

EDITORIAL

The Role of Prof. Dr. Mohammad Reza Shams Ardekani to Promote Persian Medicine, as Director General of Persian Medicine Office at Iranian Ministry of Health and Medical Education (2019-2020)

Prof. Dr. Mohammad Reza Shams Ardekani (Figure 1) was born in Ardekan (center of Iran) at 1960. He is pharmacist (graduated in Isfahan University) and PhD of pharmacognosy from University of Bradford in UK and is working as professor in school of pharmacy at Tehran University of Medical Sciences. He is known as one of the most influential founders of academic traditional medicine in Iran. By his attempts, the first school of Persian medicine in Iran was established in Tehran University of Medical Sciences at 2007; and he was the first dean of this school (2007-2014). It was a great historical point for traditional medicine in Iran that this field was approved as an academic major by medical society. Currently, there are 8 schools of Persian medicine at Iranian medical Universities and MDs and PharmDs can apply for PhD programs of traditional medicine and traditional pharmacy, respectively.

In 2019, 22 June, Dr. Namaki, Iranian minister of health and medical education appointed him as Director General of Persian Medicine Office at this ministry. He and his team tried to expand academic activities of Persian and comple-

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Figure 1. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Reza Shams Ardekani

mentary medicines. He succeeds to increase the governmental budget for traditional medicine, take approval for establishing 4 groups of traditional medicine in medical universities and exert 2 unites of traditional and complementary medicines in the medicine and 7 other medical majors curricula in Iran. Also, World Health Organization (WHO) approved writing the benchmarks of Persian medicine for education and practice during his time. Eventually he had a dispute with the minister and finally resigned at 2020, 2 August.

