

# UNANI MEDICINE

AN IP PERSPECTIVE





***“Ars longa,  
vita brevis,  
occasio praeceps,  
experimentum periculosum,  
iudicium difficile.***

***Life is short,  
[the] art long,  
opportunity fleeting,  
experiment dangerous,  
judgment difficult.”***

***-Hippocrates***

## INTRODUCTION

India is a land of sages, gurus, divine knowledge, and is known for traditional medicine and legacy. In this line, Unani medicine system too was introduced to India about a thousand years ago from Greek to Muslims countries and over the period became indigenous to the country. Unani medicine is also known as Unani Tibb, Arabian medicine, or Islamic medicine and carries the legacy of India. The Unani physicians who settled in India have added new drugs to the system and therefore the Unani system practiced in India is somewhat different from the original Greek form. Today, India is one of the leading countries in so far as the practice of Unani medicine. It has the largest number of Unani educational, research, and health care institutions in entire world.

## UNANI: THE SYSTEM

Mainly Unani system is based on Great Hippocrates theory of four humours viz. blood, phlegm, yellow bile and black bile, and the four qualities of states of living human body like hot, cold, moist and dry. The Unani system of medicine offers treatment of diseases related to all systems and organs of the human body. The initial approach to treatment

in the Unani system entails the establishment of a regimen to normalize and balance the external factors (e.g., air, water, and food) involved in ailments and diseases. The use of elatives, exhilarants, aphrodisiacs, organ-specific tonics and immunomodulatory drugs, temperament specific drugs, correctives for adverse effects, coctives and purgatives etc. are especial features of Unani System of Medicine.

Cosmoceutics, Nutraceuticals, Aromatics and corresponding therapies are key parts of treatment in Unani System of Medicine.

It believes that the human body is made of seven components including ARKAN (Elements), MIZAJ (Temperament), AKHLAT (Humors), AAZA (Organs), ARWAH (Spirits), QUWA (Faculties), and AFAAL (Functions).

## UNANI: SOURCES OF DRUGS

The principal sources of drugs in Unani System of Medicine are mainly:

- Plant Based
- Animal Based
- Mineral Based

Any of the above drug when used one at a time is called *Ilaj bil Mufrad* (treatment by single drug). When two or more than two drugs are combined together, it is called *Ilaj bil Murakkabat* (treatment by compound drugs). Various drug formulations are used in Unani medicine and these formulations are prepared with the intention that the drug should

- Have easy access
- Enhance or decrease rate of Absorption
- Sustain Preservation
- Have increased shelf life
- Be use in situation where single drug therapy cannot yield the desired results
- Has moderate potency/efficacy
- Be detoxified
- Eliminate any side effects of a drug
- be in decrease dosage form of drug

Various poly-herbal formulations are manufactured with the help of the process as described by the reference books called *The Quarabadeen* (pharmacopeias).

## UNANI: IN RESEARCH

Masih-ul-Mulk Hakim Ajmal Khan originally perceived the concept of research in Unani system of medicine in 1920s. A versatile genius of his time, Hakim Ajmal Khan very soon realized the importance of research and his inquisitive nature spotted Dr. Salimuzzaman Siddiqui, who was engaged in research work at the Ayurvedic and Unani Tibbia College, Delhi.

Dr. Siddiqui's discovery of medicinal properties of plant, commonly known as *Asrol* (*Pagal Booti*), led to sustained research which established the unique efficacy of this plant, known all over the world as *Rauwolfia serpentina* in neurovascular and nervous disorders, such as hypertension, insanity, schizophrenia, hysteria, insomnia and psychosomatic conditions etc.

Systematic research in various Indian systems of medicine, including Unani Medicine, under the patronage of Government of India started in 1969 with the establishment of Central Council For Research in Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy (CCRIMH) for almost a decade research activity in Unani Medicine were carried out under the aegis of this Councils. In the year 1978, the CCRIMH was split into four separate research Councils, one each for Ayurveda and Siddha, Unani Medicine, Homoeopathy, Yoga, and Naturopathy.

## UNANI: IP PERSPECTIVE

### SEARCH STRATEGY

518-Unani(description) | 177- Unani (concepts)- | 25-Unani(concepts) AND CPC(A61K) AND technology domain (pharma or food chemistry or medical technology) | 146- Unani (concepts) AND technology domain (pharma or food chemistry or medical technology) | 32-Unani(concepts) AND (akran or elements) | 7- Unani(concepts) AND (mizaj or temperament) | 10- Unani(concepts) AND (akhlat or humours) | 40- Unani(concepts) AND (Aaza or organs) | 6- Unani(concepts) AND (Arwah or spirits) | 2- Unani(concepts) AND (Quwa or faculties) | 48-Unani(concepts) AND (afaal or functions) | 147- unani or akran(concepts) AND technology domain (pharma or food chemistry or medical technology) | 149- unani or mizaj (concepts) AND technology domain (pharma or food chemistry or medical technology) | 147- unani or akhlat (concepts) AND technology domain (pharma or food chemistry or medical technology) | 158- unani or aaza (concepts) AND technology domain (pharma or food chemistry or medical technology) | 147- unani or arwah (concepts) AND technology domain (pharma or food chemistry or medical technology) | 164\_ unani or quwa (concepts) AND technology domain (pharma or food chemistry or medical technology) | 148\_unani or afaal (concepts) AND technology domain (pharma or food chemistry or medical technology)

### PATENT STATUS:

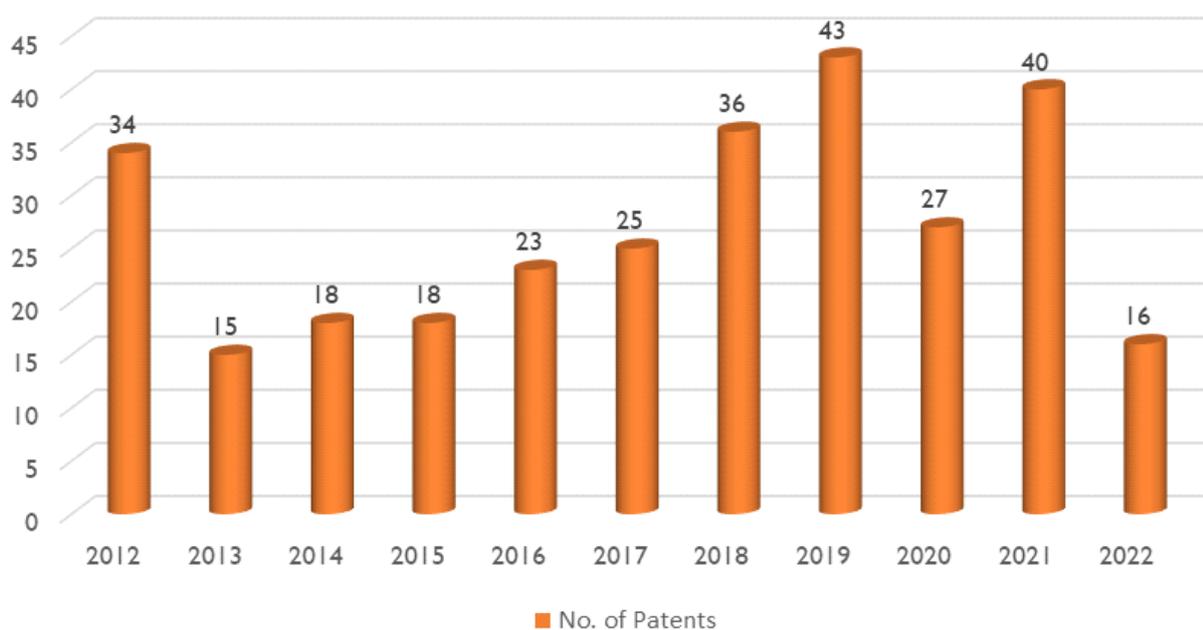
#### Scale of Patenting Activity

There were identified 518 unique patent families relating to Unani medicines from the database, Questel Orbit, during a search exercise.

### YEAR WISE PATENTS

The year wise trends of the patent applications have been shown. The trend shows that from the year 2015- 2019, there is improvement in number of filings of patents. The maximum number of patents are filed in the year 2019 which shows the record of 43 patent families followed by the year 2021. The least number of patents are filed in the year 2013, over a decade.

## NO. OF PATENTS

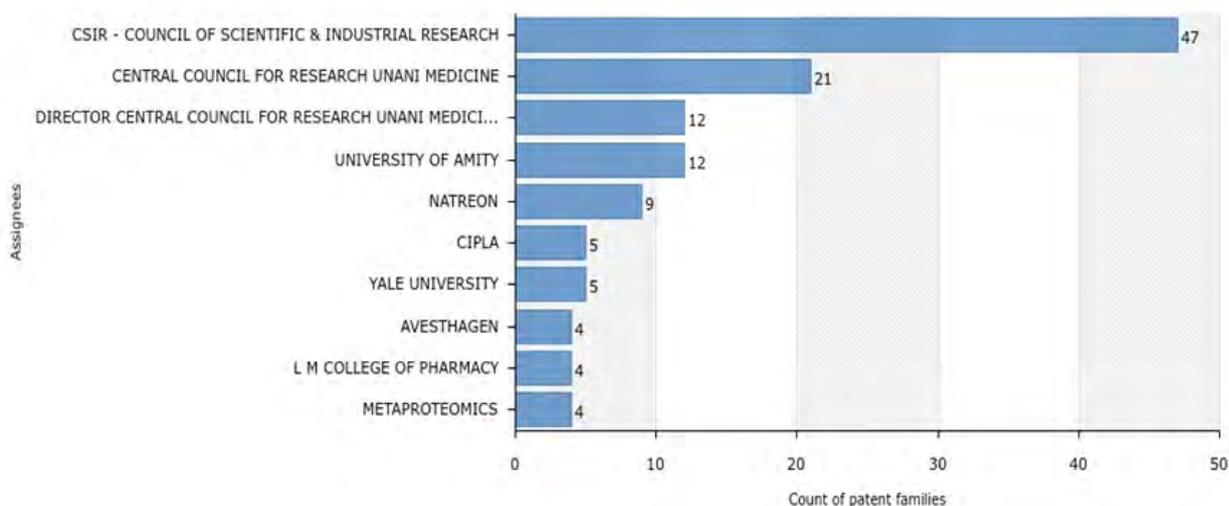


**CHART-I**

### TOP PLAYERS

Figure represents the top players in terms of cumulative patent filing trends. CSIR to dominate with over 47 patents filed followed by Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM), and Amity University. There are several consortiums taking place in this domain. CSIR with highest number of patent filings has been developing herbal and plant-based medicines.

## PATENT FAMILIES BY ASSIGNEES



**CHART-2**

## CONCEPTS BY ASSIGNEE

Figure represents the main technology areas protected by top Applicants.

### CONCEPTS BY ASSIGNEE

Assignees	DIARRHEA	DIURETIC	HERBAL FORMULATION	ZINGIBER OFFICINALE	MEDICINE UNANI	PIPER LONGUM	PIPER NIGRUM	APHRODISIAC	WITHANIA SOMNIFERA	AYURVEDIC MEDICINE
CSIR - COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC & INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH	10	24	19	6	8	11	5	10	11	2
CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH UNANI MEDICINE	3	7		2	3		3	1		
DIRECTOR CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH UNANI MEDICI...			1	1	1	2	2		2	
UNIVERSITY OF AMITY	2	5	4	3	3	2	1	4		2
NATREON	4	1	2		3				3	1
CIPLA	3					5	5			
YALE UNIVERSITY	4	3	3	3						
AVESTHAGEN	2	1	1			1			1	
L M COLLEGE OF PHARMACY	1			2		2				
METAPROTEOMICS	2									2

CHART-3

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## PUBLICATION COUNTRY

From the publication trend, it appears that the IN marks the peak publication mark with around 394 records followed by US, WO and AU. The peak trends show the maximum research activity. India has been building IP consistently and going strong in the years. India ranking in top publication countries.

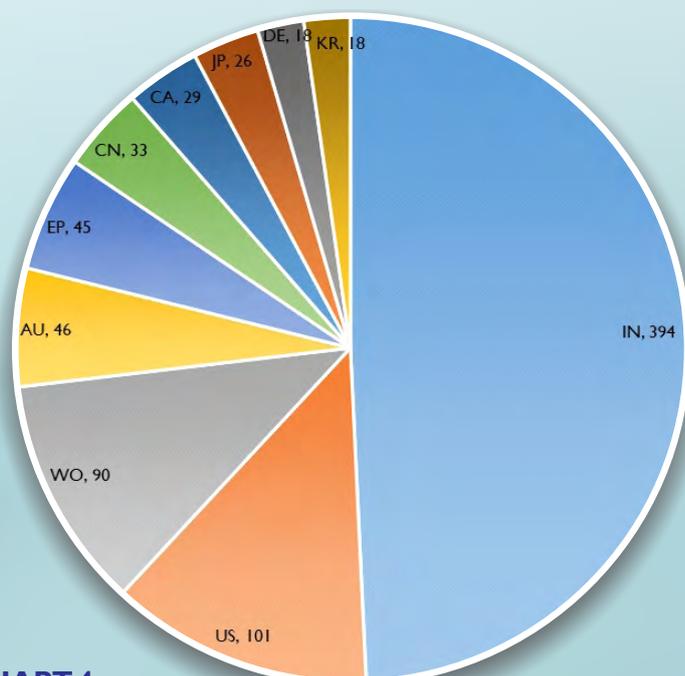


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## IPC Classifications

IPC classification provides a hierarchical system for the classification of patents and utility models according to the different areas of technology to which they pertain. This graph shows the distribution of the main IPC codes contained in the patent portfolio. Top IPC classification deals with devices or methods specially adapted for bringing pharmaceutical products into particular physical or administering forms A61J 3/00; chemical aspects of, or use of materials for deodorisation of air, for disinfection or sterilisation, or for bandages, dressings, absorbent pads or surgical articles A61L; soap compositions C11D.

IPC CLUSTERS

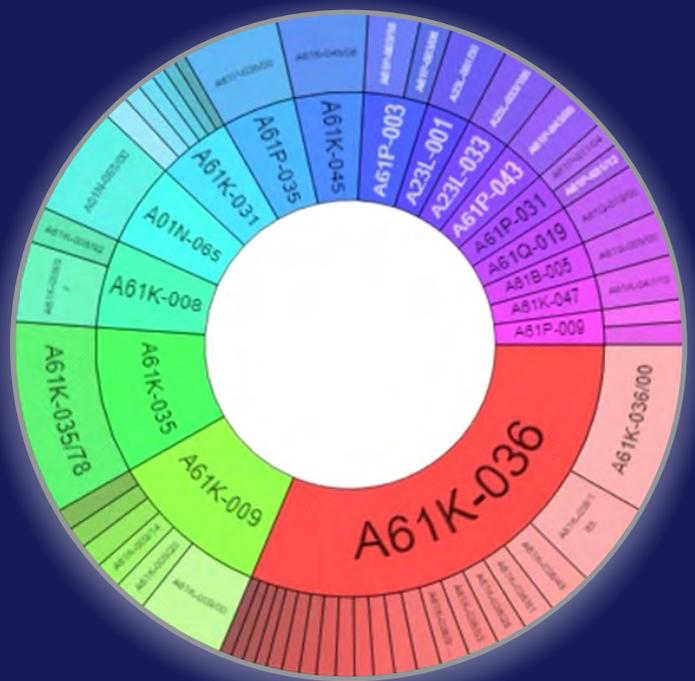


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## TRENDS IN INDIA

### LEGAL STATUS

India has been actively participating in building its IP in India has the most remarkable figures for IP publication for the subject matter of Unani Medicine with about 394 patent families which contains 88 granted patent families, 222 patent families have pending status. This is a good sign of patent activity in India.

Count of Patent Families

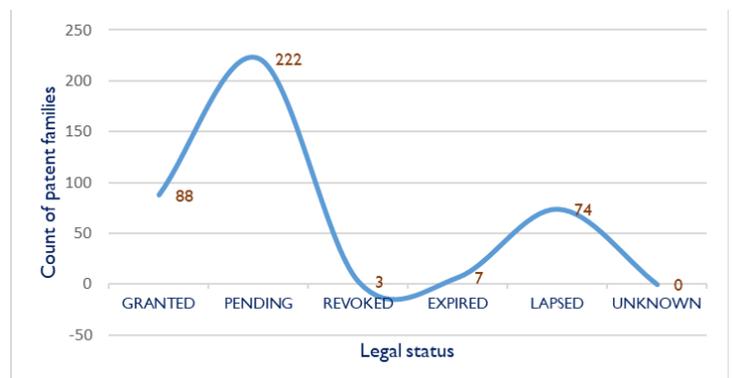
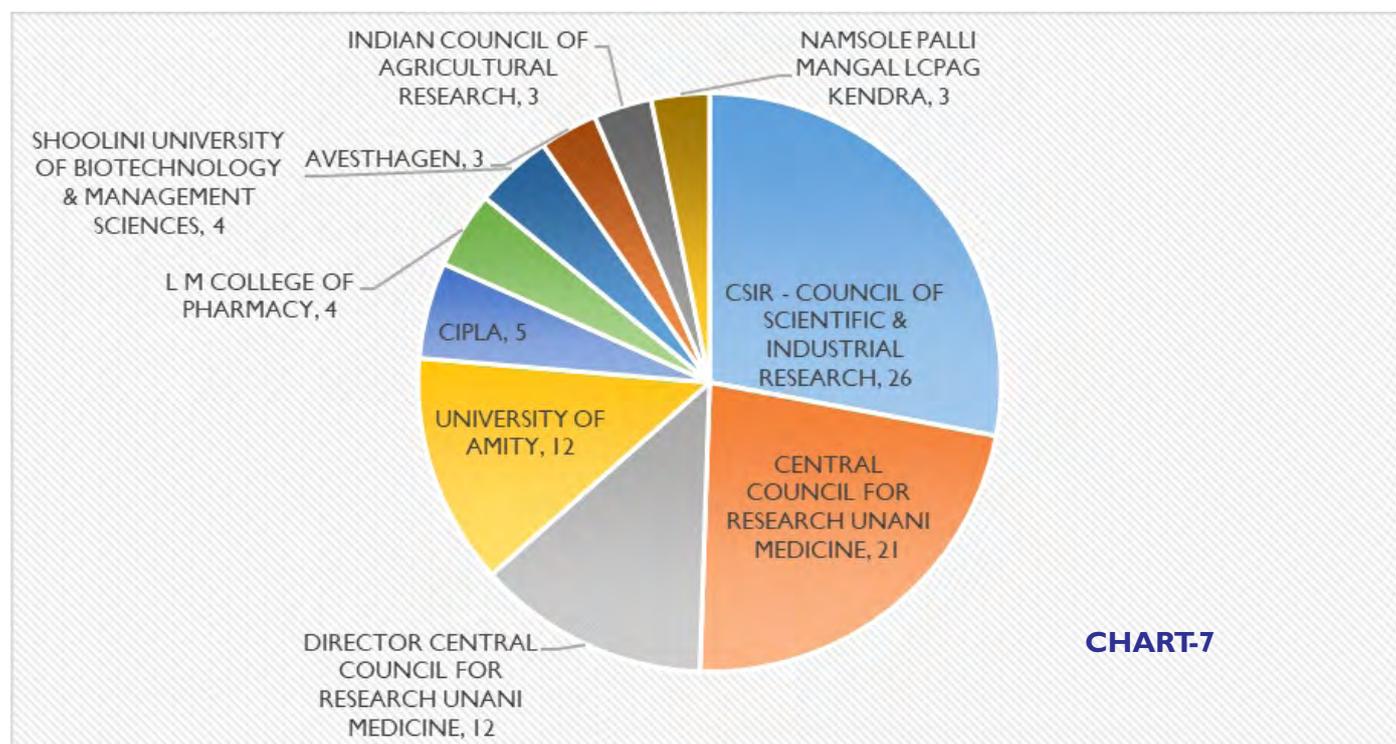


CHART-6

## TOP ASSIGNEE

Figure represents the top players in terms of cumulative patent filing trends in India. CSIR- Council of Scientific & Industrial Research appears to dominate with over 26 patent families followed by Central Council for Research Unani Medicine, Director Central Council for Research Unani medicine and University of Amity. There are several consortiums taking place

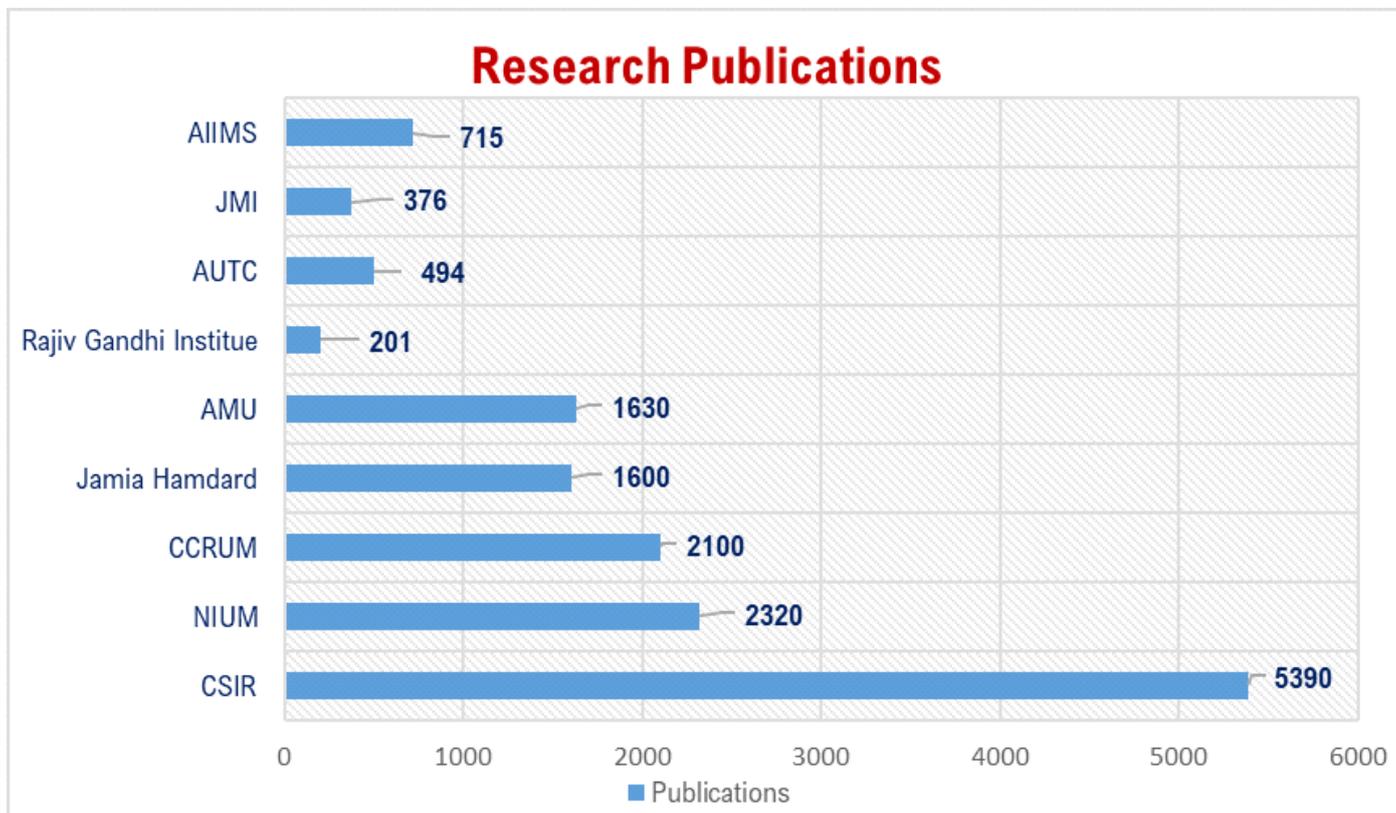


## JOURNALS Vs PATENTS

There are overall 518 relevant patent families of various organizations and universities all across the globe in the field of Unani medicines and out of 518 patent families, 394 patent families belong to Indian company or Indian University who are working on this domain. As we widen our study from patents to journals, we observe that 1,39,000 research articles and journals have been published worldwide regarding the study of Unani medicines and out of 1,39,000 journals, maximum number Indian authors have worked on this domain and the research is still going on and about 53,900 research articles have been published to show the study in the field of Unani medicines. 5,390 research articles and journals have been published by CSIR, 2,320 research articles and journals have been published worldwide by National Institute of Unani Medicine followed 2,100 by CCRUM research, 1,630 by Aligarh Muslim University, 1,600 by Jamia Hamdard.

## MOST ACTIVE INSTITUTES

Figure represents the most active institutes participated in publication of research articles and journals.



Source: Google Scholar

CHART-8

## CONCLUSION

Being traditional flavour, the Unani medicine though have issue on fulfilling the criteria of patentability which is very evident with the above patent filing statistics. However, recent advancement of research and development techniques and its blend may improve the quality and quantity of patent filing. A unique blend of specific medical device for implementing of these traditional medicines may open new horizon for effective implementation and therapeutic aspect of Unani medicines. Innovation towards stability and efficacy of these medicines over the contemporary medicines may add flavour in more adoption in this domain.

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