


## EDITORIAL

### The Role of Dr. Mahmoud Khodadoust as the Highest Responsible for Traditional Medicine in Iranian Ministry of Health in Progress and Development of Persian Medicine

Dr. Mahmoud Khodadoust, physician (MD) and PhD of traditional Persian Medicine (PM) (Figure1), works as assistant professor of PM in Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences (SBUMS). In 2012, deputy of traditional medicine was established in Iranian ministry of health to promote, regulate and integrate PM in public health and treatment system of the country. Later on, the name of this deputy was changed to deputy of PM. Also, this deputy was changed to general directorate in 2016. Dr Khodadoust was appointed as deputy of traditional medicine in 2013 and later appointed as general directorate of PM when this deputy was changed to office.



Figure 1. Dr. Mahmoud Khodadoust

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#### Citation:

Zargaran A, Abbassian A. The Role of Dr. Mahmoud Khodadoust as the Highest Responsible for Traditional Medicine in Iranian Ministry of Health in Progress and Development of Persian Medicine. *Res Hist Med.* 2019;8(3):133-134.



He was the first person who established the foundation and structure of deputy of traditional medicine in ministry of health. He had great contribution to develop academic activities and progress of PM in Iran. He had great role to resistance against charlatanism in traditional medicine and on the other hand to scientific defense in scientific societies.

By his effort and support, many laws and regulations for development of PM were issued in the parliament and ministry of health, respectively. Also, his efforts led to include official tariffs for traditional medicine services. Dr Khodadoust arranged integration of traditional medicine in Iranian public health system in health houses<sup>1</sup> in urban eras as a primary pilot program. He supported health, education, research and structural activities in the related fields of PM in the society, ministry and universities. Finally, his contribution had a great role to develop PM in Iran.

1- Health houses (Persian: خانه بهداشت Khane behdasht) are primary health care units in the health care network of Iran. These units provide vaccination, food and water quality control, mother and neonatal observation and many other health services throughout the country.

