

Message from the Editor

Assalaamu alaykum

Dear IMANA Members and JIMA Readers:

This is the second issue for this year. As I mentioned in the last issue, I plan to publish four issues this year and I am repeating my request for you all to support the journal by submitting articles so that we ensure regular publication. There were many excellent presentations in the China, the pre-ISNA and the more recent IMANA/IIIM conferences, and most of them have not been submitted for publication as of now. I urge all presenters to make the extra effort to make their presentations into manuscripts so that they will be available to a much wider audience than those who attended the meetings.

In this issue we have the timely topic of stem cell research. This article presents the basics of stem cell research and the potential therapeutic applications as well as the potential complications. Discussed in detail is the ethical/moral arguments involved in such research. This is then followed by a discussion of the religious viewpoints on the topic. The Islamic viewpoint is discussed in more detail, and it was concluded that Islam permits stem cell research, including the use of human pre-embryos, only on the excess pre-embryos that are produced during the course of clinically indicated in vitro fertilization (IVF) and are donated by the couple because they will not be used in future attempts. It is unlawful to create pre-embryos only for this type of research.

An accompanying guest editorial further elaborates on the potential of stem cell therapy and the pitfalls surrounding it.

Another timely topic published in this issue is the effect of terrorism on children. Violence is becoming widespread and, unfortunately, most of it is occurring in Muslim lands. Witness the almost daily killing of tens of people in Iraq. Unfortunately, in our own country, there were several school shootings, the most famous of which were Columbine and more recently Virginia Tech. There needs to be further studies of the effects of these violent acts on children. While there are excellent facilities in the United States to take care of traumatized children,

the author of this article laments the lack of facilities and personnel to take care of these children in Palestine and probably in Iraq.

In this issue Dr. Abdul Basit critically reviews attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). The disparate criteria, whether it is overdiagnosed, the probable overuse of stimulants such as Ritalin with its attendant side effects, and the societal effects of this diagnosis and its treatment are nicely described.

Included in this issue is an unusual case of a pituitary abscess in which hypopituitarism was a significant finding. It was diagnosed as a pituitary adenoma with a long list of differential diagnoses, only to find out, upon performing craniotomy, that the correct diagnosis was a pituitary abscess.

Dr. Bashir Zikria gives a short commentary on the IMANA trip to China, where the last annual conference was held. It briefly describes the history of Islam and a few of the historic mosques in China. Dr. Zikria includes a personal poem that was inspired by the magnificent scenery of the Li River we enjoyed while on a cruise on that river.

The profile of Dr. Ezzat Abouleish, a life member of IMANA, is featured in this issue. Dr. Abouleish is a pioneer of obstetric anesthesia. He is an accomplished clinician and academician as well as a prolific writer and a gifted artist who is devoting much of his art work to Islamic art, specifically calligraphy. He is providing us with the paintings of the beautiful names of Allah that we publish in JIMA.

I hope that you enjoy this issue. As usual I invite your correspondence, opinions, and suggestions for JIMA.

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