

LETTER TO EDITOR

The Impact of Webinar Entitled Persian Medicine in Contemporary Science; Science and Practice in Medical Society

Dear Editor,

There is a great challenge on the role of traditional medicine in the health care system of Iran as well as in that of other countries worldwide. Although the scientific approach to traditional systems of medicine can help to find new prevention and treatment methods and remedies based on knowledge of the physicians and scientists of the past, there are some imposters who misuse and even maltreat the name of traditional medicine, leaving negative impression on the medical society and even declining their trust in the traditional medicine. Therefore, it is important to clarify various aspects of the scientific traditional medicine to make differentiation between these two different approaches to traditional medicine: science based and charlatanism.

To this end, the office of Persian and complementary medicines at Iranian ministry of health and medical education, accompanied with the school of Persian medicine at Tehran University of Medical Sciences and traditional Per-

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sian medicine association, held a webinar entitled “Persian Medicine in Contemporary Science; Science and Practice” on Nov. 5, 2020.

In this webinar, great scientists with various specialties delivered a number of lectures and led some discussion sessions on different aspects of Persian medicine and its role in the scientific community. The name of the lecturers and the title of their speech are listed as below:

Dr. Nafiseh Hosseini Yekta (Director General, Office of Persian and Complementary Medicines, Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Iran): welcome message and overview on ministry of health policy about Persian medicine

Prof. Dr. Aliakbar Velayati (Chief of the group of Hikmat and Islamic traditional medicine at Academy of Medical Sciences in Iran): the importance of traditional medicine in medical society

Prof. Dr. Mehdi Mohaghegh (The member if Academy of Science, Iran): The situation of Traditional Persian Medicine in Islamic civilization: from the past to now

Prof. Dr. Mehdi Golshani (Professor of physics in Sharif University): Traditional medicine in perspective of contemporary philosophy of science

Dr. Mehrdad Karimi (Associate professor of Persian Medicine at Tehran University of Medical Sciences): Traditional Persian Medicine; Science or pseudoscience

Prof. Kamran Bagheri Lankarani (former minister of health of Iran & president of health policy research center at Shiraz University of Medical Sciences): Medicine in 15th century Hijri [21st century CE]

Dr. M. Hossein Ayati (Associate professor of Chinese medicine at Tehran University of Medical Sciences): opportunities in the field of natural products: a view on experiences and achievements in other countries

Dr. Mohsen Naseri (president of Traditional medicine clinical trials research center at Shahed University): From Persian medicine hypothesis to basic and clinical evidences

Dr. Arman Zargaran (assistant professor of traditional pharmacy at Tehran University of Medical Sciences): Traditional systems of medicine in perspective of medical sciences researches

This webinar, viewed by about 300 virtual audiences, aimed at clarifying and elaborating the criteria of scientific approach to Persian medicine as the main traditional system of medicine in Iran. Such programs can be of help to the medical society, making them more familiar with Persian medicine and its potential impact on the mainstream medical society, functioning as an important and valuable arm of medicine.

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