

Iranians access to health services has increased: *Minister*

Social Desk

In the last two years, 5,000 health-oriented products have been produced in Iran, with more than 3,000 products entering the market, announced the Minister of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education.

Bahram Einollahi stated on Sunday at the gathering of the country's top researchers, held at Tehran University of Medical Sciences, that 126 outstanding projects were selected and received financial support, IRNA reported.

"The goal of supporting research, especially in the field of medicine, is to streamline processes, and the Food and Drug Administration should delegate authority to parent universities of medical sciences, such as Shiraz, Tabriz, and Mazandaran, to expedite administrative procedures," Einollahi said.

Referring to the preparation of a comprehensive scientific research map in the country, the Minister of Health highlighted the need to transform innovative ideas into products and

increase the number of accelerator centers with the help of public support.

Einollahi pointed out that people's access to health services has increased, and the ministry's goal is to establish an advanced and modern health system.

"Justice and excellence were prioritized in the health sector during the current administration," he said.

Highlighting the growth of medical research in the past two years, Einollahi mentioned that during this period, 16,000 hospital beds were added to health centers, 2,000 health centers were established, 280 advanced devices were installed in underserved areas, and electronic health records have been implemented in over 90 percent of cases.

He announced the implementation of the advanced family health plan in 10 provinces and a 75 percent growth in health benefactors. Einollahi stated, "We encourage people to invest in [health sector's] product production."

Einollahi further empha-

sized the need to dynamically progress towards third and fourth-generation universities. He highlighted that there are currently 22,000 academic staff members, with 48 percent of them being women, indicating positive indicators of the country's scientific growth and development.

Recognizing the existing infrastructure in the country's health sector, Einollahi called for scholarly research and the availability of scientific information across various fields in laboratory and library environments.

The Minister of Health further emphasized the responsibility of medical sciences university presidents to keep scientific resources and information up-to-date. He stressed the importance of having comprehensive information available in all fields and suggested the use of search engines to facilitate access.

Einollahi stated, "Idea generation and critical thinking are the two main components of a researcher. It is necessary to establish think tanks in research



Hazrat-e Mahdi (PBUH) Smart Hospital was inaugurated in Tehran on October 12, 2023, with the presence of President Raisi (L) and Health Minister Einollahi (C).

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centers and create an idea bank"

Regarding research methods, Einollahi highlighted the importance of ensuring validity. He stated that researchers should scientifically document proposed methods, and it is the duty of the Food and Drug Administration to approve these

ideas.

Einollahi further emphasized the significance of creativity and innovation, stating that the country's 850 research centers should prioritize ideation and conduct research based on societal needs.

"In the field of research, agile and proactive organizations are

needed, and the involvement of interested students in research centers is crucial," he said.

The meeting concluded with the recognition of top medical sciences researchers, and the unveiling of two key pharmaceutical ingredients, including an anti-rheumatic and platelet-reducing agent.

Medical residents: students or staffers?

Social Desk

A top official with the Iran Medical Council has announced that a clear separation must be made between education and employment within the medical assistant course. The current distinction between the two is uncertain and ambiguous.

Mahmoud Fazel raised concerns about the residency period, questioning why individuals in residency are considered students when they are required to work full-time, ISNA reported.

He argued that the blurred line between residency as a job or a student course deprives medical assistants of job and educational benefits.

"Despite the legislator's obligation to prioritize knowledge



and skill acquisition, the current medical residency period is exceptionally challenging and incomparable to similar cases," he said.

Fazel identified four main con-

cerns troubling residents: livelihood, job security, work difficulties, and an uncertain future. He emphasized that the distorted occupational and educational boundary negatively impacts

residents' well-being.

"While the residency program aims to equip general practitioners with necessary skills, it fails to adequately address the violation of residents' basic rights," he said and called upon those involved in the health system and the parliament to pay attention to the demands of residents.

Fazel further stressed that during the residency education period, the responsibility should not solely rest on the residents but should be implemented through appropriate degrees and methods. The Medical Council should also play a role in this regard.

According to Fazel, although the Ministry of Health has drafted regulations, they have not been

approved by the residents after trial and error, and they lack the necessary efficiency and effectiveness. Therefore, he urged the urgent formation of a cross-departmental working group to investigate the problems faced by residents.

Regarding the explicit position on the residency period, the health official stated that their stance is to clarify the distorted boundary between education and employment for residents. However, achieving this requires joint meetings among responsible entities.

"Striking a balance between job considerations and professional residency is crucial, as disregarding education entirely would be detrimental. Ultimately, the goal is to nurture knowl-

edgeable, skilled, and committed doctors within the educational and treatment team."

Fazel emphasized that residents should receive the highest possible level of livelihood benefits, and welfare, and have no mental worries about their future. He called upon the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor, and Social Welfare, and the Health Commission of the parliament to consider the limits of residents' duties.

"The aim is to create an environment where residents can solely focus on education. He emphasized that these doctors are the future of healthcare, and if their concerns are not addressed and the quality of their education compromised, society as a whole will suffer."

Saipa Wheel Manufacturing Company Tender for Wheel Weight Chopping and Marking Machine & Wheel Weight Taping Machine

Saipa Wheel Manufacturing Company intends to purchase a wheel weight chopping and marking machine and a wheel weight taping machine. Interested companies are requested to offer their quotes based on the specifications mentioned in the attached file on our website. Please receive the tender form and send your PI to commercial2@kswo.com by January 06 2024. Please inform us about your participation in this tender by this email: commercial1@kswo.com

For further information please contact Mr. Eftekharian: +989378257970

Scientific seminar to discuss role of interventions in country's rainfall

Social Desk

Following the mission of Ali Salajegheh, vice president and head of Iran's Department of the Environment (DoE), to the deputy of Marine Environment and Wetlands of the DoE regarding the study of the causes of low rainfall in recent years in the country, the first scientific seminar on the topic of "The Role of Possible Regional Interventions in the Country's Rainfall Changes" will be organized by the Environmental Research Institute with the presence of experts in this field.

The head of the DoE, recognizing the sensitivity of public opinion regarding climate change and low annual rainfall, and the serious need for research activities and specialized investigations in this field, requested Mojtaba Zoljoodi, deputy of Marine Environment and Wetlands of the DoE, who has extensive records in the field

of meteorology, to investigate the causes of low rainfall in the recent year in cooperation with the National Climate Change Center and the Environmental Research Institute in a comprehensive and specialized study.

In late December, the image of a road leading to the heart of a mountain that was partly dry and partly covered with snow raised questions among the public about the difference in rainfall between Iran and Turkey. Many Iranian users online asked: "Why does it snow in Turkey but not in Iran?" On December 27, the head of the DoE stated in a gathering of journalists regarding the claim of the disappearance of rain clouds over Lake Urmia: "We have tasked the scientific authority on climate change in the country and the Environmental Research Institute with examining the issues related to climate change and its consequences within a two-week peri-

od. What has been raised in the Urmia Lake debate should also be investigated."

Salajegheh emphasized that every country uses special scientific methods based on climate change, and the average rainfall in neighboring countries has also decreased compared to the long-term average, indicating

their great impact from climate change.

"However, the disappearance of the rainy air front over Lake Urmia requires a scientific investigation to determine whether the methane gas produced there or the increase in temperature has an effect or not. Work is being done on these issues," he said.



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