

In the Name of God, the most Compassionate, the most Merciful

Good morning

Your Excellency Mr Prime Minister, Honorable minister, respected Ambassador and all delegate from Hungary, Your Excellency minister of health and Medical education of IR of Iran, Dear colleagues, Ladies and gentlemen, Welcome to Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS), the first-established university of medical sciences in Iran, where I am honored to study, work and manage in. Let me start my brief talk with a short history of this place.

Medical education in Iran has a long history. With historical and urban settlements dating back to 4,000 B.C., Iran has always been a host for medical researchers and scientists. Avicenna (980-1037) is one of the most outstanding figures among the great physicians and medical scholars of the country in the past centuries. He was particularly noted for his contributions in the field of medicine, namely the book entitled “The Canon (which means the law of Medicine)”, and is among the most well known books in the history of medicine.

In 1849, *Dar-ol-Fonoon (poly technic)* as the First Modern College of Higher Education in Iran was established and the *Department of Medicine* was established two years later. The *College of Medicine* as a Separate Independent School under the Supervision of the *Ministry of Science* was established about a century ago in 1918. The establishment of the *University of Tehran backs to 81 years ago* in 1934, the School of Medicine and then the Schools of Law, Political Sciences, Science, Engineering, and Theology were the first group started the education under the name of the university in Iran. 30 years ago in 1985, Medical Education and Related Disciplines were separated from the Ministry of Higher education and joined to the new *ministry of health and Medical Education*. Just a decade later the health services were integrated to the universities of medical sciences in the whole country which led to establishment of 57 medical universities in Iran and provided a robust framework not only for health services, but also for evidence-based practice, innovations and long term, population size research and practice.

Today, Iranian universities are ranked among the best in the region, and TUMS is by far the most outstanding university in the country, which is usually the first choice for bright students to study in. With 11 schools, 16 teaching hospitals, 92 research centers, and 75 libraries, as well as having more than 13,000 students (60% of whom are female), TUMS is honored to host more than 1600 top faculty members to educate a large number of talent students in more than 245 program mostly of postgraduate nature. Now we have the highest number of PhD students and medical specialty and subspecialty residents in the country.

I should also mention that according to President Rouhani's manifest, and Minister of Health and Medical Education Dr. Hashemi's initiative, the government of Iran prioritized health to achieve Universal Health Coverage. So, the ambitious Health Transformation Plan (HTP) was launched 1.5 year ago, which has led to a more equitable and quality healthcare for all our people. The Health Transformation Plan has resulted in a meaningful, secure and sustainable raise of the proportion of health system budget from GDP. Provision of health insurance to extra 10.5 million population – close to 98% coverage; reducing out of pocket payment in public hospitals to a maximum of 6% for inpatient services; maintaining doctors in deprived areas; provision of 24 hours specialists' services in major public hospitals, increased emergency access through medicupers and significant reduction of catastrophic health expenditures are the results of this transformation plan which has led to people's satisfaction of up to 80% for the health sector.

Today, we are pleased to host the first Joint Meeting on "Infectious Diseases in Gynecology and Obstetrics" as the Semmelweis Memorial Conference in collaboration with the Semmelweis University and the Avicenna International College. As you may know Prof. Ignaz Philipp Semmelweis (1818-1865) was a Hungarian physician, known as an early pioneer of antiseptic procedures and the UNESCO's General Conference recommended inclusion of the 150th anniversary of Ignaz Semmelweis' death in the list of notable anniversaries celebrated in 2015. I'm so glad that this meeting is honored by presence of the top level Hungarian delegate in Iran. One of the top scientists joining this meeting is Dr Rosivall and I'm pleased to inform you that the Council of Tehran University of Medical Sciences agreed to recognize Prof. László Rosivall, the distinguished professor of Semmelweis University, as the affiliated professor of Tehran University of Medical Sciences that would be presented to him here before this incredible audience.

Meanwhile inauguration of the statues of Semmelweis and Avicenna would be done in the campus of the School of Medicine today; and it is to be hoped to be done in Hungary as well in the near future.

By the way We are very pleased that Hungary is approving establishment of a branch of Tehran University of Medical Sciences in Hungary; and I express my especial thanks to his Excellency Prime Minister Mr. Viktor Orban to consider visiting our university and participating in inauguration of the statues of Semmelweis and Avicenna. This could be a very good start for extension of mutual and multilateral scientific collaborations that is a key of success in 21st century. We are eagerly looking forward for expanding bilateral scientific collaboration between Iran and Hungary. Expecting scientific-bounded mutual benefits to serve the health of human being and flourishing medical services, education, and research to build a healthier Globe is a sacred goal for all of us.

I wish a pleasant stay in Iran for all of our guests and a successful meeting for all participants and Thank you all for your attention.