

## Message from the Editor

### Assalaamu alaykum

#### Dear IMANA Members and JIMA Readers:

This is the last issue of JIMA for this year. As you know, JIMA is now published online at [jima.imana.org](http://jima.imana.org) as well as in a printed format. It seems that many of you did not register online. As mentioned before, you need to register as readers to access the journal online. You do not have to be an IMANA member to do that. In addition, you may register as a reviewer if you want to be included in our reviewer list. Also, I ask that you submit your articles online. To do so, register as an author and follow the easy steps to submit your article. We planned to have all of the past issues of JIMA online by this time. This project has not been completed yet. However, several volumes are available online. Anyone with access to the Internet can read this online content. This makes JIMA's articles widely accessible and allows other authors the opportunity to use JIMA's articles as references. In addition, the online format facilitates comments and discussion of each article.

In this issue we welcome the new president, Dr. Khalique Zahir, and include his message to the membership. Dr. Nagamia, a past president and current chairman of the International Institute of Islamic Medicine (IIIM) wrote about his views of IMANA and the role it should play in the ongoing debate about health care.

In this issue we have an interesting article about end-of-life issues and whether the order of Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) is Islamically appropriate. How should Muslim families react to this order? How should physicians, particularly Muslim physicians, deal with this problem when the patient's family rejects the recommendation of DNR? Obviously no final and definitive answer to all these questions can be given, and the topic is still a controversial one. I do ask and encourage other members to send "letters to the editor" regarding this point and particularly if they were confronted with this situation either as physicians or on a personal level with a family member or close friend when their advice was sought. Dr. Wahaj Ahmad, a previous president of

IMANA and present chair of its Ethics Committee, wrote a commentary on this article. I will also solicit the opinions of Muslim scholars and hopefully will be publishing their responses in the next issue.

Over the years we have discussed the nature of Islamic science and specifically Islamic medicine. In this issue we have a thoughtful discussion of these terms by Professor Bouzenita from Malaysia. She presents an in-depth analysis of that term and how it relates to contemporary science and medicine. Then she discusses the concept of bioethics and what constitutes Islamic bioethics. Again, this article calls for comments from various members, especially those who wrote on the subject or at least have interest in it.

In this issue we have a very interesting article about one aspect of al-Rāzī's work. Al-Rāzī is one of the great Muslim physicians of the fourth century A.H. / tenth century C.E. His works have been cited several times in JIMA. IMANA has given a lecture in his name at the annual conference for the past several years. Many books detail his works, the most famous of which is *al-Ḥāwī fī al-ṭibb* (The Comprehensive in Medicine). It is an encyclopedia of what was known at his time with magnificent commentaries and additions of his own. In the article in this issue, Dr. al-Humadi and Dr. Samrai discuss his work on anorectal disease. Segments of the book are reproduced in their original wording (Arabic) and translated into English with the commentary of the authors. They show his great experience in this topic and his innovative description of the diseases, their symptoms and treatment. His surgical treatment of hemorrhoids and fistula in ano is particularly indicative of his acumen. He stresses the importance of not cutting the anal sphincter muscle to avoid incontinence and describes accordingly the surgical treatment of fistulas in a way that is basically similar to what is used in modern times.

A medical student at the Medical College of Georgia, Zubair Chao, writes about his experience as a volunteer in Kashmir. He compares the health care system in India, specifically Kashmir, with that of the United States.

We also have in this issue our regularly featured

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book review. This time, Dr. Faroque Khan reviews two books by Dr. Ezzat Abouleish as examples of fine Islamic art. Dr. Abouleish graciously adorns each issue of our journal with his paintings of the names of Allah ﷻ.

Our next annual conference will be in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in sha Allah. It will be a wonderful and unique experience to visit this important Islamic historic site. The time of abstract submission is approaching. Please consider preparing a full-length article at the same time so your presentation can be

published and available online.

**Wassalaam,**

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