



International Society of Muslim Women in Science

”INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF MUSLIM WOMEN IN SCIENCE (ISMWS)”

Motto: ”Stay in Science (Basic or Applied)”

Practice: ”Keep some hours for our intellectual nourishment everyday.”

We believe: ”The more we use our brain and mind, the more beautiful we look.”

- **Members: 334 from 31 countries, August 2021**

Founder & President: Dr. Sultana N. Nahar
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Established: April 2010

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Newsletter 8, August 2021

President’s greetings:

”Assalamu alaikum! Pray this finds you all in excellent health and spirit. Pray all members and their families are staying safe under the continuing COVID-19 spread.

A very warm welcome to our new and hearty greetings to existing members and pray all the best for making impact and contributing to advances in their respective field.

I started this newsletter in February 2020, before the start of COVID-19 pandemic in the USA. Around that time our university switched to Microsoft outlook mail system completely. All my email addresses organized in the] Pine mail system became invalid. I was probably too much used to Pine and so took a while to build up my set-up at Outlook. I just finished putting all over 300 email addresses of ISMWS members one at a time and was very pleased to receive your responses to it with a smile. Please let me know if you know that I have missed someones email address. I saved news messages sent to me but still may miss some in this newsletter. Let me know.

Since a global pandemic was declared in early 2020, corona virus has continued its spread across the world - with more than 203 million confirmed cases of infection and 4.3 million death in 189 countries. US leads in the catastrophe with India next to it. I heard the severe experiences of my family members who suffered from the infection. Timely precaution helped them to fight against it. Since President Biden came to power, the vaccination took a wide and systematic pace and US is probably the safest place at this time.

Research on a corona virus vaccine took at unprecedented speed, around 80 well reported groups around the world working on them. Nov 8, 2020, news reported that the first effective corona virus vaccine developed by Pfizer and BioNTech could prevent more than 90% of people

Creator and Editor of the Newsletter: Prof. Sultana N. Nahar, OSU, USA, Email: nahar.1@osu.edu

from getting COVID-19. Pfizer and BioNTech - described it as a "great day for science and humanity". The vaccine injects part of the virus's genetic code through mRNA in the body in order to train the immune system to make both antibodies and the T-cells to fight the corona virus. It has been very effective. The husband-wife team of inventors, Dr. Ugur Sahin and Dr. Ozlem Tureci, deserves Nobel prize for saving the humanity.

- Human brains and minds are extremely creative. Pandemic introduced online classes, research, meetings, conferences, worldwide and zoom helped to bring the revolution.
- We have entered in another longstanding issue on the climate which is affecting us now and need immediate action. UN has issued "Red Code" from the 2021 report of intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). We, ISMWS members, will be part of the solution for it, insh'Allah

May Allah bless all of us!

- Sultana N. Nahar

SHARE NEWS:

- Please send your updates to ISMWS Editors. ISMWS Editors are:
Dr. Nasreen Haque. President of Intalage Inc. has offered to help in the news collection. Her email address is: nasreen@intalage.com
- 2. Prof. Beenish Saba, Environmental Engineering, Arid Agriculture University, Pakistan, Email: beenishsaba@uaar.edu.pk
- 3. Prof Faiza Shujat. Mathematics, Taibah University, Saudi Arabia, Email: faiza.shujat@gmail.com

NOTICES:

- ISMWS members in-charge for maintaining social media networks are:
 - **facebook:** Dr. Rubiya Samad, Physics, Central University of Kashmir
 - **Instagram:** Dr. Rubiya Samad, Physics, Central University of Kashmir
 - **twitter:** i) Prof. Fatma Azmy, Dept of Mathematics, Al Azhar University
ii) Dr. Dana Saif Akil, Dept of Physics, American University in Cairo
 - **linked:** i) Prof. Fatma Azmy, Dept of Mathematics, Al Azhar University
ii) Dr. Dana Saif Akil, Dept of Physics, American University in Cairo
 - **website:** Prof. Sultana N. Nahar, The Ohio State University
- ISMWS Gallery has limited number of passport size pictures with a few words below each picture giving the best designation of the member. This can be expanded for the strength of ISMWS. So email a passport size picture and the best designation for yourself when you can.

NOTES:

- Share your achievements and take pride in achievements of ISMWS members
- Visit ISMWS website for various opportunities
- Invite any female, student/professional, in science to ISMWS membership
- Anyone in Physics and related to Physics, please become a member of American Physical Society (APS). It has many benefits. Free membership (not from US, Canada, Europe) form and instruction are available at <http://www.astronomy.ohio-state.edu/~nahar/fip.html>
- Inform ISMWS whenever you change your email address
- Create an ISMWS chapter at your institute/university
- Newsletters are posted at the ISMWS website

HIGHLIGHTS & SUCCESS STORIES OF OUR MEMBERS

Our hearty congratulations and prayers for the continued success of the members:

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- **Alvia Farheen, Aligarh Muslim University, India:** I would like start our news with Alvia, a B.Sc. student in Zoology who impressed me with the news of helping the poor during COVID-19 pandemic - "I am humbled to hear from you ma'am and that you remember my endeavour. I, along with my team, have been able to help 200+ families during the tough times with whatever we could arrange for them. Looking forward to do more". May Allah bless you with success for your effort.
- **Prof. Jahanara Monim, Osmania Degree College, Kurnool, India:** She has been engaging students in research projects and has published 3 papers on public health (listed below under publications). Given environment and resources available, it is really a praiseworthy accomplishment.
- **Prof. Lotfia El Nadi, Cairo University, Egypt:** She is an inspiration. Both of us presented at the spectroscopy conference organized by the National Research Centre in Cairo, Egypt in 2020. I watched her with amaze as she presented sitting in Saudi Arabia the idea with drawings of low cost energy production using laser which will also desalinate the salty water. She is in her eighties, but her mind is in the thirties.
- **Prof. Rubab Seemin, National Institute of Technology - Kashmir, India** By the blessings of Allah, she is back from the illness and has become the Chair of the Physics Department. She has also opened a chapter of ISMWS in Kashmir.
- **Prof. Tahmina Ferdous, Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh:** She has become the Head of the Physics Department in 2020
- **Prof. Fatma Azmy, Mathematics, Al Azhar University, Egypt:** Fatma received highly competitive US AID Postdoctoral Fellowship for a math project at OSU in 2020 and completed work for a paper during the COVID-19 time.
- She also had a wonderful experience in presenting her work in an international conference held at Aligarh Muslim University in India.
- **Dr. Abeer Ismat, 6 October University, Egypt:** She has continued her collaboration with India and published "Half-metallicity in new Heusler alloys Mn₂ScZ (Z = Si, Ge, Sn)"
- **Dr. Hala, National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST), USA:** She has completed her postdoctoral fellowship in the Spectroscopy group and has taken to another NIST project on quantum information
- **Prof. Farukh Arjmand, Aligarh Muslim University, India:** She shared news about her daughter who graduated from Aligarh Muslim University medical school "good news about my daughter Sara who has qualified Match20 for residency program in Medicine at St Louis hospital by the grace of Almighty. Shukr alhamadulillah". Faruth has become a grandmother with Sara giving birth a little boy.
- She reported publication of two high impact papers
- **Samira Shire, past President of ISMWS at Ohio State student chapter at OSU, USA:** She wrote on May 29, 2020 " I just wanted to follow up with you regarding my plans for the next school year. I am happy to say I have gotten accepted to my first choice program, Case Western's Masters in Medical Physiology, where I will be attending in the fall, and then applying to medical school the following year! I wanted to express my thanks and gratitude for all of your support and for writing me a letter of recommendation. I greatly appreciate the help!"

She has started applying to medical school. Wish you all the best.

• **Dr. Nida Rehmani, Colorado, USA:** She informed "I have recently been selected for www.mypi.org as a Youth Mentor for MuslimYouthforPositiveImpact initiative. Also, I got offered a STEMadvocacy fellow position at www.stemadvocacy.org (Harvard based)"

• **Prof. Fatiha Miskane, Chouaib Doukkali University, El Jadida, Morocco:** With her initiation, Sultana delivered the course "Atomic Astrophysics and Spectroscopy" with computational workshops at Ohio Supercomputer Center (OSC) at the Laboratory of ISTM (Innovation in Sciences, Technologies and Modeling) of Chouaib.Doukkali University during December 2020. Although English was not easy for the French and Arabic speaking Moroccan participants, many signed up. We completed the course with certificates. Fatiha is continuing research at OSC. Congratulations for her moving science forward.

• **Prof. Ola Hassouneh, University of Amman, Jordan:** Ola was the indirect initiator of the same "Atomic Astrophysics and Spectroscopy" course with computational lab that I conducted in June 2021 participated by her Jordanian collaborator in Hashemite University, and others from USA and Pakistan. She wanted this course a few times and did excellent with her two little babies.

• **ISMWS Celebration of the International Women's Day, March 20, 2021:** It was held on the zoom in collaboration with the Indo-US APLAK STEM Education and Research Center of OSU-AMU. It was highly inspirational and successful with ISMWS speakers, - Prof. Lotfia El Nadi (Cairo University, Egypt), Dr. Hameeda Tariq (Pediatrician and owner of Childcare Center, Aligarh, India), Prof. Faiza Abbasi (Wild Life Dept, Co-Director of CALEM, India), Prof. Bushra Ateeq (IIT-Kanpur, India), Prof. Seemin Rubab (NIT-Srinagar, India), Zamzama Rahmany (Ph.D. Scholar at University of Kerala, and Afghanistan), Prof. Samima Masood (University of Houston, USA), Dr. Hala (National Institute of Standards and Technology, USA), Dr. Nasreen Haque (President of Intalage Ind, USA), Prof. Sultana N. Nahar (The Ohio State University) who spoke their journey to the success and future steps. Participants spoke for couple minutes. A new chapter of ISMWS was introduced to Aligarh Muslim University.

• **Prof. Hanan Gouda, Ain Shams University, Egypt:** Leading the scientific organizing committee for the 2021 International conference on "Molecular modeling and spectroscopy" of National Research Center in Egypt in September 2021

• **Prof. Hira Lodhi, NED University, Pakistan:** Leading the scientific organizing committee for the 2021 International conference on "Applied Physics and Engineering" of the university to be held in September 2021.

• **Dr. Qudsia Quraishi, Army Research Lab, USA:** It was good to see her managing the leadership of her lab on quantum networking and be the Chair of APS meeting session on Hybrid Quantum Systems while taking care of a small son.

• **Hoda Abou Shady, Cairo University, Egypt:** She has been promoted to be a Vice President of Nasr University in Egypt, and was recently featured in the news article "Where Women Scientists Are the Majority" of March 2021 issue of APS newsletter (<https://physics.aps.org/articles/v14/35>). Congratulations and best wishes for the success with your new position.

• **Prof. Hanan Hasan Saleh, Al-Hussein Bin Talal University Ma'an Jordan:** She was promoted to a full professorship recently and is also has become the Dean of Princess Aisha Bint Al Hussein College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Congratulations and pray for the best on your double promotions.

MEMBERS EARNING DEGREES:

Hearty congratulations for the graduates and pray for the successes of the next phase!

• **Dr. Safa Yousef Mohammed Abdo (Yemen), Cairo University, Egypt:** A very aspiring young scientist with a recent Ph.D. degree in Nuclear Physics, Safa wrote "I am surfing the website now and I have just remember myself 16 years ago when I was at high school and told my family that I want to study Nuclear physics. I want to prove to the world that being Muslim and covering our head with "hijab" doesn't cover our brain!" - Here you go, Safa!

• **Zamzama Rahmany, Fatima Zahra College, Afghanistan:** With a Fellowship, Zamzama is now pursuing her Ph.D. in Physics at University of Kerala, India.

• **Yeshfeen Sherani, Jamia Millia Islamia, India:** She wrote on February 19, 2021: "I am feeling happy to announce that I have started my new journey as I am doing my dissertation on drug development against UTIs. Hope to get a praise from you, I want to apply to the US for Ph.D. I need your guidance"

On August 7, 2021: she wrote: "Salam I am pleased to inform you that I have completed my master's in biochemistry from Jamia Millia Islamia and now I am going to start working on a project titled "small molecules against uropathogenic bacteria".

Our heartiest congratulations!

• **Nimra Khuram, Khwarizvi Science Society, Pakistan:** A very bright student, stuck by COVID-19 after her bachelor, is finally at US for her Master degree. She wrote "Hope you are doing well. My name is Nimra Khurram and I interviewed you for the 'Muslim Women in Science and Technology' webinar series for Khwarizmi Science Society.

I wanted to share some good news with you. I have received a Fulbright Masters Scholarship and I am currently enrolled in a program at UC Merced. I arrived in the States yesterday."

Pray for all the best for your Masters at UC Merced.

EXPOSURES OF ISMWS:

• **Prof. Sultana N. Nahar, The Ohio State University, USA:** She presented "International Society of Muslim Women in Science" at the general APS March meeting 2021

• **Annual research report of Ohio Supercomputer Center, USA:** ISMWS was highlighted in the OSC annual report article "Breaking the barriers" that profiled Sultana Nahar, June 2021

• **"Featured Physicist Activity: Sultana Nahar", Western Washington University, USA, Spring 2020:** with the highlight of ISMWS, Prof. Dimitri Dounas-Frazer, Course "Matter and Energy in Physical System" encouraged female students in his class

• **ISMWS project by OSU Students, March 2020:** Sultana was interviewed by two undergraduate students for their presentation on Muslim women.



INTRODUCTION BY NEW MEMBERS:

We welcome warmly and congratulate on the achievements of our new members!

• **Ifra Ilyas Ansari, Tulane University, Luisiana, USA:** She wrote on May 30, 2021: "I am Ifra Ilyas Ansari from Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). I have pursued my B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Chemistry from AMU. Back in 2015, during my final year of B.Sc., I attended the 'Women in STEM Roadshow' held at the AMU campus. I remember you, Prof. Anil Pradhan, Dr. Karen Irving, and Miss. Nasrin Haque from the event.

While going through my picture gallery today I saw snapshots of the PPT slides shown during the workshop, where you introduced us to various opportunities about studying in the USA as well as the International Society of Muslim Women in Science (ISMWS).

Today, I am excited to share with you that not only did I graduate as Magna-cum-Laude, but also secured the Sir Syed Global Scholars Award (SSGSA) in the year 2020, which helped me carve my path to securing a Ph.D. admit to the Tulane University in Louisiana.

I am writing to you to request for membership of the International Society of Muslim Women in Science (ISMWS) with an aim to expand my network in STEM, to learn and grow as a STEM professional, and further support, encourage and help younger Muslim women in STEM".

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS BY ISMWS MEMBERS:

• **Prof. Jahanar Momin, Osmania Degree College, Kurnool, India:**

1. Dr. M. Jahanara, Dr. Muhammad Farooq, 'ACTIVE ROLE OF SERUM LDH IN PULMONARY DISEASED VICTIMS', International Journal of Research and Analytical Reviews, E- ISSN 2348-1269, P- ISSN 2349-5138. Vol.7 Issue 2, 324-327. 2020

2. Dr. M. Jahanara, Dr. K. Sailaja 'Novel Covid-19: Spike Protein, Immune Pathogenesis and Management'. International Journal of Advanced Science and Technology with ISSN: 2207-6360 (accepted in 2020)

3. Dr. M. Jahanara, Momin Nilofer, Manari Farzana Jahan, Syeda Mohammadi Bibi, kallakuri Sailaja, ' A Study on Occupational Health Hazard among Women Beedi Workers' International Journal ' Advances in Health and Disease' Volume 22. Yet to be published.

• **Dr. Safa Yousef, Cairo University, Yemen-Egypt:**

1. "The structure of scleractinian coral skeleton analyzed by neutron diffraction and neutron computed tomography", Tatiana I. Ivankina, Sergey E. Kichanov, Octavian G. Dului, Safa Y. Abdo & Mohamed M. Sherif Scientific Reports, Nature research vol 10, Article 12869 (2020)

• **Sogand Karimzadeh, Shiraz University, Iran:**

"Evaluating the VNIR-SWIR datasets of WorldView-3 for lithological mapping of a metamorphic-igneous terrain using Support Vector Machine algorithm; a case study of Central Iran", Sogand Karimzadeh, Majid H. Tangestani, Advances in Space Research, Available online 12 May 2021

PROFILE OF TWO ISMWS MEMBERS:

1. Inspiring story of Dr. Safa Yusuf from Yemen

Dear Prof. Sultana,
Asalamu Alaikum,

Thank you very much for your continued support. I really feel now that I am not alone! God sent me a big supporter Alhamdulillah. I have now the right person who considers my ambition, dream and can understand all the circumstances that I have been through. I will tell you a bit about my long inciting and strenuous journey in nuclear physics.

Starting from elementary school when our science teacher told us about the Egyptian nuclear scientist Yahya Mashd, I made my decision to study nuclear physics. I was the top of my class in all grades. My best subject was science especially physics and I got the highest mark in it all the time. In the last year of secondary school I was one of the top ten over my city and I got a scholarship from the ministry of high education for tops around the country. I got a scholarship to study pharmacy in Jordan ,but I replaced it with a scholarship to study physics in Syria, which was an oddly decision. Each student in my era dreamt to be a doctor or pharmacist, but not me! I dreamt to be a nuclear scientist and I am still fighting to have a chance to prove myself and to chase my dream. During my BSc. Study in Syria I was also one of the tops. My professors there were very impressed by my scientific approach and they are still in touch with me. I got the highest mark in nuclear physics, my favorite subject. All the time I feel that I want badly to travel abroad to work with the recent nuclear experiments. University books didn't satisfy my scientific gluttony. I remembered a situation while I am writing to you now! When I was in the 3rd year I applied for a summer school in Mohammed Abdu Asalam institute in Trieste. I prepared all the required documents and I had just needed a signature from the physics dept. head and when I went to his office he was annoyed that I will take the chance from the Syrian students he told me " you can't dream of traveling to Trieste! It is enough for you to travel to Somalia! " he said that because of my color I think ! and I didn't get it . I graduated with high marks . Nuclear physics as a specialty was forbidden in Damascus University so I had to change to Egypt, I got another scholarship from the ministry of high education to study MSc. and this type of scholarship is just given to those who were tops and never failed during their study. After I got the MSc degree I returned to Yemen, Although there is no nuclear physicist to teach in physics dept. in Hodeidah University, they refused to hire me because of political issues. I am neutral and they forced me to be one of their parties. I refused and I taught for a year (two semesters) without a penny!

I was lucky again and I had a Phd.scholarship, but the war started, and I couldn't travel because of the embargo! But I did the impossible. I traveled by bus for six days from Hodeidah, Sana'a, Maareb, Sharora ,Najran to Jeddah in KSA then I took a plane to Cairo.

Another thing I want to tell you is that I found 4 opportunities at CERN. I surf their website regularly and firstly I was very happy because they finally announced for jobs and fellowship on 29/9/2020, but unfortunately the opportunities were just for those who have nationalities of member countries. Yemen is not one of them!!

Finally I am very grateful for your listing and support.

I have attached two photos formal/informal cause I didn't know what the suitable :)

My best regards,

Safa,

Safa is not out of the woods yet. She is looking for a job, get Egyptian citizenship, and keep her dream alive by research opportunities. I profiled her in the 2021 March APS meeting. I pray Allah bless her with her dream of being a successful scientist.

2. Keeps on flying with struggle, Dr. Serifat Folorunso from Nigeria

All of us received the titled email "REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE" with the CV attached from Serifat Folorunso. I went through the CV and was amazed, felt both pride and disappointed. She is an accomplished Muslim female researcher, but unable to get a proper position.

I am going to publish her email below, but will share a story first to show how admirably brave Serifat is. I met a bright Nigerian Christian female student, stylish and good looking, in the International School of Young Astronomer (ISYA) for Africa of International Astronomical Union (IAU) held in Egypt in 2018 where I was an international lecturer. I noticed that she would move away when students spoke Arabic. I commented Nigeria has close to 50% Muslim and she must have some familiarity with Arabic sound and Muslim traditions. She told me she spoke only English, but did not know any Arabic. I further commented she must have had Muslim friends at school. She said bluntly she never had any Muslim friend, Muslims live together in separate regions in the north (!), and Christians do not have friendship with Muslims because Muslims are not educated and do not value education. It was a heart pain comment, but I did not inform her that I was a Muslim. In the evening, I changed my lecture for the next day and included two extra slides, one to state that the first astronomical observatory was introduced by Sultan Ulugh Beg who built it in Samarkand in 1420 behind a madrasa and the other slide on the longest running university on the earth which is the Universit Al Quaraouiyine founded in 859 in Morocco by a Muslim female, Fatima Al-Fihri. Serifat's achievement as a Muslim female scientist needs an exposure in Nigeria.

Serifat wrote on August 11, 2021:

"Asalam Alaikum,

Dear fellow Sisters in Islam, I am delighted to be part of this Family (ISMWS) I am Serifat Folorunso

I have a PhD in Statistics from the Department of Statistics, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

I am currently volunteering as the Administrative Coordinator of the University of Ibadan Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Statistical Analysis (UI-LISA) and a part-time lecturer at the Distance Learning Centre of the University.

I am an ambassador of African Girls Education Network and promotes STEM Girls initiatives. I am also volunteering as the Head of Event of Ambitious Africa both at the Global Team and Nigeria Team.

My research interest is in applied Statistics in Health, Biometrics, Environmental Sciences, Economy and Data Science.

I am looking for a Postdoctoral Fellowship opportunity and I look forward to networking and assistance to move ahead in my career.

Kindly find attached my CV.

May Almighty Allah reward you abundantly.

Ma Salam

—

Serifat Adedamola Folorunso (Ph.D.)

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Pray Allah grant a prestigious position in science.

ISMWS PICTURES: 2019



L: Prof. Fatiha Miskane, R: Director Prof. Hamid Nebdi speaking at the certificate ceremony, Chouaib Doukkali University, Morocco, Dec 2020



L: Prof. Ol a Hassouneh at the workshop, University of Amman, (right) Dr. Safa Yuuuf from Yemen in the lab at Cairo University.



L: Prof. Fatma (Al Azhar University, Egypt), Heba (Ph.D. student at OSU, Fatma's sister), and I in our house, R: Prof. Jahanar Monim of Osmania Degree College India asking question at the Women in STEM Roadshow workshop