

AL-FUNOUN AL-SHA'BIYYA

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2. Contributions and papers should not exceed 3000 words, including footnotes. A summary (max. 100 words) is required. Contributions can be sent via e-mail to the given address (see below) in an electronic Word form.
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Preface

Traditional Medicine as Intangible Cultural Heritage

The Journal *Al-Funoun Al-Sha'biyya* (Folk Arts) seeks to embody the vision of the Jordanian Ministry of Culture, which emerges from the UNESCO 2003 Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Since the establishment of the Culture Directorate under the management framework of 2010, the Ministry began to implement a national strategy to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage of Jordan while mobilizing scattered efforts and coordinating them systematically based on collaborative programs and accurate scientific implementation. This requires the cooperation of other stakeholders, such as universities and research institutes, in addition to encouraging partnerships and networks capable of creating the desired dynamism between groups, specialized institutions, international bodies, and local authorities.

Al-Funoun Al-Sha'biyya considers the traditional medicine practices discussed in this issue among the crowning achievements of humans of every race and culture. These practices are the result of the ongoing interaction between man and his surrounding environment, thus every human group on earth has come up with its own remedies, which were the product of different and varied environments whether they were deserts, seas, or ploughing fields. This subject is listed among the intangible heritage domains under the heading of "knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe," according to UNESCO's 2003 Convention, since it has become a vast field of knowledge over centuries, and an accumulation of ingenious practices that should be preserved and documented.

The World Health Organization defines traditional medicine (or folk medicine) as "the sum total of the knowledge, skills, and practices based on the theories, beliefs, and experiences indigenous to different cultures, whether explicable or not, used in the maintenance of health as well as in the prevention, diagnosis, improvement or treatment of physical and mental illness." The definition includes within its scope a large set of remedies and practices that may vary greatly from country to country, and from region to region. In some countries, traditional medicine is referred to as "complementary medicine" or "alternative medicine." These categories of medicine include healthcare practices that utilize herbs, animal materials, and minerals, in addition to faith healing. This domain of intangible cultural heritage is considered a Pillar for sustainable development as underscored by the aforementioned UNESCO Convention. For that purpose, the international community guarantees the recognition of traditional health systems that contribute to the well-being of groups and societies; and supports knowledge, practices, ways of expression, rituals, and beliefs associated with these systems. The international community is also obliged to utilize traditional health practices to meet the healthcare needs of everybody as long as they respect human rights instruments, build bridges of dialogues based on enlightenment and peace, and reject profiting from ignorance and quackery.

The contributions to this issue discuss traditional (or alternative) medicine in terms of its definition, scope, systems, domains, and practices. The articles present us with examples of traditional medicine from within Jordan and without, acquaint us with its terminology, raise our awareness on its importance, and introduce us to some of its pioneers. We have also devoted an article that deals with prophetic medicine and its pioneers throughout Islamic and Arab history. We were as well fortunate to receive two articles in English: the first deals with some manifestations of traditional medicine inscribed on the lists of the UNESCO Convention that require urgent safeguarding, while the second deals with healthcare tourism in Jordan. Since Professor Hani al-'Amad is one of the great pioneers of recording and documenting manifestations of intangible cultural heritage in Jordan, we dedicated a special chapter in recognition of his salient achievements in addition to other related topics.

Editor in Chief

Hani Hayajneh