Reply to the Letter to the Editor

Art in Science: Orthopaedics Through Philatelic Material

Sarper Gursu MD, Timur Yildirim MD,
Vedat Sahin MD, Emine Tok PhD

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To the editor,

We read the letter to the editor by Drs. Afshar and Pedram with great interest.

The authors shared additional information about Ibni Sina's country of origin. In their letter, the authors refer to him as Avicenna. Our purpose in discussing Ibni Sina was to highlight his contribution to the world's history. Ibni Sina should not be commemorated for his nationality, but for his large contribution to science and humanity.

It is not always possible to speculate on the nationality of a person simply by the language he used in science, or by the place of his burial. In the era when Ibni Sina lived, Persian was used as the language of science and literature in many countries in the Middle East and Anatolia. We note, for example, that the first author of the letter to the editor listed

five of his articles, written in English in the reference of his letter, which also is in English [1–5]. However, we believe the author is neither English nor from an English-speaking country.

Today, people of Turkey, Iran, and many Arabic countries regard Ibni Sina as their countryman. Surely, Ibni Sina will always be remembered for his contributions to medicine, not whether he is Turkish or Persian. That said, Drs. Afshar and Pedram are correct in their statement that he was born in today's Uzbekistan, and buried in Hamadan, Iran.

We also thank the authors for the additional stamps mentioned in their letter. We tried to focus our report on orthopaedics and traumatology [6], rather than on medicine, anatomy, or general science. However, we could have highlighted stamps featuring Martin Kirschner and Fredrick Grant Banting in our study.

We thank Drs. Afshar and Pedram for their contribution and interest in our study.

(RE: Gursu S, Yildirim T, Sahin V, Tok E. Art in science: Orthopaedics through philatelic material. *Clin Orthop Relat Res*. 2013;471:3755–3759.)

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S. Gursu (✉), T. Yildirim, V. Sahin
Baltalimani Metin Sabanci Bone and Joint Diseases Education
and Research Hospital, 34730 Istanbul, Turkey
e-mail: sarper154@yahoo.com

E. Tok
Department of Arts History, Faculty of Literature, Ege
University, Izmir, Turkey

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