

The Need for Serious Support for Basic Medical Science in Iran

Sixty years ago in Iran, almost more than half of the professors of basic medical sciences such as pharmacology, physiology, microbiology, *etc.* had a medicine or pharmacy background. Many Iranian anatomists were general surgeon. Unfortunately, by adopting fee for service policy in clinical departments, such a high wall was created between basic medical sciences and clinical sciences, that no medical doctor or pharmacist had the motivation to continue training in basic sciences. When the income of a general practitioner is two to three times that of a professor of physiology, how can he/she satisfy himself/herself to continue studying in basic sciences?

Not necessarily, but it is very important for translational science that the basic science researcher has a clinical perspective. For example, how can one expect interesting research in psychiatry and neurology while not paying attention to neuroscience, neuropharmacology or neurophysiology (1-7). Especially by removing GPs and pharmacists from the basic medical sciences, we lost the completeness of the proper education of the basic medical sciences in the fields of medicine and pharmacy. Many of the equipment of the basic sciences departments of the medical school, especially in the old universities, belong to half a century ago. How can you expect to do up-to-date and applied research with equipment from half a century ago? In addition to changing the view of the policy makers and executive managers to basic sciences, one of the effective solutions is to employ basic science professors in clinical departments.

On the other hand, a part of the income of a basic science expert in the world is related to research projects and grants. Actually, due to economic problems, a basic science expert in Iran is not able to carry out the project with the average credit of research projects, let alone the income from that project. Without supportive policies, the situation of basic medical sciences in Iran became worse day by day. The collection of professors like the late Shadan, Adib Far and Abdul Wahhabi in the basic medical sciences, which were the result of the right policies at the time of the establishment of Tehran University, has disappeared. There should be a new solution.

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