




Fifty Years of Knowledge, Resilience, and Service: A Golden Legacy of the Ahvaz Jundishapur School of Pharmacy

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Half a century ago, on the fertile banks of the Karun River, a seed was planted to cultivate guardians of health, pioneers of science, and pillars of community well-being. Fifty years in the life of an academic institution represents far more than the passage of time; it is the story of the formation of thought, experience, commitment, and an identity that has been refined through decades of challenge and achievement. The fiftieth anniversary of the Ahvaz Jundishapur School of Pharmacy provides a valuable opportunity to reflect on the road traveled, to honor the pioneers who laid its foundations, and to envision a future built upon half a century of scientific achievement and service (1).

The School of Pharmacy in Ahvaz was established in a region of great strategic, social, and healthcare significance for the country. Its foundation was a deliberate response to the growing health and pharmaceutical needs of southern Iran and a clear expression of confidence in the role of science and education in sustainable development. From its earliest years, the mission of the School extended beyond the mere training of pharmacists, aiming to educate professionals who are scientifically competent, ethically grounded, and deeply committed to the health sciences.

Over the past five decades, more than 1,800 pharmacists and professionals have completed their education at the Ahvaz School of Pharmacy. Today, these alumni serve across the country and even outside of Iran, in community and hospital pharmacies, pharmaceutical industries, research centers, universities, and health policy institutions. This number reflects not only academic productivity, but also the broad and lasting impact of an institution that has

consistently invested in human capital in service of public health (1).

At the heart of these achievements stands a dedicated and distinguished faculty. Currently, the School of Pharmacy benefits from the expertise of 45 faculty members across various pharmaceutical disciplines, securing its well-established position within the national academic landscape. In this context, it is essential to acknowledge with respect and gratitude the founding and retired professors who played an effective role in shaping and stabilizing the school. Esteemed scholars such as Dr. Klein, Dr. Fathi, Dr. Mirsttari, Dr. Hashemi, Dr. Moqbel, Dr. Agheli, Dr. Arzi, Dr. Dabbagh, Dr. Kalantari, Mrs. Nazari, Dr. Kushapur, Dr. Ameri, Dr. Alemzadeh, and many others laid the scientific and ethical foundations of this institution and left behind an enduring academic legacy for future generations.

In addition to education and research, the Ahvaz School of Pharmacy has demonstrated an impressive sense of national and social responsibility during critical moments in contemporary history. During the Imposed War (Iran–Iraq War, 1980 - 88) (2), the school actively contributed to meeting urgent pharmaceutical needs, providing scientific and technical support to healthcare centers, and training skilled personnel under conditions of crisis. This period represents an integral part of the school's identity—a position in which scientific knowledge is inseparably linked to humanitarian commitment and national resilience.

In addition to educating general pharmacists, the School of Pharmacy has played a key role in the development of advanced and specialized academic programs. Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programs in

Pharmacology, Pharmaceutics, Toxicology, and Traditional Pharmacy have significantly strengthened the school's position as a center for knowledge production and advanced research in pharmaceutical sciences in the south of Iran. Furthermore, the establishment of Master's programs such as medicinal chemistry, marine pharmaceutical compounds, and food and beverage control reflects a strategic focus on regional potential, natural resources, and the evolving needs of the national healthcare system.

The admission of international students to the Ahvaz School of Pharmacy in recent years is indeed a proud and valuable achievement. It demonstrates that the school's educational quality, research standards, and facilities meet international benchmarks, attracting talent from beyond Iran's borders. This builds prestige and credibility on a global scale.

Research and knowledge dissemination have always been central pillars of the school's mission. In line with this vision, particular attention has been given to scientific publishing and international academic engagement. The English language journal "Jundishapur Journal of Natural Pharmaceutical Products" (JJNPP), founded at the initiative of the author of this editorial, reflects a significant step toward strengthening the school's international scientific activity. The journal was established to publish innovative research in various fields of pharmaceutical sciences, to provide a platform for scholarly dialogue between national and international researchers, and to introduce the scientific capacities of the Ahvaz School of Pharmacy to the global academic community. JJNPP has played a meaningful role in fostering a culture of research and enhancing the school's scientific visibility and credibility (3).

As the School enters its second half-century, it faces new opportunities and challenges shaped by rapid advances in pharmaceutical sciences, emerging technologies, artificial intelligence, and evolving community expectations. Continuous innovation in education and research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and constructive engagement with industry and

healthcare systems will be essential for sustaining and expanding the school's impact in the future. Building on past experience while embracing a forward-looking perspective will ensure a dynamic and influential future.

Finally, we extend our sincere congratulations on the fiftieth anniversary of the Ahvaz School of Pharmacy to its eminent senior and junior faculty members, dedicated staff, motivated students, and more than 1,800 proud alumni. This half-century of achievement is the result of collective efforts by generations who believed in the power of science to serve humanity. It is our hope that in the decades to come, the school will continue its successful path, remain a source of knowledge, professional ethics, and unwavering commitment to the health of society.

Footnotes

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