



EDITORIAL



To the Reader

Although there has been great progress in medical sciences, taking good care of human's health and treatment of many of diseases satisfactorily are still out of reach. Regardless of having different understanding of the reasons and treatment methods, our new perspective of medical sciences, which is considered the result of the scientific renaissance in Europe in the 17th century by some and the result of Islamic Revolution in the 8th and 9th centuries by others, has not yet helped us to find cures for a lot of diseases.

The theory of growing advances in the history of science which considers all the past efforts effective in the future achievements is not completely consistent with scientific methodology in which the issues related to the growth of science, making theories, principles and new scientific rules are discussed. From another aspect the dominant paradigm during each period of history gives the survival chance to the sentences which are solely consistent with the imposed paradigm framework. Anything inconsistent with the sole of that paradigm is victimized without any undeniable and clear reasons.

In one specific ism there are other models in which the prior sentences usually play an important role in the determination of probable accuracy of scientific sentences. Thus it can be inferred that although the prior sentences have always influenced on the scientific achievements, there are many sentences which have been forgotten in the course of the history regardless of their brilliance. These sentences sometimes find the chance to revive and struggle with other scientific sentences. Different

Alireza Mehdizadeh

Research Office for the History of Persian Medicine, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran

Correspondence:

Alireza Mehdizadeh
Editor of the journal of Research on History of Medicine.
mehdizade@sums.ac.ir

theories about the nature of the light in the history of science may be mentioned as one good example.

On the other hand the changes in the centers of producing and issuing science in the world, specially the change in the language of science from east to west have caused unclear understanding of some of the past scientific achievements which occurred in each period of history. At the beginning of Islamic revolution in Asia, East, south of Europe and north of Africa, a movement in translation started in order to access the Greek culture. Something like this happened at the beginning of the Renaissance with translating scientific articles from Arabic to Latin which caused a scientific jump in the west. There is no doubt that these valuable efforts have always been along with some neglect of the work of great people in science and sometimes with misunderstanding of the original language in the process of translation.

To establish RHM journal we have paid enough attention to both of these reasons.

The readers of RHM journal shouldn't consider the articles of the history of medicine as the historical record but as a way to introduce the science tradition and medical scientific methods. Somehow the reason of telling the history of medicine is to consider its analytical and comparative aspects and not its narrative one. The purpose is to help medical science to clarify what has been neglected for thousands of years so that some part of its truth can be revealed again.

More ever accepting an article in 3 languages (English, Arabic and Persian), that each has been used as the language of writing of valid sources and references, indicates the possibility of mutual understanding and agreement among a wide range of physicians and historians from different parts of the world to revive what has been twisted and neglected in the process of editing.

It should be admitted that the history of medicine with all its attractions and beauty is a very difficult field in which a real and valuable work can be done and this is true for all interfiled sciences. However an elaborate work especially as a team work can lead to significant and efficient results.

All the readers of this journal are kindly requested to speed this scientific movement by reading this journal and commenting on what has been discussed.

As taking care of human's health is one important duty of physicians, everyone should step forward in this way, regardless of all its ups and downs. To help the medicine, we are on our way to examine and analyze its history. May God help us to reach our goal.

Pourdavoud E. *Avesta*. Tehran: Doniaie Ketab. 2003. [in Persian]

Rafiei HR. *Fars, the half of paradise*. Shiraz: Takht Jamshid. 2005. [in Persian]

Raubenheimer O. History of pharmacy a valuable asset to the pharmacist. *J Am Pharm Assoc* 1929; 18(3): 268-71.

Tadjbakhsh H. *History of veterinary medicine and medicine of Iran. Vol. 1*. Tehran: Tehran University Publications. 2006. [in Persian]