

Message from the Editor

Assalaamu alaykum

Dear IMANA members and JIMA readers:

I welcome you to this issue of JIMA. I want to begin by thanking the editorial board members who completed their terms for their help and service to JIMA. These are Dr. Sameer Ahmad, Dr. Hina Ghory, and Dr. Jalees Rehman. I also want to introduce to you the new members of the editorial board. These are Dr. Wajahat Mehal, Dr. Ayman Soubani, and Mr. Sohaib Mohiuddin. Dr. Mehal is an assistant professor, Section of Digestive Diseases at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. Dr. Soubani is an associate professor of medicine, Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine at the Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit, Michigan. Mr. Mohiuddin is a student in the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine, class of 2008, in Richmond, Virginia. I appreciate their willingness to serve and contribute to the advancement of JIMA.

In this issue we have an article detailing what Islam prescribes to achieve healthful living. Many Islamic injunctions contribute to enhancement of immunity and prevention of the spread of infectious diseases. These recommendations represent common sense teachings on cleanliness, in addition to being supported by recent scientific research.

Dr. Athar discusses the difference in approach of the secular and religious communities when dealing with ethical issues, specifically in regards to reproductive technology. He concludes that, although there are certain differences, generally both communities share the same moral values. He recommends that they work together and not be antagonistic to each other.

In the same vein, I am discussing in another article the procedure of preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD). This procedure has a lot of potential in decreasing the birth incidence of many genetic diseases and babies with chromosomal abnormalities, while minimizing the need for therapeutic termina-

tion of pregnancy. However, PGD is associated with many ethical controversies, the most important of which is the intentional discarding of either affected or unhealthy human embryos or both. I discuss these and other ethical controversies from the ethical and religious, specifically Islamic, points of view.

Another article, by Professor Abulfadl Mohsin Ebrahim, addresses euthanasia, sometimes referred to as "mercy killing", in both its passive and active forms and the Islamic objections to these practices.

The book chosen for review addresses a related subject, the ethics and practice of organ transplantation in Pakistan. Dr. Athar has contributed the review.

We profile in this issue one of the life members of IMANA, Dr. Sayed Amjad Hussain. He is a cardiovascular surgeon by profession. He is an accomplished clinician and surgeon. In addition, he is a well-known writer. He has published many articles, columns, and books. He is a recognized photographer, explorer, and community leader.

JIMA will soon start a new section, the Resident and Fellow Section. It seeks to encourage submissions by physicians in training as well as medical students and other healthcare providers in training. Our purpose is to encourage them to contribute to the medical literature and help get their articles published.

I hope you enjoy this issue and look forward to receiving your comments on any material we publish and your suggestions for improvement.

Wassalaam,

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ERRATUM

In my memoriam of the late Dr. M.A.A. Khan published in the August JIMA, I mentioned that he was appointed the chairman of the headquarters management committee of IMANA. This is inaccurate. He was one of four members. The chairman was Dr. Iltifat Alawi. I regret the error.