INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ISLAMIC MEDICINE

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Report on the 5th International of Islamic Medicine Held in Hyderabad, India Jan 13-17th, 2000

The fifth International Convention on Islamic Medicine was held in Hyderabad India Jan 13th –17th under the auspices of the International Institute of Islamic Medicine (IIIM) and Islamic Medical Association of North America (IMANA) and in co-operation with a dynamic Local Organizing Committee chaired by Dr Fakhruddin Mohammed Director PDSCH, Hyderabad India. The theme of the convention was "Islamic Medicine in the new millennium". The convention achieved the goals set forth by the sponsors and the organizers.

The meeting was set in the beautifully rejuvenated city of Hyderabad. A princely city and state that was ruled by the dynasty of Nizam's for several centuries until 1947 when with Indian Independence in 1947 it merged with Republic of India. Unlike other cities Hyderabad has not remained static since independence. Its inhabitants have shown dynamism and development faster than most of the other great cities of India. This is evident from the fact that Hyderabad is changing with its infrastructure and parading into the New Millennium with computerized technology, which is now converting it a "techno city" most aptly named "Cyberabad". The site of the meeting was at the Convention center in Jubilee Baugh in the beautiful public gardens of Hyderabad. The inviting decor including delightful fountains, greeted the delegates with warmth and cordiality. Decades earlier and in the same hall the great Nizam had delivered speech to his subjects on the 25th Anniversary of his reign.

The Inauguration on the 13th of January 2000 was accomplished with a lot of fanfare and recognition. Several ministers and ambassadors were in attendance and His Highness Prince Muffakham Jah graced the event by his presence. Several senior physicians of Hyderabad were recognized for their contributions to medicine, and to the community. Over 500 delegates were in attendance with almost 100 coming from distant lands including USA, UK, Middle East, Malaysia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Srilanka, besides a strong local contingent from various parts of India.

The scientific meeting started on the 14th and ended on the 17th. Close to 50 papers were presented. The major themes included: Islamic Medicine, History

of Islamic Medicine, and Contributions of Muslim Physicians to the advancement of Medicine, development of medical Institutions during the Islamic epoch in history and the challenges thrown at Islamic Medicine by advancing science and technology. More salient and popular amongst the papers and desertations presented were topics like "Analysis of modern medical advancements in the light of Holy Quran and Sunnah" "Islamic Medicine in the New Millennium" "Relationship between Modern Science and Islamic Figh" "DNA in Islam"

"Brain Death and the Holy Quran" "Contributions of Muslim Physicians in Spain 9^{th} -13th centuries". "Contributions of Muslim Physicians in Infectious diseases"

"Role of genetic engineering" "Preventive Medicine in Islam" "Honey in Shariah and in Islamic Medicine". An entire symposium was devoted to "Social issues facing the Muslims and the Muslim Physician in Muslim and Non-Muslim countries" Several speakers were so dynamic that they were called upon to elaborate further on their presentations by being granted extra time for their presentations.

Amidst this highly scientific environment the hosts did not overlook to the comfort of the delegates. Those from abroad were housed in 5 star deluxe hotels where the accommodations were exemplary. Every meal catered at the convention center was free with registration and reflected the cuisine of Hyderabad. The grand finale was the Banquet held in the "Purani Haveli" or "Old palace of the house of Nizam" containing a memorable museum of artifacts from Jubilee celebrations". A sumptuous meal was served in true Hyderabad style and with true Hyderabadi hospitality. At conclusion of the conference a trip was also arranged to see the historic sites of the city including the world famous Char Minar, Salar Jung Museum and the historic Fort of Golconda and the New Hi-Tech City and Ramoji Film City. Some foreign delegates then departed to a tour of North and South India before concluding their memorable visit.

This historic Conference achieved its goals and perspectives and brought the message to all Muslim physicians that Islamic Medicine is alive and well in the 21st Century. That instead of blindly following the west Muslim Physicians have to set their own standards in the practice of Modern Medicine, a practice that has to be governed by the laws set forth for us by Allah SWT in the Holy Quran and exemplified by our beloved Prophet Mohammed (S.A) in his Sunnah.

We hope to publish these papers in the future in special issues of JIMA (Journal of the Islamic Medical Association) and special "Proceedings issue"

Respectfully submitted:

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