Publication of the First Journal of Dentistry in Iran

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Abstract
The first scientific journal of dentistry in Iran was published by the “Iranian Dentists’ Syndicate” (called in Persian “Sandikay-e Dandanpezeshkan-e Iran”) in 1951. A brief account of the journal and its editorial board is presented here.

The first scientific journal of dentistry in Iran known as “Majalehye Dandanpezeshki” was the official publication of the “Iranian Dentists’ Syndicate” (called Sandikay-e Dandanpezeshkan-e Iran). The syndicate was officially founded in 1946 and was an independent nongovernmental organization. Six years after its establishment, in 1951, the Iranian Dentists’ Syndicate headed by Dr. Mohsen Sayyah, Professor of Oral Diseases from the School of Dentistry at Tehran University (Figure 1), published the first issue of a journal entitled Journal of Dentistry.1, 2

The editorial board of the journal was mostly consisted of the faculty members of Tehran Dental School. They were:

- Dr. Mostafa Adib, the Head of the Department of Dentistry at Vaziri Hospital, Tehran2;
- Dr. Bagher Khoei, the Head of the Dentistry Clinic at Goharshad Hospital, Tehran2;
- Dr. Ahmad Diba;
- Dr. Hassan Riaz, Orthodontist2;
- Dr. Mahmoud Siasi, Professor of Dentistry2 (Figure 2);
- Dr. Eshagh Shabafrouz;
- Dr. Massoud Massoudi-Khorasani; and
- Dr. Assadolla Vakili.

Figure 1. Dr. Mohsen Sayyah, Professor of Oral Diseases at the School of Dentistry of Tehran University. He was President of the Iranian Dentists’ Syndicate and the chairman of the journal.

Figure 2. Dr. Mahmoud Siasi, Professor of Dentistry at the School of Dentistry of Tehran University and the Editor-in-Chief of the journal.

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that time was printed on its front cover (Figure 3). It contained the following topics:

- How the Iranian Dentists’ Syndicate was established;
- A Poem, by Vahid Dastgerdi;
- Pediatric Dental Care, by Dr. M. Siasi;
- The Effect of Tooth Picking on Pyorrhea, by Dr. Hassan Riaz;
- The History of Dentistry, by Dr. Shabafrouz;
- The Risk of Using Automatic Syringe, by Dr. Homayounfar;
- The Latest Method of Extraction of Wisdom Teeth, by Dr. Loghman Amini;
- The Importance of Tooth Extraction, by Dr. Kazem Simjour;
- A Rare Complication of Tooth Extraction, by Dr. Vakili;
- The New Methods of Using Glycerin in the Treatment of Oral Diseases, by Dr. Hossepien; and
- News.

Added to the above-mentioned articles, the first issue of the journal contained some advertisements for dentistry-related items such as dental units, dental radiography instruments, anesthetic medications, tooth paste, toothbrushes, and some other materials such as amalgam and temporary paste for dental filling, cement, and impression material for preparing denture. The price of a single issue of the journal was 10 Rials and the annual subscription rate was 100 Rials.

In the second issue of the journal, there was an interesting article written by Dr. M. Siasi entitled “The Effect of Fluorine Salts in Prevention of Tooth Decay”. On the front cover there was a picture of the tomb of Ibn-Sina (Avicenna) in Hamadan, the great Iranian physician and philosopher (980 – 1037 AD).

In other issues of the journal, there were various topics on dentistry and oral medicine, for instance: TB gingival ulceration and aphthous lesions. In addition some topics on internal medicine such as hypertension, subacute bacterial endocarditis, myocardial infarction, and so on could be found in the journal.

The history of dentistry written by Dr. Shabafrouz was continued in several issues of the journal. At the beginning of his discussion he quoted a phrase from a French philosopher denoting that in order to learn any science, its history should be learned initially. Then, he described comprehensively the development of dentistry in the world especially in the countries such as China, India, Egypt, Greek, Rome, Iran, and other Islamic countries. He also mentioned some remarks of great Iranian physicians such as Ahwazi (Haly Abbas), Rhazi (Rhazes), and Ibn-Sina (Avicenna) on dental and oral disorders.

To the best of our knowledge, the publication of Majaleh-e Dandanpezeshki, continued for a four-year period and totally 48 issues were published. The reviewing process of the submitted manuscripts to the journal is not clear.

References
1. Journal of Dentistry. The official publication of “Iranian Dentists’ Syndicate”, Volume 1, Number 1; 1951.