

Editorial

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History of Pediatric Nephrology in Iran

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In Iran, clinical management of children with renal diseases was handled mostly by pediatricians and general physicians up to 1965. This changed when Prof. Ghamar Hosseini-Alhashemi returned home (Shiraz) from Boston University in 1965, and shortly after that in 1966, Prof. Esfandiar Bodaghi from France.

Prof. Ghamar Hosseini-Alhashemi founded the Pediatric Nephrology Ward in Nemazi Hospital in Shiraz. Dr. Sadegh Saberi joined Dr. Hashemi in 1977, and Dr. Majid Rasoulpour joined them in 1978. They were both trained in the United States. Dr. Hashemi, Saberi and Rasoulpour designated Sadee Hospital as the Pediatric Nephrology Center of the University. They were very active in patient care and teaching, and began setting up projects for clinical research. However Dr. Rasoulpour had to leave Iran in 1980, and Dr. Saberi left the country two years later [3,4]. Prof. Hosseini-Alhashemi and her colleagues began to take care of pediatric nephrologic patients in their hospital. They also trained medical students and residents in this field for a while and by 1990, she had started the fellowship training in her ward for the first time in Iran. She has trained more than 30 pediatric nephrologists up to now. Prof. Bodaghi, who had studied pediatric nephrology with pioneers such as Pierre Royer, Renee Habib, and Victor Courtecuisse in specialized departments of Necker - Enfants Malades Hospital in Paris during 1964-66, redacted a memorandum entitle:

Lethal Nephrotic Syndrome in Children [3]. He returned to Iran and began to take care of children suffering from renal diseases first at Komack Charity Hospital as a faculty member of Tehran University, and later at the newly founded Children's Hospital Medical Center of Tehran. He continued to provide care to children with kidney diseases, and to train medical students and residents. He used the most modern histopathology techniques, including electron microscopy and immunofluorescent microscopy for diagnosis. In 1974, he founded the Research Laboratory of Nephrology at this medical center [4].

Pioneers of Pediatric Nephrology in Iran



Prof. E. Bodaghi



Prof. G.H. Hashemi

For several years, there were only two centers in Shiraz and Tehran where academic pediatric nephrology was practiced and Prof. Hashemi and Prof. Bodaghi took care of children with renal disease (Figure 1).

Later on, prior to the Islamic revolution, Dr. Ahmad Mashouf began to take care of children with renal diseases at the former Shahrazad, and the current Ali Asghar Children's Hospital. Dr. Shams Vazirian, Dr. Abbas Madani, and Dr. Malektaj Honarmand collaborated with Dr. Bodaghi in Children's Hospital Medical Center. The first pediatric kidney transplantation was done by Dr. Iraj Fazel in 1987 in Iran. In 1990, after the Islamic revolution, the minister of health and medical education, Dr. Reza Malekzadeh, decided to establish subspecialty centers for pediatric nephrology in the Iranian universities. So, the first department of pediatric nephrology for fellowship training courses and caring of children with renal disorders was founded by Dr. Ghamar Hosseini - Alhashemi in Shiraz University of Medical Sciences in 1990; after that, other centers were founded (in Children's Hospital Medical Center, Tehran, by Dr. Abbas Madani; in Kermanshah by Dr. Shams Vazirian; in Aliasghar Hospital, Tehran, by Dr. Hasan Otukesh; and after a while in Sheikh Hospital, Mashhad, by Dr. Esmaeeli; and in Mofid Hospital, Tehran, by Dr. Mostafa Sharifian.) These centers offer fellowship programs that consist of a two-year course aimed at training academic pediatric nephrologists that are able to establish their own centers. The fellowship program provides acquaintance with a wide variety of renal diseases and patient care including inpatient care, consultation, outpatient visits, and care of transplant recipients. They become proficient in all technical aspects such as kidney biopsy, peritoneal dialysis, and hemodialysis, and acquire experience in interpretation of pathological samples and radiologic studies [5,6]. Since the establishment of the pediatric nephrology program, about 70 trainees have graduated who are mostly working as faculty members across the country. Fortunately, this prevents from sending children to foreign centers for nephrology care and transplantation. The Iranian Society of Pediatric Nephrology was found in 2007 in Iran. This society has more than 80 members up to now. It has held 3 congresses and more than 20 scientific seminars in recent years. Another important achievement of this society was to found the Journal of Pediatric Nephrology in Iran in 2013.

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