
History of Contemporary Medicine in Iran

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SHIRAZ MEDICAL AUXILIARY TRAINING SCHOOL: THE FORERUNNER OF FACULTY OF MEDICINE AT SHIRAZ UNIVERSITY

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Abstract

Shiraz Faculty of Medicine was officially inaugurated in 1952.¹ Indeed, it replaced the former “Medical Auxiliary Training School” (*Amouzeshgah-e Alee Behdari Shiraz*) that was founded in 1946. The school was intended to run a four-year course, the so-called *Behdar* training. The graduates of the Medical Auxiliary Training School were allowed to work only in small areas with population of less than 10,000. They had to pass a final exam after their four-year training. The graduates could also continue their medical education at medical school after practicing few years in selected areas, to become a licensed physician. Therefore, the Medical Auxiliary Training School in Shiraz can be considered as the forerunner of the Faculty of Medicine at Shiraz University.

The present article provides a brief history of the establishment of Medical Auxiliary Training School of Shiraz.

The foundation of Tehran Faculty of Medicine in 1934¹ constituted a significant turning point in the history of medical education in our country. Later on, in 1939, Professor Charles Oberling (1895 – 1960), the well-known French pathologist, was appointed as

the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Tehran University. He had a significant role in reorganization and modernization of the Medical School at Tehran University. As a result of his efforts, a new era of medical education was ushered in Iran.² Later, between 1941 and 1946, he created three Medical Auxiliary Training Schools in Mashhad (1941), Shiraz (1946), and Isfahan (1946). These schools subsequently served as the core for creation of medical faculties in above-mentioned cities.^{3,4}

The establishment of Medical Auxiliary Training School in Shiraz

In 1940, a commission was appointed based on the order of the Iranian Cabinet, to evaluate the possibility of the foundation of a medical school in Mashhad in Khorasan Province.³

Two members of the commission were Dr. Abolghassem Bahrami and Dr. Mohammad-Hossein Adib. Dr. Bahrami was then the Head of Public Health Administration and a graduate of Tehran Medical School in 1921, and Dr. Adib was the Vice-Chancellor of the Faculty of Medicine at Tehran University, who received his MD degree from Tehran Medical School in 1926 then he continued his training at the School of Medicine in Paris. Nine months later, in 1941, Professor Charles Oberling and Dr. Adib went to Mashhad to investigate the possibility of foundation of a medical school there. After scrutiny, they concluded that at that time, the adequate facilities were not available for establishing a medical school in Mashhad. Professor Oberling, therefore, reported to the government officials and suggested the establishment of a Medical Auxiliary Training School in Mashhad, instead. The officials accepted

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Accepted for publication: 25 February 2005

his idea and the agenda for founding the Medical Auxiliary Training School known as *Amouzeshgah-e Alee Behdari*, was approved and the school was founded in 1941.^{3,5} Then in 1946, the Parliament allowed the Faculty of Medicine at Tehran University to establish the Medical Auxiliary Training Schools in other major cities including Isfahan and Shiraz to be working under the auspices of the Faculty of Medicine at Tehran University. Initially, in 1946, the late Dr. Mostafa Habibi-Golpayegani (1904 – 1948), professor of pathology of Faculty of Medicine at Tehran University, and thereafter, in 1947, Dr. Ebrahim Nematollahi, professor of physiology of the Faculty of Medicine at Tehran University, were assigned as the General Inspector of the Medical Auxiliary Training Schools in Iran.³

The teaching staff of Shiraz Medical Auxiliary Training School

In 1946, Shiraz Medical Auxiliary Training School was officially inaugurated. In the opening ceremony, the Minister of Health, Professor Charles Oberling (1895 – 1960), and Dr. Adib, as well as some local officials, had attended.

The Dean of Faculty of Medicine at Tehran University selected the teaching staff, as associate professor or "*Daneshyar*" in Persian, and the Head of the Medical Auxiliary Training Schools according to the rules and regulations of that Faculty.³

The list of the teaching staff of Shiraz Medical Auxiliary Training School in alphabetic order was as follows (Figure 1):

1- Dr. Nosratollah Bidel (b. 1915), a graduate of Tehran Medical School in 1940. His ophthalmology training was at Farabi Hospital in Tehran. He was appointed as the Associate Professor of Ophthalmology in 1948.³

2- Dr. Kamal ed-Din Dana-Haeri (b. 1910 in Karbala, Iraq), the Associate Professor of Microbiology and Parasitology. He was a graduate from Paris Medical School who had continued his training in London. Dr. Haeri was a specialist in tropical diseases and hygiene.³

3- Dr. Abol-Hassan Dehghan was graduated from Beirut Medical School and was a specialist in tropical diseases from London. Dr. Dehghan was assigned as the Associate Professor of Internal Medicine in 1946.³

4- Dr. Mostafa Fatehi was appointed as the Associate Professor of Pathology and Histology in 1947.³

5- Dr. Zabihollah Ghorban (d. 2006) was assigned as the Head of Shiraz Medical Auxiliary Training School. His medical training was in Beirut and France. He was appointed as the Associate Professor of Internal Medicine in 1946.^{3,5} Later on, he was the first Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Shiraz University. He has written his memories in an English book entitled "Medical Education in Shiraz."^{1,5}

6- Dr. Jalil Haghghat (b. 1921 in Ardakan, Fars Province) was graduated from Tehran Dentistry School and was appointed as the Associate Professor of Dentistry in 1948.³

7- Dr. Hossein Khorasani-Ghadimi (b. 1912) was assigned as the Associate Professor of Pediatrics in 1948.³

8- Dr. Abbas Mahmoudian (b. 1923) was graduated from the Pharmacy School in Tehran. He was appointed as the Associate Professor of Pharmacy in 1948.³

9- Dr. Mohammad-Taghi Mir (1913 – 1996) was assigned as the Associate Professor of Surgery. He was graduated from Tehran Medical School in 1939. Then, he continued his training in the field of surgery in Tehran and became a surgeon in 1945. He completed his training in surgery at Colorado University, USA, in 1955.^{3,6} Dr. Mir wrote various books on surgery, history of medicine, literature, and Iranian culture. His last work was "the Encyclopedia of Iranian Traditional Medicine."⁶

10- Dr. Mehdi Saifi (b. 1915) was graduated from Tehran Medical School. He was appointed as the Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology in 1947.

11- Dr. Abolghassem Sehat (b. 1918) was appointed as the Associate Professor of Anatomy. He was graduated from Tehran Medical School.³

12- Dr. Mahmood Saddrieh (b. 1916) was graduated from Tehran Medical School. His surgery training was at Vaziri Hospital in Tehran. He was appointed as the Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery in 1946.³

13- Dr. Mohammad-Ali Samimiyan (b. 1916) was graduated from Tehran Medical School and was appointed as the Associate Professor of Physiology in 1947.³

14- Dr. Abdolghaffar Taffazol (1920 – 1963) was graduated from Tehran Medical School in 1943 and became a radiologist in 1949. On his return to Shiraz, he was appointed as the Head of Radiology Department at Saadi Hospital in Shiraz. He was the Director of the TB Sanitarium of Shiraz (later, called Shaheed Chamran Hospital) in



Dr. N. Bidel



Dr. K. Dana-Haeri



Dr. A.H. Dehghan



Dr. M. Fatehi



Dr. Z. Ghorban



Dr. J. Haghghat



Dr. H. Khorasani-Ghadimi



Dr. A. Mahmoudian



Dr. M.T. Mir



Dr. M. Saifi



Dr. A. Sehat



Dr. M. Saddrieh



Dr. M. A. Samimiyan



Dr. A. Taffazol

Figure 1. The teaching staff of Shiraz Medical Auxiliary Training School in 1946.

1949. Dr. Taffazol was appointed as the Associate Professor of Radiology in 1951.^{3,7}

Saadi Hospital

Saadi Hospital (now is called Shaheed Faghihi Hospital) was devoted to clinical training of students. It had the following departments:

- Internal Medicine (32 beds) headed by Dr. Abol-Hassan Dehghan.
- Surgery (43 beds) headed by Dr. Mohammad Saddrieh.
- Ophthalmology (30 beds) headed by Dr. Nosratollah Bidel.
- Obstetrics and Gynecology (22 beds) headed by Dr. Mehdi Saifi.
- Pediatrics (25 beds) headed by Dr. Hossein Khorasani-Ghadimi.³

Finally, in 1952, the “Medical Auxiliary Training School” was transformed into the Faculty of Medicine of Shiraz.¹ Indeed, it served as the central core for creation of the Medical Faculty.⁸

Acknowledgment

The author wishes to thank Dr. Farideh Azodi

(dentist in Tehran), a relative of Dr. M.T. Mir, who kindly informed me of the life and career of the late Professor Mir.

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