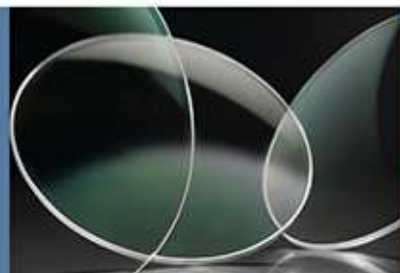




Islamic Republic of Iran  
Ministry of Health and Medical Education  
Deputy of Research and Technology



## AN OVERVIEW OF THE MAJOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH CENTERS IN IRAN

**In the Name of God**

**AN OVERVIEW OF THE MAJOR BIOMEDICAL  
RESEARCH CENTERS IN IRAN**

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## Foreword

According to the latest statistics released by the Scopus database, Iran produced 39,890 scientific articles in 2014 putting Iran at 16<sup>th</sup> position in the world, and securing its position in the region above Turkey. Iran is among the countries with the world's fastest-growing scientific output, measured by the number of peer-reviewed papers published in the international journals on a yearly basis. In 2000, Iran ranked 53<sup>rd</sup> in the world in terms of highly cited medical articles, but this position improved to the 22<sup>nd</sup> rank in 2014. According to the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), Iranian researchers and scientists published a total of 60,979 scientific articles in major international journals from 1999 to 2008, making Iran the fastest scientifically growing country (even above China) as far as publications are concerned. Much has been said about this growth but whatever the view, the country's achievement in spite of going through the worst possible economic and political sanctions in history is undeniable. The achievement will appear even more impressive when one considers that during the last few years Iran managed to spend only less than 0.5% of her GDP on research and development.

Iran has been doubling its total scientific output every three years at a rate of 25% every year. Extrapolating this growth predicts that Iran will reach the level of Canadian annual scientific output by 2020. "If Iran keeps moving with the present momentum, it can ascend to the 4th place from the current 16th (in the world ranking of scientific growth and scientific production) in the next 10 years".

With Iran's 'Comprehensive Plan for Science', the country intends to increase her investment on research and development to 4% of her GDP by 2020. With removal of economic and political sanctions, Iranian scientific societies are now looking up to their leaders to prepare the ground for acceleration of this growth even further. This booklet presents some of achievements made by a few major medical research institutes in Iran.

Reza Malekzadeh, MD, AGAF  
Prof. of Internal Medicine  
Deputy of Research and Technology  
Ministry of Health and Medical Education



## Avicenna Research Institute

**Affiliation:** Iranian Academic Center for Education, Culture and Research

Avicenna Research Institute (ARI) was founded in 1998. There are currently four ARI-Designated Research Centers: Reproductive Biotechnology, Monoclonal Antibody, Nanobiotechnology, and Reproductive Immunology Research Centers and eleven departments: Embryology and Andrology, Reproductive Genetics and Biotechnology, Reproductive Immunobiology, Tissue Engineering, Biolaw & Ethics, Hybridoma, Immunochemistry, Antibody-Antigen Engineering, Nanotechnology, Recombinant Technology and Nanobiosynthesis. In addition, Avicenna Fertility Center and Avicenna Health Technology Incubator were set up as complementary initiatives outside the Institute. ARI has developed its activities in the fields of reproduction, biotechnology and cancer. Since the beginning, ARI has continued its scientific research on reproductive biology, cancer drug discovery and immunotherapy through interdisciplinary cooperation and collaboration with national and international universities, institutes and research centers. ARI academic staffs constitute a large corpus of experts from different academic backgrounds to interact efficiently with each other and provide a basis for scientific and clinical research and educational activities. As the result of ceaseless endeavors in the basic and clinical settings, ARI has succeeded in treatment of thousands of patients with such reproductive disorders as infertility, recurrent abortion and endometriosis, produced hundreds of novel monoclonal and a set of chimeric and humanized therapeutic



anti-cancer antibodies and applied nanoparticles in cancer diagnosis. In line with its main areas of research activities, ARI publishes two PubMed-indexed journals covering peer-reviewed cutting-edge papers in the fields of reproduction and medical biotechnology, respectively. Moreover, exchange of knowledge, methods, biological samples and staff in infertility treatment and reproduction with the Academic Medical Center (AMC) of the Netherlands, University of Sheffield, and University of Lübeck in Germany are the exemplary activities of ARI. In general, ARI expresses its utmost willingness to expand and reinforce its international interactions with overseas research centers and universities.

**Fields of cooperation:**

- Early diagnosis and immunotherapy of cancer
- Fertility preservation
- Menstrual blood stem cells in regenerative medicine

**Contact Information:** Avicenna Research Institute  
Chamran Exp. Way, Evin  
Tehran 1177-19615, Iran  
Tel: (+98-21) 22 43 20 20  
Fax: (+98-21) 22 43 20 21  
<http://www.ari.ir/index.php/en/ari>



## Blood Transfusion Research Center

**Affiliation:** High Institute for Research and Education on Transfusion Medicine

Blood Transfusion Research Center was founded in 2003 for improvements and scientific developments in the fields of transfusion medicine and transfusion sciences. The activities of the center are the supply of safe blood and blood components, programs to educate researchers on blood transfusion, and education-oriented efforts on recruiting and training MSc and PhD level students in the field of Hematology and Blood Banking and also MSc in Biotechnology. So far more than 130 MSc and 14 PhD have graduated in the fields of Hematology and Blood Banking and Biotechnology.

This center has also played an active role in the establishment of training courses including educational target-oriented programs, workshops, and scientific-specialized seminars, preparation of scientific-specialized handouts, brochures and pamphlets aiming to upgrade the scientific and practical capabilities.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> international congress on transfusion medicine will be held in December 2015. In addition, several international workshops in collaboration with WHO and an international congress on rare blood group have been held in recent years. This center was selected as WHO Collaborating Center for research and education in safe blood and blood products in 2013.





So far, more than 450 research projects have been approved and conducted and 30 books and more than 800 articles in scientific journals (ISI- and PubMed-indexed) have been published.

**Fields of cooperation:**

- Determination of blood group genotypes and prevalence of minor blood groups and related alloantibodies
- Banking of stem cell derived biologic components
- Blood safety and pathogen inactivation of human derived components
- Advance methods to prepare qualified plasma derived and blood components
- Manufacturing of blood bank laboratory reagents (HLA kit, ...)
- Donor and donation
- Patients' blood management and hemovigilance



**Contact Information:** High Institute for Research and Education in Transfusion Medicine  
Hemmat Expy, Next to the Milad Tower, Tehran 14665-1157, Iran  
Tel: (+98-21) 88 60 15 72- 4  
Fax: (+98-21) 88 62 87 41  
<http://www.tmi.ac.ir/>  
[info@tmi.ac.ir](mailto:info@tmi.ac.ir)





## Center for Research and Training in Skin Diseases and Leprosy

**Affiliation:** Tehran University of Medical Sciences

The need for harmonization in research activities on skin diseases in Iran encouraged the Ministry of Health to establish a center devoted to this goal in 1992. The center was named "Center for Research and Training in Skin Diseases and Leprosy (CRTSDL)." In 1993, CRTSDL was separated from Ministry of Health and joined Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS).

The Center has been involved in several international scientific collaborations. Partners include: World Health Organization (WHO), National Institute of Health (NIH), University of Franche-Comte (France), Karolinska University (Sweden), School of Tropical Medicine (UK), Johns Hopkins University (USA), IDRI (USA), Cochrane Skin Group, Frei University (Germany), Graz University (Austria), Khartoum University (Sudan), and Isayev Research Institute (Uzbekistan), Umea University (Sweden), Brighton Collaboration (UK), DNDi (Switzerland), University of British Columbia (Canada), University of Toronto (Canada), Wayne State University (USA), International Society of Dermatology (Mentorship program), Department of Dermatology & INSERM U1035, Bordeaux Segalen University (France).



#### Fields of cooperation:

The Center has four units and field of cooperation

- Tropical Diseases Unit (leprosy, leishmaniasis): The Secretariat for National Leishmaniasis Research Network and MOH Committee for Leprosy is established in the Center.
- Dermatoepidemiology Unit: The Center is the pioneer for Evidence Based Dermatology and Good Clinical Practice in the country.
- Skin Biometrology Unit: The Center has established the only accredited laboratory by Food and Drug Organization (FDO) for evaluating skin and cosmeceutical products (DermaLab).
- Nano-dermatology Unit: Formulation and evaluation of novel topical and transdermal drug delivery systems.
- Dermatitis Unit: The Center has established the National Registry for contact dermatitis.



#### Contact Information:

Center for Research and Training in Skin Diseases and Leprosy  
 No. 415, Taleghani Ave., Tehran 14166-13675, IRAN.  
 Tel: (+98-21) 88 9781 90  
 Fax: (+98-21) 88 96 38 04  
<http://crtsdl.tums.ac.ir>  
[crtsdl-head@tums.ac.ir](mailto:crtsdl-head@tums.ac.ir)



## Digestive Diseases Research Institute

**Affiliation:** Tehran University of Medical Sciences

Digestive Diseases Research Center (DDRC) was established in 1993 and was upgraded to a research institute, Digestive Diseases Research Institute (DDRI) in 2011. DDRI consists of 3 research centers: Digestive Oncology Research Center, Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Disease Research Center, and Digestive Disease Research Center. DDRI has also established an office on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in general, as many projects conducted in DDRI are related to NCDs including cardio-vascular diseases (coronary heart diseases and stroke), cancers in all sites, and chronic respiratory and kidney diseases. DDRI is in close collaboration with the Global Burden of Disease project in the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation. The most important research project in DDRI is the Golestan Cohort Study (GCS), in which over 50,000 participants were recruited in Golestan province. GCS is the largest cohort in Middle East. The results highlighted the importance of NCDs. Several nested case-control and randomized controlled trials (RCTs) have been conducted in the setting of GCS and new prospective projects, the Ardabil study and the PARS cohort study on 10,000 participants have been designed based on the methodologies validated in GCS. DDRI is the coordinator of PERSIAN Cohort Study on over 100,000 participants in 11 provinces of Iran. Other main research studies include prospective studies on autoimmune hepatitis, gastro-esophageal reflux disease, and colorectal cancer including





pilot study for feasibility of screening, case-control studies on cancers of stomach, esophagus, and pancreas, five GWAS studies, and several community-based pragmatic and clinical-based randomized clinical trials.

DDRI has extensive collaborations with many major medical universities and research institutes across the world such as National Cancer Institute, International Agency for Research on Cancer, Harvard and Johns-Hopkins Universities, University of Cambridge, and University of Washington. DDRI plan for further future international collaborations and exchange of students and research experts.

#### **Fields of cooperation:**

DDRI consists of three fields of cooperation:

- Digestive Oncology,
- Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Disease,
- Digestive Disease

**Contact Information:** Digestive Diseases Research Institute  
Tehran University of Medical Sciences  
Shariati Hospital, Kargar-e-Shomali, Tehran, 14117-13135, Iran  
Tel: (+98-21) 82 41 52 36 Fax: (+98-21) 82 41 54 00  
www.ddri.ir info@ddri.ir



## Drug Applied Research Center

**Affiliation:** Tabriz University of Medical Sciences

Drug Applied Research Center (DARC) was founded and began to work in 2001, and now is the first and largest pharmaceutical and basic sciences research center of the country. It consists of laboratories in almost all fields of medical sciences.

Many researchers and students are engaged in collaborative multidisciplinary studies at DARC. According to Iranian Health Ministry annually evaluation reports and Razi Research Festival on Medical Sciences, Drug Applied Research Center has been selected as one of the high ranked research centers in Iran for the last 10 years.

**Scientific productions:**

Number of articles published in international journals: more than 1215

Number of articles published in national journals: more than 265

Presentation in international conferences: more than 100

Presentation in national conferences: more than 335

Postgraduate and graduate thesis more than 340

Approved research projects: 460

Inventions and Patents: 63

Training workshops: more than 40

PhD by Research courses from 2010



#### Fields of cooperation:

- Pharmacology
- Pharmaceutical Analysis
- Drug Design & Chemometrics
- Pharmaceutical Technology
- Pharmacognosy,
- Synthesis
- Toxicology
- Clinical Pharmacy
- Histology & Cell Biology
- Radiopharmacy
- Nutraceuticals and Food Safety
- Immunology, Bacteriology and Physiology

**Contact Information:** Drug Applied Research Center  
 Medical Research and Development Complex  
 Tabriz University of Medical Sciences  
 Daneshgah St. Tabriz 51656-65811, Iran  
 Tel: (+98-41) 33 36 33 11 Fax: (+98-41) 33 36 32 31  
<http://darc.tbzmed.ac.ir/> [darc@tbzmed.ac.ir](mailto:darc@tbzmed.ac.ir)



## Endocrinology and Metabolism Research Institute

**Affiliation:** Tehran University of Medical Sciences

Endocrinology and Metabolism Research Institute is founded in 1993. Due to the commitment and efforts of members; the institute is promoted to the highest possible status of a research institute in Iran in terms of academic output and citation indices.

Endocrine related research activities are conducted at three research sub-institutes including Endocrinology and Metabolism Clinical Sciences, Molecular- Cellular Sciences, and Population Sciences Research Institutes, which each are composed of three Research Centers.

EMRI as a pioneering institute aims to combine clinical care, research and education in diabetes, endocrine and metabolic diseases and strives to maintain the national, regional, and international standing. The institute offers PhD, fellowship, Post Doc., and sabbatical research programmes. Health services are also provided at two Specialty and Subspecialty diabetes clinics, as well as obesity and osteoporosis clinics.

The most prominent features of the institute are: equipped and modern laboratories such as food and drug, hormone, bio-nanotechnology, molecular and cellular biology, and genetic research laboratories. Clinical facilities, diagnostic laboratories, and imaging departments are also integrated to ensure covering wide ranges of activities.





#### **Achievements**

- EMRI has developed a novel treatment option for patients with diabetic foot
- Following several years of research at EMRI, for the first time in Iran, pancreatic cell transplantation has been successfully performed in 2010.
- The institute has made outstanding contributions in stem cell research for the treatment of diabetes.
- A multiphase cohort study of elderly health in Bushehr province is also being conducted by the institute.

#### **Fields of cooperation:**

EMRI has been successful in establishing collaboration and partnership with numerous world-class organizations, universities, and research institutes such as WHO, IOF, IDF, AACE, ENDO, and WDF. We highly welcome to facilitate further international multidisciplinary collaborations in research and education aiming at promoting:

- Joint research activities and publications
- Student and/or faculty exchanges
- Joint courses and curricula including sabbatical and fellowship Programs
- Mutual assistance in the establishment of new educational programs
- Organizing conferences, seminars, and academic meetings
- Exchange of information and publication

**Contact Information:** Endocrinology and Metabolism Research Institute  
Shariati Hospital Complex  
North Kargar Avenue, Tehran 14114-13137, Iran  
Tel: (+98-21) 88 22 00 37-8  
Fax: (+98-21) 88 22 00 52  
<http://emri.tums.ac.ir>   [emrc@tums.ac.ir](mailto:emrc@tums.ac.ir)



## Immunology, Asthma and Allergy Research Institute

**Affiliation:** Tehran University of Medical Sciences

Immunology, Asthma and Allergy Research Institute (IAARI), as a referral academic center in Tehran University of Medical Sciences was established in 2001 with the mission of production of knowledge and technology to maintain and improve the health of society in immune-mediated diseases, asthma and allergy. IAARI works in multidisciplinary fields to promote the health indices of the society in the related fields, based on its strategic plan.

With more than 40 part time and full time researchers, IAARI is trying to fulfill its major goals such as: decreasing the burden of immune system diseases, improving the quality of life of patients; improving the diagnostic and treatment methods, preventive measures, rehabilitation methods and identifying research priorities in Iran in the field of immunology.

IAARI prioritizes its activities in the fields of research, training, publication, networking, advocating and patient services and consists of several committees including research, ethics, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation and education with professional members. In addition to an active clinic, it has specialized lab facilities including genetic, cell culture, and allergy labs.

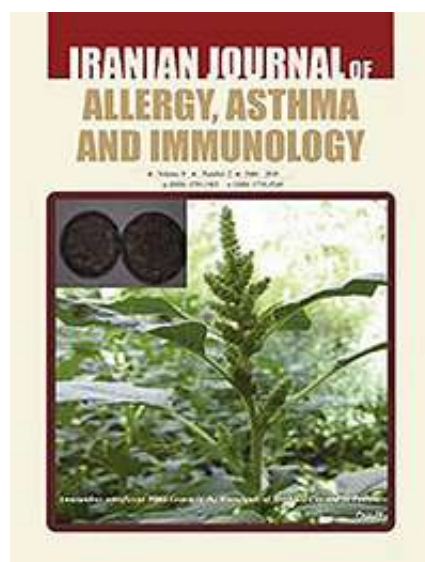
Several national registries including Iranian Primary Immunodeficiency Registry (IPIDR), asthma, allergic rhinitis, food allergy, anaphylaxis and Hereditary Angioedema were founded by IAARI. Furthermore, Iranian Basic and Clinical Immunology Network (IBCIN) have been set up by IAARI



with the purpose of providing a media for better communication of national experts in this field. The Iranian Journal of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, an ISI-indexed journal, is also publishing international researches in the related fields by the aid of IAARI. IAARI has broad international scientific collaborations with Germany, France, Hungary, UK, Sweden and Italy and hosts the UNESCO Chair in Health Education with the aim of promoting an integrated system of research, training, information and documentation activities in the field of health education.

#### Fields of cooperation:

- Primary Immunodeficiency
- Asthma
- Immunogenetics
- Allergy:
  - Food Allergy
  - Drug Allergy
  - Allergic Rhinitis
  - Aeroallergy
  - Anaphylaxis



**Contact Information:** Immunology, Asthma and Allergy Research Institute  
 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Building No 3, Children Medical Center, No.62  
 Dr. Gharib St, Keshavarz Blvd, Tehran 1419733151, Iran  
 Tel: (+98-21) 66 93 58 55  
 Fax: (+98-21) 66 42 89 95  
<http://iaari.tums.ac.ir>    [iaari@tums.ac.ir](mailto:iaari@tums.ac.ir)



## Iranian National Center for Addiction Studies

**Affiliation:** Tehran University of Medical Sciences

Iranian National Center for Addiction Studies (INCAS) has been established in 2004. The Center has set and followed two main goals: 1) to decrease burden of drug use and drug use disorders in Iran, by production, translation and dissemination of the essential knowledge; 2) to significantly contribute to the world production of science in the field of drug use and addiction. INCAS is a two story building with a total area of approximately 2000 square meters. It consists of four departments including departments for epidemiology and public health, clinical sciences, cognitive sciences and basic sciences.

INCAS has had several programs for capacity building through a variety of graduate and post-graduate trainings, as well as short training courses and thousands of professionals have participated in the training courses of the center. Since 2006, with the support from the World Health Organization, INCAS has acted as a regional Knowledge Hub (KH) for harm reduction and has had an active role in capacity building in the region, especially neighboring countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan. INCAS has been closely worked with the country's Ministry of Health, Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ), Welfare Organization and other national bodies as well as other academic bodies. INCAS





has had close collaborations with a variety of academic departments in universities in UK, Australia, Japan, Canada, and USA. INCAS members have been consultants to various United Nations bodies, like WHO, UNODC and UNAIDS in the last decade and have contributed to the policy and intervention developments in Regional and global level.

#### **Fields of cooperation:**

There are four laboratories working with the departments and fields of cooperation:

- neuro-cognitive lab, genetic lab,
- toxicology lab, and animal behavioral lab.
- INCAS benefits from several clinics including methadone and buprenorphine clinic, alcohol clinic, amphetamine-type stimulants clinic, women's clinic and sexual health clinic.
- INCAS has more than 500 scientific publications in the mentioned fields.



**Contact Information:** Iranian National Center for Addiction Studies  
 No. 486, South Karegar Ave., Tehran 1336616357, Iran  
 Tel: (+98-21) 55 41 22 32  
 Fax: (+98-21) 55 41 22 32  
<http://incas.tums.ac.ir>    [incas@tums.ac.ir](mailto:incas@tums.ac.ir)



## Isfahan Cardiovascular Research Institute

**Affiliation:** Isfahan University of Medical Sciences

Isfahan Cardiovascular Research center (ICRC) was among the first centers approved by the Ministry of Health (MoH) in 1993 with the aim of performing research on cardiovascular diseases (CVD) prevention and health promotion to produce evidence that can be utilized for action. ICRC became a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborating center for research and training in CVD control, prevention and rehabilitation for cardiac patients in the Eastern Mediterranean Region since 2003. It was promoted to an institute (ICRI) in 2011 by the MoH.

The main fields of research in ICRI are in public health, clinical and basic sciences. Large-scale community-based preventive programs like Isfahan Healthy Heart Program, Cohort studies like Isfahan Cohort and PURE studies, surveillance of CVDs and risk factors, disease registry like PROVE study beside many randomized clinical trials at local or international levels were conducted and some are undergoing. ICRI has its own official employing chart and independent budget since 1997. The National Cardiovascular Research Network Secretariat is located in ICRI since its establishment in 2011.

ICRI is collaborating with many international organizations such as WHO, World Hypertension League, World Heart Federation, International Society of Hypertension, International Atherosclerosis Society and conducting joint multicentric studies with some universities and academic institutes



in Canada, USA, UK and other European and Asian countries. More than 30 national and international meetings or short-term training courses and workshops have been held by this institute. ICRI has PhD by Research courses, has published 14 books and many book chapters, more than 1150 articles in local and international peer-reviewed journals. 640 national and international projects and 270 thesis have been conducted in ICRI. It's official PubMed and Scopus indexed journal is ARYA Atherosclerosis.



ICRI constitute of the six following Research Centers:

- Isfahan Cardiovascular Research Center
- Cardiac Rehabilitation Research Center
- Hypertension Research Center
- Heart Failure Research Center
- Applied Physiology Research Center
- Interventional Cardiology Research Center

**Fields of cooperation:**

- Cardiovascular Research
- Rehabilitation
- Hypertension
- Heart Failure
- Applied Physiology

**Contact Information:** Isfahan Cardiovascular Research Institute (ICRI)  
 Hazrate Sadigeh Tahere Research Complex  
 Khorram St, Jomhoriye Eslami Sq, Isfahan 8187698191, Iran  
 Tel: (+98-31) 33 37 78 89 Fax: (+98-31) 33 37 34 35  
<http://icri.mui.ac.ir> nsarrafadegan@gmail.com





## Kerman Neuroscience Research Center

**Affiliation:** Kerman University of Medical Sciences

Kerman Neuroscience Research Center (KNRC) which is the first research center in the field of Neuroscience was established in 1995.

Our members conduct basic and clinical research in the areas of molecular, behavioral and cognitive neuroscience, Addiction, pain, and neurodegenerative disease.

Currently, KNRC has eight full-time and 22 part-time faculty members.

The center has the ability of collaboration with other research centers in the field of Neuroscience specifically cognitive neuroscience in the world. At the present, KNRC has signed memorandum of understanding with several universities and research centers in some other countries.



KNRC is equipped with 9 laboratories which are stated in the following:

- Molecular Neuroscience
- Patch Clamp
- Sensory Processing
- Cell Culture
- Behavioral Neuroscience
- General Neuroscience
- EEG/ERP
- Electron Microscope (TEM)
- Non-human primate facility center

**Fields of cooperation:**

Basic Neuroscience specifically cognitive neuroscience

**Contact Information:** Kerman Neuroscience Research Center  
 Ebnesina Ave, Jahad Bolv, Somaye cross road,  
 Kerman 7619813159, Iran  
 Tel: (+98-34) 32 26 41 96 Fax: (+98-34) 32 26 41 98  
[www.knrc.kmu.ac.ir](http://www.knrc.kmu.ac.ir)  
[kerman.neuroscience@gmail.com](mailto:kerman.neuroscience@gmail.com)



## Mental Health Research Center

**Affiliation:** Iran University of Medical Sciences

Mental Health Research Center (MHRC) was established in 2003 and has been active in planning and execution of programs and projects on mental health. MHRC works in the fields of psychiatry, clinical psychology and mental health and aims to improve the Iranian mental health delivery system.

To provide high quality evidence based health services for the community, by means of designing applied researches and using modern educational methods, is the main mission of the MHRC. MHRC has had shared projects with UNODC, UNAIDS, and WHO during recent years and has the potential to collaborate with international centers in the abovementioned areas.



**Fields of cooperation:**

- Community Mental Health, including studies on designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluation of mental health programs
- Sexual disorders including transsexualism and high risk behavior in specific groups
- Mood disorders including studies on clinical aspects of mood disorders
- Knowledge management in mental health, including secondary data analysis studies, systematic reviews, and studies on burden of diseases

MHRC has also been selected as a knowledge management unit (KMU) of Iran University of Medical Sciences in mental health by Ministry of Health.

**Contact Information:** Mental Health Research Center, Tehran Institute of Psychiatry  
School of Behavioral Sciences and Mental Health  
Shahid Mansouri Lane, Niayesh Street, Sattarkhan Avenue,  
Tehran 1443813444, Iran  
Tel: (+98-21) 66 50 68 62 Fax: (+98-21) 66 50 68 62  
[www.mhrc.iums.ac.ir](http://www.mhrc.iums.ac.ir) [mhrc@iums.ac.ir](mailto:mhrc@iums.ac.ir)



## Nanotechnology Research Centre

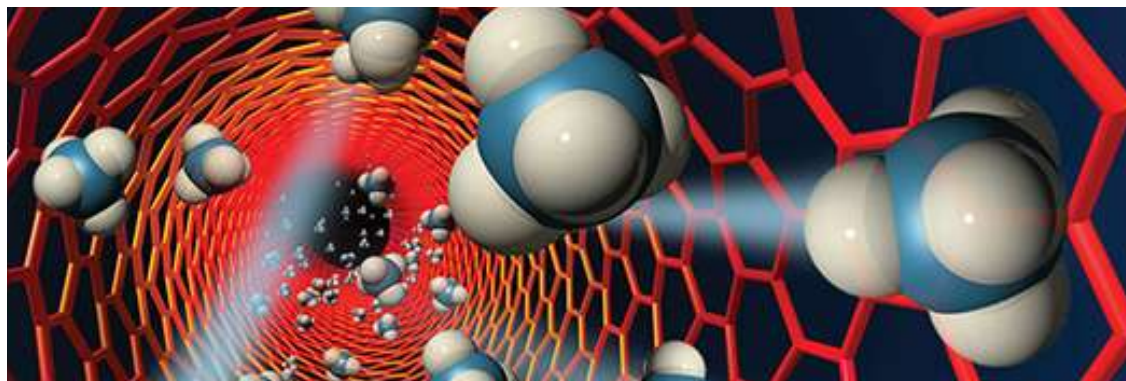
**Affiliation:** Tehran University of Medical Sciences

The Nanotechnology Research Centre is an Iran-based multidisciplinary enterprise locating at Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS). Founded in 1995 by Professor Rassoul Dinarvand, has since then been joined by the following academic staff: Professor Fatemeh Atyabi, Professor Mohammad Hossein Ghahremani, Professor Seyed Nasser Ostad, Professor Hamid Akbari, Dr Ali Mohammadi, Dr Morteza Mahmoudi, and Dr Navid Goodarzi. In addition to the academic staff, at any time the Centre typically has over 20 research associates and research students, as at present.

As a pioneer research center in Iran, the prime aim of the Centre is to pursue multidisciplinary research into the development, refinement and application of pharmaceutical nanotechnology to improve national and global health.

The Centre's experimental research is supported by Faculty of Pharmacy through its access to state-of-the-art fabrication and characterization facilities. The Centre has an operating model that accesses and focusses the combined skills across several key departments; Pharmaceutical Nanotechnology, Pharmaceuticals, Medicinal Chemistry, Toxicology and Pharmacology and, Food and Drug Control. The Centre also has strong relationships with the broader nanotechnology and commercial communities and is involved in many major collaborations.





Researchers at the Centre have a long and strong tradition for research collaboration and co-publishing and are eager to engage in international research collaboration to the benefit of all involved. A deep partnership covering several areas opens the door to:

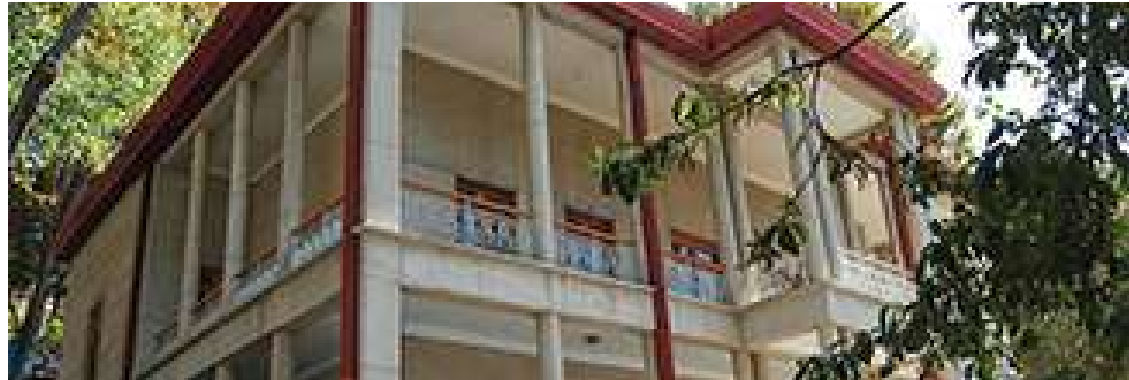
- joint research
- exchange of staff and students
- exchange of samples
- shared use of major research facilities
- research outputs, such as joint publications, patents and new product



**Fields of cooperation:**

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| — Drug delivery   | — Tissue engineering |
| — Drug targeting  | — Protein corona     |
| — Drug conjugates | — SPION              |

**Contact Information:** Nanotechnology Research Centre  
 Faculty of Pharmacy, Tehran University of Medical Sciences  
 Tehran 14155-6451, Iran  
 Tel: (+98-21) 64 12 11 25  
 Fax: (+98-21) 66 95 90 52  
<http://nanomed.tums.ac.ir>



## National Research Institute of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, Masih Daneshvari Hospital

**Affiliation:** Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences

In 1899, Mozafar-al-Din ShahGajar came down with tuberculosis and French physicians advised him to stay in a mansion with fresh air during his recovery. After Mozafar-al-Din Shah's death, this mansion was gradually converted into a sanitarium for TB patients. After the change of government, this piece of land along with the mansion inside were abandoned until Dr. Masih Daneshvari with his utmost effort obtained permission from the majesty to establish a nursing school in it. In 1986 this hospital became a subdivision of ShahidBeheshti University of Medical Sciences and the hospital served as a center for tuberculosis and lung diseases. In 1992, a research institute was established and merged with the hospital entitled "National Research Institute of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (NRITLD), Masih Daneshvari Hospital".

**Vision:** NRITLD is determined to gain international fame as an active prosperous center in providing medical services in the field of tuberculosis and lung diseases.



**International commitments and collaborations of the NRITLD:**

- WHO Collaborating Center for Tuberculosis Education in EMRO
- WHO Collaborating Center for Tobacco Control
- Collaborating center in Global Alliance against Chronic Respiratory Diseases in Iran.
- Secretariat Office of Iranian Stop TB Committee
- Training Affairs Office, self-reliance in vaccine production among Islamic countries in collaboration with the IDB (Islamic Development Bank), 2005-2008
- Secretariat Office of the IUATLD in the Middle East Region, 1996- 2008
- Signing Memorandum of Understanding with well-known universities and organizations (Tufts, Utrecht, Menzies, ATS, etc.).

**Fields of cooperation:**

- Chronic Respiratory Diseases
- TB, TB/HIV (epidemiology, diagnosis and treatment)
- Pediatric Chronic Pulmonary Diseases
- Air Pollution
- Occupational Diseases
- Primary Pulmonary Hypertension, deep vein thrombosis
- Pain Management
- Pulmonary and thoracic Pathology
- Clinical Pharmacy
- Thoracic Oncology and Surgery

**Contact Information:** National Research Institute of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease  
Masih Daneshvari Hospital, Darabad, Shahid Bahonar Avenue  
Tehran 19556-44413, Iran  
Tel: (+98- 21) 27 12 20 20  
Fax: (+98- 21) 26 10 94 84  
[www.pccmed.sbmu.ac.ir](http://www.pccmed.sbmu.ac.ir)    [pccmed@sbmu.ac.ir](mailto:pccmed@sbmu.ac.ir)



## Neuroscience Research Center

**Affiliation:** Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences

The Neuroscience Research Center (NRC) of the Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences was established as a University Center in 2000. The principal objective of this center is to integrate basic, translational and clinical research in neuroscience from molecule to behavior. Expanding the scientific knowledge on neuroscience and finding appropriate and useable preventive and curative medical procedures is basic conceptual aim in this center.

NRC is a center of excellence for brain research and neuroscience education in Iran. Researchers and students could found opportunities for training, consultation, using facilities and doing collaborative research. The NRC offers some programs designed to train candidates for a PhD in Neuroscience, as well as postdoctoral fellows and MD's for careers as physician-scientists. To this end, we have forged collaborate with highly ranked national and international research institutes to provide expertise, and technology development services.



#### Fields of cooperation:

Multidisciplinary researches are conducted in various neuroscience research areas such as neurodegenerative diseases, addiction, pain, epilepsy, memory and learning. The investigators in the NRC contribute to a growing neuroscience research community through scientific collaboration, pre- and post-doctoral training programs, jointly sponsored seminar series and special interest groups.



**Contact Information:** Neuroscience Research Center  
 Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Daneshjo St., Evin  
 Tehran 1983963113, Iran  
 Tel: (+98- 21) 22 43 16 24    (+98- 21) 22 42 97 65  
 Fax: (+98- 21) 22 43 16 24    (+98- 21) 22 43 20 47  
[www.nrciran.sbm.ac.ir](http://www.nrciran.sbm.ac.ir) or [www.nrc.sbm.ac.ir](http://www.nrc.sbm.ac.ir)    [nrciran@sbmu.ac.ir](mailto:nrciran@sbmu.ac.ir)



## Nursing Care Research Center

**Affiliation:** Iran University of Medical Sciences

Nursing Care Research Center (NCRC) was founded as a Nursing and Midwifery Research Center in 2001. It became authorized as the first Nursing Care Research Center by Ministry of Health and Medical Education in 2007 in order to facilitate and advance nursing research in the field of chronic disease as well as to build scientific collaborations with other institutions. In 2014, the center was designated as a WHO Collaborating Center for Education and Research in Nursing and Midwifery (WHOCERNM) in Iran, which is the third WHOC for Nursing and Midwifery in Eastern Mediterranean Region and the 44<sup>th</sup> worldwide. Nursing Care Research Center is a member of the global network of nursing and midwifery collaborating centers as well as national WHO collaborating centers' network. In addition, the center is the head quarter of Iran's national network of nursing research.

Our vision is to become one of the leading centers for nursing research and to be a pioneer in development nursing knowledge and improve nursing practice through highly impacts publication as well as dissemination and translation of research findings. The focus of center in research is on improving evidence-based nursing practice and developing culturally-oriented policy in the field of chronic disease to enhance outcomes for clients, their families and community. Nursing Care





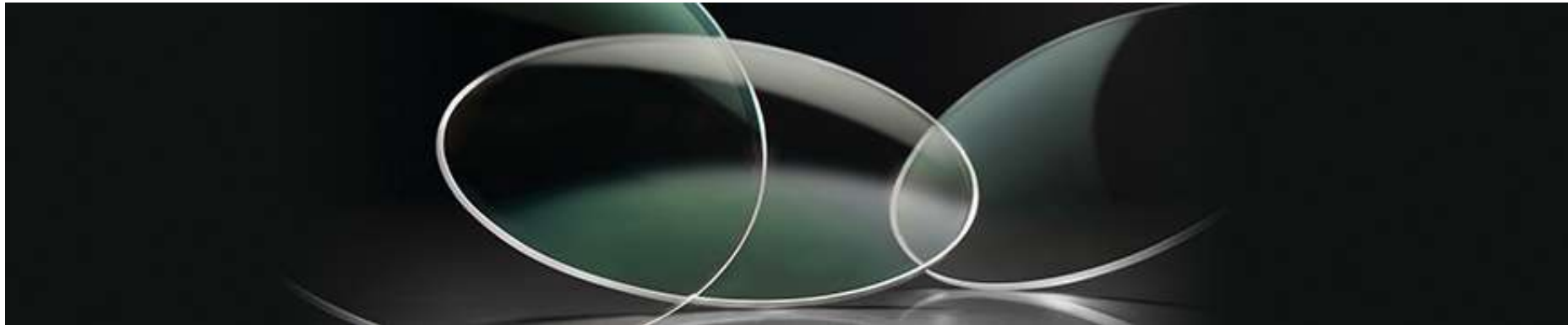
Research Center has admitted five PhD by research students since 2011. Besides, the center conducted some national projects including development of national strategic plan for nursing, conduction of national research in violence against nurses, conduction of national research in improving nurses' health, generation of national nursing registration process, creating clinical guidelines.

**Fields of cooperation:**

- HIV in women
- Diabetes in pregnant women (Typ1, Typ2)
- Breast cancer in patients and family
- Adolescent health
- Ethics



**Contact Information:** Deputy of Center for Nursing Care Research  
& School of Nursing and Midwifery,  
Rashid Yasami St., Valiasr Ave, Tehran 1996713883, Iran  
Tel: (+98- 21) 88 88 28 85  
<http://en.ncrc.iums.ac.ir>, <http://ncrc.iums.ac.ir/>  
[ncrc@iums.ac.ir](mailto:ncrc@iums.ac.ir)



## Ophthalmic Research Center

**Affiliation:** Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences

The Ophthalmic Research Center (ORC) was established in 1999 as the first Iranian eye research center. ORC is affiliated to the Ophthalmology Department at Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences. The vision of this center is to contribute to elimination of avoidable blindness and the main mission of the center is to provide facilities to perform high quality research, and generate and disseminate information regarding eye health.

**Clinical Studies:** Clinical trials in different subspecialties have been performed with significant impact on clinical practice and high citation rates in textbooks and peer-reviewed journals.

**Basic and Translational Studies:** Parallel to the establishment of the biotechnology laboratory at ORC in 2010, there has been an increasing rate of basic and translational research projects and publications in the field of vision science.

**Public Health and Epidemiologic Studies:** ORC has been involved in multiple population-based studies in different provinces of Iran. The results of these studies are used as advocacy and promotional tools for prevention of blindness.



**Journal of Ophthalmic and Vision Research:** Journal of Ophthalmic and Vision Research (JOVR) is the quarterly official publication of ORC and is indexed in the PubMed database through PubMed Central, SCOPUS and other international databases.

**National and International Collaborations:** ORC has close collaborations with a number of national and international institutes and universities (Harvard Medical School, University of Wisconsin, SUNY Upstate Medical University, University of Illinois and Singapore National Eye Center). ORC was officially designated as a World Health Organization Collaborating Center (WHOCC) for prevention of blindness in 2011. Recently, the WHO has re-designated the center for the next four years. Based on this agreement, ORC is committed to contribute to prevention of blindness and improvement of eye health at national, regional and international levels.

#### Fields of cooperation

- Diabetic retinopathy
- Glaucoma
- Hereditary retinal degenerations; macular dystrophy and macular degeneration
- Cell therapy & Gene therapy
- Ocular regenerative medicine & Ocular pharmacotherapy innovations

**Contact Information:** No. 23, Pajdard St., Boostan 9 St., Pasharan Ave.,  
Tehran 166667311, Iran  
Tel: (+98- 21) 22 58 59 52; (+98- 21) 22 58 47 33  
Fax: (+98- 21) 22 59 06 07  
www.orcir.org  
info@orcir.org; labbafi@hotmail.com





## Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery Center of Excellence

**Affiliation:** Iran University of Medical Sciences

Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery Center of Excellence is an actual collection of the most distinguished faculty members of Otolaryngology Ward of Hazrat RasoulAkram Hospital & ENT-HNS Research Center of Iran University of Medical Sciences and non-faculty researchers with outstanding superb abilities, potentialities, and capabilities who enjoy high scientific caliber in otolaryngology area and related fields, who are active in offering services in the area of education, research, and presenting medical services in their relevant specialty areas. The most distinguishing characteristics of them are:

Scientific productivity and innovation, connection with industry and producing prosperity, and the attainment of superb scientific and educational quality (point of reference) at national, regional, and or international levels, and the provider for basic needs of the country and [possibly] the region concerning otolaryngology, along with achieving the aims of the 20 year roadmap & the comprehensive scientific map of Iran.

The first official step for the establishment of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery Center of Excellence occurred on 2001 by Minister of Health & Medical Education.

Our faculty members include general otolaryngologists and sub-specialists in head and neck surgery, endoscopic sinus surgery, facial plastic and reconstructive surgery, neuro-otology, skull-



base surgery, laryngology and audiology. Special program components include a complete voice laboratory for the diagnosis and rehabilitation of voice disorders, a cochlear implant team, LASER and photodynamic therapy and all aspects of audiology (hearing diagnostic testing and rehabilitation, auditory evoked potentials, pediatric audiology and vestibular testing laboratory), Cellular & Molecular Laboratory and Genetic Laboratory.

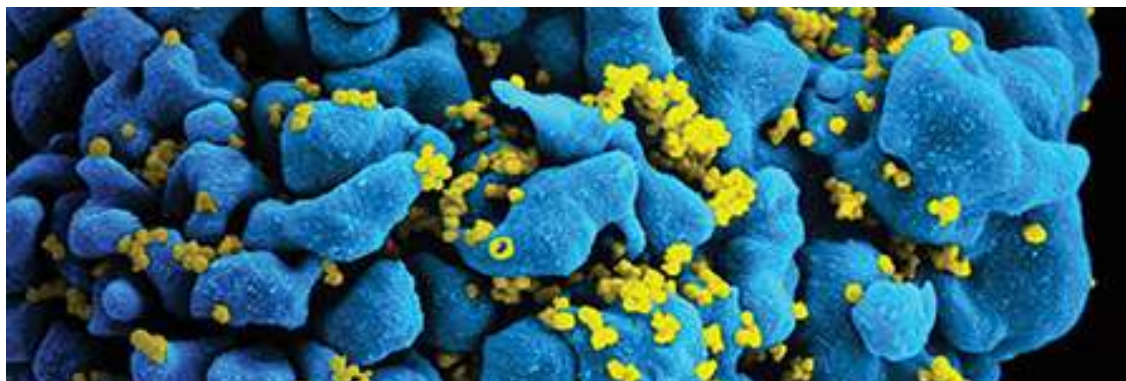
WHO Collaboration Center for Research and Education on Hearing Loss was established in 01/Apr/2011 to extend research and education on hearing health and prevention of hearing loss implemented by ENT-HNS Research Center, Iran. It has a systematic work with collaboration of Iranian Ministry of Health and Iran State Welfare Organization (SWO).

#### **Fields of cooperation:**

Our important Research Core Lines are:

- Base of Skull Surgery
- Audiology Neuroscience & Tinnitus
- Olfaction
- Head& Neck Cancers in Iran
- Nasal Polyp

**Contact Information:** Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery Center of Excellence  
 Hazrat Rasoul Medical Complex  
 Niatesh St, Sattarkhan Ave, Tehran 144551364, Iran  
 Tel: (+98- 21) 66 52 53 29  
 Fax: (+98- 21) 66 50 42 94  
<http://www.ent-hns.org>    [info@ent-hsn.org](mailto:info@ent-hsn.org)



## Research Center for Immunodeficiencies

**Affiliation:** Tehran University of Medical Sciences

In 1999, primary immunodeficiency diseases Registry (IPIDR) in Iran was established. During following years, the number of interested researchers has substantially risen and this expansion has been commensurate with a growth in the complexity of the group, necessitating a clearer definition of the purposes and activities. In 2010, the Research Center for Immunodeficiencies (RCID) affiliated to Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS) was established. It is to be hoped, RCID could promote scientific activities in this field, not only in respect to research, but also in education and care of affected patients.

RCID is active in carrying out the following programs:

- 1- Running national registry of PID with collaboration of 28 University of Medical Sciences around the country.
- 2-Conducting research activities in different areas of PID including epidemiology, prevention, laboratory methods, molecular study.
- 3- Collaborating with other national and international research centers and organization, mainly with Harvard Medical University (Boston, MA, USA), the Karolinska University (Stockholm, Sweden), and University of Brescia (Brescia, Italy)



4-Establishing national PID networks in country to increase physician' awareness and ability of peripheral centers for diagnosis and treatment of affected individuals

5- Education programs targeting the following groups

- Training of medical students and PhD students
- Promote physician' awareness
- Promote awareness general public and healthcare workers

6-Planing to develop appropriate screening tests for identification of PID; developing genetic laboratories as part of prenatal, newborn and carrier screening programs

7-Designing specific programs for prenatal diagnosis and

preimplantation genetic diagnosis for those families with history of one child with PID.

8-Planing to identify ways of improving current therapies and discovery of new modalities for PID patients

**Fields of cooperation:**

- The research area includes primary immunodeficiency mainly primary antibody deficiency disorders (XLA and CVID, IgA deficiency, Hyper IgM syndrome).
- Molecular diagnosis of patients with antibody deficiency.
- Management and treatment of patients with antibody deficiencies

**Contact Information:** Research Center for Immunodeficiencies  
Children's Medical Center, Dr. Qarib St., Keshavarz Blvd.,  
Tehran, IRAN.  
Tel: (+98-21) 66 42 89 98  
Fax: (+98-21) 66 92 30 54  
<http://rcid.tums.ac.ir>   [rcid@tums.ac.ir](mailto:rcid@tums.ac.ir)



## Pharmaceutical Sciences Research Center

**Affiliation:** Tehran University of Medical Sciences

Pharmaceutical Sciences Research Center (PSRC) was established in the mid-2003. The PSRC tries to spread interest of research among students and support them at all academic levels to conduct both fundamental and applied researches in different fields of pharmaceutical sciences, and to promote research methods and trainings. Since establishment, PSRC has got several awards regarding its positive activities in promoting science and technology countrywide.

**Goals:**

- To carry out and direct basic and applied research in various branches of pharmaceutical sciences.
- To provide facilities and a suitable environment to attract young and talented researchers to basic and applied research projects.
- To direct and promote research activities in terms of quantity and quality.
- To establish a center for academic exchanges between pharmaceutical science researchers at national and international levels by exchanging students
- To participate in education of research staff in the field of pharmaceutical sciences
- To encourage the partnership of the beneficiaries of pharmaceutical sciences, including the industry and the private sector



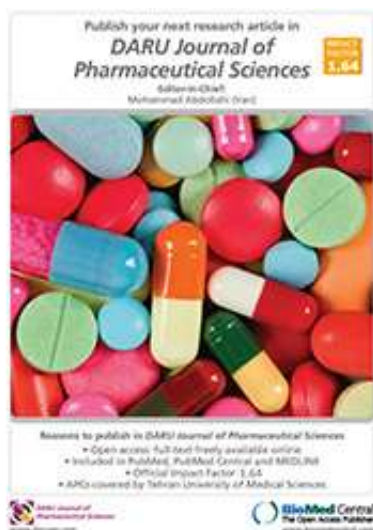


#### Research Priorities:

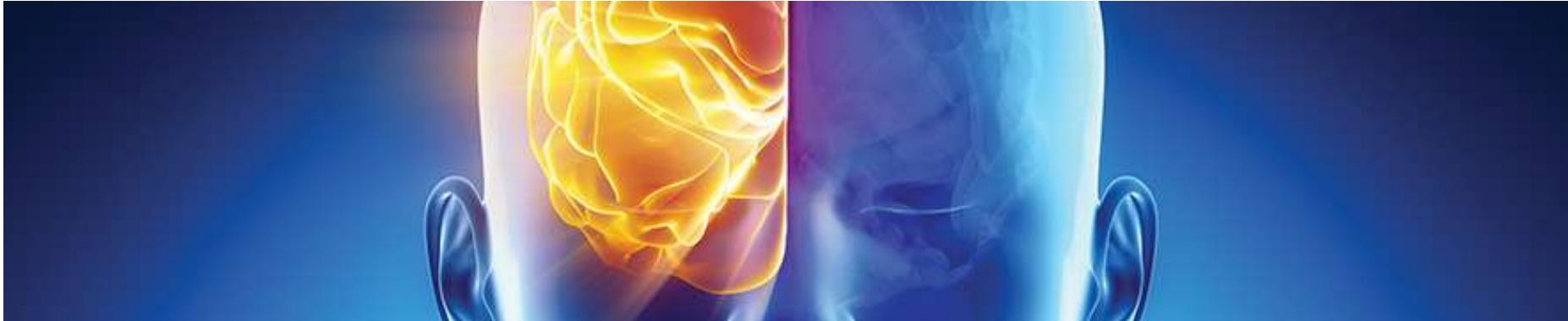
To endeavor accomplishing practical and innovative researches to discover new medicines including basic, clinical, and knowledge-based studies

#### Field of cooperation:

- Ready to attract international students at postgraduate levels (2 international PhD students graduated in September 2015, 3 international PhD students are studying at the moment; 4 will be joining soon)
- Ready to hold sabbatical programs
- Ready to hold post-doctoral programs (many postdocs have been graduated and many are studying)
- Ready to hold fellowships programs (1 fellowship was approved)



**Contact Information:** Pharmaceutical Sciences Research Center  
Keshavarz Boulevard, Poursina Avenue,  
Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Faculty of Pharmacy,  
The old building, 2nd floor, Tehran 14155-6451, Iran  
Tel: (+98- 21) 66 48 27 04 Fax: (+98- 21) 66 48 27 04  
<http://psrc.tums.ac.ir/> [psrc@tums.ac.ir](mailto:psrc@tums.ac.ir)

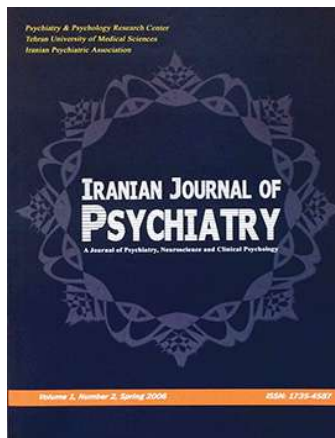


## Psychiatry and Psychology Research Center

**Affiliation:** Tehran University of Medical Sciences

Psychiatry and Psychology Research Center (PPRC) was established in 2005. PPRC has rewarded by the experience and knowledge of faculty members, students and assistants of Roozbeh Hospital and activate as the most productive Iranian research center in the field of psychiatry and psychology. It consists of 12 research groups including Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry, Clinical Psychology, Memory and Behavioral Neurology, Mental Health, Spiritual Psychotherapy, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Social Psychiatry, Cultural Psychiatry and Psychology, Psychopharmacology, Education Psychiatry, Genetic Psychiatry and Psychosexual Health. The main activities of PPRC are:

- Supporting basic and applied science research related to psychiatry, psychology and mental health, neuroscience and neuro-psychopharmacology
- Collaboration with national and international research centers
- Publishing the Iranian Journal of Psychiatry (IJP) as the first peer reviewed scientific journal of psychiatry, neuroscience and psychology in Iran
- Offering training courses that aimed at enhancing research skills of mental health professionals
- Performing international and national congresses and seminars



PPRC has been honored and awarded for:

- Selected as the first outstanding biomedical research center in Iran in 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Razi festival in 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2013, respectively. Also, three faculty members received the best researcher award
- The Chief director of the center was selected as the best research director by the National Center of Research and Technology of the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology
- The Chief director of the center was nominated for WHO's Dr. Shusha prize in 2013
- Implementing PhD by research program from 2012 in the field of psychiatry, psychology and mental health
- Writing "Comprehensive Textbook of Psychiatry" As the worthy of appreciation book in the 13<sup>th</sup> annual award of the Ministry of Culture and a guideline for GPs entitled "General Anxiety Disorder Guideline" for Iranian Health Centers

#### Fields of cooperation:

- Psychiatry
- Child & Adolescence Psychiatry
- Clinical Psychology
- Neuropsychopharmacology

**Contact Information:** Psychiatry and Psychology Research Center  
Roozbeh Hospital, Psychology and Psychiatry Research Center,  
South Kargar Avenue, Tehran 1333795914, Iran  
Tel: (+98- 21) 55 41 35 40  
Fax: (+98- 21) 55 42 19 59  
<http://pprc.tums.ac.ir>    [pprct@sina.tums.ac.ir](mailto:pprct@sina.tums.ac.ir)

**Deputy of Research and Technology**

Deputy of Research and Technology  
Ministry of Health and Medical Education  
15th Floor, Block A, Eyvanak Blvd., Shahrak-e-Qods, Tehran 1467664961, Iran  
Tel: (+98-21) 81 45 5210-11  
[www.hbi.ir](http://www.hbi.ir)