

Message from the Editor

Assalaamu alaykum

Dear IMANA Members and JIMA Readers:

In this issue, a topic that should be of interest to all our members — that is, Islamic medicine — is discussed from different viewpoints: what is it, is it a different type of medicine, is it compatible with “modern” medicine?

Dr. T. Rehman and his colleagues from Malaysia discuss what they consider Islamic medicine and its basic tenets and premises. They compare and contrast it with other therapeutic strategies. Dr. Jalees Rehman, a previous member of the JIMA Editorial Board, in a guest editorial, discusses this topic from a different angle. I wrote a special editorial hoping to synthesize the different views expressed in their two articles.

I am sure this is not the final discussion on this topic. I invite different members, especially those who worked in this field, to submit their critiques of any or all of the three published articles, either as full-length articles or letters to the editor.

One of JIMA’s goals is to publish articles on how physicians in Muslim countries practice medicine with limited equipment and resources. We publish an article from Kashmir about the use of the rigid sigmoidoscope for the diagnosis of lesions in the rectosigmoid. The authors provide reasonable evidence of its efficacy in their setting.

Drs. Mazhar and Jabeen compare the use of color Doppler to grayscale sonography in the prediction of malignancy of ovarian tumors. They confirm the well-documented superiority of color Doppler in this regard but point out that color Doppler sonography equipment is not widely available in Pakistan.

In this issue we publish a case report that sadly reflects on the lack of health education and health care in many Muslim countries, in this case, Iraq. This is a case of a young toddler whose mother was so intent on combating his thumb-sucking habit that she firmly wrapped both thumbs with a nylon cover secured by an elastic band, resulting in gangrene of

both thumbs and their amputation.

Also in this issue there is an interesting piece of history of medicine entitled “A Tale of Swan-Ganz Catheter.” It illustrates the point that, while it was an innovative idea, it became widely used in clinical practice before its real efficacy, value, and potential complications were thoroughly studied. Unfortunately, this is not the only such case. This problem continues with so many new medical devices, types of equipment, and therapeutic modalities becoming part of the clinical armamentarium before their full evaluation.

We profile in this issue a great contemporary Muslim physician, Dr. Hassan Hathout, an accomplished obstetrician and gynecologist, a prolific writer, a poet, and a great Islamic thinker and orator. Dr. Hathout has been active in Islamic medical conferences and interfaith activities. May Allah ﷻ reward him for his activity and bless him with good health.

Remember that this year IMANA’s conference will be in Morocco in sha Allah. I know many of you are planning on attending and presenting at the conference. I hope that you, while preparing the presentation, complete a manuscript for submission to JIMA soon thereafter.

As usual I hope you enjoy reading this issue and hope to hear your comments about any of the published topics. Particularly, I invite your submissions to your journal, JIMA.

Wassalaam,

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