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Incredible Oncologist, Productive Researcher; Peiman Haddad



Professor Peiman Haddad
(1960-2021)

Professor Peiman Haddad was born on December 6, 1960 in Kashan, a small town in Iran, where his father was serving as the attorney general and his mother was a high-school teacher. Peiman went to elementary school in Firoozkooh and attended the prestigious Kharazmi high-school in Tehran. After receiving his high-school diploma, he started medicine at Tehran University of Medical Sciences in 1984. He finished Radiation Oncology specialty at the same university by 1994. Soon, he joined Iranian Cancer Institute and start working there from 1996. Based on his incredible scientific activities he was promoted to full professor in radiation oncology in 2011, and was appointed to the position of the head of the Radiation Oncology department at Tehran University of Medical Sciences in 2015. Throughout his life, Peiman followed his great ambitions in scientific and research activities and his passion toward the community, his family and nature, climbing numerous and volcanos in Iran and in Asia.

John Yarnold, Emeritus Professor of Clinical Oncology, London, UK

I first met Professor Peiman Haddad almost 30 years ago when I arrived in Tehran to visit centres collaborating in an international trial testing adjuvant chemo-endocrine therapies in women with early breast cancer. He later visited the Royal Marsden Hospital, London, UK, where he spent several months in clinic with me and other colleagues. I have just looked at a photograph of him from the late 1990s taken in the room at home where I am writing this. I remember he described his passion for climbing mountains, an activity that struck me at the time as consistent with his strength of character and multiple talents. He was never afraid to challenge received wisdom, not least mine, and his questioning was always probing in original

ways. As his many publications show, his academic interests were not restricted to breast cancer and included important challenges in radiotherapy. On visits to Iran in the 2000s, I kept in touch with Professor Haddad and visited the Radiation Oncology Research Centre, of which he was Director, at the Tehran University of Medical Sciences. As recently as February 2021, I had the privilege and pleasure of contributing to a webinar he organised discussing recent advances in treatment of breast cancer, a meeting which he chaired with typical flare and confidence. He was a wonderful representative of our global oncology community and a colleague whom we shall keep in our hearts and minds.

Dr Andrea Bezjak, Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, University of Toronto, and Princess Margaret Cancer Center

Dr Peiman Haddad had strong professional relationships with many at the Department of Radiation Oncology, University of Toronto, and the Princess Margaret Cancer Center. He spent a very productive year of fellowship with us in Toronto in 2002-2003, where he impressed everyone with his diligence, academic productivity and enthusiasm for improving outcomes of patients and knowledge within our field. During that year, he forged relationships and friendships that continued to grow despite the geographical distance. It was obvious then, and even more obvious over the ensuing years and decades, that we shared the same passion for radiation oncology, and for academic pursuits.

Peiman was a vocal and effective advocate for enhancements in radiation oncology in his center and in Iran in general, through international research collaborations, conferences, workshops and other ways to grow the quality and safety radiotherapy



agenda within his country. He was well respected and well liked by all of us who interacted with him, and we were very saddened to hear of his sudden passing. His legacy will remain, and collaborations between our centers continue, as created by him. Our condolences go to his dear wife and daughters, his colleagues and friends. We have lost a wonderful person, oncologist, colleague and friend.

Dr. Mohammad Ali Mohagheghi, Professor of Surgical Oncology, the Head of Cancer Research Center

Prophet Mohammad said: "When a scientist passes away, the damage done is so great that nothing can compensate for it." The loss of Dr. Peiman Haddad, who was a great scientist and a philanthropist physician is very sad and heart-breaking and the academic community, patients and his family have suffered a lot, with whom I sympathize whole-heartedly. Dr. Peiman Haddad who was a man of great character in terms of medical ethics, compassion, and service left us and I ask Almighty God' mercy for him.

The founding fathers of Radiotherapy and Radio-Oncology Department at Iran Cancer Institute, Dr. Kamaledin Dehshiri, Dr. Akbar Ghaffarian, Dr. Abbas Etemad, Dr. Sajjadi, and Dr. Peiman Haddad always kept up-to-date with the latest scientific advancements in the world to solve numerous problems faced by cancer patients. As a veteran member of this unique community in the Middle East, I am confident that the Radio-Oncology Department will continue its progress in the right way envisioned by honest and philanthropic efforts of the late professors at this center including Dr. Peiman Haddad.

Shahin Akhondzadeh PhD., D.Sc., FBPhS, Professor of Clinical Psychopharmacology, Department of Psychiatry, Tehran University of Medical Sciences

In the late 1990's when Iran's scientific growth started, I was responsible for Tehran University of Medical Sciences' publications and I also conducted the university's scientometric activities. I learned that one of the faculty members at the Radio-Oncology Department of the University, Dr. Peiman Haddad, was publishing very influential articles in highly credible international journals and thus I was acquainted with Dr. Peiman Haddad. Later on, he helped me with the School of Medicine's International Relations tasks, and in those years. I realized that in addition to his scientific abilities, he is also very nice, good-hearted, and a family man. In spite of his numerous scientific abilities, he was very modest and I believe those who live with their hearts, like Dr. Haddad, have a short life expectancy just as it happened to him. I have lost a very dear friend. I hope all the kindness that Dr. Haddad dedicated to

his patients and his colleagues would make full circle and come back to his family by God's will.

Farnaz Amouzegar Hashemi, Professor of Radiation Oncology, Tehran University of Medical Sciences

As I am writing this, I still find it extremely difficult to believe that Dr. Peiman Haddad is no more among us. My residency coincided with the beginning of his career as an Assistant Professor in 1994. Our Late Professor, Dr. Dehshiri, had mentioned how smart Dr. Haddad was and what a bright future he would have in radiation oncology, and he was indeed a truly brilliant individual.

He invented a practical wooden device for craniospinal irradiation in children which helped to significantly improve fixation and reproducibility of treatment, in an era that cobalt units and two-dimensional treatments were the only facilities. It was through his efforts that our department participated in two big international trials: ABC and ATLAS. In addition to completing an official fellowship at Princess Margaret Cancer Center, Professor Haddad visited many radiation oncology departments all over the world and made a positive contribution to our community by bringing back new research and teaching ideas.

He was very honest, kind-hearted, and respectful to his patients, residents and all the staff. Moreover, he was truly a well-rounded and athletic individual. I was astonished when he first told us about his hike from Tehran all the way to the North of Iran for 3 consecutive days. He was a motivation for residents and colleagues, and a true role model for all.

"Instead of running away from difficulties, I prefer to encounter and deal with them." This is one of his quotes that I will never forget. Though the Iranian Radiation Oncology Society has lost one of his most effective members, Dr. Haddad's story is not over yet. He will always be remembered.