
History of Contemporary Medicine in Iran

Rheumatology at Shiraz University of Medical Sciences

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Abstract

The Rheumatology Division in the Department of Internal Medicine at Shiraz University of Medical Sciences (former Pahlavi University) (was established by Dr. Ali-Asghar Eghtedari in 1970. Drs. Mohammad Salami and Hadi Hedayati joined this division in 1973 and 1974, respectively. Since 1980, Dr. Akbar Rajaei has been in charge of this division. In 1986, the rheumatology subspecialty training program at Shiraz University of Medical Sciences was approved by the Ministry of Health.

Keywords: Iran • rheumatology • university

Introduction

Dr. Ali-Asghar Eghtedari, who studied rheumatology in England, established the Rheumatology Division at Shiraz University of Medical Sciences in 1970. Subsequently Dr. Mohammad Salami (1973, studied rheumatology in the USA), Dr. Hadi Hedayati (1974, studied rheumatology in the USA), and Dr. Akbar Rajaei (rheumatology board certified in Iran) began a cooperation with Dr. Ali-Asghar Eghtedari in the Rheumatology Ward at this university.

Dr. Shahdokht Samanguee and Dr. Mojtaba Hakim (rheumatology board certified in Iran) were the academic members of the division between 1993 and 2002.

Rheumatology division

The Rheumatology Division of the Department of Medicine of Shiraz University (former Pahlavi University) was founded by Dr. Ali-Asghar Eghtedari in 1970 in Hafez Hospital with 14 beds

as an inpatient center and three outpatient clinics located in Hafez, Nemazee and Saadi hospitals (Faghihi Hospital). A laboratory in each hospital was equipped for certain laboratory tests of rheumatic diseases according to the available facilities at that time. Gradually the laboratory developed and was able to analyze the majority of laboratory tests required for rheumatic diseases. Behcet's Disease Outpatient Clinic was started in 1994 at Nemazee Hospital followed by the Lupus Outpatient Clinic and Scleroderma Outpatient Clinic in Hafez Hospital was established as well as five general rheumatology clinics at Faghihi Hospital with weekly activity.

Rheumatology for undergraduates

From the beginning, the Division of Rheumatology has had rheumatology education programs for fourth year medical students consisting of one month in the 5th years of their education and another month in internship period. There is a two month rotation for internal medicine residents in the rheumatology ward during their four year residency course. The program is comprised of history, physical examination, clinical manifestations and therapy of each rheumatic disease. Dermatology, rehabilitation, and orthopedic residents also have one month rotation in the rheumatology ward during their training.

Rheumatology subspecialty

The Division of Rheumatology at Shiraz University of Medical Sciences (SUMS) was recognized as qualified for rheumatology subspecialty training in 1986. Dr. Shahdokht Samanguee, Dr. Mojtaba Hakim, and Dr. Mansour Hoseini were the first three graduates from this division in 1992. Dr. Samanguee and Dr. Hakim began their careers as academic members of the Rheumatology Division in 1993 and then both moved to Tehran in 2002. Since 1990, 21 rheumatologists have been trained and graduated

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from this division.

Division of rheumatology's academic members

Dr. Ali-Asghar Eghtedari (1970), Dr. Mohammad Salami (1973), Dr. Hadi Hedayati (1974), followed by Dr. Shahdokht Samanguee and Dr. Hakim in 1993 were the academic members of the division. Currently there are six academic members as follows: Dr. Akbar Rajaei since 1980, Dr. Elham Aflaki (2002), Dr. Zahra Habib-Agahi (2002), Dr. Mohammad-Ali Nazarinia (2003), Dr. Saeedeh Shenavandeh (first grade board certified rheumatologist in Iran; 2006), and Dr. Mohammad-Reza Jahanbani (2006).

Postgraduate teaching and research

A weekly patients' problem-solving conference is held each Monday with the pediatric rheumatology and immunology groups of SUMS; more comprehensive teaching programs are held for subspecialty fellows.

The research program of this division is organized in collaboration with other subspecialty training at SUMS, especially the neurology, nephrology, endocrinology, and hematology departments. There is also an active research program with the Immunology Research Center for Rheumatic Disease of SUMS on different topics in rheumatology and immunology.

Publications

This division participated and presented 42

papers at international conferences, seminars, and congresses and 33 papers in international congresses.

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