

Editorial

Health Sciences Technology Development in IRAN during last decade.

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The improvement of life expectancy and the readiness in healthcare services worldwide cause more costs for health systems. As a solution, development in health technology could provide better, more safe, easy to use and efficient tools, equipment and drugs to compensate this barrier and to reduce the cost of the services as well as improve its availability and effectiveness. The international programs such as global priority research agenda for improving access to high-quality affordable assistive technology and global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property acted by world health organization are such an international effort, as a result of its importance, to achieve these goals.

Iran with very high level education in the undergraduate and graduate level (second rank worldwide), has highest increase rate in the research publication during last decade in the world. But the technology and innovation outputs and its overall rank were not really in accordance with the education and research activity level. In this regard, about three years ago, a national program for support and accelerate technology development has been started. During this period, health technology sector is one of the prospering and leading sectors in paving this way, i.e. with highest ranks in almost all technology output indicators, nationally.

The 65 medical universities and colleges, about 18000 faculty members, 739 research centers, 72 medical technology incubators, 8 operational clean rooms, 147 health technology projects, 884 health technology knowledge based firms, 29 percent of total patent application and granted in health sector and finally with the revenue of 390 million dollars in 2016 are the current situation of inputs and outputs of health technology in Iran.

With this current situation, health technology sector has the first rank in the number of knowledge based firms and the amount of money allocated to the knowledge based projects by innovation and prosperity fund. Hopefully, based on the science and technology indicators, the health technology is the top rank sector of technology in Iran. Despite the fact that the financial support for this sector is about one fifth of total GERD.

Comparing the input and output indicators show that the main consideration for health technology is to facilitate and support the commercialization of research and technology studies in this field.

In addition, providing the requirements for access to international market and export the health technology products such as international notified bodies to provide international standard certificates as well as export readiness consulting service are the main challenges ahead.

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