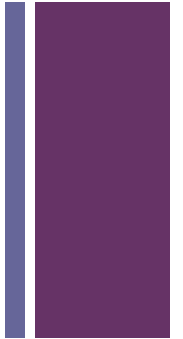


## Avicenna (*Abd Allāh ibn Sīnā*)

A Brief Overview of His Life and Work



*There are no incurable  
diseases — only a lack of will*  
- Avicenna

# Avicenna's Early Life

- Born in 980 C.E. in a village near Bukhara, in modern-day Uzbekistan
- His parents were of Persian heritage
- Displayed extraordinary intellectual promise at a very young age
- Memorized the Qur'an by the age of 10 and studied Islamic jurisprudence under Hanafi scholar Ismail al-Zahid



# Avicenna's Early Life

- At the age of 17, Avicenna turned his attention to medicine and by the age of 18 achieved the status of a qualified physician
- “Medicine is no hard and thorny science, like mathematics and metaphysics, so I soon made great progress; I became an excellent doctor and began to treat patients, using approved remedies.”
- He treated many patients free of cost
- Was appointed as the Emir's physician in 997 C.E.



# Avicenna's Adulthood

- Avicenna's father passed away when Avicenna was 22 years old and he then moved to what is now modern-day Iran.
- He established a medical practice in Tehran and spent his evenings writing and teaching
- It was during this time he completed his greatest work, the Canon of Medicine, a 14-volume book that became a standard medical text in Europe and the Islamic world until the 18<sup>th</sup> century



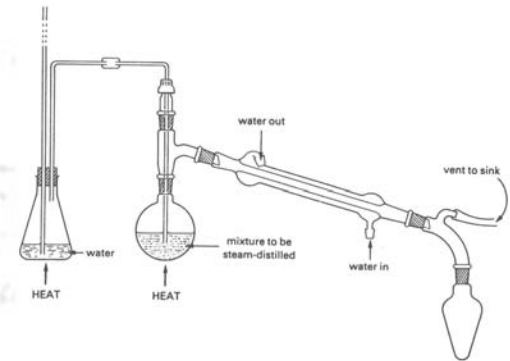
# The Canon of Medicine

- The book is known for its introduction of systematic experimentation and the study of physiology
- Introduced the concept of quarantine to limit the spread of infectious diseases
- Proposed the idea of experimental medicine and clinical trials
- Was the first to correctly document the anatomy of the human eye and recognize diseases such as cataracts



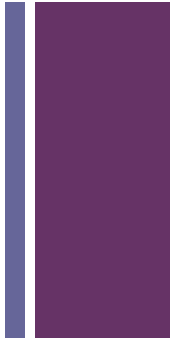
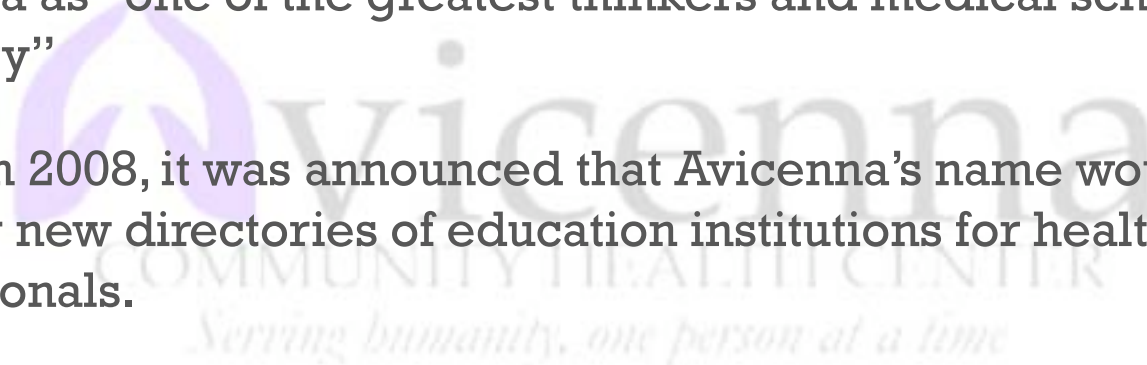
# Other discoveries

- Avicenna was the first to describe neuropsychiatric conditions including insomnia, mania, hallucination, dementia, stroke, and epilepsy
- He was the first to describe the chemical process of steam distillation and he invented the refrigerated coil, which was a breakthrough in distillation technology
- In the realm of physics, Avicenna developed a theory of motion in which concluded that motion was the result of an inclination transferred to the projectile by the thrower; his theory of motion was consistent with the concept of inertia in Newton's first law of motion.



# Legacy

- George Sartan, author of *The History of Science*, described Avicenna as “one of the greatest thinkers and medical scholars in history”
- In March 2008, it was announced that Avicenna’s name would be used for new directories of education institutions for health care professionals.
- The Avicenna Directories will list universities and schools where doctors, public health practitioners, pharmacists, and others are educated. The project team stated that “Avicenna was noted for his synthesis of knowledge from both east and west ... the use of Avicenna’s name symbolizes the worldwide partnership that is needed for the promotion of health services of high quality.”



# For more information

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