

Assalamu alaykum

Dear IMANA Members and JIMA Readers:

I am happy to report the **good news** that we have been striving to achieve: **JIMA will be indexed!** JIMA has passed the first stage of acceptance to the PubMed Central archive. All that remains is the technical aspect of converting our articles, including information such as the authors, supplementary files, key words and references, into the format the National Library of Medicine requires. I expect that the recent issues of JIMA will be in the archive by the end of the year, and all future issues will become available shortly after publication. PubMed Central is a free full-text archive of biomedical and life sciences journal literature at the United States National Institutes of Health's National Library of Medicine (NIH/NLM). Researchers commonly search PubMed for peer-reviewed literature, and if they include all available databases in their search, JIMA articles will *in sha Allah* ﷻ soon be returned in the search results. This further increases the exposure of research published in JIMA, and I hope that it will encourage more researchers worldwide to submit their manuscripts to our journal, thus improving its content.

This is the conference issue. The conference this year is held in beautiful San Juan, Puerto Rico. This issue contains the program and the abstracts. In addition, it contains quite interesting articles summarized below.

An article by Sumiya Khan et al discusses lunch programs at Islamic schools. The authors surveyed 100 schools. Only 48 responded, and only 20 were following the national guidelines. Only five have dietitians involved in menu planning. This is a serious concern that needs to be addressed. The authors outlined the minimum nutritional requirements for school lunches. They gave an extensive listing of healthful school lunch menus, including both American and ethnic items. They also gave listings of appropriate and inappropriate drinks, snacks, and lunch items for both the schools and, more importantly, for the parents of the students who attend schools that do not provide lunches. They also pro-

vided the schools with nutrition policy statement suggestions. The authors finally encouraged the Islamic schools to apply for grants to supplement their budgets to enable them to provide nutritional lunches for their students and to develop in them a healthful dietetic lifestyle. This study was a combined effort of IMANA and Muslims in Dietetics and Nutrition (MIDAN). I look forward to a follow-up study by the authors to document any changes that have been made based on their recommendations.

An article by Yehia et al discusses the prevalence of *Histoplasma capsulatum* and *Blastomyces dermatidis* in Iraqi patients with lower respiratory tract infections. These included 150 immunocompetent and 150 presumably immunocompromised patients. There were 218 fungal isolates, and only six of these were true pathogenic fungi. There were two *Histoplasma capsulatum* isolates from two immunocompromised patients and four *Blastomyces dermatidis* isolates from two immunocompetent and two immunocompromised patients.

Another article by Islam et al from Bangalore, India, discusses the prevalence of malaria, dengue and chikungunya and correlates it to mosquito breeding sites. They surveyed 670 subjects from 162 homes using a specially developed questionnaire to collect epidemiologic and clinical data, ELISA tests to detect dengue, and chikungunya antibodies and blood films to diagnose malaria. They collected water samples from within the houses, around the houses, and from external sites. The samples were used to detect and identify larvae. There were 33 cases of chikungunya, three cases of dengue, and 11 cases of malaria detected. Out of the water samples 51 were positive: 37 for *Aedes*, 12 for *Anopheles*, and two for *Culex*. There was a correlation between the studied mosquito-borne diseases and the mosquito breeding sites.

This issue also includes an intriguing article about genetics and Islam. Dr. Ghareeb, a geneticist, searched the Qur'an and Hadith for what he considered references to modern genetics. He discusses such concepts as modes of inheritance, genetic counseling, natural selection before and after fertilization, cytoplasmic inheritance, sex chromosomes and

gender determination, genetic-environmental interactions and, finally, the phenomenon of pairing. All these points are intriguing, but we have to remember that they are only speculations on the part of the author and are not meant to authenticate the scriptures. As the author notes, the Qur'an is book of guidance, not a science book, but it is acceptable to come up with "scientific" interpretation of the Qur'an and Hadith. This has been a matter of controversy for a long time. Dr. Wahaj Ahmed wrote about it in a previous issue of JIMA.¹

In this issue we publish three case reports. They describe very rare cases: a giant lipoma, an eviscerated appendix in an umbilical hernia, and an inguinal lymph node metastasis from supraglottic laryngeal squamous cell carcinoma.

For the book review, Dr Farouque Khan chose a book about the immortal cell line derived from Henrietta Lacks. Ms. Lacks was an African-American woman who went to Johns Hopkins Hospital where she was diagnosed with cervical carcinoma. The biopsy specimen demonstrated an unusual phenomenon. The cells, instead of dying after few cell divisions, continued to divide, They remained "alive," and they continue to divide today, now more than 60 years after Ms. Lacks' death. The Johns Hopkins scientists developed the cell line without the patient's knowledge and obviously without her consent or that of her surviving relatives. This cell line has been the basis of many medical advances and a multimillion industry that sells human biological materials. None of the profits accrues to her family.

In this issue, I profile Dr. Mohamed Sharawy, a

professor of dentistry and an acclaimed international scientist. His achievements are too many to enumerate here, but it suffices to say that he is a role model for the younger generation to emulate. They could continue to achieve academically and simultaneously work to help their less privileged colleagues in developing countries, especially those of their home countries.

We are now posting JIMA articles online once they have been finalized and before they are printed. You can read the articles online at jima.imana.org before you receive JIMA in the mail.

You can also follow JIMA on Twitter at #JIslamMedAssoc. If you do not use Twitter, you can receive weekly updates by e-mail by visiting <http://paper.li/JIslamMedAssoc>.

Finally, I like to remind the presenters at San Juan to submit their presentations to JIMA.

Wassalaam,

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

Reference

1. Ahmad WD. On scientific miracles in the Qur'an. *J Islam Med Assoc.* 2010;42:4-5. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5915/42-2-5326>