Professor Dr. Nasrullah Ghasemi Dehkordi (1952-2023): The Founder of Iranian Herbal Pharmacopoeia

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During their service as a faculty member, each pharmacy professor is faced with various duties including: teaching in the field of expertise, interdisciplinary research, executive responsibilities, and activity in the field of pharmacy, industry, or hospital. The important issue is whether all these activities or a part of them can ultimately lead to the excellence of the professor by meeting at least one exceptional need of the society.

The late Dr. Ghasemi Dehkordi, our previous professor at the Isfahan Faculty of Pharmacy, mainly focused on the standardization protocols of medicinal plants during his academic activity (up to 2016). For instance, compiling of the reference text book so called "Important Medicinal Plants in Medicine and Industry: Macroscopic and Microscopic Controls" (1) was in this direction. The professor focused on the vital need of the Persian-speaking audiences for a standardized pharmacy reference for evaluating commonly used medicinal herbs. This task was accomplished by means of direct management of a group of pharmacognosists, botanists, pharmacologists and related disciplines responsible for the compilation of Iranian Herbal Pharmacopoeia (IHP) (2). This important and highly cited book was actually a comprehensive reference which is composed of botany, pharmacology, traditional medicine, phytochemistry and especially pharmacognosy contents of Iranian medicinal plants. As a professor's assistant in compiling the pharmacopoeia, I witnessed that he as head of a team, was constantly arranging the monographs ordered to colleagues from different universities, and reviewing the received monographs, and even testing the selected results in the laboratory. Finally, a collection of 100 monographs of medicinal plants -native or commonly used in Iran- was compiled. Whilst, structure of each monograph was included of the general definition of the medicinal plant, names in common languages, botany, definition of medicinal parts used,

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figure of the plant, microscopic analysis, time of collection, worldwide and Iran distribution, chemical constituents, therapeutic effects, dosage, adverse effects, uses in Traditional Iranian Medicine, pharmacology, detailed qualitative and quantitative assessments, storage, adulterations, their available products in the Iranian market, and references. This brilliant manuscript was later published in Persian as official IHP by Iran Food and Drug Administration.

Isfahan, which was once the historical origin of the transfer of part of pharmacopoeial knowledge to the West through the Latin translation of a Persian manuscript of Qarabadin Irani in 1681, Pharmacopea Persica, once again gained the centrality of compiling the Iranian pharmacopoeia. A valuable work that must continue, and for that mentees are needed with the same dedication as the late mentor Dr. Ghasemi Dehkordi. Shahrekord city as the origin of Dr. Ghasemi Dehkordi, with an average height of 2060 meters, is considered the highest city and roof of Iran. Now, the son of this city is standing on the peak of the Pharmacopoeia of Iranian Medicinal Plants, his soul is happy.

References

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