

## Where Science Meets Devotion: The Lifelong Journey of Professor Mohammad-Reza Panjehshahin

With decades of tireless inquiry and steadfast academic leadership, Professor Mohammad-Reza Panjehshahin stands as one of the enduring pillars of scientific progress at *Shiraz University of Medical Sciences*. Born in 1953 in Shiraz, southern Iran, Mohammad-Reza spent his early years between classrooms and the warm light of a city known for poetry and learning. His secondary education began in mathematics—first in Shiraz and later during his final two years in Abadan, southwestern Iran. It was chemistry, however, that captured his curiosity and set the first stones of his academic path.

He earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry from *Pahlavi University* (now *Shiraz University*) in 1975, and soon after completed a master's degree in organic chemistry at the same institution. Drawn to the mysteries of living systems, he journeyed eastward to *Sistan-va-Baluchestan* province as an instructor, teaching chemistry while nurturing a desire to work closer to the biological sciences. This desire guided him back to *Shiraz University* for a second master's degree—this time in pharmacology—a turning point that led him to join the Department of Pharmacology as a young academic.

His passion and promise opened the gates to a new chapter abroad. Awarded a scholarship, he moved to the UK to pursue a PhD in pharmacology at Leeds University. There, he immersed himself in scientific discovery, and later undertook postdoctoral research in renal failure pharmacology. Four and a half years of perseverance, long nights in the laboratory, and an unwavering sense of purpose shaped this period. At its end, despite opportunities abroad, his heart remained tied to his homeland. He returned to Iran in 1990—carrying not only his expertise but a determination to strengthen the scientific foundations of his country.

Back at *Shiraz University of Medical Sciences*, he rejoined the Department of Pharmacology. His commitment to teaching, research, and mentorship soon propelled him upward: Associate Professor in 1996 and Full Professor in 2003. His influence, however, extended far beyond the classroom.

Professor Panjehshahin held several key administrative roles that helped shape the modern identity of the University. As Vice-Chancellor for Research from 1992 to 2001, he oversaw the growth of research infrastructure and encouraged a culture of inquiry across the Institution. For a year (1995–1996), he served as Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, and from 1996 onward, as Head of the Department of Pharmacology—roles in which he elevated academic standards and mentored generations of students. His leadership culminated in his appointment as President of *Shiraz University of Medical Sciences* in 2002. Through these years, countless students, researchers, and physicians passed through his mentorship; many now hold prominent academic and administrative positions.

His research achievements reflect both his scientific discipline and his enduring curiosity. Professor Panjehshahin has explored diverse areas of pharmacology, including the medicinal effects of active phytopharmacological compounds, experimental models of acute renal failure, and toxicology. He has been an active member of scientific committees, a long-standing member of the British Pharmacological Society, and a member of the Iranian Society of Physiology and Pharmacology. He currently serves as Managing Director and Editorial Board Member of the *Iranian Journal of Medical Sciences* (1986–Present).

Today, Professor Panjehshahin remains as engaged as ever—continuing to guide young scholars, contribute to scientific progress, and uphold a tradition of excellence. His decades of service, enriched by hard-earned scholarships, rigorous research, and deep commitment to education, have carved a legacy that will continue to inspire future generations of pharmacologists in Iran and beyond.

**Conflict of Interest:** None declared.

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