

Assalaamu alaykum

Dear IMANA members:

This issue has the program and abstracts for the 39th Annual and 8th International Conference of IMANA in Beijing, China. This ancient country with its great civilization is a wonderful place to have a conference. It is also a chance to visit Islamic sites in China and learn about the history of Islam there.

In addition, there is the interesting variety of presentations that cover an array of topics: medical, ethical as well as social.

In this issue of JIMA we include the first of a series of essays by students and/or residents. Ms. Kaneeze-Fatema Bukhari writes about a contemporary issue, her role as a volunteer in an earthquake-stricken area of Kashmir. As you know, IMANA has been and continues to coordinate volunteer efforts of members as well as non-members in these areas where people are in great need of help.

In the last issue we published one of many paintings by Dr. Ezzat Abouleish, a life-member of IMANA, but in black and white. This time we print two of his paintings in color to give them their due.

The article by Professor Shoukfeh is addressing the subject of "scientific" miracles of the Qur'an, particularly as it relates to embryology. This subject has generated a lot of interest. Dr. Shoukfeh is proposing a way of calculating the timing of the stages of embryonic development that is different from most everybody else. While I am not endorsing his view, it

is definitely important to present it and have open discussion about it.

Also in this issue, we include, for the first time, the Arabic text of verses and ahadith cited in the article(s). This should enable the interested reader to study the interpretations given by the authors and to investigate the topic further.

We have in this issue the regular columns of the profile of Muslim scholars and a book review. We encourage readers to suggest to Dr. Faroque Khan the names of other Muslim scholars for profiling as well as books to be reviewed for the upcoming issues.

Finally, I ask the presenters of the China Conference to plan to submit their presentations for publication in JIMA. The presentations at the conference are only useful for the attendees. Publishing in JIMA would give the presentations much wider exposure.

I hope that many of you will join us in China.

Wassalaam,

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