INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MALAY MEDICAL MANUSCRIPTS 2018

8 - 9TH September 2018
Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia
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International Conference on Malay Medical Manuscripts (ICOMMM) was first organised by the Kulliyyah of Allied Health Sciences in 2015 on the ground of the health sciences campus of the International Islamic University Malaysia in Kuantan, Pahang. It commemorated the 120 years of the first printing of Tayyib al-Ihsan, a Malay medical treatise written by Syaikh Ahmad al-Fatani. As a multi-disciplinary academic conference, it featured speakers and researchers from the humanities and science faculties covering topics such as philosophy, history, medicine and dentistry. There were a total of 11 presentations including four Keynote Speeches, presented to about 120 participants, mainly from the scientific community of IIUM Kuantan, as well as NGOs, government agencies and academic and research institutions. The conference focuses in making the data in Malay medical manuscripts useful and relevant to contemporary society while addressing issues as wide as pseudoscientific activities masquerading as Malay medicine, biopiracy, humanising science, and deWesternising and Islamising knowledge.
ABOUT

Islamic Medical Manuscripts of the Malay Archipelago Research and Information (IMARAH) Unit

IMARAH is a specialised research, and information unit which gathers IIUM academicians with common research interest in studying Malay medical manuscripts. These interests may include collection care, conservation, transliteration, digitisation, as well as translation into benchwork and actual therapeutics of these medical manuscripts.

The vision of IMARAH, in line with the vision of the University, is to become a leading international centre of educational excellence on research and innovations in the area of Malay Archipelago medical manuscript to help mould the worldview, provide inspiration, and guide approaches to the maintenance of health for the whole Ummah, all done with the University’s Islamisation of Human Knowledge agenda as the backbone.

The mission of IMARAH research group is to establish a focused group studying Malay medical manuscripts in different problem settings and from different perspectives that uses a team and integrated approach with Islamic values to provide quality research and innovation on health sciences while developing and nurturing partnerships with other agencies/industries/institutions.
1. To study the history, developments and achievements of Malay medicine through available manuscripts.

2. To collect data on what has been done until now with regards to Malay medical manuscripts i.e. conservation, cataloguing, transliteration, digitisation, analysis and benchwork experiments based on manuscript data.

3. To improve and contextualised participants’ understanding of the subjects.

4. To enable learning of the inspiration, experiences and interpretation of the people of the past in tackling the problem of their time and relate how these would be adopted and actualized in today's practice.

5. To be held in conjunction with the Al-Tibb: Healing Tradition in Islamic Medical Manuscripts Exhibition 2018 at the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur.
COMMITTEE of ICOMMM2018

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Hazrena Hashim
Abdul Wahid Ibat
In the name of Allah, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful.

I welcome all participants to this significant event. Over the years, IIUM has, in a determined and systematic way, tried to realise its vision to “Islamise and restore a leading and progressive role for the Muslim Ummah in every branches of knowledge for the benefit of all mankind”. We continuously look for new concepts and approaches and support every initiative that lead to the realisation of the vision.

Islamisation of knowledge requires the first step of dewesternisation. Principles of each discipline need to be constructed anew or revived from our own history and philosophy. In terms of medicine and health sciences, while there is already a huge amount of materials on Islamic medicine the contribution of Malay Muslims in the field has been largely overlooked. IIUM takes the initiative to establish what their contributions were, and what could be benefited from it by the present globalised world. This International Conference on Malay Medical Manuscript will be a useful stepping stone to provide a foundation and platform to gather scholars, researchers and historians to assess Malay or Nusantara medical & health ideas and approaches to be applied in the diverse scientific backgrounds.

On behalf of the university, I would like to congratulate and thank the organising committee and everyone who had been working directly and indirectly to ensure the success of this conference. I wish you all the best and I hope your presence in Kuala Lumpur will be a memorable one.

Thank you and wassalam.

DZULKIFLI ABDUL RAZAK, PROF. TAN SRI DATO’
Rector,
International Islamic University Malaysia
FOREWORD
Director, Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia (IAMM)

The Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia welcomes the International Conference on Malay Medical Manuscripts (ICOMMMM), held on the 8th and 9th September 2018, at its premises. This collaboration points at the important role both organisations share in advancing research and raising awareness of the importance of medical manuscripts in general and Malay manuscripts in particular.

We are glad that the conference dates coincide with an important exhibition prepared by the IAMM team on the importance of Islamic medical culture, highlighting and narrating the history and contributions of Muslim scholars in medicine. Al-Tibb: Healing Traditions in Islamic Medical Manuscripts exhibition, on display until December 2018, and its accompanying catalogue will certainly contribute to the theme of the conference through its sharing of the hidden gems of the IAMM’s collection of historical manuscripts, specifically, the Malay medical manuscripts.

Lastly, to all speakers and participants, researchers and professionals, I hereby extend my warm gratitude and welcome you to the conference, and of course, the Museum. Enjoy the experience, stay engaged, and I pray that we all remain inspired.

SYED MOHAMAD ALBUKHARY
Director
Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia
FOREWORD
Dean, Kulliyyah of Allied Health Science (KAHS), IIUM

Alhamdulillah, all praises be to Allah s.w.t.

Congratulations to the Organising Committee of ICOMMM2018 from the Kulliyyah of Allied Health Sciences of International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) and the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia for organising the International Conference on Malay Medical Manuscript (ICOMMM 2018) in conjunction with Al-Tibb: Healing Traditions in Islamic Medical Manuscripts.

With the theme “Heritage for New Medicine”, the conference conveys to us the message that in our aspiration to engage with the changing world, we must not disengage with the past. The accumulation of wisdom, experiences and time-tested traditions may still provide for us guidance on how to forge forward in a creative and contemplative manner. In line with the University’s vision of Islamisation of Knowledge and de-Westernisation of the Society, the conference hopefully will enhance the awareness in the current generation on the past Malay Muslim scholars’ contribution in health and science. The proceedings, deliberations and discussions will hopefully open their eyes to the history, developments and achievements of Malay medicine through our written traditions, in particular, the medical manuscripts. As the Premier International Islamic Research University, we hope that this research area will pave more ways for research, collaborations (local and international) and publications.

I pray that everyone who attended this conference will gain great benefit and will be motivated to understand, undertake and explore this interesting and challenging conference on Malay medical manuscripts. Thank you and wassalam.

ASSOC. PROF. DR. SUZANAH ABDUL RAHMAN
Dean of Kulliyyah of Allied Health Sciences,
International Islamic University Malaysia
Alhamdulillah, all praises be to Allah s.w.t.

Welcome to the International Conference on Malay Medical Manuscripts (ICOMMM 2018). The organisation of this special and specific conference on Malay medical manuscripts is the second time to be held in Malaysia, following the success of the first one in Kuantan, Malaysia in 2015. It was the first instance that such a conference is organised in a medical campus in Malaysia. This was not a coincidence then, as DeWesternisation and Islamisation programme of medical science has to be brought in and presented in its various aspects in a close and involving engagement with medical scientists.

In the Malay Archipelago, medical manuscripts number in the hundreds. Many are disintegrating, and threatened by natural disasters. Without research on these manuscripts, we face the consequences of losing tangible proofs of the achievements of Malay civilisation, important clues on how to develop new methods in treating, and preventing diseases may be missed. In addition, our markets and media are filled up by loose and unaccounted for interpretations of Malay and Islamic medicine, which run against the spirit, philosophy and facts of the Islamic and Malay medical practice. We have little choice but to make a recourse to our written medical heritage, appraising the tradition, discussing it, and republishing it as anthological works or other forms of publications.

Representing the secretariat, I thank every one who is involved in the conference, from the University, the Museum, the speakers and attendees and all well-wishers. I hope everyone will have an enjoyable time at the conference.

Wassalamualaikum.

DR. MOHD. AFFENDI MOHD. SHAFRI
Chairman of the Organising Committee
ICOMMM 2018
ITINERARY
Saturday, 8th September 2018

0930 Registration & arrival of VIPs
1015 Opening Ceremony
1030 Welcoming remarks by Asst. Prof. Dr. Mohd. Affendi bin Mohd. Shafri, Chairman for ICOMMM2018
1040 Opening Speech by Dr Heba Nayel Barakat, Head Curator, Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia
1050 Officiating Ceremony by Prof. Tan Sri Dato’ Dzulkifly Abdul Razak, Rector, International Islamic University Malaysia
1100 Book Launching Ceremony
1115 Break
1130 **Keynote Speaker I** - “MANASSA and Malay Medical Manuscripts in the Nusantara Context” by Dr. Munawar Holil, S. S., M. Hum. (Universitas Indonesia)
1200 Q&A session
1215 **Keynote Speaker II** - Holistic Health and Traditional Medicine of Indonesia Lesson from the Practice of Balinese Traditional Medicine” by Prof. Dr. Mangestuti Agil (Universitas Airlangga, Indonesia)
1245 Q&A session
1300 Zuhur break
1430 **Keynote Speaker III** - “Perubatan Melayu dalam Dokumen Belanda” by Dr. Mohammad Alinor bin Abdul Kadir (Akademi Sains Islam Malaysia)
1500 Q&A session
1515 **Oral Presentation I** - “Sari Segala Ubat: Borneo’s Medical Manuscript” by Farahani Erna binti Ahmad Afandi (IIUM)
1545 Q&A session
1600 **Oral Presentation II** - “Exploring Acehnese Traditional Medicine and Its Relation to India: a Study Based on Acehnese Manuscripts” by Dr. Fakhriati, MA (Ministry of Religious Affairs, Indonesia)
1630 Q&A session
1645 **Oral Presentation III** - “Cancer Cure in Selected Malay Medical Manuscripts” by Dr. Mardhiah bt Mohamed (IIUM)
1715 Q&A session
1730 Adjournment
ITINERARY
Sunday, 9th September 2018

0930   Beginning of 2nd day

1000   **Keynote Speaker IV** - "Malay Medicine - Mysticism Debunked" by Dr. Abdul Ghani bin Hussain (Herbwalk Consultancy/IPSCA)

1030   Q&A session

1045   **Keynote Speaker V** - "Kitab Tibb Sebagai Asas dalam Penyelidikan Hasilan Semulajadi" by Dr. Nik Musa’adah Mustapha (FRIM)

1115   Q&A session

1130   Break

1145   **Oral Presentation IV** - "Hubungan Ilmuwan Perubatan Melayu: Satu Pemetaan Awal Berdasarkan Manuskrip-manuskrip Perubatan Melayu" by Dr. Mohd. Affendi bin Mohd. Shafri (IIUM)

1215   Q&A session

1230   **Oral Presentation V** - "A Short Perspective on the Dissemination of Malay Medical Knowledge in the Light of Al-Tibb: Healing Traditions in Islamic Medical Manuscripts Exhibition" by Siti Marina binti Mohd Maidin (Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia)

1300   Q&A session

1315   Closing Ceremony

1330   Adjournment
This paper discusses studies that have been conducted on medical manuscripts in the Nusantara, especially those that have been presented in International Symposium on Nusantara Manuscripts initiated by MANASSA (The Indonesian Association for Nusantara Manuscripts), National Seminar, and JUMANTARA Journal initiated by the National Library of Indonesia. In addition, it also discusses research on Nusantara medical manuscripts by other researchers in Indonesia outside the MANASSA forum and the National Library of Indonesia. The discussion involves explaining the challenges in searching and tracing these manuscripts, with a particular emphasis on the crucial role of local manuscripts catalogues. A conceptual map of the significance of these manuscripts as well as the overview of medical manuscripts that have been studied including who-is-who of the researchers and the nature of their studies will be the overarching aim of the presentation.

**Keywords:** Manassa, manuscript, medical manuscript, Nusantara, National Library of Indonesia

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**KEYNOTE SPEAKER 1**

**MANASSA and Malay Medical Manuscripts in the Nusantara Context**

Dr. Munawar Holil

Lecturer, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Indonesia
Chairman, Masyarakat Pernaskahan Nusantara (MANASSA)
Head of Philology Laboratory, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Indonesia
Indonesian traditional medicine, popularly known as jamu, has been used for centuries by almost 300 ethnic groups of Indonesia. Each group has its own recipes and methods of practice that has been passed through generations. Some written manuscripts of this ancient medicinal practice are kept in libraries and museums, such as National Library of Indonesia and local museums at Palaces of Yogyakarta and Surakarta in Central Java, Indonesia. However, many are unwritten practices that have been passed down the generation through words of mouth for centuries. Unfortunately, this traditional heritage is on the brink of extinction, mainly because younger generations are unwilling to follow their predecessors, mainly because of the limited information on the benefit of using it. For example, women are the main jamu consumers, and they only repeated their mothers' practice without enough personal knowledge on the benefit of it. Drinking jamu is perceived as an obligation in order to become a good mother and wife, and therefore becoming only a mere ritual. Little do they know that women who consumed different variations of jamu regularly during the transition of their life cycle experienced a healthy life up to their menopausal and post menopausal periods. Such benefit certainly is caused by the action of active substances in jamu ingredients.

Practice of traditional medicine is a holistic concept of healing. Not only it is based on the presence of healing substances in different parts of plants and other natural ingredients, but also conduct in a certain lifestyle. Manuscripts of traditional medicine kept at the National Library of Indonesia described recipes that mostly are composed of plant materials, and certain method of applications to help consumers in conducting a better life. These include prayers for a better spiritual life, food restrictions, as well as advice for living a simple and religious lifestyle. Such conduct actually is the philosophy of Indonesian traditional medicine, that is to live a balanced life.
This study explored more about Balinese traditional medicine. Balinese medical manuscripts mostly are written in ancient Javanese, Balinese, and Kawi languages. Balinese linguists are encouraged to translate old manuscripts in order to be understood and used easily in the community, famously known as usada. Usada, meaning medicinal plants, is becoming very popular in solving health problems. Nowadays, the Balinese society promotes a good collaboration among medical doctors and Balians, traditional Balinese healers. This healing-oriented medicine emphasizes the therapeutic relationship between conventional and complementary medicines, known as integrative medicine. Books written by medical experts helped people to understand better about usada, which has been proved and practiced empirically through generations. The practice of original Balinese usada is based on a holistic approach, which combine prayers, recipes of medicinal plants, restrictions related to local customs and culture. According to the original lesson, such holistic approach attempts to reach a mind-body balance in individuals as well as balanced relations among people, spirits, and the surroundings. This holistic approach brings people to solve, maintain and enhance their health.

Keywords: Balinese, traditional medicine, manuscript, holistic.
At the mention of bomoh, dukun and pawang, a picture of shamanistic practices comes to mind of the ordinary individual. Such perceptions of Malay medicine had been actually propagated by the British colonials who wrote a lot on this topic of interest to them. People like Skeats (Malay Magic) and Windstedt (Shaman, Saiva & Sufi- A Study of Evolution of Malay Magic) and Endicott (Analysis of Malay Magic) did exhaustive study on Malay magic and wrote books and articles on them in the Journal of the Straits Branch of Royal Asiatic Society. Are these the real Malay Medicine? The real science based Malay medicine had never been put to the fore before by anyone else amongst the British colonial writers. The Dutch had written quite a bit on the Malay medicine in their colony. There were books written on Javanese, Sumatran and Minangkabau medicine by a number of Dutch writers dating as far back as 1575 (Rumphius – Herbarium Amboinense). They, however, wrote only on the materia medica which was of interest to them, because they were seeking new medicinal resources.

Reading through Malay medical manuscripts, I have found that there were actually more science in the practice of Malay medicine than just plain hocus-pocus. Many of these dust covered kitabs actually contained bits and pieces about the principles of Malay medicine, the understanding of disease processes, the understanding of drug actions, and treatises on the treatment regimes which sometimes supersedes modern medical practices. It would be a shame if no effort is being made to bring these to the fore. We need groups of researchers to further analyse and document them in manners which could aid in more research and drawing up of a structured training programme for the advancement of Malay medicine in the modern setting.

Dr. Nik Musa’adah Mustapha  
Senior Researcher, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM)
ABSTRACTS
for Oral Presentations
Malay medical manuscripts contain knowledge on medical philosophy, history, pharmaceutical practice and prescriptions used by the Malay over several centuries. Up to 2016, there were only 11 publications on Malays ancient medical literature. Hence, this study adds to the effort of reviving the value of Malay intellectual heritage for further medical research. The main interest in this study is Sari Segala Ubat, a Borneo Malay medical manuscript from early 19th century Pontianak. It documents the medical prescriptions of Tama, purportedly a royal physician to the Sultanate of Pontianak in West Kalimantan. This exploratory study found that the manuscript covers treatments for at least 51 physical health conditions in addition to spiritual illnesses. There are 17 single compound prescriptions, 87 compounded prescriptions and 27 spiritual healing methods used. Therapeutic methods involved oral consumption, external application and mantera. Both local and imported ingredients employed were used including several with specific Borneo connection such as bengkala, bulangan and tutang. The study sheds more light on the medical practice of the Malays at the turn of the 19th century Borneo, in particular the West Kalimantan region, and comparative analysis with other Malay medical texts and contemporary scientific literatures would be the next step in the data-mining of this text.

**Keywords:** Borneo, Kalimantan, Pontianak, Malay, medicine, manuscript
Acehnese people had undeniably historical linkages with Indian. Therefore, Acehnese local cultural legacies has certainly influenced by Indian culture. One of those cultural legacies is manuscripts that are still able to be reached in the society as a collection of a valuable heritage from their ancestors. Traditional medicine is one example of a great used knowledge found in the manuscripts. There are many types of medicines build in local way and derived from various plants such as turmeric plant which is derived from India. It is usually used for both physical and mental illness. This paper seeks to dig out thoroughly on these traditional medicines mentioned in the Acehnese manuscripts, and looks for its roots and background taken place in the local culture and its relation to India. Looking at the history of Aceh people which had relation to Indians, this work should answer the main question that is to what extent Acehnese traditional medicines has relation to Indian culture. This paper uses philological, historical, and ethno-medicine approaches in dealing with reading manuscripts, finding, and analysing the information provided in the manuscripts and the local culture. Writing this paper aims at studying on the traditional medicines and its relation with the local culture and India as their ancestor. This study finds that Indian culture diffuses and spread to the Acehnese culture, including the way of traditional medical treatments and traditional medicines. This has occurred since a long time ago. The treatments discussed in this paper may be relevant to people who live in the present, and some maybe even more so, especially as alternatives to mainstream medicine. Preventive and curatives efforts are dependent on the conviction and belief of a person, as well as the environment in which the person live. In this context, Aceh traditional medicine manuscripts are very useful, not only for historical study, but also for practical use in daily lives of Acehnese, Indonesians, and humanity in general.

Keywords: traditional medicines, Acehnese, local culture, India, and manuscripts
The Malay Archipelago has produced many medical manuscripts reflecting and documenting the availability, accessibility, and effectiveness of the locally occurring natural products used in the treatment of diseases. This study aims to review the treatment of tumour and cancer in several Malay medical manuscripts namely Kitab Tib Terengganu MS 1998.400, Kitab Al Rahmah Fi Al-Tibb 54/LL/14/YPAH/2005, and Kitab Ilmu Tabib (Warisan Perubatan Melayu). Natural products such as plants, animal, and minerals that have potential properties in treating cancer were identified in several recipes involving the incorporation of individual or mixed parts of plants and non-plants substances. It was found that many of these substances are yet to be screened as potential anti-cancer drug candidates. It was also found that the Malays identified and classified tumour and cancer not only as barah or ketumbuhan as is generally known today but also using several other key terms. In conclusion, tumour and cancer are among old diseases that were recognised by the Malays and the Malay manuscripts still contain many possible anti-cancer therapies that can be brought out to the fore for use in contemporary society.

**Keywords:** cancer, tumour, natural products, Malay, medical manuscript

Kata kunci: perubatan Melayu, sains Melayu, ilmuwan perubatan Melayu, manuskrip perubatan Melayu
The rich writing traditions in Malay Archipelago have preserved the Malay intellectual heritage in various subjects ranging from religious studies, history, folklore, and science. In science, medicine is considered as a sacred knowledge and the medicine man is highly respected in the Malay society that it was not surprising the British took great effort to introduce the modern medicine. The medical knowledge is known to be passed down from a teacher to his trusted students or even family members through technical learning processes and oral traditions. Interestingly, the Malay medical knowledge were transferred in written texts on paper, wood or even palm leaves and are known as Kitab Tibb Melayu (Malay Book of Medicine). Nonetheless, the Malay medical practices are not just confined in the Kitab Tibb Melayu. The Malay medicine man also refers to the divination practices as a method of healing and preparation of medicaments. These precious written medical literature –the Kitab Tibb Melayu (Malay Book of Medicine) and the divination treatises are among the precious artefacts of the huge collections of Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia. As a museum, the knowledge dissemination is the key component of information management to ensure the knowledge is easily accessible. Thus, it has been a continuous effort of the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia in conserving the knowledge and to raise awareness of these medical manuscripts collection whereby each department works together to restore, translate, and distribute the medical knowledge. Hence, this paper will review three vehicles and the methodological challenges practiced in the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia – exhibition, catalogue and educational activities as tools to disseminate the Malay medical knowledge applied on the recent Al-Tibb: Healing Traditions in Islamic Medical Manuscript exhibition.
The committee would like to thank the following parties who have contributed to the success of this conference (in alphabetical order):

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- Institut Penyelidikan Perubatan Malaysia
- Institute of Physical Science, Culture and Arts
- Khazanah Fathaniyah
- Muzium Polis Diraja Malaysia
- Pelita Dhihin
- Penerbit Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)
- Taman Pustaka