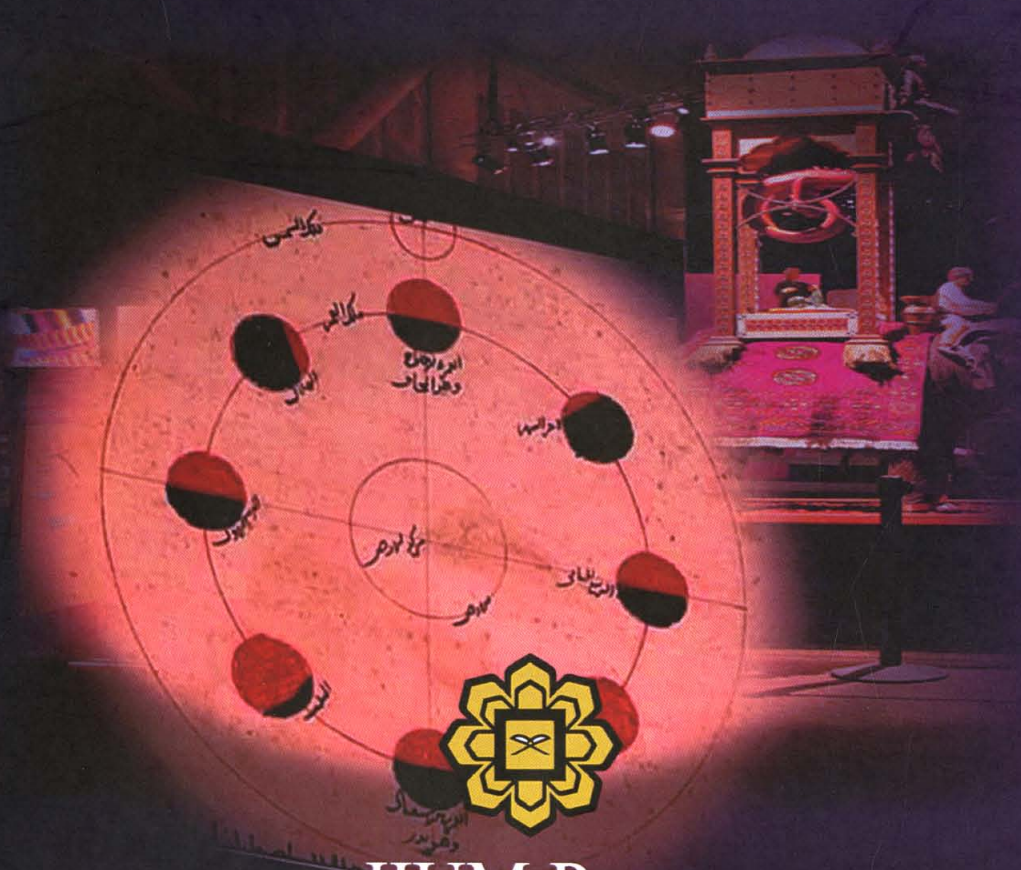


Contributions of Muslim Scientists to Medicine and Related Sciences

Abdi O. Shuriye
Raihan Othman



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INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

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CHAPTER SIX

AL-MAJUSI'S TREATMENT OF PHYSICAL DISEASES USING DRUG THERAPY AND SURGICAL MANIPULATION

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6.1 INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, we wish to investigate on al-Majusi's treatment of physical diseases under two major headings of drug therapy and treatment by surgical manipulation. 'Ali b. al-'Abbas al-Majusi (c.925-994) was a Persian physician and is best known for his medical encyclopedia entitled *Kitab Kamil as-Sina'a at-Tibbiyya* ("Complete Book of the Medical Art"). The main focus of the chapter is to underscore his method of treatment. The chapter also reviews *Kitab al-kamil*; the most systematic, practical and concise medical encyclopedia. This work consists of twenty treatises on the theory and practice of medicine. Our aim in this chapter is to increase awareness on the subject matter.

6.2 TREATMENT OF PHYSICAL DISEASES USING DRUG THERAPY

In one of the topics of his book on medication, al-Majusi speaks of three methods of approach. The first approach is using an already tried sample drug in each of illness. The advantageous in effect and temperament of sample drug were proved in earlier experiments. Therefore, it is needed to know the physical and pharmacological properties of each simple. The second approach is the treatment methodology either by simple or compound remedies. The last approach is using body's organs from all part of the body, and the kinds of ailment that occur to each and every part of it. It includes general diseases and the simples or recipes of medications recommended and used in each case. (Hamarneh, 1984, p. 322)

In the section of *al-Kamil* that the author devoted to *materia medica*, he mentioned many simples of vegetable origin, animal kingdom origin and also mineral origin of drugs. Drugs of vegetable origin includes herbs, spices and parts of plants such as seeds, leaves, flowers, fruits, juices, oils, gums, barks and roots. Drugs of mineral origin were discussed by the author on their kinds, properties, internal and external uses, and their affinities to target organs in their action. Al-Majusi divides drugs of mineral origin into four categories that are various kinds of clay (tin) with therapeutic values, stones, salts and bodies, such as burned copper, pearls, sulphur, glass and others. (Hamarneh, 1984)

The author also divided the properties, administration, and effects of drugs according to some factors such as individual habits, age, sex, environment, seasons and temperament. It was concluded by Al-Majusi that it is needed to mask bitter-tasting