

Imam Reza General Hospital Newsletter

Tabriz University of Medical Sciences

Volume 5 / Issue 4 / December 2024



In this issue we read:



 Mojtaba Mohammadzadeh Director-In-Charge's Message

Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology and Intensive The head of Imam Reza General Hospital, Tabriz, Iran

Congratulations on the Start of the New **Academic Year to the Newly Admitted Residents** of Imam Reza General Hospital, Tabriz, Iran

It is with great pleasure that I announce that the residents of Imam Reza General Hospital, Tabriz play the most significant role in the educational and therapeutic activities of this institution. Notably, over 500 residents actively contribute in various clinical specialties and subspecialties at this center, bearing the primary responsibility for the healthcare services provided here.

As the dean of the largest educational and healthcare center in the northwest of the country, I consider it my duty to express my profound gratitude to this hardworking, selfless, and diligent group. I also extend my heartfelt welcome to the newly admitted residents of this center.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that this center ranked first in research at the Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, ranked fourth nationally, and has received full accreditation from the Ministry of Health and Medical Education for its educational standards.





An overview of the events of the center, the articles of the respected

professors and the international

educational programs



· Hassan Soleimanpour **Editorial Message Editor in Cheif** Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care, Subspecialty in Intensive Care Medicine (ICM), Clinical Fellowship in EBM, Deputy Dean for Education and Research, and Scientific Secretary of AI congress, Imam Reza General Hospital,

Contents



listorical Reflection on the Contemporary Medica







nternational Educational Program: vrtificial Intelligence technologies in healthcare



nternational Educational Program atient Safety



<u> Aaxillofacial</u> Disease

The First International Virtual Congress on the Application of Artificial Intelligence in **Medical Sciences**



Innovative educational methods are among the hot and controversial topics in the field of medical sciences. This center is proud to have been a pioneer in expanding virtual education since the onset of the global COVID-19 crisis. To date, three virtual congresses have been successfully held in the fields of medical education and patient safety, medicine, and urology at the COVID Studio of this center. With the grace of God, the First International Virtual Congress on the Application of Artificial Intelligence in Medical Sciences is scheduled to be held from February 1-5, 2025, at the COVID Studio.

Artificial intelligence plays a pivotal role in the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of diseases. Its utilization can significantly improve the quality of healthcare services while reducing medical costs. AI, particularly in addressing complex diseases such as cancer, has the potential to enhance treatment outcomes. Currently, Iran ranked 14th globally in the production of scientific articles on artificial intelligence, underscoring the necessity of leveraging this scientific capacity effectively. This congress will feature the participation of distinguished experts from countries including Australia, USA, Finland, and Singapore, fostering international collaboration and knowledge exchange.

A Historical Reflection on the Contemporary Medical School of Tabriz

The tradition of medical practice in Azerbaijan traces back to the Dar al-Shifa of Ghazan and Rabe' Rashidi. Over the centuries, numerous hospitals have served the people of this region, particularly in Tabriz. The Urmia



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Medical School, founded during the Qajar era, is a notable example of early medical education in Iran. However, this study does not aim to present a linear history of medicine in Tabriz. Instead, it offers a historical analysis of the distinctive (continued on page 4)

International Educational Program: fMRI techniques and applications

• Sama Rahnemavan MD, Research Assistant, Neurosciences Research Center, Tabriz University of Medical sciences, Tabriz, Iran Email:samarahnemayan@gmail.com



Introducing yourself

I'm Dr. Sama Rahnemayan. I am a medical graduate currently working as a research associate at the NSRC of TUOMS. My research primarily focuses on neuroimaging, particularly human and animal fMRI, neurodegeneration, and neurovascular events. I have had the privilege of being a guest researcher at Ruhr University in Germany, Innsbruck University in Austria, and Bogazici University in Turkey.

In terms of honors and experiences, I was recognized as the national outstanding researcher in 2022 while I was still a medical student. More recently, in 2024, I received the ECTP award from the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies. Detailed information about my research history is available in my CV for further consideration.

Course Topic and Objective

An Interactive Course on fMRI Techniques and Applications To provide a comprehensive understanding of fMRI techniques and to equip participants with the skills to initiate related studies.

Why fMRI?

Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) is a noninvasive neuroimaging technique that measures and maps brain activity by detecting changes in blood flow. It has revolutionized our understanding of brain function by allowing researchers and clinicians to observe brain activity in real time. fMRI is invaluable in both research and clinical settings for studying brain function, diagnosing neurological conditions, and planning surgical interventions. Its ability to provide detailed images of brain activity makes it a crucial tool in the fields of neuroscience, psychology, and medicine.

Course Type

Mentoring and Hands-On Approach

This course will include research papers, invited lectures, visits to facilities, and practical exercises to reinforce learning.

Audience

Students of medicine, neuroscience, psychology, and other related fields.

Course Length

Four weeks (20 hours per week) with the ability to be adjusted as needed.

Course Modules

Introduction to fMRI

- Overview of fMRI: History, principles, and applications
- Basic Neuroscience Concepts Relevant to fMRI
- Introduction to Brain Anatomy and Function fMRI Data Acquisition and Processing
- Principles of MRI and fMRI Imaging
- fMRI Data Acquisition Techniques: Includes a possible visit to
- Preprocessing of fMRI Data: Motion correction, slice timing correction, spatial smoothing
- Statistical Analysis of fMRI Data: General linear model (GLM), cluster-based analysis

Advanced fMRI Techniques

- Task-Based fMRI vs. Resting-State fMRI
- Functional Connectivity Analysis
- Multivariate Pattern Analysis (MVPA)
- Introduction to Machine Learning Techniques in fMRI Analysis **Clinical Applications and Future Directions**
- Clinical Applications of fMRI: In neurology, psychiatry, and cognitive neuroscience
- Ethical Considerations and Limitations of fMRI
- Emerging Trends and Future Directions in fMRI Research

This course will be conducted under the supervision of two esteemed radiology professors:

- Prof. Masoud Pourisa
- Dr. Amirreza Jahanshahi

International Educational Program: The Role of Ultrasonography in Early

Diagnosis and **Therapeutic Options for Rheumatologic Diseases**

•Sepideh Tahsini Fellowship of Rheumatology, Rheumatology Department, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences



Here we aim to highlight the importance of ultrasonography in managing rheumatologic diseases through two examples: Example 1: A patient presented to the clinic with arthralgia

persisting for 8 weeks, along with high titers of autoantibodies such as Anti-CCP and RF, as well as elevated inflammatory markers like ESR and CRP. However, the physical examination revealed no clinical evidence of arthritis, meaning the patient did not meet the full classification criteria for rheumatoid arthritis (RA). In this case, the role of ultrasonography is crucial. By using an ultrasound probe on the suspected joints, we can detect subclinical synovitis. The identification of synovitis allows us to fulfill the classification criteria, leading to an accurate diagnosis and early treatment to prevent erosive arthropathy and hand deformities.

Example 2: The second example demonstrates the role of ultrasonography in treating rheumatologic diseases. Consider a patient with known crystal arthropathies, such as gout, who also has comorbidities like peptic ulcer disease, ischemic heart disease, or chronic kidney disease. This patient presents with an acute flare of gouty arthritis. In this scenario, the physician faces limitations in treatment options, such as NSAIDs, colchicine, and oral glucocorticoids. Here, ultrasonography proves invaluable for guiding intra-articular glucocorticoid injections in small joints, where anatomical challenges require high precision. This application of ultrasonography significantly enhances treatment efficacy and safety.

The intended participants for this course include medical students, general practitioners, internal medicine specialists, and rheumatology fellows. By the end of the course, participants will be equipped to utilize ultrasonography for detecting joint effusions, identifying synovitis, and accurately administering intra-articular glucocorticoid injections with minimal trauma and a low failure rate.

The course will last 8 weeks, with each session lasting 2 hours, held weekly.

International Educational Program: Artificial Intelligence Technologies in

Healthcare: From Machine Learning to Natural Language **Processing**

•Senobar Naderian Student Research Committee, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran Senobarnaderian97@gmail.com



Introduction:

I am Senobar Naderian, MSc student of Medical Informatics and the Head of the Medical Technology Section of the Student Research Committee at Tabriz University of Medical Sciences. I have had the privilege of being recognized as a top student technologist at my university. My journey in the field of entrepreneurship and technology has been marked by

notable achievements, including bronze and silver medals in the Entrepreneurship Olympiad in the field of third-generation universities in 2019 and 2020, respectively. As a researcher in Medical Informatics, my focus lies on leveraging artificial intelligence to revolutionize healthcare practices. I hope the audience will join us as we get on a transformative exploration of Artificial Intelligence Technologies in Healthcare: From Machine Learning to Natural Language Processing.

Course Overview:

Over the course of 3 months, we will go on a comprehensive exploration of AI technologies in healthcare. Each week, the participants will engage in a multi-layered learning experience, With approximately 8-10 hours of study per week. This course is fitted for individuals passionate about the intersection of healthcare and technology. Potential participants include: Healthcare professionals seeking to enhance their understanding of AI applications in clinical practice.

Researchers in the fields of medical informatics, bioinformatics, and computer science, interested in leveraging AI for healthcare innovations

And Students pursuing degrees in healthcare, informatics, or related fields, eager to explore the transformative potential of Al in their respective domains.

Course Objectives:

This course is designed to provide to participants at varying levels of familiarity with artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare. Our objectives are designed to provide a structured learning experience that progresses from foundational concepts to advanced techniques. We will provide the course materials in

- Basic Level: At the basic level, our aim is to familiarize participants with the foundational concepts of AI in healthcare. Through a comprehensive exploration, they will gain an understanding of how AI is applied across various domains within healthcare, including its potential benefits and ethical considerations.
- Intermediate Level: Moving to an intermediate level, our goal is to deepen participants knowledge of machine learning algorithms and their specific applications in medical data analysis. They>ll learn to interpret and evaluate machine learning models, laying the groundwork for more advanced AI techniques.
- Advanced Level: At the advanced level, we'll delve into sophisticated techniques such as natural language processing (NLP) and their pivotal role in extracting insights from medical texts.

In the first two weeks, the course will focus on Introduction to Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare. Participants will dive into the fundamentals of AI in healthcare, tracing its evolution, and understanding its current position through interactive sessions led by experienced instructors. They will analyze realworld implementations of AI technologies in clinical settings, examining their successes and challenges through case studies. Engaging in discussions, participants will explore the ethical considerations and potential benefits of AI in healthcare. Their understanding of foundational concepts will be evaluated through quizzes and reflective assignments.

Moving on to weeks three to six, participants will delve into Machine Learning Fundamentals. Interactive sessions will allow them to explore the details of machine learning algorithms. where they can ask questions and engage in discussions. Handson labs will provide opportunities to apply machine learning concepts to healthcare datasets, guided by instructors. Through project work, participants will collaborate on solving healthcare problems using machine learning techniques, receiving guidance and feedback from mentors. Their comprehension will be assessed through project submissions and peer evaluations. Weeks seven to ten will focus on Advanced Machine Learning Techniques. Participants will reach to advanced machine learning techniques through in-depth sessions led by domain experts. They will work on advanced projects that explore deep learning architectures and their applications in healthcare, with mentorship from experienced practitioners. Critically reviewing and discussing cutting-edge research papers showcasing the latest innovations in Al-driven healthcare, participants will showcase their expertise through project presentations and comprehensive assessments.

In the final two weeks, the course will cover Natural Language Processing in Healthcare. Interactive sessions and practical demonstrations will explore the utility of natural language processing in healthcare. Participants will participate in hands-on workshops, applying NLP techniques to real-world

healthcare datasets under the (continued on next page)

(Naderian Cont.)

guidance of experts. They will analyze case studies illustrating the transformative potential of NLP in unlocking insights from unstructured medical texts. Finally, participants will demonstrate their proficiency by applying NLP techniques to a real-world healthcare dataset and presenting their findings.

Key Concepts:

Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare: Gain insights into Alas transformative potential in healthcare delivery, from enhancing clinical decision-making to optimizing operational workflows. Machine Learning: we will Master the principles of machine and deep learning, empowering participants to leverage data-driven architectures to unlock hidden patterns in complex medical datasets and to get insight of improved patient outcomes and healthcare efficiency.

Natural Language Processing: Unlock the power of NLP in healthcare, enabling participants to extract actionable insights from vast repositories of unstructured medical texts, paving the way for more personalized patient care.

Expert Teams:

Throughout this interesting learning journey, participants will have the privilege of collaborating with a student expert team from Student Research Committee, who will serve as guides, mentors, and sources of inspiration for participants.

Next Steps:

By the conclusion of this transformative course, participants will appear not only as a practitioner of AI technologies in healthcare but also as a visionary leader to drive innovation and positive change in the rapidly evolving landscape of healthcare delivery. Get ready to go on a journey of discovery, empowerment, and transformation as we unlock the limitless potential of AI in healthcare together!

International Educational Program:Patient Safety





Course Overview:

In this video, we will introduce you to our course on "Introduction to Patient Safety". This overview will cover the course's content and its benefits. This course provides an indepth understanding of patient safety principles and practices, aiming to equip healthcare professionals with the knowledge and skills necessary to enhance patient care outcomes and reduce medical errors.

Our learning objectives are:

- 1.Understand the concept of patient safety and its significance in healthcare.
- 2.Identify common types and causes of medical errors.
- 4.Analyze the impact of communication, teamwork, and organizational culture on patient safety.
- 5.Discuss methods for reporting and analyzing adverse events.
 6.Implement quality improvement initiatives to enhance patient safety in clinical practice.

This course is designed for:

- Healthcare professionals (physicians, nurses, pharmacists, allied health professionals)
- Medical students
- Healthcare administrators and managers

Course Content:

1. Introduction to Patient Safety

- Definition and scope of patient safety
- Historical perspective and evolution of patient safety initiatives
- Importance of patient safety in healthcare

2. Types and Causes of Medical Errors

- Medication errors
- Diagnostic errors
- Surgical errors
- Communication breakdowns
- Systems failures

3. Preventing Medical Errors

- Medication safety protocolsStandardized procedures and checklists
- Patient identification and verification processes
- Use of technology in error prevention

4. Communication and Teamwork in Patient Safety

- Importance of effective communication
- Team dynamics and collaboration
- Strategies for enhancing teamwork in healthcare settings

5. Reporting and Analyzing Adverse Events

- Incident reporting systems
- Root cause analysis (RCA)
- Failure mode and effects analysis (FMEA)

6. Quality Improvements in Patient Safety

- Continuous quality improvement (CQI) methodologies
- Performance measurement and benchmarking
- Patient safety culture assessment and improvement strategies

Duration:

This course is six weeks long and divided into 18 sections. Students are expected to spend approximately 9 hours per week on coursework.

Teaching Methods:

The course will include the following teaching methods:

-Lectures: Present theoretical concepts and frameworks.

-Case Studies: Analyze real-life scenarios to understand practical applications of patient safety principles.

 -Group Discussions: Encourage interaction and knowledge sharing among participants.

-Simulation Exercises: Provide hands-on practice in identifying and managing patient safety issues.

-Guest Speakers: Invite experts in the field to share their experiences and insights.

Assessment Strategies:

-Quizzes and Assignments: Assess understanding of course material.

-Case Analyses: Evaluate problem-solving skills in patient safety scenarios.

-Group Projects: Collaborative projects on designing and implementing patient safety initiatives.

-Final Examination: Comprehensive assessment of knowledge gained throughout the course.

Experts team

Our teaching professors in the field are as follows:

- Dr. Zahra Sheikhalipour
- Dr. Mojgan Lotfi
- Dr. Akram Gahramanian

We have two important concepts related to patient safety, which I believe should be included in the patient safety course. These concepts are wound management and nursing diagnosis and will be covered by Dr. Lotfi and Dr. Ghahramanian. You can find all the necessary information about these topics at the end of the video.

Resources

- Textbook of Patient Safety and Clinical Risk Management: Liam Donaldson,. 2021.
- Keeping Patients Safe: Transforming the Work Environment of Nurses: Page, Ann. 2004; Washington, D.C.: National Academies Press
- Patient Safety: the PROACT root cause analysis approach. Latino, Robert J., 2009; Boca Raton: CRC Press
- Online learning platforms for additional resources and interactive modules
- Relevant guidelines and standards from healthcare organizations (e.g., WHO, Institute for Healthcare Improvement) Conclusion:

By following this structured plan, learners will develop a solid foundation in patient safety principles and practices, enabling them to contribute effectively to improving patient care outcomes and minimizing medical errors in healthcare settings.

International Educational Program: Maxillofacial Disease

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Email:fa.javadzadeh@gmail.com



I am Farshad Javadzadeh, specialist in oral and maxillofacial medicine and assistant professor at the Faculty of Dentistry, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences.

Our specialty bridges dentistry and medical sciences.

First of all, let's talk about the specialty of oral and maxillofacial diseases. This specialty exists in some countries, such as the United States, Canada, and Australia. In European countries, our specialty is combined with radiology and pathology. As you know, our department admits many groups of patients, and I think our specialty is the broadest in dentistry. The first group of our patients are those with medical conditions who require dental treatment. Examples of these conditions include endocrine diseases, pulmonary diseases, heart diseases like heart failure and arrhythmia, gastrointestinal diseases, hepatic diseases, immunological disorders, and so on. Diagnosing their issues, blood test results, and overall health enables us to manage their treatment effectively.

The second group of our patients are candidates for organ transplant, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, and bisphosphonate therapy. As you know, before undergoing these treatments, patients must have a dental check-up to ensure that no teeth requiring fillings, root canal treatment, or extractions remain in their mouths, and they must have a healthy oral condition. Before those treatments, patients refer to us, and we prepare a healthy mouth for them. Also, after organ transplant, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, and bisphosphonate therapy, we periodically check their oral health every three months during the first years and then every six months.

The third group of our patients includes those with oral and maxillofacial lesions. As you know, there are many types of lesions in the oral and maxillofacial region, some of which are benign, some are premalignant, and some are malignant. These lesions can be intraosseous or in the soft tissue. We treat these patients through incisional or excisional biopsies.

The fourth group of our patients includes those with temporomandibular joint disorders. As you know, some patients may have bruxism or sleep apnea. We use specialized equipment to treat them.

Another group of our patients includes those with orofacial pain. Unfortunately, many of these patients initially visit a general dentist, complaining mainly of toothache. The dentist begins root canal treatment, but the pain doesn't subside after the procedure. The next step becomes tooth extraction! The general dentist starts extracting all the teeth in the region, but the pain isn't relieved yet. When the patient is referred to us, we find that they are actually experiencing oral or headacherelated pain, such as cluster headache, tension-type headache, trigeminal neuralgia, migraine headache, and more. Treating these patients is our responsibility.

The final group of our patients includes those suffering from xerostomia. As you know, after radiotherapy and chemotherapy, salivary gland function decreases. This leads to numerous cavities and causes pain in the oral tissues. We treat the low-level salivary gland function and oral lesions in these patients. In this course, we will discuss oral & maxillofacial lesions.

Other maxillofacial branches like oral & maxillofacial surgeons, ENT specialists, dermatologists, general dentists, and general practitioners can attend this course. First, we will explain the various types of lesions. Is the lesion benign or malignant? How should we approach it? Should we take a biopsy or not? Where is the best location for a biopsy? Which type of biopsy should we perform, excisional or incisional? Does the lesion require toluidine blue staining before biopsy to assess malignancy and select the best location for surgery? We will address these questions in our discussion.

Our course will last seven months. One month of theory and six months of clinical practice. The course instructors are Dr. Eslami, Head of the Oral & Maxillofacial Disease Department, and Dr. Hosseinpour Sarmadi.

A Historical Reflection on the Contemporary **Medical School of Tabriz**

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(Dr. Namazi Cont.)

features of the contemporary medical tradition in Tabriz and its connections to health, education, and healthcare delivery today.

According to the author's research, Tabriz's modern medical heritage and practice can be characterized as the "Contemporary Medical School of Tabriz." What follows is an outline of the key components of this school.

1. The Hospital's Distinguished Status

The long-standing tradition of hospitals in Tabriz has played a significant role in shaping the city's health culture. Over the past 60 years, Tabriz has stood out for its numerous and diverse specialized hospitals. Institutions such as Ahmadiyeh Hospital, the American Hospital, and the National Hospital are historical precursors to the modern hospitals that have emerged in recent decades, driving advances in healthcare and medical practices.

2. Medicine, Politics, and Social Movements

During the Constitutional Revolution and subsequent movements advocating for freedom, healthcare became intrinsically linked with justice and liberty. As a central hub of the Constitutional Movement, Tabriz was scrutinized by reformists for its healthcare and sanitation conditions. Mirza Yousuf Khan Tabrizi, also known as Mostashar al-Dowleh, criticized the lack of hospitals in his essay One Word, emphasizing public health as a priority for constitutional reforms. This enduring association between health and politics remains a defining characteristic of Tabriz's medical tradition.

3. Social Responsibility

Following the Constitutional Revolution, neighborhood associations in Tabriz played a pivotal role not only in political activities but also in charitable initiatives and community welfare. These organizations provided care for the underprivileged, establishing a legacy of social responsibility. The free services offered by the Tabriz National Hospital, along with the creation of orphanages, almshouses, and shelters for the needy, set a remarkable precedent for healthcare models in the city.

The city's long-standing "no-begging" tradition, which persists today, reflects a purposeful approach to social responsibility. The Tabriz Charity Association has been instrumental in ensuring the city remains free of beggars, regardless of economic conditions. Collaboration between industrialists, entrepreneurs, healthcare professionals, and caregivers has further strengthened the framework of social responsibility in addressing public health needs.

4. Charity

Charitable contributions in healthcare have a unique and inspiring tradition in Tabriz. One notable custom involves donating plaques from charitable health institutions, particularly those caring for patients with chronic and severe illnesses, such as kidney disease, at memorial gatherings instead of flowers. This meaningful practice, which originated in Tabriz, has spread to other cities in Iran, fostering a focused and impactful approach to health-related philanthropy.

In addition, several hospitals established by philanthropists stand as exemplary institutions, including Farmanfarmaiyan Hospital, Alinasab Hospital, and Nikoukari Hospital.

5. Medicine in Urban Life

Medicine in Tabriz holds a prestigious and respected position in public life. Historically, neighborhoods such as Kuy-e Moalejan (dedicated to full-time physicians) and Mahalleh Salehiyeh (for part-time doctors) were specifically designated for medical practitioners. This tradition continues today with areas like Kuy-e Atibba and Kuy-e Pezeshkan, reflecting the city's recognition of medicine's role in its urban fabric.

Despite a decline in naming streets and areas after health-related figures in recent decades, remnants of these traditions are still visible. Examples include Kuy-e Adl, named after the eminent surgeon Professor Adl, and Kuy-e Amirkabirian in the Sheshgelan district.

Another notable feature is the placement of clinics directly on main streets, ensuring easy public access. This integration creates what can be described as a "space of hope," fostering trust and accessibility in healthcare. A prominent example is the clinic of the late Dr. Mokhtar Ghandiha, a pioneer of ophthalmology in Iranian Azerbaijan, which has now evolved into a family-run medical practice.

6. Architecture and Health

The medical tradition in Tabriz is intricately linked to its architectural splendor. Iconic structures such as the Daneshsara-e Pesarān in Daneshsara Square, designed by the renowned French architect Maxime Siroux, once served as the temporary home of the Tabriz Medical School. Similarly, the old Medical School building (now the Paramedical Faculty) and the Madani Heart Hospital (formerly Imam Khomeini Hospital, previously Pahlavi Hospital) exemplify the grandeur of healthcare-related architecture.

Historic clinics also reflect fascinating architectural styles. For instance, Dr. Pourajam's clinic in Ark Alley was designed as a garden house, offering a comforting and inviting atmosphere for decades. Dr. Farough Esfahanian's clinic, located at the entrance of stone-built shops, is another notable example of distinctive architecture. Unfortunately, modern clinic designs have shifted toward standardized, office-like models. Reviving Tabriz's architectural heritage in healthcare spaces could reinvigorate the values of warmth, dignity, and care these structures once embodied.

7. Educational Tradition

The core elements of care, dignity, community focus, charity, social responsibility, and urban identity form the foundation of Tabriz's medical education tradition. This approach has cultivated a unique culture of healthcare practice, deeply rooted in the city's historical and social fabric. Documenting and continuing Tabriz's contemporary medical tradition is crucial to preserving its legacy. Historical consciousness in health is not merely ornamental; it serves as the backbone of sustained and meaningful care practices. Analyzing and framing the "Contemporary Medical School of Tabriz" offers valuable insights and guidance, ensuring that the city's rich heritage in healthcare and education remains a vital resource for future generations.

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Imam Reza General Hospital Newsletter Tabriz University of Medical Sciences Volume5 / Issue 4 / December 2024