud of Ghazna, attacked Isphahan (3). Avicenna was entitled al-Shaikh al-raᶜis (the chief teacher) by his compariots, or just Shaikh by his disciples. Within a few years of his death, he was referred to as the "Second Teacher," either Galen or Hippocrates being the first (4). His works gradually filtered to europe where they were received with almost as great an esteem. "Al-Qanun fi-l-tibb" (The Canon of Medicine) is the work that provoked the Latin scholars to call him"Medicorum Principes." the Prince of Physicians (5). The tremendous popularity enjoyed by the *Canon* in Europe can be best judged from the fact that its Latin version by Gerard was re-issued sixteen times during the years 1470-1500 and went through 20 editions during 1500-1600. The *Canon* became, by means of its Latin translation, the medical Bible of all the universities in Europe. The grandeur of the *Canon* becomes more apparent when one compares it with one of the current leading textbooks of medicine. The 11th edition of *Harrison's Principles of Internal*

Medicine summarizes the current medical knowledge in about 2.8 million words and cites more than 280 contributing authors and six editors. The *Canon* contains over one million words and has a single author. Indeed, Osler has described Avicenna as the "author of the most famous medical textbook ever written (6).

Avicenna's influence can be seen in Europe even in comparatively recent times as judged from the fact that during the two years, 1899 and 1900, four theses were submitted to the University of Berlin by J. Cueva, P. Upensky, E. Michailowsky, and T. Bernikov, all containing partial translation of the *Canon* in German.

The *Canon* states the following: "Medicine is the science by which we learn the various states of the human body, in health, when not in health, the mean by which health is likely to be lost, and when lost, is likely to restored to health." This important book came into being at the city of Gurganj and was completed at Ray. It is in five volumes and contains the medical knowledge of the day. The *Canon* was the fruit of extensive reading and personal reserach in the clinical field. The first volume discusses the general principles of physiology and hygiene. The second volume treats simple drugs and their effects and was based mainly on writings of Aristotle and Galen. For a long period of time, this volume served as the most complete treatise on medical plants and herbs, containing more than 800 paragraphs. The third and fourth volumes are on pathology and deal with various diseases such as fevers, tumors, rashes, poisons, etc. The fifth volume deals with combinations of various drugs into remedies and, along with the second volume, forms a complete pharmacopoeia. These remedies contain the traditional Greek remedies as well as the remedies of the Indian, Arabian, and Persian cultures along with Avicenna's. An endless series of powders, theriacs, electuaries, leeches, mixtures and tablets of various types, decoctions, ointments and plasters were discussed and classified. With the composition of the *Canon*, Avicenna placed the keystone in the arch that bridges the medical system of Hippocrates, Galen, and Harvey with modern medicine. Avicenna is also known in the medical world for his smaller work, "al-Arjuzat fi'l-tibb" (The Poem on Medicine), which has enjoyed a Western as well as Eastern position close to that of "al-Qanun."

Avicenna was more than a renowned medical practitioner; throughout his life, he was engaged in medical experiments. Furthermore, he was not just a compiler of information, but contributed significantly in many fields. Avicenna's original observations lie scattered throughout his works. He discovered and described the insertions of the instrinsic muscles of the eye. He suggested that certain diseases were water-born, the cause being minute animals that lived in the water, too small to be viewd by the human eye. Avicenna was very near to the microbic theory when he wrote "at certain times the air becomes infected and anyone breathing the infected air falls sick." He was the first to attempt to differentiate between obstructive and hemolytic jaundice. Some of his clinical descriptions are excellent, expecially the sections on nervous, cutaneous, and genitourinary diseases. He was far in advance of his age in his condemnation of astrology in affecting health and in his attempt to divorce that science from medicine. He taught a theory of vision which we now know to be correct, although all of his contemporaries, and many of his successors too, were arrayed against him. He maintained that "it is not the ray that leaves the eye amd meets the object that give rise to vision, but rather the form of perceived object passes into the eye and is transmuted by the transparent body, that is, the lens." In the *Canon* he describes 15 types of pain: boring, compressing, corrosive, dulll, fatigue, heavy, incisive, irritant, itching, pricking, relaxing, stabbing, tearing, tension, and throbbing. In the chapter of sphygmology, he described 10 features of the pulses and 22 types of abnormal pulses. In the chapter on uronoscopy, great attention was given to the examination of urine: its quantity, odor, color, foam, texture, clearness, and sediment. Diseases were classified and treated accordingly.

His pharmacological views appear to be quite modern, as he suggested that polyphaymacotherapy

and "drug mixtures" should be considered only when the disease apprears to be compounded and that single drugs should be used for uncomplicated conditions. He further stressed the importance of dose, and route of administration and defined a schedule for drug administration. Unfortunately, some modern physicians still tend to ignore these basic pharmacological dogmas. On the subject of cannabis, Avicenna is much more specific than the Greeks. He described several varieties and referred to them as carminative and desiccative. Regarding analgesics, he was remarkably current: "The most powerful of the stupefacients is opium. Less powerful are: seeds and rootbarks of mandrake (contains the alkaloid mandragorine, a narcotic and hypnotic); poppy (morphine and papaverine); hemlock (conium, an alkaloid that produces motor paralysis without loss of sensation or alteration of consciousness); white and black hyoscyamus (hyoscymine and scopolamine with atropine-like effects); deadly nightshade (belladonna); lettuce seed (hyoscymus and mannitol)." The properties of these and more than 800 other drugs and their clinical applications were fully described in the *Canon*. Furthermore, he gave seven rules for a reliable experimental investigation of the effects of drugs that are as stringent as today's standards. It is no wonder why he has been further honored as a giant in pharmacology (1) .

The secret of Avicenna's success is that he was both a philosopher and a physician, even greater perhaps as a philosopher and as a theorist. It is beyond the scope of this paper to indulge in Avicenna's philosophical and religious views (2,8). In summary, he has been described as possessing the mind of Goethe and the genius of Leonardo da Vinci. (9,10). In the words of Sarton, he is the most famous scientist of Islam and one of the most famous of all races, palce and times (11). Avicenna has been resting for more than 1000 years, but his ideals still cure the old and the young in the many hospitals that are build in his name in Iran and the Arab countries as well as in the shattered land of his father, my beloved Afghanistan.

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*The "**Canon**" translated by Gerard of Cremona, in the 12th Century, ran into fifteen editions in Latin. There was also a rendering in Hebrew. Although, these translations contained, according to E.G. Browne, many, 'barbarous' words and mistranscriptions, yet the Canon continued to be a textbook of Medicine in the Universities of St. Louis and Montpellier, until 1657 A.D. It appears that for well over 600 years no medical book ever written had been studied so throughly over such a long period.*

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