

## Message from the Editor

### Assalaamu alaykum

With this issue we are starting a new year. I am planning to increase the number of issues to four annually. I ask all members to support the journal by submitting articles so that we can ensure regular publication. I specifically ask the authors who presented in IMANA conventions, whether it be the annual, the pre-ISNA, or the recent IMANA/IIIM conference in Qatar, to shoulder their responsibility and submit their presentations.

While relatively few members attend the conferences, articles published in the journal reach a much wider audience, both in North America and elsewhere. With just a little more effort on the part of the presenters, their work will be much more appreciated.

In this issue we have included a comprehensive and informative review article about cervical ripening and induction of labor. While it may be of special interest to the obstetricians among us, I am sure all of our members — either themselves, their relatives, or their spouses — have been offered induction or actually have had labor induced, and it would be of interest to them to know what is involved.

There is an article from Malaysia about the attitudes of Muslim patients with type 2 diabetes who fast during Ramadan. The authors stress the importance of patient education about the effects of Ramadan fasting on diabetic management. Improved knowledge results in better attitudes and allows the patients to fast without jeopardizing their health.

We also included two short articles about the history of medicine. One is a brief biography of Ibn Abī Uṣaybi'a, who is one of the most significant figures in the history of medicine. His unique book `Uyūn al-Anbā' gives an account of all the famous physicians known up to that time to Muslim physicians. He could be called the first medical historian.

The other article gives an account of what could

be described as the first experimental investigation of the physiological phenomenon of digestion by observing the stomach of a live lion.

We also included in this issue an interesting article about artificial insemination (AI) for the treatment of infertility. Although not as glamorous as *in vitro* fertilization (IVF), it nevertheless is still used and does help certain couples. Drs. Sharmin et al discuss its indications and the differences between its two types, AIH (husband's sperm) and AID (donor sperm). They present the Islamic point view of both types.

A profile of an outstanding Muslim heart surgeon, accomplished author, and famous television personality, Dr. Mehmet Oz, also is included. This biographical sketch was submitted by Dr. Bashir Zikria, one of the founders of IMANA, a life member, and a past president.

Professor Kim Searcy reviews the book "For God and Country" by James Yee, the Muslim navy chaplain accused of treason. After several months of incarceration, he was released and absolved of all charges.

In this issue we publish the abstracts of the presentations at the IMANA/IIIM conference in Qatar and Dubai in January 2007.

I hope that you enjoy this issue. I invite your comments, opinions, and suggestions of JIMA.

**Wassalaam,**

**Hossam E. Fadel, MD**  
**Editor-in-Chief, JIMA**  
**Director of Maternal Fetal Medicine**  
**University Hospital**  
**Clinical Professor**  
**Medical College of Georgia**  
**Augusta, Georgia**