

In Memory of Professor Ali Mohammad Handjani (1925 – 2012)

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Professor Ali Mohammad Handjani
(1925–2012)

Dr. Ali Mohammad Handjani, a distinguished Professor of Cardiology at Shiraz University of Medical Sciences passed away in Shiraz, Iran on July 20, 2012.

He was a great medical teacher and superb clinician who devoted most of his fruitful life to medical education and patient care. Throughout his nearly 50-year full-time medical career, he was very instrumental in the progression of the field of cardiology and in the training of a new generation of cardiologists in Shiraz.

Professor Handjani was born in Tehran on March 27, 1925. He completed Alborz College Secondary School in Tehran in 1945 and in due course, enrolled at Tehran University School of Medicine where he received his MD degree in 1951. Then, he went to France to continue his medical training at the University of Paris Faculty of Medicine, where he received his Diplôme d'Etat in Cardiology in 1956. Subsequently, he traveled to the United States and between 1956 – 1958, continued his medical training in internal medicine at Vanderbilt University and was able to complete his internal medicine residency and cardiology fellowship at Nebraska University Hospital from 1958 – 1960. He obtained the ECFMG certificate at about the same time.

Professor Handjani was a pioneer teacher of cardiology at Shiraz School of Medicine. The Shiraz School of Medicine was founded in 1952 through the efforts of Dr. Zabih Ghorban (1903 – 2006). Three years later, in June 1955, the well-equipped modern Ne-

mazee Hospital was officially inaugurated. Professor Handjani returned home in 1960, about eight years after the establishment of Shiraz School of Medicine and joined its faculty. In an interview, he pointed out that Mr. Mohammad Nemazee (1895 – 1972), the founder of Nemazee Hospital, wrote a letter and invited him to work in Shiraz through the “Iran Foundation” in Syracuse, New York, USA, which was supervised by Mr. Nemazee. On his return to Iran, Dr. Handjani became a full-time Associate Professor of Medicine/Cardiology at Shiraz Medical School. From 1971 to 1996, he served as Director of the Cardiology Division of the Internal Medicine Department. Throughout his professional career, Dr. Handjani successfully completed a course on Internal Medicine at Harvard University in 1976 and also received his Echocardiography Certificate from the University of San Francisco in the same year. Dr. Handjani became a full Professor in 1972 and retired in 1996. In recognition of his expertise and invaluable experience as a university professor, he was asked to remain as a faculty member until 1999 after which he was appointed as Emeritus Professor of Cardiology until he passed away in 2012. He was among the very few exceptional physicians who remained a full-time university professor throughout his professional career.

Dr. Handjani was a Member of the French International Society of Cardiology (since 1957), Fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians (since 1963), Fellow of the American College of Cardiology (since 1972) and Fellow of the American College of Angiology (since 1991). Professor Handjani was also a member of the National Cardiology Examination Board of the Iranian Ministry of Health and Medical Education since its establishment.

In 1978, in recognition of his commendable academic services in Shiraz, the Division of Cardiology at the Shahid Faghihi Teaching Hospital (formerly Saadi Hospital, established in 1941) was named after him (Figure 1). In 1993, he was honored with the “Outstanding Faculty Member Award” from the Iranian Ministry of Health and in 2005 he was awarded with the Iranian “Medal of Honor in Science”.

Professor Handjani was highly interested in teaching and authored several textbooks including: Clinical Interpretation of Electrocardiography (1971), Cardiac Physical Diagnosis (1974), Recognition of Environmental Changes with Reactional Body Changes (1980), Lecture Series in Cardiac Emergencies (1981) and Nutrition and Health (1991). In addition, he published close to 45 articles in renowned national and international journals. He also participated in various scientific gatherings and had over 60 scientific presentations at both national and international cardiology meetings. Although Professor Handjani officially retired in 1996, his professional activities continued until the last months of his life.

In summary, Professor Handjani was a dedicated physician, ex-

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Figure 1. Professor Handjani (right) and Dr.Gholamreza Rezaian, Professor of Cardiology (left) in 1978, when the Division of Cardiology at Shahid Faghihi Hospital in Shiraz (formerly Saadi Hospital) was named after him.

cellent clinician and incomparable figure with unique personal characteristics. His memory will always be in our hearts and minds. He was a friend to all his students and residents, and very kind to his patients. Professor Handjani served as a role model for his trainees, particularly with regards to the approach and examination of their patients. He was viewed by his colleagues, students and patients as a great moral mentor, trusted friend and experienced physician. In addition, he was a lovely husband for his wife and a great father for his two sons. He will continue to live in the

name of Dr. Farhad Handjani, his eldest son, who is an excellent scientist and currently, the Chairman of Department of Dermatology at Shiraz University of Medical Sciences.

Acknowledgment

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