Some of Arab physicians’ achievements in surgery

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The concept that medicine is exclusively the products of Western minds remains unquestioned by most individuals. A review of any of the standard texts or encyclopedias regarding the history of medicine would support this view. The unavoidable conclusion is that major contributions to the development of the modern medicine by other cultures are minimal. Most texts give little or no mention of the advancements made by ancient Indian, Chinese or, particularly, Arabic physicians. Rhazes (al-Razi) was a famous physician and writer, whose medical writings greatly influenced the Arabic world as well as Western Europe. Al-Razi is considered the first who described what is called now Baker’s cyst, which is attributed to the English surgeon William Baker (1839-1896) who described it in 1877. Avicenna (IBN-Sina) is considered one of the most celebrated physicians during the middle ages. Al-Qanunn Fit-tib (or Code of Laws in Medicine) represents the most important work of Avicenna, and as William Osler described it, the most famous medical textbook ever written. The British surgeon, George Perkins, is considered now the pioneer of what is called the delayed Splintage theory, while we can see that Avicenna talked about this theory in his book Al-Qanunn one thousand year before Perkins. Albucasis (al-Zahrawi) who lived in Spain (al-Andalus), and died there in 1013, is considered one of the most celebrated surgeons during the middle ages. He has explained in details the surgical treatment of septic arthritis.

Biography
Abdulnaser Kaadan is an Orthopedic Surgeon since 1986. He received his PhD in History of Medicine in 1993 and is now the Chairman of History of Medicine Department - Aleppo University and a consultant in Orthopedic Surgery. Also, he is the Founder and now the President of the International Society for the History of Islamic Medicine and the Chief Editor of its Journal which is published in English. He was nominated for Nobel Prize in Literature (Historical Studies) in 2012. He has participated in 80 international congresses outside Syria, has 56 published papers and 6 books and has been granted 19 scholarships, awards and prizes from Japan, Britain, Singapore, France, Taiwan, Germany, the United States of America, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Belgium, Spain and Syria.

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