

BIOGRAPHY

IBN AL NAFIS

(Abu Al Hassan Ala Addin Ali Ibn Abu Al Hazm)
(1210 -1288)

He is Abu Al Hassan Ala Addin Ali Ibn Abu Al Hazm. One of the prominent Muslim Physicians. He was the first to describe the pulmonary circulation (minor circulation) of the blood. This was an important landmark in the understanding of the circulation, several hundreds of years before William Harvey's description. In finding that the wall between the right and the left ventricles of the heart is

solid without pores, he disputed Galen's view that the blood passes directly from the right to the left side of the heart. Ibn Al Nafis correctly stated that the blood must pass from



the right ventricle to the left ventricle by way of the lungs. But the significance of this statement remained unheeded and in fact unknown by physicians in western countries. It was only in the 20th century that his work was brought to light.

Ibn Al Nafis studied in Damascus and went to Egypt to take charge of the Nasiri Hospital in Cairo. He wrote 10 books, one on the eye diseases (Al Mohathab Fi Al

Kahala) and on diet (Al Mokhtar Mina Al Aghtheya) and commentaries on medical writings of Hippocrates, Avicenna, and Hunayn Ibn Ishaq.

Editor-in-Chief