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Persian Medicine Network (PMN) Establishment in the Universal Scientific Education and Research Network (USERN)

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Dear Editor,

With the establishment of the Universal Scientific Education and Research Network (USERN), a new horizon appeared in front of those who are exploring the science, of course, “without border” [1]. Professor Nima Rezaei, the first president of USERN, founded this organization in 2015. Its headquarter office is located in Children’s Medical Center, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran. As an international organization, the main objective of the USERN is to promote ethical and professional scientific research and education that serves the non-military purpose of enhancing human life. It achieves this goal by facilitating collaboration and resource-sharing among individuals, as well as allocating resources to the most crucial ideas that can bring about significant improvements [2].

Since that time, so many interest groups have been formed in USERN enabling the researchers to focus on various fields of science. Meanwhile, the very “interdisciplinarity” and/or “multidisciplinarity” nature of a majority of these groups have been a brilliant characteristic of this ever-growing global network. Such a remarkable property could definitely play an important role in the improvement of innovative research activities.

Despite having a long-lasting history, it is

only a couple of decades that Persian Medicine (PM) has been introduced as a distinct branch of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM). Since 2008, Ph.D. courses in Persian medicine and pharmacy have been initiated for MDs and PharmDs in Iranian medical universities. Of course, it was only the beginning of a scientific movement toward the evidence-based practice of PM. The recent research and educational activities accompanied with a dramatic increase in the scientific publications in this field resulted in the recognition of PM as a distinct alternative/holistic medical system in the international scientific communities. According to a report published in the “Journal of Ethnopharmacology” in 2020, Iran has been the 5th most productive country in the world regarding scientific publications in the field of herbal medicines and ethnopharmacology after China, India, Brazil, and the United States during 2011–2018 [3]. This country has also the 4th rank in scientific production in the field of CAM in 2020 and 2021 based on the report of Scimago [4]. In line with these successes, Persian Medicine has been included in the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) database of the national library of medicine (NLM) since 2022 [5]. All of these achievements have been obtained only during the last two decades which shows great promise of the brilliant future of PM. Meanwhile, for keeping forward on this road

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of scientific improvement on one hand and protecting the community against the malpractice of illegal opportunistic parties and advocates of pseudoscientific beliefs on the other, there is an undeniable need for expanding the scientific impact of PM and increasing the people's awareness in the society. In this regard, we have to team up at an international level in order to enhance the quality and quantity of the scientific evidence supporting the rational practice of PM.

This network, namely Persian Medicine Network (PMN), has been formed as an interest group in USERN to be an umbrella for all of the enthusiasts of PM. Its aim is to form a glob-

al “science without border” network attracting all interests and potentials from various disciplines to research PM concepts (either basic or clinical) in addition to educational activities. [GMJ.2023;12:e3066] DOI:[10.31661/gmj.v12i0.3066](https://doi.org/10.31661/gmj.v12i0.3066)

Conflict of Interest

None.

Keywords

Biomedical Research; Integrative Medicine; Persian Medicine

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