

History of Contemporary Medicine in Iran

Professor Parviz Haghighi and His Role in Promotion of Academic Pathology at the Shiraz School of Medicine in Iran (1969–1979)

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“I still cherish the memories of my time spent as a medical student and later as faculty member in Shiraz and have a deep sense of love and respect for the institution and its members at all levels”.

Professor Parviz Haghighi

Parviz Haghighi was born in Shiraz in southern Iran in 1937. He enrolled in the Shiraz Medical School in 1955 and received his MD degree in 1961. In due course, he completed his postgraduate studies in pathology at the Johns Hopkins and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center from 1961 to 1967. He obtained his American Board of Pathology in 1967 and American Board of Pathology-Cytopathology in 1993. In 1969, the young Dr. Haghighi returned home and joined the Shiraz Medical Faculty as an assistant professor of pathology.

Foundation of the Pathology Department at Shiraz Medical School

There was no medical school in Shiraz before 1952. For the first time in 1946, an institution called the Shiraz Medical Auxiliary Training School was founded by Dr. Zabih Ghorban (1903–2006), a graduate of the American University of Beirut.¹ Shiraz Medical Auxiliary Training School was transformed to Shiraz Faculty of Medicine which was officially inaugurated in 1952² (Figure 1). As Professor Haghighi recounted, “academic pathol-

ogy in Shiraz started with the establishment of the medical school in which the late Dr. Z. Ghorban played a key role and to which he made so many contributions well-known to all”.

Then, he added that the Department of Pathology in Shiraz Medical School was founded by Professor Herbert S. Reichle from the University of Freiburg in Germany, who had received part of his education in the US. At that time, two histotechnologists, Mr. Hassan Ramzani and Miss Badri Bayat helped Professor Reichle at the Pathology Department. Later, Professor Michele Gerundo joined the Pathology Department. Professor James Edward Bowman, (1923–2011) an African American physician-scientist³, was appointed as a Professor of Pathology at the Shiraz Medical School as well as the Director of Pathology Department in the newly established Nemazee Hospital, founded in Shiraz by Mohammad Nemazee in 1955.

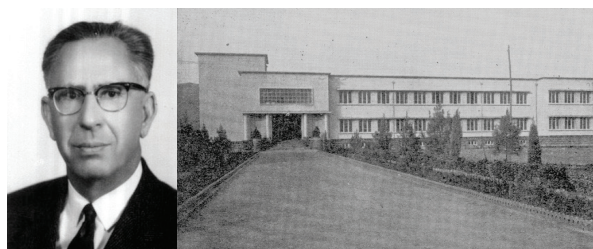


Figure 1. a) Dr. Zabih Ghorban, b) Shiraz School of Medicine, 1952.

Four years later, the Austrian pathologist Professor Werner Dutz and his wife Dr. E. Kohout, an American-trained pathologist, joined the Shiraz School of Medicine in 1959 and stayed there for fifteen years until 1974. Professor Dutz was the chair of department who advanced it and performed over 4000 well-documented autopsies in Shiraz (Figure 2).⁴ According to Professor Haghighi, “Dutz, together with his wife Dr. Kohout who was Director of Clinical Pathology introduced computerization first in anatomic and later in clinical pathology and established the Laboratory Medicine to train technicians and technologists”.

When Professor Dutz left Iran, Professor Haghighi became the Chair of the Pathology Department. Table 1 shows the succession of the Department of Pathology Chairs at the Shiraz Medical School between 1952 and 1979 (Figure 3).

In 1970, the teaching staff of the Department of Pathology in Shiraz School of Medicine included Professor Werner Dutz (the chair and full time professor), Dr. Kohout (full time professor), Dr. Parviz Haghighi (full time associate professor and Associate Dean of Shiraz Medical School), Dr. Iraj Nazerian (MD gradu-

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Figure 2. The collection of scientific reports of over 4000 autopsies performed by Professor Dutz at the School of Medicine in Shiraz, Iran.



Figure 3. From left to right: Professor Herbert S. Reichle, Professor James Edward Bowman, Professor Werner Dutz, Professor Parviz Haghghi and Kamaledin Afsah Mahallatee. (The source of photograph of James Edward Bowman is the website of the Pritzker School of Medicine, the University of Chicago, <https://pritzker.uchicago.edu/about/news/pritzkerpulse/2006winter/bowman.shtml>)

Table 1. Department -Chairs of Pathology at the Shiraz Medical School (1952–1979).

A .Before Shiraz Medical School and Nemazee Hospital Integration
• Herbert S. Reichle (Shiraz School of Medicine)
• James Edward Bowman (Shiraz Nemazee Hospital)
B. After Shiraz Medical School and Nemazee Hospital Integration
• Werner Dutz
• Parviz Haghghi
• Kamaledin Afsah Mahallatee
• Rahim Karjoo

ate of Shiraz School of Medicine, American Board of Pathology), Kamaledin Afsah Mahallatee (MD graduate of Shiraz School of Medicine, American Board of Pathology) and Dr. Khosrow Daneshbod (MD graduate of Tehran School of Medicine, American Board of Pathology, full time assistant professor).⁵

In due course, when Professor Haghghi was appointed the chair of department, the number of faculty members increased. He points out, at that time, the members of the Pathology Department at the Shiraz Medical School were Dr. Kamaledin Afsah Mahallatee, Dr. Rahim Karjoo, Dr. Khosrow Daneshbod, Dr. Bahram Azadeh, Dr. P.V. Kumar (Figure 4), Dr. Shahla Behmard Sadeghi and Dr. Shahla Masoud.



Figure 4. From left to right: Dr. Khosrow Daneshbod, Dr. Bahram Azadeh, and Dr. P. V. Kumar.

He added “the Residency Program was introduced gradually with a few visiting residents from the U.S. and was later incorporated into the Iranian Board of Pathology”.

Professor Haghighi's life and career

In 1969, the young Dr. Haghighi returned home and joined the Shiraz Medical Faculty as an assistant professor of pathology. Afterwards, the academic position of Professor Haghighi was promoted to associate professor and full professor. Several physicians were responsible for shaping Professor Haghighi's career in pathology. He wrote that Professor Reichle "took me under his wings as a third – year medical student and together with Dr. James Edward Bowman (Director of Pathology Department at the Nemazee Hospital in Shiraz) was responsible for my career in pathology. Dr. Ghorban and Dr. Mohsen Ziai also helped me in many ways in shaping my career".

His main achievements

Professor Haghighi is an excellent mentor and in the years of his faculty tenureship at the Shiraz School of Medicine from 1969 to 1979, he contributed to the teaching program of pathology for medical students and residents based on modern concepts in medical education. Dr. Seyed Ziaaddin Tabei and Dr. P.V. Kumar, Dr. Attaran (then the faculty members of Shiraz Medical School) as well as Dr. Omidi, Dr. Shikh-ol-islam and Dr. Mostafavi were among the residents of pathology who were trained under the direction and leadership of Professor Haghighi and his colleagues.

As a distinguished pathologist and manager, he also continued to do anatomic pathology both at the Shiraz School of Medicine and Nemazee Hospital and established a small museum of interesting anatomic pathology specimens, introduced laboratory automation, sent some technologists abroad to learn immunofluorescence for renal biopsies, introduced immunohistochemistry and together with Dr. Shahla Behmard Sadeghi established the School of Cytotechnology. When Professor Haghighi was the Chair of the Department of Pathology, resident exchange with abroad continued. In addition together with Dr. Danshbod, he organized the Iranian National Congress of Pathology in which many prominent Iranian and foreign pathologists participated.

Professor Haghighi is a noble scholar with high morals who always appreciates his colleagues' efforts. Accordingly, in regard to his great influential achievements at the Pathology Department of the Shiraz Medical School, he points out, "needless to say, these could not have been achieved without dedication and commitment from the Department at all levels, from the cleaners to teaching aids to technicians to technologists to medical students, to residents and the faculty staff to all of whom I pay tribute". Then he adds, "I still cherish the memories of my time spent as a medical student and later as faculty member in Shiraz and have a deep sense of love and respect for the institution and its members – again at all levels."

His wife and former medical school classmate, Dr. Parichehr Abadee-Haghighi received her postgraduate education in Baltimore city hospitals, closely affiliated with Johns Hopkins and later became a fellow in pediatric cardiology at Cornell University. She is a board-certificated pediatrician and practiced pediatrics for thirteen years while they were in Shiraz. She was also involved in two major research projects at Nemazee Hospital, one on Immunoproliferative Small Intestinal Disease (IPSID) and another on "Subclinical Enteropathy", resulting in publications in peer-reviewed journals.

Dr. Haghighi is a professor of clinical pathology at the Univer-

sity of California, San Diego (UCSD) since 1979. The academic position of professorship of clinical pathology is a high rank academic position and only distinguished researchers and medical teachers who have published hundreds of scientific publications can obtain it. His wife also continued her medical practice on their return to the U.S.

His publications

Professor Haghighi is prolific researcher and so far has published over two hundred papers, book chapters, book reviews as first author, senior author or co-author in peer-reviewed medical journals. His special scientific interests as reflected in published material available on the Pub Med database are Mediterranean Lymphoma or IPSID and skeletal/soft tissue pathology (Figure 5).

Original Articles		Case Records of the Massachusetts General Hospital	
Chromosomal Translocation in Blood Leaf Levels between 1975 and 1980	1378	*Parkinsonism Associated with Other Neurological Manifestations	1406
Prediction of Awakening after Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest	1378	Editorials	
Penicillin in Infants Weighing Two Kilograms or Less with Early-Onset Latent B Streptococcal Infection	1383	Lessons from the Durnan Affair	1413
A. P. Fain, R. S. Pagan, N. M. Jacobi, A. S. Rabinowitz, T. F. Yen, D. S. Hayes, G. D. Lewis, P. Aron, and W. S. Morrison		Expanding Sex for Therapeutic Purposes	1417
Protection against Cholera in Breast-Fed Children by Antibodies in Breast Milk	1389	J. A. Gerson	
R. J. Glass, A. M. Sotomayor, B. J. Sotomayor, M. S. Khan, M. D. Roman, M. T. Ho, and J. Hershkovitz		Correspondence	
Demonstration of Factor VIII and Factor IX in Chronic Hemophilia and Christmas Disease	1393	A Retraction of Two Papers on Cardiovascular Angiogram Incompleteness in Patients with Coronary Disease and Risk of Stroke in Europe	1419
G. H. Gerson and M. E. Reza		Burgery	1420
Demonstration of the Treatment of Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura	1396	Vaccination against Meningococcal Disease: Lockdown after Treatment of Ovarian Cancer with Alkylating Agents	1422
Y. A. Abu, W. J. Harrington, A. B. Smith, R. M. Johnson, L. M. Paul, and A. G. Ho		Chelation Therapy for Transfusion-Dependent Sickle Cell Disease	1422
Retractions		Chromosomal Evidence of Donor B-Lymphocyte Engraftment after Bone Marrow Transplantation in a Patient with Multiple Myeloma	1423
Dore JH, Heywood SR, Nemer DC: Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy and Human Leukocyte Antigen Linkage: Differentiation of Two Forms of Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy. <i>N Engl J Med</i> 1978; 300:877-82	1400	Dilemma and the English B Syndrome	1424
Dore JH, Heywood SR: Decreased Myocardial Isotopic Levels and Hypertension in a Kindred with Mitral Valve Prolapse and Congestive Cardiomyopathy. <i>N Engl J Med</i> 1981; 304:129-35	1400	DNA Restriction Enzyme Analysis of Viruses Isolated from Gastrointestinal Fluid and Brain-Spinal Tissue in a Patient with Herpes Simplex Encephalitis	1424
Medical Intelligence		Physician's Role in Health Protection	1424
*Current Concepts: Immunoproliferative Small Intestinal Disease – A "Third-World Lesion"	1401	Brown's Cardiac Syndrome	1425
A. Kojouhar, M. Haghshenas, and P. Haghighi		Book Reviews	1425
		Notice	1426
		Corrections	
		Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy and Human Leukocyte Antigen Linkage	1400
		Decreased Myocardial Isotopic Levels and Hypertension in a Kindred with Mitral-Valve Prolapse and Congestive Cardiomyopathy	1400
		Health Policy Report	
		Medicare Begins Prospective Payment of Hospitals	1428
		J. N. Swanson	

Figure 5. An important paper entitled "Current concepts Immunoproliferative small intestinal disease; A Third-World lesion" written by Khojasteh A, Haghshenas M, Haghighi P. *N Engl J Med*. 1983; 308(23): 1401.

His awards and honors

- Pathology Residents Teaching Awards (five times), UCSD.
- Department of Medicine Teaching Award, UCSD.
- Nominee for Kaiser Medical Students Teaching Award, UCSD.

University Service in Shiraz

- Secretary-Treasurer, National Society for Cancer, Fars Province, Shiraz, Iran.
- Member Research Committee, Publication Committee, Shiraz University School of Medicine.

Since March 2001, Professor Haghighi is the Honorary Member of the Iranian Academy of Medical Sciences.⁶

Apr 4, 2015
۱۵ فروردین ۱۳۹۴

به بزرگوارترین شرح و توضیح
از خرد و تاریخچه و نام و نشانی دانشکده و بیمارستان از اردو ایچا نام نهادم فرست
انجامش تا سینه دمای قدرت تر قدم بدارم از اسبغات نایب خود نایت
پوزش میزایم
ضمیمه کتابت در این کتابخانه الکترونیکت نهاد باشد
اندا و کلامی که استرس با دوس ایجاب نایت ترسخ
چاه بود

A Persian hand-writing of Professor Haghighi, part of a letter to Moslem Bahadori MD, April 2015.

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