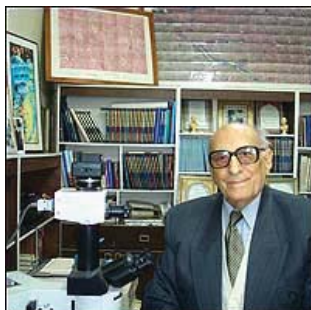


The Life and Career of Professor Parviz Dabiri (1921–2012)

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Dr. Parviz Dabiri (1921–2012)

“What the teacher is, is more important than what he teaches.”

Karl Menninger

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Dr. Parviz Dabiri (1921–2012) was a distinguished professor of pathology at Isfahan University of Medical Sciences in Iran and an influential mentor who devoted most of his fruitful life to the promotion of science and culture. He passed away, at age 91, on July 3, 2012 in Isfahan.

Professor Dabiri was born in Tehran to an educated family. His father, Seyed Mehdi Agha was a senior official of the Ministry of Finance. His grandfather Seyed Ali Mohammad Khan, also known as Dabir-o-al-Molk, was an expert in Iranian traditional music and a writer in the Court of Nasser Al-Din Shah Qajar. He was a descendant of Abu'l-Qasim Farahani who was known as Qá'im Maqam (1779–1835), the open-minded Prime Minister in the early 19th century during the Qajar Period (1794–1925). His mother, Mrs. Monir-Safolmolk was a teacher of Persian literature.

After completing high school in 1940, the young Parviz entered Tehran School of Medicine and received his MD degree in 1946. Thereafter, between 1946 and 1948, he began his residency training in biology and pathology at Tehran Medical School. His main pathology masters were two pioneer pathologists in Iran: Dr. Mostafa Habibi-Golpayegani (1904–1948) and Dr. Kamal-o-Din Armin (1914–1995).^{1,2}

Dr. Dabiri married Azar Aghazadeh who was appreciated by him for her support in all aspects of their mutual life. In 1948, after their marriage he went to Harand near the Batlaq-e-Gavkhuni (the terminal basin of the Zayandeh River in east Isfahan) to treat malaria patients. At that time, malaria was prevalent in Harand. Two years later, in 1950, he was appointed Associate Professor

of Pathology and Embryology at Isfahan Medical School, which was established in 1950.³ He was the founder of the Pathology Department at this school and its affiliated educational hospitals. At the end of World War II, around the first half of the last century, Dr. Dabiri was pioneer as an activist young professor of University on the Iranian uprising against British Oil Company. In 1955 Dr. Dabiri became a full professor. Subsequently, Professor Dabiri went to the United States to continue his studies in pathology at the Medical School of the University of Virginia. He also received a World Health Organization scientific scholarship and travelled to several European countries to update his knowledge of pathology.

Professor Dabiri established a Pathology Museum at the Isfahan School of Medicine. He was a dedicated teacher who trained several residents of pathology and taught many medical students. He was full of passion and had a positive attitude in teaching. Accordingly, his courses were memorable learning experiences for students (Figure 1).

In 1981, Professor Dabiri retired. However in subsequent years he continued his academic endeavors at the new medical school in Najafabad, Isfahan Province, an endeavor that he continued until the last years of his life. Professor Dabiri was one of the founders and permanent members of the Iranian Association of Pathologists (IAP). He attended several meetings of the IAP and was elected as the President of its General Assembly. Dr. Dabiri was an honorary member of the Iranian Academy of Medical Sciences since 2001.

He prepared over 6000 pathology slides, around 3000 colored pictures of various pathologic disorders, large-sized microphotographic color pictures, and approximately 1000 black and white or colored microphotographic pictures for educational purposes. Dr. Dabiri attended many local and international scientific meetings (Figure 2).

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Figure 1. Professor Dabiri at his office in Isfahan Medical School, 1970.



Figure 2. First row, from right to left: Professor P. Dabiri, Professor M. Zia Shamsa (1921–1992), M. Bahadori, MD, Professor of Pathology at Tehran Medical School (Shiraz Pathology Congress, 1993).

In addition to his professional and educational activities, Professor Dabiri was a researcher who studied various medical subjects, including malignant diseases such as lymphoma, bladder, breast and esophageal carcinomas, liver cirrhosis, the role of *Helicobacter pylori* in gastric disorders, and cutaneous and visceral leishmaniasis (Kala Azar) in Isfahan Province.

He was a prolific writer who wrote and translated several informative books, which included:

A) Medical publications

Pathology of Tumors (40 volumes), of which 6 volumes including pathology of tumors of the lungs, prostate, bladder, thyroid, kidneys, bones and joints have been published (Figure 3). Congenital Disorders of the Heart, 1958 (Figure 4). A Practical Guide of Pathology for Medical Students.



Figure 3. "Pathology of Tumors of the Bones and Joints" written by Professor Dabiri.

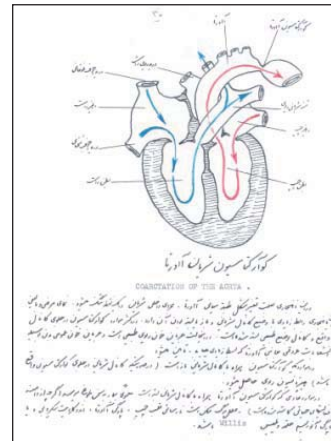


Figure 4. Handwriting in Persian of Professor Dabiri on coarctation of the aorta, 1958.

B) Non-medical works

Translation of the book "Man, the Unknown" by Dr. Alexis Carrel (1873-1944), a French surgeon and Nobel Prize winner of 1912. Translation of the book "Insect Adventures", written by Jean-Henri Casimir Fabre (1823-1915), the French entomologist, published in 1917. The book, "The Universe, Living World and Humans", Nafis Publication, Isfahan, 1980.

Professor Dabiri loved life, believed in goodness and beauty and was highly interested in music, art and literature. He wrote the following enlightening books: The Life and Works of Beethoven, Chahar Bagh Publication, Isfahan (2001); Mozart Biography and Works; A Glance at Isfahan, City of Art (2005); Hakim Abu'l-Qasim Ferdowsi and the Epic of Shahnameh, A Selection, Mehr Afrouz Publication, Isfahan (2008)¹

Professor Dabiri developed a sense of devotion, scientific discipline, and reverence to science in students and was a worthy role model that served as an example for the younger generations. Thus, his memory will remain alive for all Iranian pathologists and graduates of the Isfahan School of Medicine.

Acknowledgment

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