

## **HISTORY OF HOMEOPATHY IN IRAN**

History of homeopathy in Iran can be classified into two time periods. In the first period, some homeopaths were involved in medical practice discretely, and undoubtedly the late Dr. Baharmand can be counted as the first Iranian homeopath.

He, in 1924, began homeopathic medical practice in an office adjacent to the British embassy. After him, we can name the late Dr. Tabibi who continued practice of homeopathy in the vicinity of Karimkhan Street in Tehran, and delivered homeopathic medications to the patients with cooperation of the Red Crescent. The last one of the previous generation of homeopaths was Professor Jam who is one of the founders of Tabriz faculty of medicine and. He has facilitated extension of homeopathy by holding several seminars in this faculty. Now Dr Jam is living at the age of 90.

The second generation of homeopaths is indebted to Dr. Naaseri who has aerospace doctorate degree. The movement begun by him in Iran (1993) led to holding homeopathy classes in Tehran Islamic Azad University, school of medicine and also in Urmia University. But because he was not a physician, he was treated unkindly by health and treatment authorities and consequently he returned to England.

Presence of Dr. Mirzazadeh in Iran (1995) was counted as an adverting point regarding in this progressive trend. At that time he was officially invited by the authorities of Ministry of Health and came from Germany to Iran. Initially he attempted to educate a small group of homeopaths generously and afterwards the same group themselves became homeopathy experts and trainers. Here, we must name Mr. Gholam-Hossein Beheshti who has always played an effective role in promotion of homeopathy. He has had an important role in holding homeopathy classes as well as in teaching it, particularly the philosophy of homeopathy. In this line, he has paved the path for development and extension of homeopathy throughout the country via holding different seminars in various culture centers.

On October 26th in 1995, the Supreme Council of Assessment of the Ministry of Treatment and Medical Education recognized homeopathy as a therapeutic method, and finally in January 16th in 1999 the regulations related to homeopathic physicians were communicated by the Minister of Health, Dr. Farhadi, to the education deputy of the Ministry and it was communicated to the medical sciences universities for fulfillment in January of the same year.

After legitimization of this field, nine physicians decided to establish a homeopathy association and upon this they submitted a request to the Ministry of Interior. After a while, Ministry of Health and Treatment and Medical Education replied positively to the inquiry from Ministry of Interior by the letter No.: A/10001, and eventually the permit for commencing activities of the association was issued, and at last the association founder board composed of Dr. Mazaherinezhad, Dr. Movaffagh, and Dr. Yousefizadeh, after preparing articles of the association attempted and held general assembly of the founders board under supervision of the official representative of the Ministry of Interior in December 20th, 2001. The 5-member administrative board was selected under votes of 130 homeopathic physicians in October 2002 for first time and in October 2005 the 2nd

administrative board has been selected as follow:

- Dr. Ali Mazaherinezhad as president- Dr. Fazel Hamidbehnam as vice president- Dr. Farbod Rahnamaie Chitsaz as General Secretary- Dr. Arash Ahmadi as Treasurer- Dr. Behnoosh Nooshee

And finally in March 2003, Tehran University agreed with holding homeopathy classes under title of "Free Classes". This course continues at the present time.