

## Message from the Editor

### Assalaamu alaykum

#### Dear IMANA Members and JIMA Readers:

This issue of JIMA celebrates the 40th Annual Conference of IMANA, which will be held in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, on July 17-22, 2007.

The Islamic Medical Association (IMA) was established by a few dedicated Muslim physicians who had the wisdom and vision to foresee the need for such an organization to serve the growing number of Muslim physicians and other healthcare providers in North America. It was devised to enhance the educational opportunities and to promote the fraternal and cooperative relationships among its members, all within the Islamic spirit and environment.

It is hard to believe that it has been 40 years since IMA (now IMANA) was initiated and how much growth has occurred since then. Even through difficult times, IMANA was able to have regular annual conventions that renewed our interest and galvanized our efforts to move forward. IMANA has undergone — as all other organizations — growing pains, but alhamdulillah it keeps progressing. It is now well structured to meet the present and future challenges. Thanks are due to Allah ﷻ first and foremost but also to the dedication and voluntarism of the elected officers, the members of the different standing committees, as well as the hard work of the executive director and office manager at the headquarters. I thank Allah ﷻ for allowing me to be part of this organization for more than 30 years. I pray that my humble efforts help its growth and success.

I sincerely believe that having a journal is a mainstay of any successful medical organization. I certainly appreciate the fact that IMANA's leadership has entrusted me with the editing/publishing of JIMA for so many years, 1987-2000 and again beginning July 2005. It is a daunting job. The organization is relatively small. Also, IMANA is unique in that it is not only professional but has "Islamic" as an integral part of its name. It is a challenge to have the content of the journal reflect these two elements, which partly explains why JIMA has not been indexed so far. The other reason is that we publish only a few original papers. In order to achieve this goal, I need the help of all our members. JIMA needs more sub-

missions that deal with ethical concerns (specifically from an Islamic point of view), cultural diversity, and history of medicine as well as original research papers. Clearly, well-written review articles, case reports, etc. are also welcome. We have offered a \$100-incentive for medical student/resident essays. We like to see letters to the editor commenting on the published articles. Many of them have some points that can stimulate discussion or even opposing views. Most of the presenters at the different IMANA conferences do not submit their presentations as manuscripts. With little additional work, these nice presentations can be written to be published and thus would reach a much larger audience.

All of you know by now of the death of our dear brother and pioneer of IMANA, Dr. Mohammad Azhor Ali Khan (rahimahu Allah). I wrote an eulogy for him on the behalf of IMANA and FIMA (Federation of Islamic Medical Associations) members. Also, FIMA President, Dr. Musa Nordin wrote a tribute to Dr. Khan, specifically describing his leading role in the formation of FIMA and in its achievements over the years.

Dr. Sheikh Hassan, our president, wrote his message delineating the events of last year, successes, achievements, as well as the challenges facing us.

This issue contains the program and abstracts that are going to be presented in Niagara Falls. In addition, this issue includes an article describing the knowledge of family planning among Muslim women in rural villages of Kelantan, Malaysia, and an article about the prevention of a potential pandemic of Avian influenza from an Islamic point of view. Another article addresses an aspect of the changing settings for medical education. There is an increasing demand for off-campus clinical rotations. In this setting it is not always possible to have qualified faculty to teach the core curriculum at the off-campus sites. A method that is used in these circumstances is to have lectures by the faculty at the main campus videotaped generating a CD-ROM to be played at the different community-based sites. This article compares the performance of the students — utilizing these two lecture methods — on the midterm inter-

nal examinations and on the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) examinations.

Profiled in this issue is Dr. Shagufta Yasmeen. In addition to her successful professional career, she is the founder and director of the Shifa Clinic on the premises of the Sacramento Mosque, Sacramento, California. She received rewards for her work from professional organizations and has been recognized by the American Medical Association, the National Institutes of Health, as well as the National Cancer Institute.

Dr. Maher Hathout, the spokesperson of the Muslim Public Affairs Council, coauthored "In Pursuit of Justice: The Jurisprudence of Human Rights in Islam", which is reviewed in this issue. The book advocates a more progressive Islamic perspec-

tive on human rights. It is useful for American Muslims to read and use its material in discussions with other Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

I hope to see many of you in Niagara Falls. I pray for the success of the conference. May Allah ﷻ have His Mercy on all of us and guide us to the right path.

**Wassalaam,**

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