



Persian Physicians: Shaping Unani Medicine Through Scholarly Contributions

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ABSTRACT

The Unani System of Medicine traces its origins to Egypt and its sister civilization, Mesopotamia, with its earliest roots often attributed to Hermes (Idris A. S.). While it initially took on a more scientific form under the influence of Hippocrates in ancient Greece, it underwent further refinement and development by Arab physicians. Upon reaching Iran and other Persian countries, the Unani System experienced significant enhancement and improvement, thanks to the substantial contributions of Persian physicians. They played a crucial role in not only translating existing texts but also composing original works, which were subsequently translated into various languages and served as textbooks in European schools during the Dark Ages in Europe. Here, we explore the contributions of several physicians written in Persian language and provide brief accounts of their remarkable achievements in this article.

Key words: *Mesopotamia, Unani System of Medicine, Persian physicians*

INTRODUCTION:

Iran (Persia) boasts one of the world's most ancient civilizations, with roots dating back to the Elamites in the fourth millennium BC. Its history of cohesion commenced with the Medes in the seventh century BC, reaching its pinnacle in the sixth century BC under the rule of Cyrus the Great, the founder of the Achaemenid Empire, one of antiquity's grandest empires. This era was succeeded by the Sasanian Empire in the third century AD. The Arab Muslim conquests in the seventh century AD ushered in Islamization, transforming Iran into a prominent hub of Islamic culture and scholarship, with its language, traditions, and heritage influencing the Muslim world extensively. A significant historical course was set in motion by a major military campaign led by Abu Bakr (RA), the first Islamic caliph of the Rashidun Caliphate, followed by Umar and Uthman, second and third caliph, between 632 and 654 AD. This trajectory, culminating in the establishment of one of the largest empires in history, commenced with a clash against the Sassanid Empire led by the renowned general Khalid ibn al-Walid. Native Iranian Muslim dynasties governed until the Seljuk and Mongol conquests from the 11th to 14th centuries. In the 16th century, the Safavids (1501-1736 AD) reinstated a unified Iranian state.

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DISCUSSION:

As a humble student of the history of medicine, I state that Iran has been the academic center of the Islamic world since the early days of Islam. Iran, the land of the Aryans, produced great poets, writers, researchers, and physicians who inspired the entire Islamic world. Iran had poets of universal fame like Abul-Qâsem Ferdowsi Tusi, Hafiz Shirazi, Farîd ud-Dîn 'Aţţâr, Omar Khayyam, and well-known writers like Sa'di Shirazi and Nasrullah whose works *Gulistan Bostan* and *Kalila wa Dimna* are masterpieces of high literature. The scientific and medical honours blessed to Iran from the beginning of the Islamic era were maintained in the following centuries by the scholars and physicians of that place. From great physicians like Ali Ibn Raban Tabari, Ali Ibn Abbas Majusi, Abu Sahl Masihi, Muhammad Ibn Zakariya Razi, Abu Ali Ibn Sina, Isma'il

Jurjani, etc., to the Safavid era of Hakim Imad al-Din Mahmud ibn-Mas'ud Shirazi (1515-1592), a Physician and Social Pathologist of Safavid Era and many famous physicians of that time. It is also strange that Unani medicine was practiced in Iran under official supervision only till the end of the Safavid period, and after that, from the time of Naser al-Din Shah Qajar (1831-1896) under Western influence and power, the era of western medicine began there.

The most important thing of the Safavid period (1501 to 1736) was the spread of the Persian language and literature outside Iran, especially in India. Persian had acquired the status of an official language in India only after the Ghaznavid Empire. Many books on various topics were written in Persian during this period. Most of the work in Persian language, literature, and other academic subjects was done in the Mughal era. Unani Medicine underwent remarkable development during this period, and the works of Iranian physicians are most admirable. The Safavid period is spread over 250 years (1501 to 1736). This is precisely the period of the Mughal Empire in India. This period is crucial in India and Iran's deep academic, medical, linguistic, and cultural relationship. The mutual contact of scholars and physicians here, the series of students and the effects are a permanent bright chapter in the academic history of both countries. The study of the deep medical relations between India and Iran is also significant because understanding these connections is necessary for the medical history of both countries to be complete.

In search of better opportunities and drawn by India's burgeoning reputation for scientific and artistic appreciation, a multitude of physicians migrated to the region of India in such numbers that Delhi and the Deccan began to mirror the models of Iranian cities. Hailing from renowned Iranian locales such as Shiraz, Isfahan, Gilan, Jurjan, Tabriz, Mashhad, and others, these hundreds of esteemed scholars left an indelible mark on India through their contributions to learning and teaching, authorship, compilation, and the practice of Unani Medicine. The influence of these Iranian scholars was so profound that virtually all notable Indian physicians and medical families can be directly or indirectly linked to their Iranian counterparts. Indeed, the medical history of the Mughal period in India is predominantly a narrative of Iranian physicians, highlighting their noble achievements and significant contributions to the advancement of medicine.^{11, 12, 13}

Some important Persian physicians

Certainly, Persian physicians have made significant contributions to the field of medicine throughout history. Here are brief mentions of a few notable Iranian physicians:

1. Abul Hasan Ali ibn Sahl Rabban al-Tabari (838-870 AD):

Ali ibn Rabban al-Tabari was a distinguished Islamic scholar, physician, and psychologist renowned for his significant contributions to the field of medicine. Born into a prominent Syriac family in Merv, he later relocated to Tabaristan, earning the epithet "al-Tabari." Al-Tabari's scholarly prowess extended beyond medicine, encompassing expertise in philosophy, mathematics, and astronomy. His most notable achievement is the creation of the groundbreaking medical encyclopedia titled "Firdous al-Hikmah" (Paradise of Wisdom). This seminal work, written in Arabic, is considered the first comprehensive encyclopedia of medicine. Drawing from Syriac translations of Greek sources including Hippocrates, Galen, and Dioscorides, al-Tabari incorporated original insights and research, making significant contributions to the field. Notably, he simultaneously translated "Firdous al-Hikmah" into Syriac, enhancing its accessibility and utility for a wider audience. Additionally, al-Tabari is recognized as a pioneering figure in pediatrics, further solidifying his enduring legacy in the annals of medical history.

2. Abu Bakr Muhammad ibn Zakariyā al-Rāzī (865-925 AD)

Al-Rāzī, widely known as Rhazes, was a renowned physician, philosopher, and scholar hailing from the vibrant Silk Road, with Rey as his birthplace. His Persian name, Razi, signifies his connection to the city of Rey. Under the tutelage of Ali ibn Rabban al-Tabari, he pursued the study of medicine, laying the groundwork for his illustrious career. Rhazes made groundbreaking contributions to the field of medicine, distinguishing smallpox from measles for the first time and pioneering the discovery of numerous chemical compounds, including kerosene. One of the most esteemed physicians in history, Rhazes, along with Aristotle and Galen, he is revered as one of the founding figures of advanced medical knowledge, ethics, and practice.

Among his vast body of work, "Al-Ḥāwī fīl-Tibb" or "Jami al-Kabir," known in Latin as "Continens Liber," stands out as a monumental achievement. Rhazes authored over two hundred books covering a wide array of subjects including medicine, pharmacy, philosophy, and music, yet "Kitāb al-Ḥāwī" remains his most celebrated work. This magnum opus is regarded as one of the cornerstones of Unani Medicine, forming an integral part of its syllabus. Rhazes diverged from the views of Galen in "Al-Ḥāwī" after extensive clinical observations that contradicted Galen's descriptions of fevers. Written in Arabic, this monumental work spans 24 volumes, representing a remarkable contribution to medical literature and practice.

3. Ali ibn al-Abbas al-Majusi (930-994 AD)

Ali Majusi, commonly referred to as Haly Abbas, was a distinguished Persian physician and psychologist born in Ahvaz, southwestern Persia. Under the guidance of Shaikh Abu Maher Musa ibn Sayyār, he received his education, eventually earning a reputation as one of the foremost physicians of the Eastern Caliphate during his era. Majusi practiced medicine in Baghdad, where his expertise garnered widespread recognition for its depth, comprehensiveness, and precision.

His most renowned work, "Kamil al-Sina'at al-Tibbiyya," also known as "The Complete Book of the Medical Art," brought him global acclaim. This treatise stands as the sole known work authored by Al-Majusi and is revered as one of the three essential reference texts forming the foundation of the Unani system of medicine, alongside al-Qanun and al-Hawi. Also referred to as "Al-Kitab al-Maliki" (Royal Book) or "Liber Regalis" in Latin, this monumental work was written in Arabic and comprises two volumes. "Kamil al-Sina'at al-Tibbiyya" is esteemed for its comprehensive coverage of medical knowledge and practices of the time, making it an indispensable resource for scholars and practitioners alike. Its enduring significance is underscored by its inclusion in the syllabus of the Unani system and its digital preservation as E-Book by NIIMH in Hyderabad, India.

4. Abu Sahl Isa ibn Yahya al-Masihi al-Jurjani (970-1010 AD)

Abu Sahl al-Masihi, a physician hailing from Jurjan, situated east of the Caspian Sea in Iran, embarked on his journey in medicine by writing in Arabic. Under the mentorship of Abu Mansur Hassan bin Nuh al-Qumri, he honed his skills and knowledge. Notably, Abu Sahl is believed to have been a teacher to Avicenna, a renowned figure in the history of medicine. Ibn Abi Usaibia, a noted historian of medicine, lauded Abu Sahl for his remarkable eloquence, fluency in Arabic, and excellence in expression. Tragically, Abu Sahl met his demise during a dust storm in the deserts of Khwarezmia.

Among his enduring legacies is the monumental work known as "Kitāb al-Mi'a fi'l-Sanā'a al-Tibbi'iyyah," also referred to as "The Book of the Hundred Chapters on Medicine" or "Sad Bab." This comprehensive treatise, consisting of one hundred chapters, served as a standard textbook for medical students for generations. It remains a significant resource in the field of Unani Medicine. "Kitāb al-Mi'a" is esteemed for its meticulous exploration of various aspects of medicine and is considered one of the earliest Arabic works of its kind. Its influence is underscored by the fact that certain chapters were translated into Urdu by esteemed scholars Hakim Kabeeruddin and Hakim Shamsuddin and published in the Al-Masih journal from Delhi in 1925-26 AD. The first volume of "Kitāb al-Mi'a" was published in Hyderabad in 1963, and manuscripts of the work are preserved in esteemed libraries such as GOML in Hyderabad and Khuda Bakhsh Library in Patna, India.

5. Abū al-Rayḥān Muḥammad ibn Aḥmad al-Bīrūnī (973-1048 AD)

Al-Bīrūnī, commonly known as Alberonius in Latin, was a polymath and esteemed scholar of Iranian descent. Born in Khwarezm, (modern-day Uzbekistan), he passed away in Ghazna, Sijistan (present-day Afghanistan). Notably, Al-Bīrūnī accompanied Mahmud Ghaznavi during his invasions into India, residing there for a significant period. His extensive sojourn in India allowed him to immerse himself in the culture and knowledge of the region. Al-Bīrūnī's intellectual prowess was unmatched in medieval times, characterized by his critical spirit, tolerance, pursuit of truth, and intellectual courage. Regarded as one of the greatest scholars of the medieval Islamic era, he is celebrated for his originality and depth of thought. Throughout his lifetime, Al-Bīrūnī authored numerous works covering a wide range of subjects including geography, mathematics, medicine, and astronomy.

One of his notable contributions is the book "Kitab Al-Saidana fi al-Tib" (Pharmacology), written in Arabic. This pharmacological treatise meticulously catalogues approximately 969 drugs in alphabetical order. The book begins with an introduction comprising five chapters, delving into topics such as the etymology of the Arabic word for druggist, technical terminology for drug categories, and the general theory of medicaments. Additionally, Al-Bīrūnī expresses his preference for Arabic over Persian as a language of science in the fourth and fifth chapters, while also mentioning polyglot dictionaries available to him. Al-Bīrūnī's "Kitab Al-Saidana fi al-Tib" remains a significant contribution to the field of pharmacology, reflecting his profound understanding and meticulous scholarship in the realm of medicine.

6. Abu Mansur al-Hasan ibn Nuh al-Qumri (d. 999 AD):

Al-Qumri was a distinguished Persian physician who flourished in the 10th century within the region of Khorasan. Notably, al-Qumri served as the esteemed teacher of Avicenna, a pivotal figure in the field of medicine. His expertise earned him the prestigious position of court physician to the Samanid prince al-Mansur.

Al-Qumri gained widespread recognition primarily for his seminal work titled "Al-Ghina wa al-Muna" (The Book of Sufficiency and Wishes). This remarkable compendium, composed in Arabic, serves as a comprehensive guide to various ailments and their treatments, meticulously summarized in a concise manner. The book consists of approximately 220 folios and is structured into three main sections: "diseases from head to toe," "external medicine," and "fevers/pharmacological recipes." Through his meticulous organization and clear presentation of medical knowledge, al-Qumri's work continues to be revered for its invaluable contributions to the field of medicine.

7. Abū 'Alī al-Ḥusayn ibn 'Abdullāh ibn Sīnā (Avicenna) (980–1037 AD)

In the realm of Unani Medicine, the towering figure of Ibn Sina stands prominently above all others, earning him the esteemed titles of the Father of Modern Medicine and the Prince of Physicians. Born in Afshana near Bukhara and passing away in Hamadan, Iran, at the age of 57, Avicenna's life intersected with a pinnacle of Islamic Arabic culture, showcasing his extraordinary intellect and mastery of Arabic, despite Persian being his mother tongue. From a tender age, Avicenna displayed remarkable precocity, mastering the Arabic language and Quran, along with a vast array of literature by the age of 10, earning him the reputation of being 'almost a prodigy.' Regarded as a polymath and walking encyclopedia, his intellectual prowess extended across various disciplines.

His monumental work, "Al-Qanun fi al-Tibb" (The Canon of Medicine), stands as a quintessential medical encyclopedia written in Arabic, comprising five volumes. For some six centuries, "Al-Qanun" remained the foremost authority in both Islamic and Christendom medical circles. Noteworthy for its systematic arrangement and authoritative approach, it surpassed the works of eminent predecessors such as Razi's "al-Hawi," Ali ibn Abbas's "Maliki," and even the esteemed contributions of Galen. While Ibn Sina may not have surpassed Galen in medical expertise, his intellectual acumen and contributions ensured his enduring legacy as a trailblazer in the field of medicine.

8. Zayn al-Din Sayyed Isma'il ibn Husayn al-Jurjani (1041–1136 AD)

Isma'il Jurjani, a distinguished Persian physician hailing from Gorgan, Iran, flourished in the 12th century. Among Persian authors of medicine, Ismail Jurjani emerges as a celebrated figure. In addition to his mastery of medical and pharmaceutical sciences, Jurjani displayed proficiency in theological, philosophical, and ethical domains. Notably, he authored five books on medicine in Persian, alongside numerous other works spanning philosophy, ethics, and related fields.

Jurjani's most notable contribution is "Zakhirah Khwarazm Shahi" (The Treasure of Khwarazm Shah), recognized as the first systematic medical encyclopedia in the Persian language. Composed between 1111 AD and 1136, this seminal work served as a comprehensive resource covering various aspects of medicine. Dedicated to Qutb al-Din Khwarazm Shah, who ruled from 1097 to 1127, "Zakhirah Khwarazm Shahi" garnered widespread acclaim and became an indispensable reference for students and scholars alike, contributing significantly to the advancement of medical knowledge in the Persian-speaking world.

9. Muḥammad ibn Yūsuf al-Harawī (d. 1542 AD)

Muhammad bin Yusuf Harawi, the first Unani physician, came during the Mughal period in India he arrived in the subcontinent in 1526 alongside the renowned Mughal emperor Zahirud-Din Muhammad Babur (d. 1530 AD), the founder of the Mughal Empire. Holding the esteemed position of Babar's personal physician, Harawi garnered distinction for his erudition and expertise in medicine. Hailing from the illustrious lineage of physicians in Herat and Khorasan, Harawi's reputation extended beyond the confines of his homeland, resonating prominently within the Mughal courts in India. His association with the Mughal rulers contributed to his popularity and influence in the Indian medical landscape.

Among his notable works, "Ain al-Hayat" stands out as a seminal contribution to the field of geriatrics. Composed in Arabic in 1531 AD, this pioneering work delves into the intricacies of ageing, offering invaluable insights into the subject. Remarkably, "Ain al-Hayat" represents a treasure trove in the realm of Indian medical literature, marking a significant milestone in the study of geriatrics. The enduring significance of Harawi's work is underscored by its translation into Urdu by HS Zillur Rahman and subsequent publication by the Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Sciences (IAMMS), Aligarh, India, in 2007. Additionally, Ashfaque Ahmad's English translation in 2010 further facilitated access to Harawi's seminal work, ensuring its dissemination and scholarly engagement on a global scale.²

10. Rustam Jurjani (fl. 1544 AD)

He was a Persian physician prominent in the mid-16th century, who resided in India. Serving as the court physician for two rulers of the Deccan sultanates, Malik Ahmad Shah I (1490–1510 AD) and Burhan Shah I (1510–1553), he settled in the city of Ahmadnagar in the Deccan Plateau, India. Rustam Jurjani migrated from Gorgan, Iran to India in 1544 AD and established himself in Ahmednagar, the capital of the Nizam Shahi dynasty. Shortly after his arrival, he garnered the attention of influential figures within the royal court, who, impressed by his intelligence and remarkable skills, persuaded him to join the court. As a result, Rustam Jurjani was appointed as a royal physician by the king.

Throughout his career, Rustam Jurjani authored numerous medical treatises in Persian, with his most renowned work being the "Zakhira Nizam Shahi" (Treasure of Nizam Shahi). This comprehensive encyclopedia of materia medica was compiled at the request of Sultan Nizam Shah and was named in his honor. Completed in 1552 AD in the city of Daulatabad, the "Zakhira Nizam Shahi" remains a testament to Rustam Jurjani's enduring legacy in the field of medicine.^{14, 15}

11 Ḥakīm Ain al-Mulk Shirazi (d. 1595 AD)

Hakim Ainul-Mulk Shirazi Dawai, an esteemed Iranian physician, made his mark in India during the illustrious reign of Emperor Akbar (1556-1605 AD). Renowned for his expertise in medicine, surgery, and ophthalmology, Hakim Ayn al-Mulk Shirazi distinguished himself not only as a healer but also as a poet, showcasing his creative talents through poetry. His multifaceted skills and deep medical knowledge fostered a close relationship with the emperor, further elevating his status at court.

Among his notable works, "Zia al-Uyun" stands as a significant contribution to the field of ophthalmology. Composed in Persian, this treatise is dedicated to Humayun, the father of Emperor Akbar, underscoring its historical importance. Despite not being widely known, "Zia al-Uyun" holds a distinctive place in the history of ophthalmic literature, showcasing Hakim Ainul-Mulk Shirazi's expertise and insights in this specialized field. The manuscript of "Zia al-Uyun" is preserved in the esteemed archives of the National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH) in Hyderabad, ensuring its preservation for future generations and scholarly study.

12. Hakim Ali ibn Kamaluddin Gilani (1554-1609 AD)

Hakim Ali Gilani, a distinguished Persian royal physician hailing from Gilan, Iran, emerged as a prominent figure in the 16th century. He embarked on his scholarly journey by studying traditional sciences under the tutelage of Shaikh 'Abd al-Nabi bin Shaikh Ahmad Gangohi. Despite facing adversity and hardship, Hakim Ali Gilani's fortunes changed dramatically upon his arrival in India from Persia. His appointment in Akbar's court marked a turning point, propelling him to prominence and affluence. Renowned for his intellectual acumen and clinical expertise, Hakim Ali Gilani earned widespread respect and influence within the medical community.

His most notable contribution is his commentary on "al-Qanun," a seminal work in the field of medicine authored by Ibn Sina. Serving as the second commentator after Ibn Nafis, Hakim Ali Gilani penned a comprehensive commentary on the entire volume of "al-Qanun" in the Arabic language. His commentary, known as "Sharḥ al-Qānūn," stands as a testament to his erudition and scholarly prowess, enriching the understanding of medical principles and practices outlined in Ibn Sina's monumental work. Hakim Ali Gilani's enduring legacy continues to resonate in the realm of medicine, cementing his reputation as a luminary in the field of Persian and Islamic medicine.

13. Hakim Muzaffar Bin Muhammad al-Husaini al-Shifā'ī (d. 1627 AD)

Hakim Muzaffar, born in Isfahan, Iran, swiftly ascended to a position of honor and respect at the court of Safavid King Shah 'Abbas (1571-1629), where his talents in medicine and creativity were esteemed by all courtiers and nobles. His reputation preceded him upon his arrival in India during the reign of Akbar, where his expertise in medicine and inventive abilities earned him widespread recognition and admiration.

Among pharmacists during the time of Shah Abbas Safavi of Persia, Muzaffar is best known for his notable work, "Qarābādīn Shifā'ī." Composed in 1556, this renowned book on pharmacopoeia in Persian solidified the author's fame. Organized in alphabetical order, the book serves as a comprehensive guide to various drugs and their properties, laying the foundation for the Pharmacopoeia Persica of Father Angelus, a Jesuit priest and the first European to study Persian medicine. Abul Fazl, in his account of physicians at Akbar's court, included Muzaffar's name among the esteemed practitioners. The manuscript of "Qarābādīn Shifā'ī" is preserved at the National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH) in Hyderabad, ensuring its availability for scholarly study. Additionally, an Urdu translation by Muḥammad Hādī Ḥusain Khān was published from Munshī Naval Kishore Press, Lucknow, in 1873, further extending the reach of Muzaffar's invaluable contribution to the field of pharmacopoeia.

14. Hakim al-Mulk Nizamuddin Ahmad Gilani (1586-1669 AD)

Hakim al-Mulk Nizamuddin Ahmad Gilani (1586-1669 AD) was not only a renowned author but also a highly accomplished physician and distinguished architect. Born in 1586 AD as the son of Abdullah al-Sadidi al-Shirazi, he hailed from a family originally from Gilan, a region in the Safavid province situated on the Caspian coast of northern Iran. During the reign of fifth Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan (d. 1666 AD), Hakim Nizamuddin Ahmad Gilani migrated to India, where he made significant contributions in the field of medicine. He attained the esteemed position of chief royal physician under King Abdullah, Qutb Shah VII, in 1635 AD. One of his notable works is the "Majmua-i Hakim al-Mulk Nizamuddin Ahmad Gilani," a comprehensive medical diary that provides insight into his medical experiments, teachings, and studies. This invaluable compilation spans from his student years to the age of sixty, offering a rare glimpse into the life and work of this esteemed physician. The meticulous selection and arrangement of topics in the book render it a rare and invaluable resource in the field of medicine.³

15. Masum ibn Karimuddin Shostri Shirazi (fl. 1637 AD)

Masum Shirazi was a learned physician and prolific writer who made significant contributions to the field of Unani medicine. Born in Shoster, Iran, he migrated to India during the Mughal rule, where he became associated with the court of Prince Mohammad Azam Shah. During this period, many notable physicians migrated from cities in Persia and Central Asia including Shiraz, Herat, Samarqand, Bukhara, and others to India.

"Qarabadin Masumi" is regarded as one of the most significant Unani pharmacopoeias written in the Persian language by Masum Shirazi. This esteemed text comprehensively details various Unani compounds prescribed for various diseases, along with their methods of preparation. It emerged during a period when Persian was the predominant academic language, and as a result, scholarly works, including medical texts, were predominantly composed in Persian.

The importance of "Qarabadin Masumi" lies in its meticulous compilation of therapeutic formulations and remedies within the Unani system of medicine. Its comprehensive coverage of diverse diseases and their corresponding treatments provides valuable insights into traditional medical practices prevalent during the time of its composition.

Hakim Ashfaque Ahmad, affiliated with the National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH) in Hyderabad, undertook the significant task of editing and translating "Qarabadin Masumi" into English. This translation facilitates broader accessibility and understanding of the invaluable knowledge encapsulated within the text, thereby contributing to the dissemination of traditional Unani medical practices to a wider audience.

Overall, "Qarabadin Masumi" stands as a testament to the rich heritage of Unani medicine, offering a glimpse into the intricate formulations and therapeutic approaches employed by practitioners of this ancient healing tradition. Its translation into English further ensures its preservation and dissemination for future generations of medical practitioners and scholars.

16. Hakeem Mir Muhammad Husain Shirazi (d. 1790 AD)

It is indeed crucial to highlight the significant contributions of Hakeem Mir Muhammad Husain Shirazi (d. 1790 AD) to the field of Unani medicine as a very important and final link in this series. Hakeem Shirazi attained widespread acclaim and recognition for his esteemed status and monumental works, notably his compilations "Mujamma al-Jawami", "Makhzan al-Adwiya", and "Khulasat al-Hikmat". These works have been repeatedly published and hold esteemed positions within medical circles in the Indian subcontinent.

Hakeem Muhammad Husain Shirazi stands as a pivotal figure among the physicians of the Mughal era who dignified and enriched Unani medicine with scientific rigor and credibility. His extensive literary output encompasses numerous books that serve as authoritative references in the medical world. Shirazi's works have garnered equal reverence and utilization in both India and Iran, demonstrating the profound impact of his scholarship across borders.

Among his notable works, "Makhzan al-Adwiya" holds a special place as an extensive and scholarly treatise on pharmacopeia. First penned in 1769 AD, this seminal work has seen multiple editions and scholarly reviews, attesting to its enduring relevance and scholarly significance. The first edition of "Makhzan al-Adwiya" in India was published in Calcutta in 1844 AD, with subsequent editions being published, including a fourth edition in 1913 by the Manishi Nawal Kishore Press in Kanpur. Similarly, "Makhzan al-Adwiya" found publication in Iran in 1861, further cementing its status as a foundational text in the realm of pharmacology within Unani medicine.

Hakeem Mir Muhammad Husain Shirazi's profound contributions to the advancement of Unani medicine through his scholarly works continue to resonate within medical communities, underscoring his enduring legacy as a trailblazer in the field of traditional medicine in the Indian subcontinent and beyond.^{4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9}

CONCLUSION

Indeed, the contributions of Iranian physicians to the development of the Unani system of Medicine extend far beyond those mentioned here. The history of Unani medicine is replete with numerous scholars, physicians, and practitioners who have left an indelible mark on the field.

Their contributions, spanning various domains of medicine including pharmacology, surgery, ophthalmology, and more, have significantly shaped the Tibb Sunnati (Unani system) and its practices. Through their meticulous observations, innovative treatments, and scholarly writings, Iranian physicians have enriched our understanding of medical science and contributed to the advancement of healthcare.

While the individuals highlighted in this discussion represent notable figures, they are just a glimpse of the broader landscape of Iranian medical history. A deeper exploration of the contributions of Iranian physicians to the Unani system of Medicine would indeed reveal a wealth of knowledge and insights that have profoundly influenced the arrangement and organization of Iranian medical practices.

Studying the detailed history of medicine, particularly within the Iranian context, offers a comprehensive understanding of the rich heritage and enduring legacy of Iranian physicians in shaping the field of medicine. Their remarkable achievements continue to inspire and guide medical practitioners and scholars worldwide, underscoring the invaluable impact of Tibb Sunnati on the global healthcare landscape.

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