



New Approaches to Maintain Iran's Scientific Growth

Ladan Kashani¹ and Shahin Akhondzadeh^{2*}

1. Infertility Ward, Arash Hospital, Tehran University of Medical Science, Tehran, Iran

2. Psychiatric Research Center, Roozbeh Hospital, Tehran University of Medical Science, Tehran, Iran

After the imposed war, Iran's ranking in number of publications and citations, especially compared to Iran's traditional competitor, Turkey, was not acceptable. Several approaches were used to surpass Turkey beginning in 2010 based on Scopus data and again in 2017 based on Clarivate Analytics data (1-3) (Figure 1).

1. Increasing share of research funding from the GDP.
2. Establishing and equipping research centers.
3. Revising policies to promote academic staff and successfully graduating students.
4. Increasing postgraduate education programs.
5. Awarding scholarships to students to study in postgraduate programs abroad.
6. Increasing number of Iranian scientific journals indexed in Clarivate Analytics, Scopus and PubMed.
7. Development of international relations.
8. Meritocracy in scientific environments.
9. Increasing salaries of academic staff members to accommodate for inflation.
10. Most importantly, encouraging hope for the future and attracting young and elite professionals to Iran.

Unfortunately, since 2021, due to economic problems in Iran and decrease in share of research funds from the GDP, as well as changes in the above-mentioned 10 approaches, we first lost our position in the Clarivate Analytics and then in Scopus. Turkey has surpassed Iran, and Saudi Arabia is developing scientifically due to proper investments. If we want to return to path of development, we must first invest in basic sciences. With our average research grants for basic science projects, we can no longer compete at any level in the world. Let's think of a solution to attract young and elite graduates. There is no doubt that increasing income of academic staff members, especially in basic sciences, will help improve scientific development of Iran. For development of research in clinical fields, other solutions are needed, such as restarting MD-PhD programs and recruiting basic science faculty members

* Corresponding author

Shahin Akhondzadeh, PhD

Psychiatric Research Center, Roozbeh Hospital, Tehran University of Medical Science, Tehran, Iran

Tel: +98 21 5541 2222

Fax: +98 21 5541 9113

Email: s.akhond@neda.net

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	1968	1975	1978	1988	1998	2008	2013	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Iran	5	372	670	165	1331	17387	29581	53243	52664	64355	70177	70567	63778
Turkey	12	253	357	895	6058	25125	34187	48431	45736	54487	64745	71054	68280
Saudi Arabia	0	0	3	1170	1843	2875	13394	21496	23129	28975	38511	49668	56564

Figure 1. Comparison of publications from Iran, Turkey and Saudi Arabia according to Clarivate Analytics.

in clinical departments. Comprehensive research training in the residency curriculum, recruitment of academic staff with research experience to clinical

departments, development of biobanks, disease registry studies and cohort studies are just some of the steps we can initiate.

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