

EDITORIAL

Admission to the Ph.D. Candidates in Medical History in Iran, 2021

In 2013, the Ministry of Health and Medical Education of Iran approved the major medical history to be offered by medical universities of Iran at master and doctorate levels. Accepting students for admission for MSc program has continued up to present and eight medical universities began running master's courses in history of medicine. However, concerning the Ph.D. program, it was only Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences that ran the program in 2013. The university admitted three students, of whom one failed to continue his study and the two others have not yet graduated. Then, the Ministry of Health did not allow medical universities to admit students at doctorate level any more. This brought about a major obstacle in developing this important branch of science.

There were some attempts to solve this problem, but it seemed that, in addition to the Ministry of Health, the board of history of medicine in deputy of education at the ministry was not eager to give permission to medi-

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cal university to restart their Ph.D. programs in history of medicine. Finally, after the new board members have taken office in 2018, they took a positive approach towards accepting candidates for doctoral program in this major. Then, the related committees began modifying the curriculums of MSc and PhD courses of History of medicine and suggested the department to prepare quality textbooks. A positive negotiation with the Ministry of Health was set in motion to get the permission to accept Ph.D. students in that major again. Also, the department of history of medicine at Tehran University of Medical Sciences, as the top medical university of Iran, applied to open the Ph.D. program in history of medicine. Finally, the deputy of education at the Ministry of Health agreed to give this department the permission to accept Ph.D. candidates for 2021 at Tehran University of Medical Sciences. The Department of History of medicine will be accepting three applicants for admission to the doctoral program in history of medicine in upcoming summer.

Iran as one of the most important civilizations known for developing medical sciences during the history is one of the best places for interested applicants to study history of medicine. This major has been developed during the last decade in Iran and there are many experienced researchers and faculty members engaged in teaching in this department. They have already published numerous articles during this period of time. Now, by restarting student admission for the PhD program of history of medicine, it is a very good opportunity to make progress in this major in Iran. By giving attention to the fact that a large amount of historical evidence concerning history of medicine is available for interested researchers, this can contribute to clarifying the global history medicine.

