

# History of Medical Licensing

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According to Muslim faith and belief Islam is the eternal religion from God all Mighty (In Arabic Allah meaning the God). Muhammad p.b.u.h. is the final prophet of Allah and being final he was given the final edition of all divine books known as Quran. It's only logical that the Quran is the only book on earth that has been preserved letter by letter, word by word as promised in Quran by Allah for last 1450 years in its original language without losing its flavor, motivational power and freshness. Islam heavily emphasized on using intellect and logical thinking along with utmost honesty, integrity, love of humanity and accountability in Hereafter. Every word which is uttered is preserved and every act is recorded. This led Muslims to be very enthusiastic in learning, being highly disciplined and very caring.

The seeds of learning which were sowed during Prophet Muhammad p.b.u.h's time became large trees and gardens in subsequent centuries. In the field of medicine giants such as Ibn-e-Sina, Razi, Qasim az-Zahrawi, Ibn-e-Nafees, Ibn-e-Rushd to name a few were born. Modern hospitals with different departments, modern nursing, modern residency programs and research were the hallmarks of Islamic medieval era. Islamic society was relatively free of greed and patients were not used to make money. On contrary patients were financially supported till they recovered and went back to work! Scientists, doctors and researchers were paid more than today's football famous players by the Government. Due to very honest and sincere work by almost everyone there were blessings showering from the sky and erupting under the feet as promised in Torah! Human life was too precious

and every effort was made to alleviate sufferings. Wrong treatment could not be tolerated and hence on suspicion of one maltreatment Khalif Walid established the medical board under his command that would take interviews and tests before issuing the medical license. In the vast Muslim controlled land stretching from the shores of the Atlantic ocean to India quackery was not allowed.

While Medical Licensing was introduced and made obligatory in Muslim Glittering Era in 7th Century, it was relatively unknown in American Medical Profession till at the close of Civil War. In those days census showed 55,000 unlicensed "physicians" in USA.

As downfall of Muslim rule occurred West learnt a lot from Muslim world which led to Industrial revolution and renaissance. Medical licensing became part of European medical culture. In America medical licensing came a bit late. Different American States have different rules and regulations for medical licensing but no one can thing of practicing medicine without valid license. In developing countries like Pakistan there are regulations and regulating bodies but still quackery is rampant in all spheres and at all levels. There is a need to curb this as mentioned in the editorial of this issue of IJP.

## References

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