

Message from the Editor

Dear IMANA Members,

Assalaamu alaykum

In this issue of JIMA we have included a variety of interesting articles. The article by Dr. Raddawi gives a short biography of Mūsā ibn Maymūn, the famous Jewish physician and theologian, and a description of his contributions. He was one of many examples of Muslims and non-Muslims in Muslim countries who contributed greatly to human advancement. Non-Muslim scientists were able to flourish under Islamic rule, and some of them occupied high places in the government and community without prejudice, a cornerstone of the Islamic doctrine.

Yunani medicine, which in reality has been significantly advanced by Muslim physicians and should be more appropriately called Greco-Islamic medicine, is up till now practiced as traditional medicine in parts of the Muslim world. Yunani scholars, even without the aid of lab tests and other advanced technologies, used their clinical acumen to describe diseases that we now recognize. Hyperlipidemia and obesity were described by them as *farṭ shahm fī al-dam* and *al-simna al-mufriṭa*, respectively, as detailed in an article by Dr. Bashir et al.

In this issue there is an article about the sensitive subject of homosexuality. It addresses its various aspects, specifically from an Islamic perspective. It raises certain important points, particularly about the role of the community, Muslim leaders and clinicians in dealing with this issue. We cannot continue to ignore that this problem involves Muslims as well as non-Muslims. We have to discuss it and address it head on.

Dr. Faroque Khan addresses a major ethical dilemma that had grabbed the attention of the whole nation and became a political issue as well: the Terri Schiavo case. He gives an Islamic perspective and his take on the case.

Dr. Sule et al address the important issue of contraception in the Muslim world with specific reference to Zaria, Nigeria. While the lack of knowledge and utilization of contraception is not the only cause of

the significantly higher maternal mortality in Muslims in northern Nigeria compared to non-Muslims, it is still an important public health problem. It is the duty of Muslim physicians to dispel myths and misinformation about contraception.

The article of Dr. Tarabichi et al describes a new device for knee replacement that has great potential in allowing Muslims to perform their prayers in a regular way after knee replacement surgery.

Dr. Athar in his article gives advice to diabetic patients and their physicians on how to deal with diabetes in relation to Ramaḍān fasting.

Also in this issue we have a profile of a young, promising Muslim physician and researcher, Dr. Hina Chaudhry. A brief description of her research is included. We welcome suggestions of names of other outstanding contemporary Muslim scholars and researchers in the USA and elsewhere to be included in future issues of JIMA.

Dr. Abouleish, an anesthesiologist and an artist, has graciously contributed one of his beautiful paintings "Allah" to JIMA. He insha Allah will submit more of these that illustrate the "beautiful names" of Allah.

I am happy to announce that we are going to start a new column in JIMA by residents and medical students to give their interesting experiences in the early days of their training.

Finally, I would again ask IMANA members to actively support JIMA by submitting articles, commenting on our published articles through submission of letters to the editor as well as to provide financial support by identifying potential advertisers and referring them to IMANA headquarters.

Wassalaam

Hossam E. Fadel, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.O.G.
Editor-in-Chief, JIMA
Clinical Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medical College of Georgia
Director of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, University Hospital, Augusta, GA.