2016 Benefit Dinner
Saturday, April 16, 2016

Celebrating 5 Years
of Ground-Breaking Research,
Education, and Dialogue
Our Beginnings

The Program on Medicine and Religion (PMR) at the University of Chicago is a transformative academic program spanning the Divinity School and the Department of Medicine. Despite ample evidence that religion often animates clinicians’ practices and that patients’ health behaviors and experiences of illness are often mediated by faith, the relationship between medicine and religion is rarely studied. The PMR fills this gap by conducting rigorous empirical, historical, theological, ethical, and legal scholarship to enrich our understanding of how religion and medicine each respond to the human predicaments of illness, injury, disability, suffering, and death—often in complementary and mutually reinforcing ways.

The Initiative on Islam and Medicine (II&M) is an integral part of PMR and was launched in 2011 to conduct research and develop resources at the intersection of Islam and medicine. The program is led by Dr. Aasim Padela who is an emergency medicine clinician, health services researcher and bioethicist, and by virtue of having studied Islam in both the seminary and the academy, and by having an advanced degree in health research methods, is uniquely positioned to direct this ground breaking program.
What We Do

- The II&M partners with the Muslim community to examine how Islam impacts Muslim health behaviors and healthcare decisions. Working with healthcare stakeholders, these data are used to develop evidence-based and culturally-tailored interventions in mosque communities and hospitals.

- The II&M brings seminary-trained Islamic scholars, academicians, and social and medical scientists together to discuss the relationships between Islam and biomedicine and to produce Islamic bioethics resources.

- The II&M hosts educational workshops that translate research findings into practical knowledge that can service patients, healthcare providers, and religious leaders.
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Wan Mohd Nur Wan Daud, PhD
Director, Center for Advanced Studies on Islam, Science and Civilization,
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
The II&M is a timely and welcome addition to the emerging field of Islam and Biomedical ethics. I was fortunate enough to participate in some of their activities on the basis of my personal experience with the people involved in this Initiative, I strongly believe that the projects and ventures they initiate deserve dedicated support from all those interested in this broad field of study and research, especially when it concerns the American context.

**Tariq Ramadan, PhD**
Professor of Islamic Studies, University of Oxford

The II&M is a critically important project that the Muslim community in America needs to support. It will offer much needed guidance on medicine and ethics in hospitals, medical professions, and chaplains. This Initiative is the next step we need to take in providing compassionate and ethical care to patients. There is no one better than Dr. Aasim Padela to lead this effort.

**Sohaib Sultan**
Chaplain, Princeton University

It has been increasingly realized that the field of medicine…is integrally connected to, and influenced by, theological, ethical and legal principles …Better understanding and application of these interconnections and influences necessarily involves sustained and coordinated interdisciplinary and collaborative research. The growth of Muslim population in the US, combined with the already global influence of academic and scientific works carried out in the US, make the II&M ...much more timely and significant.

**Dr. Wan Mohd Nur Wan Daud**

The II&M has undertaken a critical study of intersecting medical and Islamic religious concepts with a serious focus on applications for patients and health practitioners alike. The rapidly evolving clinical solutions to a myriad of medical conditions has raised many ethical and moral questions in the minds of the community and II&M is poised to make significant inroads in addressing these questions.

**Dr. Faisel Qazi**

It is time for the Muslim community to come out of our silos and make connections between the academy and the community. The research and teaching performed through II&M will inshaAllah serve to highlight the essential needs of Muslim patients to be understood and their religious needs fulfilled, and to underscore how Islamic values cohere with the universal notions of caring when we deliver healthcare.

**Dr. Shakeela Hassan**

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**Dr. Wan Mohd Nur Wan Daud**
Bridging Divides & Bringing Stakeholders Together

Islamic Theology & Biomedicine Working Group

This project, supported by generous funding from the John Templeton Foundation, brings experts in Islamic theology and human science together to create a new vocabulary for thinking about how scientific ways of knowing can work together with theological ways of understanding the world. Group Members include:

Taha Abdul Basser, PhD (c)  Dr. Ahsan Arozullah  Shaykh Jihad Hashim-Brown
Shaykh Mohammad Amin Kholwadia  Katherine Klima DNP  Dr. Aasim Padela
Dr. Faisal Qazi  Omar Qureshi, PhD (c)  Muhammed Volkan Stodolsky PhD

Muslim Agents for Health & Community Research

This group of Chicago-land community activists, healthcare professionals and other stakeholders serves as a community advisory board critical to our Muslim health research projects. They learn research methodologies and consequently help with designing our research studies, liaise between community groups and researchers, and partner in all phases of our community-based health intervention programs. Members include:

Lynn Salahi  Tabassum Haleem  Kifah Shukair
Luma Mahairi  Sana Ali  Altaf Kaiseruddin
Zakiyah Moton  Lila Zegar  Masood Iqbal
MahRukh Mian  Beenish Manzoor  Fatema Mirza
Nancy Romanchek
Press Coverage

*Influencing public discourse:* Our research has been featured in five of the top ten news outlets in the US and in media abroad, including the following headlining pieces:

- **The New York Times**
  - November 1, 2010
  - Respecting Muslim Patient’s Needs

- **The Globe and Mail**
  - August 2011
  - Summertime Poses Many Challenges in Observing the Ramadan Fast

- **Chicago Tribune**
  - April 2, 2012
  - Balancing Medicine, Faith: U. of C. researchers Study How Doctors Incorporate Their Own Religious Beliefs & Discuss Faith with Patients

- **CNN**
  - September 11, 2012
  - Health of Muslims, Arab Americans Another Victim of 9/11

- **Chicago Sun-Times**
  - August 6, 2013
  - Chicago-area Muslim Women Shun Repeat Mammograms

- **The Washington Post**
  - December 11, 2015
  - American Muslim Doctors Feel Greater Scrutiny, Even Patients’ Suspicions
Scholarly Output

In the few years that II&M has been around our publications, presentations, and press coverage has helped to fill the deep knowledge gaps at the intersection of Islam, Biomedicine and Muslim health.

**Influencing scholarly discourse:** We have published 27 peer-reviewed manuscripts in leading academic journals and 4 book chapters which are defining the fields of Muslim health disparities and Islamic bioethics and bringing attention to work that needs to be done on the ground. Notable pieces include:


*Caring for Muslim patient with the help of an app.* Lancet 2013.

*Using Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) for Health Research in American Muslim Mosque Communities.* Progress in Community Health Partnerships 2015.


*Adab and its Significance for an Islamic Medical Ethics.* Journal of Medical Ethics 2015.
Educational Activities

In the pursuit of our vision, the Initiative provides training opportunities and hosts workshops, seminars and conferences at academic institutions as well as in community settings in order to cultivate a community of experts who have a deep understanding of the Islamic tradition, modern bioethics, and contemporary biomedicine.

*Training future thought leaders and researchers at the intersection of Islam and medicine:* Through research assistantships, internships, fellowship and volunteer opportunities our trainees come from a variety of backgrounds. Over the past 5 years we have hosted over 20 trainees from high school students to post-doctoral fellows.

*Delivering Islamic bioethics literacy:* The II&M hosts an annual 3-day Islamic bioethics workshop focused on a particular theme. These workshops provide an in-depth introduction to key concepts within Islamic theology, law and ethical frameworks as they relate to bioethics and cater a multidisciplinary audience of allied health professionals, academic researchers, bioethicists, chaplains, and Imams. In addition, we host 5-hour CME workshops in mosques around the country with similar goals in mind. Some of our workshops themes and venues are noted below.

*Mapping out an Islamic Bioethics*– August 1-3 2014– University of Chicago

*Islamic Bioethics & End-of-Life Care*– May 17 2014– TAQUA Seminary, Dallas, TX

*Dissecting the Ethics of Organ Donation*– June 5-7 2015– University of Chicago
Our Muslim Health Projects

Designing a Religiously-Tailored Mosque-Based Program to Increase Breast Cancer Screening Among Muslim Women

Exploring the Connections Between Religious Beliefs and Attitudes Towards Organ Donation in the Muslim Community

Exploring the Professional Experiences and Bioethical Attitudes of American Muslim Physicians

Our Islamic Bioethics-Related Projects

Scientific Discoveries and Theological Realities- Exploring the Intersection of Islam and the Human Sciences
Partnership Opportunities

Directed Research Training Experiences $5,000-$65,000
Selective training opportunities for promising post-bachelors, medical, and post-graduate students, to conduct research topics related to medicine and religion. Opportunities range from three-months to two-year experiences.

- **$5,000**: Summer Stipend for College-level student
- **$25,000**: Post-Master’s level Intern for one year (part-time)
- **$65,000**: Full-time graduate intern for one year

The II&M Medical Student Internship $3,500-$5,000 per student
This is a competitive enrichment program that provides directed learning experiences and stipend support for first- and/or fourth-year medical students. Trainees undertake a mentored reading course that introduces the critical concepts in Islamic theology and law that undergird normative ethical frameworks within Islam, and covers seminal works in the extant Islamic bioethics literature. In addition, interns are invited to participate in an II&M-sponsored bioethics workshop and ongoing bioethics-relevant studies in progress at II&M such as studies on Muslim physician attitudes towards end-of-life care, discourse analyses of the Muslim perspectives on healthcare reform, or *fatawa* reviews on the permissibility of organ transplant, milk-banking, or other topics.

- **$3,500**: Four-week stipend for one student
- **$5,000**: Eight-week stipend for one student
American Muslim Health Summit  $75,000

The proposed summit will convene stakeholders from across the Muslim community, as well as from the academic clinical, and health policy domains to spur the development of a “culture of health” within American Muslim mosque and community sites. A set of didactics and small group sessions focused on community health activism, the role of the mosque and religion leaders in community health, American Muslim healthcare disparity research, among others, will provide the fora for bridging the academic-community divide. From this program we will generate a policy report, research agenda, and practical guide to advancing American Muslim health. The summit will also be leveraged to provide mentorship to junior scholars on their community-engaged program or research proposals through consulting sessions, and to host facilitated meetings between organizational representatives working the same “space” from across the United States that promote synergy and collaboration.

Primers in Islamic Bioethics  $15,000-$50,000

This project will generate a series of short pamphlets that review the Islamic perspectives on the most pressing bioethics topics. We will review the extant rulings of prominent Islamic jurists and juridical councils to demarcate areas of scholarly consensus, as well as areas requiring further deliberation. The consensus-bases primers will be disseminated through a series of workshops and presentations for healthcare practitioners and interested stakeholders. As a companion to these primers, we intend to create a searchable online portal to Islamic bioethics-related rulings for lay usage.

Proposed topics include:

*Health and Sickness: A review of theological views concerning sickness in light of human suffering,*

*The Beginning of Life: A primer on Islamic juridical guidelines relating to birth control, abortion, and reproductive health;*

*Death and dying: An introduction to the theological and legal dimensions at the end-of-life including the relationship between death, body, soul*

*Organ donation and transplantation: A review of the ethico-legal discussions pertaining to organ donation and transplantation.*

- **$15,000**: Sponsor workshops and marketing efforts to create a learning activity and materials based on primer
- **$50,000**: Sponsor the research team to create the content for one primer
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An increasing number of Muslim patients from our community in the greater Chicago area, and from around the globe, are choosing the University of Chicago Medicine for their complex diagnostic and treatment needs.

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Our diverse team of patient coordinators is dedicated to accommodating the cultural, linguistic, dietary and religious needs of each patient, making their stay as comfortable as possible. For more information, contact Naif Alsantli, Regional Manager of International Programs at naif.alsantli@uchospitals.edu or call +1-872-201-9453.

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