Iran launches research taskforce to combat cancer proactively

Social Desk

In a significant stride towards comprehensive cancer research, Iran's National Committee of the Cancer Research Network has commenced operations under the aegis of the Deputy of Research and Technology of the Ministry of Health.

The committee's primary objective is to establish research centers and amalgamate studies in the field of cancer, as reported by Fars News Agency.

Younes Panahi, vice president of Research and Technology of the Ministry of Health and a spokesperson for the committee, underscored the urgency of addressing the global and national cancer crisis. He expressed optimism that the inception of the National Committee of the Cancer Research Network could mark a pivotal moment for integrated cancer research.

Panahi emphasized the necessity of a preventive approach, which is currently a priority for the Deputy of Research and Technology of the Ministry of Health.

The National Committee of the Cancer Research Network is tasked with consolidating the myriad studies conducted across various universities and research centers. The ultimate goal is to utilize the findings for informed decision-making and policy formulation at a national level. The results will be presented to the Ministry of Health's Deputy for Treatment and Health in the form of executive instructions.

Panahi further advocated for a shift from reactive to proactive strategies in cancer control, emphasizing the importance of prevention. He argued that a comprehensive and centralized policy is crucial to reducing infection rates and preventing disease. He then stressed the importance of promoting health-oriented behaviors and a healthy lifestyle, asserting that policies based on scientific evidence have the most enduring impact on society.

The Health Ministry official expressed hope about the potential positive outcomes of some studies in the field of medical sciences. He highlighted the potential effectiveness of modern sciences such as artificial intelligence, big data, and new health technologies like cell therapy and gene therapy.

Citing comparative research conducted globally between 2009 and 2019 on various types of cancer, the deputy director of research and technology of the Ministry of Health noted an unfortunate increase in the growth, speed, acceleration, and diversity of the disease. However, he expressed optimism that comprehensive studies could yield favorable results for effective policy in reducing the growth of this disease.

Panahi revealed that substantial financial resources have been allocated for cancer studies in the country.

He mentioned that one of the actions of his office last year was to identify health threats such as population youth, family, cardiovascular diseases, endocrine and metabolic diseases, environmental factors, air pollution, and common cancers. Each threat has been assigned to a medical science university in the country as a special and national research mission with financial resources.

Panahi emphasized the interconnectedness of these projects, stating that controlling and reducing the growth process of each can play a role in increasing the health level of society.

Looking towards the future, the medical expert identified cancer as a critical issue for the health system. He highlighted the potential benefits of the P4 tool, which stands for "prediction," "prevention," "personalized treatment," and "participation," for disease management.

Panahi concluded by stating that accurate and forward-looking planning and policy in the field of cancer can change predictions. He stressed the need for up-to-date and aggregated data for cancer research, advocating for a shift from isolated activities towards the integration of cancer studies.

Iran's 'tsunami of aging' a multifaceted challenge

Social Desk

Saleh Qasemi, a prominent Iranian demographer, has issued a stark warning about impending "tsunami of aging" in Iran, a demographic shift he believes could pose a significant threat to the nation's economic, social, familial, political, and security structures.

Qasemi underscored the urgency of comprehending Iran's demographic trajectory. He noted that approximately 12 percent of the nation's population is currently over 60 years old, a figure that is projected to surge to 30 percent within the next two decades, ISNA reported.

"This demographic shift will transform Iran into one of the world's oldest nations," Qasemi said. "The rapid aging of Iran's population is a formidable challenge that will profoundly impact all facets of our society."

Ghasemi further elaborated that the aging phenomenon is a global trend. However, he pointed out that certain unique factors in Iran have amplified its potential damage. "The pace of aging in Iran's population is alarmingly high. The demographic transition that took other nations over a century will occur in Iran within just 30 years," he warned.

Another distinctive aspect of Iran's aging phenomenon, according to Qasemi, is its timing relative to economic development. "Unlike other nations that experienced population aging after achieving economic growth, Iran is facing this demographic shift prior to substantial economic development, which exacerbates the potential damage," he explained.

To mitigate the challenges posed by the aging population, Qasemi advocated for the implementation of comprehensive measures, including the drafting of an "active aging" document. This document, which is prevalent in many developed nations, aims to ensure that the elderly population remains healthy, active, and socially engaged for an extended period.

"Such a strategy benefits not only the elderly but also society as a whole," Qasemi said. He lamented, however, that despite the recent compilation of such a document in Iran, it has not been seriously considered.

Drawing on the experiences of developed nations, Qasemi emphasized the importance of population policies and strategic planning in managing the aging phenomenon.

"Many developed nations have successfully navigated the challenges of an aging population through the implementation of population policies and the drafting of comprehensive aging documents," he concluded.

ISNA

Iran delegation visiting Cuba to strengthen environmental diplomacy in G77

Social Desk

Iran's Vice President and Head of the Department of the Environment (DoE) Ali Salajegheh is leading a delegation from Iran to the Group of 77 and China's Ministerial Meeting on Environment, Science, and Technology.

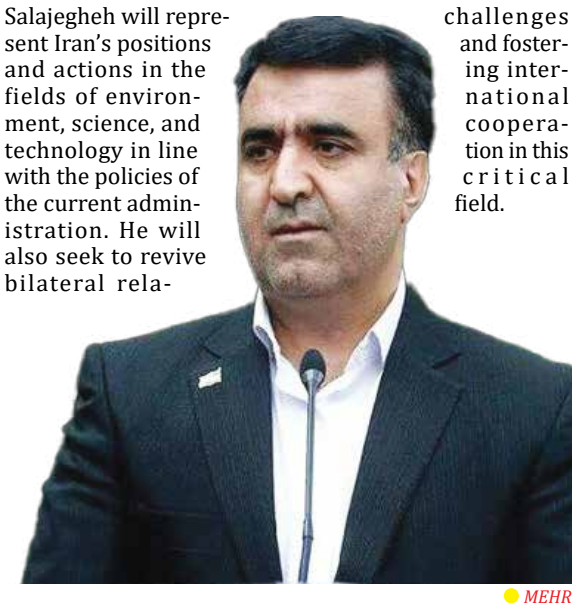
The conference, scheduled from July 3 to 7, 2023, is taking place in Havana, Cub, Mehr News Agency reported.

Cuba, the newly appointed chair of the Group of 77 and China, extended an official invitation to Iran to participate in the meeting. The conference will focus on two thematic areas: "Environment and Climate: Challenges of Science and Technology" and "Biological Connection, Biodiversity, and Shared Responsibility." These themes align with this year's motto of the International Convention on the Environment, promoting sustainable, inclusive, and resilient development through science and innovation.

The meeting aims to foster an atmosphere of opinion exchange on the role of science, technology, and innovation in driving balanced development and addressing environmental crises. It also seeks to strengthen solidarity, unity, and the spirit of cooperation among global south countries in the post-COVID-19 recovery phase, and to enhance dialogues on environmental issues among the G77 member countries.

Salajegheh will represent Iran's positions and actions in the fields of environment, science, and technology in line with the policies of the current administration. He will also seek to revive bilateral relations with the host country and other member nations in environmental matters.

Furthermore, the delegation will invite the members for participation in the "International Conference on Dealing with Dust Storms," scheduled for September 9 and 10 in Tehran later this year. This conference underscores Iran's commitment to addressing environmental challenges and fostering international cooperation in this critical field.



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