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## Sixty Years Dedicated to Medical Publications: Part of the History of Development of Medical Writing in Iran

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The late Dr. Ali Akbar Siasi, the Minister of Culture in the year 1942 approved the publication of a monthly medical journal entitled “Naameh Daneshkadeh Pezeshki” or “medical college monthly letter”. The editor in chief was Dr. Nosratollah Kasemi. The first issue of this journal was published in February-March 1942. Dr. Amiralam was the Dean of Medical College at the time. It was a monthly journal but every 2-3 issues were published in one volume. Its publication continued till the year 1949. The journal’s board of directors (executive commission) included the Dean, the late Dr. Mostafa Habibi, chief of the pathology department, and the late Dr. Kasemi, the editor in chief. Dr. Amiralam and Dr. Ashtyani, were the head of the board of directors for the first and the second year respectively. Professor Charles Oberling had this position for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> year and after that Professor Ashtyani accepted this position again. Issues number 8 and 9 were published in September and October 1943 and were special editions (a supplement) regarding typhus.

In the year 1949, Dr. Jahanshah Saleh was appointed as the Dean of Medical College and set up some rules and regulations for the journal. Since Dr. Mostafa Habibi passed away in 1948, some professors (faculties) from the medical, dental and pharmacy schools were appointed as members of the

editorial board of the journal. These members were Dr. Jahanshah Saleh the editor in chief, Dr. Naser Ansari, Dr. Hossein Sohrab, Dr. Mahmoud Siasi, Dr. Sadegh Pirouz Azizi, Dr. Mohammad Gholi Shams, Dr. Mohammad Gharib, Dr. Mohammad Hossein Mafi, Dr. Mohammad Ali Maleki, Dr. Hassan Mirdamadi, Dr. Mahmoud Najmabadi and Dr. Seyed Mohammad Beheshti who was the executive manager. The name of Dr. Kasemi as the founder of the journal was also mentioned on the cover. It was a monthly journal and 10 issues were published annually. Members of the editorial board had to evaluate the scientific value of the articles. They could also ask for the peer review of others but the final decision would be made by the executive manager Dr. Seyed Mohammad Beheshti who was a professor in the field of internal medicine. With a specific budget allocated for the journal, its publication continued in a novel design and new format. A young student was asked to cooperate as an executive staff of the journal.

### **The Beginning of My Work**

In 1949, with the recommendation of Dr. Kamaledin Armin and approval of Dr. Mohammad Ali Hafizi, the editor in chief, a position in the journal office was offered to me. I was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of medical school at the time and had some

experience in publishing. My job description was as follows: I had to take all the manuscripts ready for publication to the publisher. After typing, I had to edit the articles 2 to 3 times. Final revising would be performed by Dr. Beheshti and after that I would take them to the publisher for publication. At first, Rangin publications and after the year 1951 (number 9, 8<sup>th</sup> year) Tehran University was responsible for publication. Tehran University Publications was located in Enghelab Street across the Laleh Zar Street. The manager was Hossein Keshavarz and the typing was performed manually. I was paid 50 Tomans (5 Cents) for each issue to be published. The first 2-3 months I was not paid anything but after the first few months, I had regular income.

The staff were sincere and hardworking and they would do anything in their power to accomplish this job in time. Sometimes the manager itself would help in editing. At the time, articles were written by hand and therefore they were mostly hard to read and full of mistakes. I had to edit the manuscripts for several times and sometimes I had to consult the authors as well. Some of the manuscripts were work history or review articles written by the instructors. For example, in the very first issue, professor Shams reported 18 cases of corneal transplant that he had conducted in Farabi Hospital. In the same issue, Dr. Habibi reported 200 cases of cutaneous leishmaniasis that he had evaluated in Iran. Professor Oberling wrote some articles regarding the health problems in Iran which were published in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> issues of this journal. The remaining of each issue, were articles translated to Farsi by the translators, physicians or medical students. They were paid 30 to 50 Tomans for translating a manuscript from a foreign language to Farsi. Dr. Manouchehr Sadigh and Dr. Amanollah Refoa were among these translators who were very expert in this field. These manuscripts were selected by the editor in chief or the translators themselves. However, they should be

approved by the editorial board or the editor in chief of the university (Dr. Hafizi). An important part of the journal belonged to the recent events and new rules and regulations related to the universities and hospitals. Later on, this part was separated from the journal and news and events were published in a separate newsletter by Dr. Hafizi. As I mentioned, I started cooperating with the "Naameh Daneshkadeh" in the 7<sup>th</sup> year of its publication. Every year 10 issues of this journal, about 64 pages each, were published and distributed. In some issues, articles were exclusively from the faculty members, at that time there was not any extra point for writing an article and physicians would do that out of their passion for medical science. Number of articles was increasing day by day and the editor in chief had a hard time choosing among them. In 1952, the publisher's office was relocated to a building in the south corner of Tehran University close to the Enghelab square. New personnel were recruited. Professors and faculties in other college of Tehran University started publishing their own journals and many books were published as well. "Naameh Daneshkadeh" was published regularly and I continued my cooperation with them even after my graduation. Even during a short period of time that I was on duty out of Tehran I continued my work with the help of some of my fellow classmates who were in Tehran at the time.

In 1955, I took the residency exam and was accepted as a pathology resident. Following the recommendation of Dr. Mohammad Beheshti (chief of the library and medical publications) and approval of Dr. Armin (chief of the pathology department) and Dr. Hafizi the editor in chief, I continued my cooperation with the journal and medical college library (residency program was a part time job at the time) and my monthly income raised to 100 Tomans for each issue. In 1956, I became temporarily in charge of the library because Dr. Beheshti was out of the country on assignment.

After his return, I was literally a member of the board of editors (unofficially though). I continued my work as an editor till 1958. My cooperation discontinued for 2 and a half years when I had to go to the United Kingdom to participate in a subspecialty program. In 1960, I started my work again this time as an official member of the editorial board. Since I was very busy with my duties at the time, I no longer edited the manuscripts. A lot changed in the directorship and management of the journal but its regular publication continued till the Islamic revolution. This journal is still being published regularly and I cooperate with them as a reviewer.

#### **ACTA MEDICA IRANICA**

In 1956, Dr. Manouchehr Eghbal who was the president of the Tehran University and also the Dean of the Medical College decided to publish another journal in English/French. The executive manager was Professor Nosratollah Ameli, a UK graduate who was professor of neurosurgery in Tehran University. Dr. Mohammad Beheshti was the editor in chief. In the editorial of the first issue Dr. Eghbal says: "Since this journal is published in English/French, it can provide a chance for the foreign physicians to become familiar with the activities and innovations of their Iranian peers". "Although diseases and pathogenesis are global problems, there are differences in this respect among different cultures, geographical locations and traditions and physicians all over the world should be aware of these differences and this journal can make a contribution in this regard" Dr. Eghbal added. It is still true after more than 40 years.

In this way, ACTA MEDICA Journal started to operate with the help of the office staff of our monthly medical journal including me. Dr. Beheshti had to go abroad on assignment and therefore Dr. Eghbal assigned me to do Dr. Beheshti's duties including office works related to library and ACTA

MEDICA IRANICA, students' theses, and copying and distributing class notes. I was a pathology resident at the time. First few issues of ACTA MEDICA IRANICA were published with no editorial board. During the second volume, Dr. Ahmad Farhad the president of the university and the dean of medical college was editor in chief and he assigned an editorial board for the journal which included Dr. Farhad himself, editor in chief, Dr. Mohammad Beeshti, executive manager, Dr. Nosratollah Ameli, Dr. Kamaledin Armin, Dr. Sadegh Pirouz Azizi, Professor Shams, Dr. Manouchehr Eghbal, Dr. Mohammad Gharib, Dr. Nosratollah Kasemi, Dr. Hassan Mirdamadi, Dr. Shamsedin Mofidi, Dr. Jahanshah Saleh, Dr. Ebrahim Samimi and me (I was in charge of the publication). In 1962, I was appointed as an unofficial member of the board of editors of ACTA MEDICA Journal. My cooperation continued till the year 1970. This quarterly journal was published every three months (quarterly) in English and French but mostly English. It was an internationally accredited journal. It was the only Iranian journal that was indexed in Index Medicus and some other indexes in 1967. During the Islamic revolution, publication of the journal was stopped for a short period of time but restarted again. Due to this pause, its international acceptance was revoked. However, we are still trying to validate it again. In 1993, I was assigned again as a member of the editorial board and also a reviewer of this journal and I still continue my cooperation with them. Dr. Mohammad Reza Dehpour, professor of the pharmacology department is now editor in chief of this journal and university professors comprise the board of editors. ACTA MEDICA IRANICA is now an accredited scientific journal published in English.

#### **Tebbe Omoumi (Public Medicine) Journal:**

Tebbe Omoumi was another accredited journal

affiliated to medical college. The idea belonged to Dr. Ahmad Farhad, president of the Tehran University and the dean of medical college. The editor in chief was Dr. Houshang Dolatabadi, endocrinologist and professor of the endocrinology in Tehran University of Medical Sciences. This journal aimed to familiarize Iranian general physicians with the new advancements in the field of medicine in terms of diagnosis and treatment interventions. It was a very popular journal. I cooperated with this journal from 1967 till 1978 both as an author and as a member of the board of editors. A significant number of my scientific articles were published in this journal. Most of the faculty members were involved in the publication of this journal. However, it is no longer published.

#### **Scientific Journal of Iranian Medical Council:**

In 1960, a bill was passed on establishment of a medical council in Iran. After a few years of delay, members of the board of directors of Iranian Medical Council were selected by the Iranian Medical Society in 1968 and the Medical Council officially started to work in 1969. Members selected in order of the highest votes were: Dr. Manouchehr Eghbal, Dr. Kamaledin Armin, Professor Jamshid Alam, Dr. Hassan Ahari, Dr. Hassan Choobak, Dr. Mohammad Ali Hafizi, Dr. Jahanshah Saleh, Dr. Seyed Mohammad Tabatabaie, Professor Yahya Adl, Dr. hassan Alavi, Dr. Mohammad Kowsar, Dr. Hossein Morshed, Dr. Nosratollah Mojdehy, Dr. Mohammad Ali Maleki, Dr. Ghodratollah Movasaghy, Dr. Fereydoon Varjavand, and Dr. Ashrafmolouk Mosaheb. Dr. Eghbal was the president of the board of directors and Dr. Armin was the secretary general. However, Dr. Armin resigned after a while and this position was taken by Dr. Mohammad Ali Hafizi (who had recently resigned as the Dean of Tehran University of Medical Sciences) and he was appointed as the secretary general of Iranian Medical

Council. In 1969, Dr. Hafizi with the approval of board of directors decided to publish a scientific journal. He asked me, Dr. Anvarshaki (who was the editor in chief of the journal at the time), Dr. Bijan Jahangiri, Dr. Abbas Poosti, Dr. Hooshang Saadat, Dr. Khalil Taaherzadeh, Dr. Ahmad Jalili and some others to participate. The names of board of editors were not published in the journal in the first few issues but in 1972, following the agreement of board of directors, Dr. Eghbal (president of the Medical Council at the time) officially asked me to include the names of the editorial board members in the journal. This journal also had its own share of problems but its regular publication continued and it is still among the accredited Iranian journals. As long as Dr. Hafizi was the secretary general of the Medical Council, Dr. Hooshang Saadat was the editor in chief of this journal but when the position of presidency was occupied by Dr. Manafi, board of editors changed. However, some other colleagues and I remained in the same position as before. Dr. Iraj Fazel, Dr. Rahim Aghighi and Dr. Kazem Mohammad also joined the editorial board. Then Dr. Bagher Larijani (professor and research deputy of Tehran University of Medical Sciences) took over as the editor in chief of the journal. He made a lot of changes in the structure of this journal. After him, the position of editor in chief was occupied by Dr. Ali Asghar Peyvandi (research deputy of Medical Council) who also made fundamental changes to the structure and editorial board of this journal but I have always been a solid member of the editorial board and also a reviewer. Scientific Journal of Medical Council is an accredited journal which is published regularly and provides Iranian physicians with the latest scientific and executive developments.

#### **Iranian Journal of Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine:**

In 1995, the Iranian Society of Infectious Diseases

and Tropical Medicine decided to publish a scientific journal in Farsi. After obtaining the permission by Dr. Velayati, a gathering was held with the participation of physicians from NRITLD and Dr. Mohammad Reza Khademi (professor of infectious diseases, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences) was appointed as the editor in chief. Board of directors and editorial board were formed. I was appointed by Dr. Velayati as a member of the editorial board and board of directors and the first issue of this journal was published in spring 1996. This journal is published every 3 months and has been a quarterly journal ever since. It is an accredited journal and is very reach in terms of receiving articles from all over the country. I still cooperate with them and I am also a reviewer. In addition to the members of the editorial board, Dr. Velayati, Dr. Minoos Mohraz (professor of infectious diseases, Tehran University of Medical Sciences) who is the current editor in chief of the journal and Dr. Mohammad Banifazl who is the executive manager cooperate in the publication of this journal.

#### **American Journal of Cardiovascular Pathology**

In 1987, Prof. Colin Bloor Professor of pathology in University of California, San Diego was assigned by the American Society of Cardiovascular Pathology to publish a journal regarding the activities of this society. He asked me to join the editorial board. From 1987 to 1995 I was a member of the editorial board and also a reviewer. This journal had several non-American members in its editorial board and I was one of them. In 1995, based on the decision of the board of directors and the publisher, title of the journal and its directorship changed.

#### **Journal of the Iranian Society of Surgeons**

In 1992, upon the suggestion of Dr. Valiollah Mehrabi deputy director of the Iranian Society of Surgeons and approval of Dr. Fazel, the head of the

Iranian Society of Surgeons, Journal of the Iranian Society of Surgeons was started to publish. Since the publication of its 2<sup>nd</sup> issue in March 1992, I have been a member of its editorial board. Editorial board members included: Dr. Bahador Alami Harandi, Dr. Moslem Bahadori, Dr. Hamid Rahmat, Dr. Hooshang Saadat, Dr. Farrokh Saeedi, Dr. Anvarshahi, Dr. Mahmoud Matin, Dr. Valiollah Mehrabi, Dr. Anooshirvan Hedayat and Dr. Javad Heyaat. For more than 5 years I cooperated with this journal as a reviewer and also a member of the editorial board. I still continue my cooperation with them as a reviewer and a consultant. This is a scientific research journal which is published regularly.

#### **Archives of Iranian Medicine:**

In 1998, Dr. Iraj Fazel the president and Dr. Karim Vessal, a permanent member of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Islamic Republic of Iran decided to publish a journal in English aiming at presenting the scientific activities of Iranian biomedical researchers. The first issue was published in October 1998 when Dr. Vesal was the editor in chief of this quarterly journal. This is an internationally accredited journal with regular publication. The journal has both Iranian and foreign editorial board members which are all renowned scientists and members of the Academy of Medical Sciences. From the beginning, Dr. Malek Zadeh, Dr. Zarrin Dast and I have been elected with this journal as author, reviewer and editor in chief assistant. Assistants of the editor in chief have increased and at present 6 issues are published annually. The second issue of the year 2010 has recently been published. This journal has been indexed in most international indexes including Pubmed and articles are accessible online. Current editor in chief is Dr. Reza Malek Zadeh, professor of Tehran University of Medical Sciences and head of the Research Institute of Gastrointestinal Diseases. I am still among the

assistants of editor in chief. Dr. Mohammad Hossein Azizi is the executive manager of the journal.

### **Tanaffos (Respiration) Journal**

In 2002, NRITLD received a permit to publish a scientific English journal called Tanaffos (Respiration) with the efforts of Dr. Mohammad Reza Masjedi Professor of pulmonary medicine in Shaheed Beheshti University of Medical Sciences as the editor in chief. This is a quarterly journal published in the field of respiratory diseases, thoracic surgery, intensive care and tuberculosis. It publishes research articles from Iranian and foreign researchers in the field of respiratory, cardiac, mediastinal and pulmonary diseases and it is an internationally accredited journal. Dr. Mohammad Reza Masjedi, is the editor in chief of Tanaffos Journal. Members of the editorial board are Dr. Azizollah Abbasi, Dr. Moslem Bahadori, Dr. Ahmad Reza Bahrmand, Dr. Amin Ehteshami Afshar, Dr. Mostafa Ghanei, Dr. Kiumars Ghazi-Saidi, Dr. Hassan Heydar Nejad, Dr. Mohammad Golshan, Dr. Mohammad Reza Masjedi, Dr. Forouzan Mohammadi and Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Dr. Mohammad Reza Zahed pour Anaraki. Additionally, 12 renowned scientists from all over the world cooperate with the editorial board as consultants. Many of the scientific organizations are affiliated to this journal. Dr. Makan Sadr is the executive manager. The main characteristic of this journal is that it publishes articles specifically in the field of thoracic surgery. Since Dr. Masjedi, the editor in chief of this journal has been the deputy director of IUATLD both in the region and in the world, Tanaffos Journal has a special position in the Eastern Mediterranean region and in IUATLD. Also, since some of the editorial board members live outside Iran, this journal has its own subscribers all over the world.

### **Hakim Journal**

Hakim is a scientific research journal published

by the National Research Institute of Medical Science and under the supervision of research and technology deputy of the Ministry of Health. After the 4<sup>th</sup> volume in 2000, the following members including me were selected as the editorial board members: Dr. Mohammad Ismaiel Akbari, Dr. Fereshteh Baghayee Naeeni, Dr. Moslem Bahadori, Dr. akbar Poor Fathollah, Dr. Ezodin Javadian, Dr. Hassan Hosseini, Dr. Fatemeh Ramezan Zadeh, Dr. Mohammad Reza Zali, Dr. Saeed Semnanyan, Dr. Mohammad Taghy Tahmaseby, Dr. Mohammad Farhadi, Dr. Seyed Mohammad Kazemeyni, Dr. Zarin Taj Keyhani Doost, Dr. Alireza Marandi, Dr. Hasan Malek Afzali, Dr. Mostafa Moein, Dr. Kazem Mohammad, Dr. Mohammad Reza Mohammadi and Dr. Ahmad Noorbala. The editor in chief is Dr. Kazem Mohammad, professor of Tehran University who is a renowned instructor and member of the editorial boards of many accredited journals. During years, the composition of the editorial board changed and some alterations were made in journal policies. This is a quarterly journal which is published regularly. It is an accredited scientific journal which mostly publishes research projects conducted on health care policies.

### **Novin Pezeshki weekly**

In 1998, Ibn Sina Cultural Institute with the cooperation of the Iranian Medical Council decided to publish a weekly journal to familiarize Iranian physicians with the newest articles published in the internationally accredited journals around the world. In this regard, Novin Pezeshki made a contract with more than 50 top journals in the field of medicine to publish a summary of their latest articles with their permission. Dr. Shahabedin Sadr, the president of the Medical Council at the time established a strategy planning committee and I am a member of this committee. This journal is very beneficial for the medical community. Some of its articles are taken

from the internet and are later translated and published in this journal. It is being published for more than 10 years now. Dr. Amir Abbas Fattah Zadeh is the executive manager and Dr. Shahram Yazdani is the editor in chief and the head of the strategy planning committee.

### **Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine**

This journal is among the oldest medical journals published in Iran. Many alterations have been made in its contents and editorial board members. In 2003, I was selected as a member of its editorial board. However, I have been a reviewer of this journal for many years. This is a nationally accredited journal and has many subscribers and readers. Dr. Mohammad Hasan Abedi, the head of the Forensic Medicine Organization is the editor in chief and Dr. Jaber Ghardaghy the research deputy of this organization is the executive manager. The editorial board has 19 members which have gatherings once a month. This is a quarterly journal with regular publication.

### **Reviewing and Consults:**

I also cooperate as a consultant, reviewer and member of the editorial board with about 30 other national medical journals. Some of them are publications of the research committees of universities and some are subspecialty journals published by some specific organizations. I also cooperate as a reviewer with some foreign journals. I have also collaborated with many journals which are no longer published.

Last but not list, there are some points that need to be mentioned:

1- I have not named all the editorial board members of these journals because it would be too long or in some cases there had been some changes which I was not sure about

2- Before "Naameh Daneshkadeh" (Monthly Letter) published by the Tehran medical college, there were some other journals the foremost of which was "Jahane Pezeshki". Its editor in chief was Dr. Mahmoud Najm Abadi. This journal was published for many years even after the establishment of "Naameh Daneshkadeh". Another journal published at the time was "Pezeshki Naameh". Its editor in chief was Naazemol Ateba. "Ganjineh Daroo va Darman" was another journal and Dr. Rahmato Ilah Mostafavi was the editor in chief of "Donyaye Elm" Journal

3- It is noteworthy that many of the renowned accredited national journals have not been named in this article. I only mentioned those who I have cooperated with them personally. At present, number of national scientific journals has increased greatly. These are published weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually. Most of them are labeled as scientific research journals. Some of these are published privately and some are affiliated to universities or organizations. More than 100 journals are labeled as scientific research journal by the Scientific Publication Committee of the Ministry of Health. Almost all universities of medical sciences have journals of their own which are published regularly and according to the international guidelines. Also there is an organization for medical publications called "Iranian Medical Editors Society" which manages the journal related issues.

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