

## News

### First Urology and Nephrology Research Festival (Avicenna)

In 1999, the Urology and Nephrology Research Center (UNRC) began its activation. Since then, it has operated as the focal point for urology and nephrology research in Iran. The goals of the UNRC, in general, are to take all the necessary measures within the domains of its responsibilities to advance existing health and medical knowledge in preventing, diagnosing, and treating diseases and disabilities in urology and nephrology field.

The UNRC works toward its mission by conducting studies at national level and by supporting and coordinating with researchers, research institutions, universities and academic centers, and other related settings. In order to promote research in areas of common interest the UNRC has collaborated with governmental, and non-governmental organizations, which operate domestically and internationally.

Some of the UNRC's most important objectives are:

- To conduct need-assessment, set priorities, and call for proposals for high-quality research with the aim of maintaining and improving health
- To assess appropriate as well as affordable health technology and healthcare services that meet national needs in terms of health, quality of life and economic competitiveness;
- To disseminate and promote the resulting new knowledge among physicians, healthcare professionals, scientific centers as well as managers.
- To improve infrastructure for urology nephrology research in several ways by:
  - Providing facilities to research
  - Providing the necessary financial resources for research
  - Establishing national registers and databases for all activation in urology-nephrology field
  - Collaboration with different research institutions which operate inside and outside the country
  - Participation in international congresses for

obtaining more experience and knowledge

The First Urology and Nephrology Research Festival was held in December 16, 2004 and the best research projects in the field of renal and urinary tract diseases were selected and acclaimed.

The underlying objective of this festival is first to support the researchers financially and scientifically; secondly to appreciate their efforts, and third, to introduce the researchers and their findings to the scientific societies.

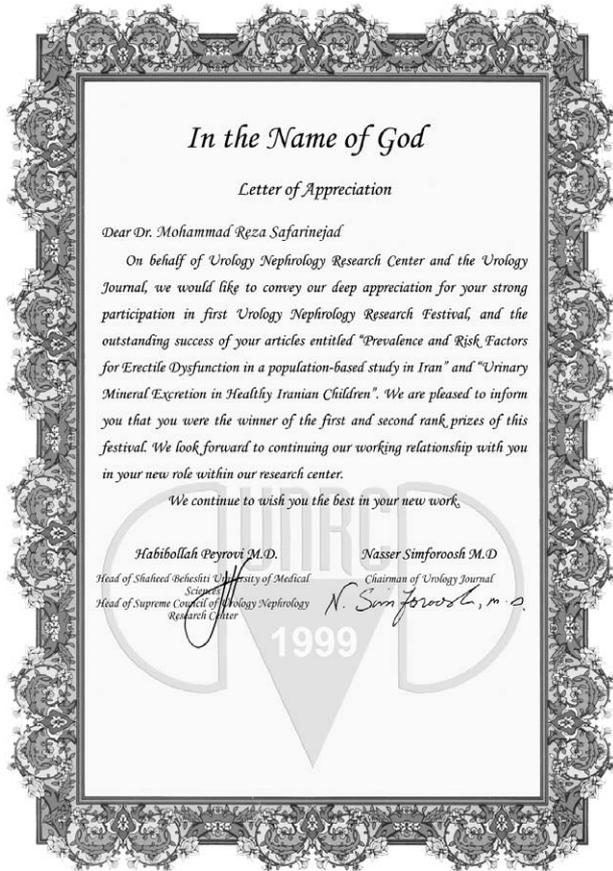
Juries evaluating in methodology, subject, creativity and problem solving first carefully assessed the research projects. Scores were gathered and after standardization and sorting the projects, the final judgment was made. The winners were invited to take part in the Award ceremony.

This year, Dr. Mohammad Reza Safarinejad, was the first prize winner of this festival. "Prevalence and Risk Factors for Erectile Dysfunction in a Population-based Study in Iran" and "Urinary Mineral Excretion in Healthy Iranian Children" were the names of his studies.



Dr. M.R. Safarinejad, first prize winner of festival

M. R. Safarinejad was born on February 17, 1959 in Tabriz, Iran. He began his professional life with a M.D. degree from the University of Medical Sciences of Tabriz. He decided that urology was a more interesting and challenging



field, and he completed his urology residency at Shaheed Beheshti University of Medical Sciences in 1997. From 1998 he was an assistant professor in the department of Urology. He became vice councilor for education and research of University of Medical Sciences in 2002. Through hard work, vision and creativity he built an excellent urology department at the University. Doctor Safarinejad is an excellent role model who has had a hand in training as well as academic researches. He is a member of American Urological Association (AUA) and European Association of Urology (EAU). He is associate editor of the Urology Journal. It is indeed a great honor to recognize Doctor Safarinejad for all that he has done to help establish, protect and serve the field of urology and to bestow upon him the 2004 first rank Urology Nephrology Research Award.