



IRANIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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May 27, 2020

Dear IAMA members and friends,

I hope this letter finds everyone well. This will be my last message during the 4 years of being IAMA's president. First of all, I would like to wish the best to the upcoming board, chaired by Dr. Mortazavi who is very talented, motivated and dedicated to continuing the mission of IAMA and to take it to a new level. I congratulate him and his board members. My board members and I will be at their disposal if we can be of any help, since we all love IAMA and Iran.

One of the most important achievements was the improvement of IAMA's website & implementation of social media. This has been possible through the outstanding work of Dr. Mohammad Shokouh-Amiri and Dr. Katayoun Katouzian who spent endless hours and a lot of hard work which brought the website and the social media to a higher level. The website is functional, user friendly and distributes IAMA's messages to a much wider audience. Off course the website is not perfect yet, since informational technology is dynamic & ever changing. We hope that the new board will continue to improve the website even further so IAMA can be on the forefront of reaching out to its members and friends in the best possible way. The highlights of what website and social media committees have achieved are:

- New Website design and management (with Cyberset)
- Providing online registration option for membership and for the annual conferences
- New email addresses and domain for IAMA (Google GSuite) -GSuite package for NPO has many features available for IAMA domain email users.
- MailChimp: for bulk email and newsletters. This was necessary for IAMA to be in compliance with the CAN-SPAM ACT.
- "Two" PayPal accounts
- Facebook Page and Groups for communication and for fundraising campaigns
- Network for Good account for requesting IAMA's unclaimed money in social media
- Smile Amazon account
- Evenbrite for ticketing, events, conferences, and Gala registration and payment.
- Social media (Facebook Page & Groups =875 followers, LinkedIn- Page & Group=9,804 followers, Twitter, Instagram=362 followers, YouTube).
- Online banking arrangement at Bank of America
- Set up QuickPay via Zelle system
- Adding a saving account for IAMA's in November 2019
- Adding a new checking account for IAMA for all types of donations.



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Another important achievement of IAMA is creation of a coalition with other humanitarian organizations in the US and Canada. HUREC (Humanitarian Relief Coalition) was created in order to help the patients of the COVID-19 pandemic. As you all are well aware, this pandemic has affected our beloved country, Iran, very seriously. IAMA has been one of the top five founders of this coalition. Drs. Omid Ashouri, Mohammad Shokouh-Amiri, & myself have had the privilege & honor of representing IAMA in this coalition. We have been successful in generating more than \$500,000 through the generous donations from Iranian, American, and Canadian friends. IAMA hopes that through the generosity of good people, we can save lives and help the medical groups who are in forefront of fighting this pandemic. I encourage everyone to still donate to this great cause by visiting yarikon.com. It is noteworthy to mention that Drs Omid Ashouri & Mohammad Shokouh-Amiri went well above & beyond their line of volunteerism to not only help with fundraising but to spread the word to the media & secure radio & television shows to make IAMA's Humanitarian mission heard.

As you know, due to COVID-19 pandemic, meetings have been cancelled all over the world in an effort to keep everyone safe. We, like many others, had to cancel our annual medical conference in May 2020. All the money that was collected for registration and Gala event has been refunded to the registrants. This happened through the hard work of local organizing committee, chaired by Dr. Mortazavi who first secured a beautiful location (Hilton Hotel), then worked diligently to cancel it in a way that all members got their registration money back. Dr. Mortazavi, incoming president, is hoping to hold the meeting at the same location next year, depending on the COVID-19 pandemic and the new Board's decision.

Our membership numbers have been increasing slowly, but surely. A new dental section has been added to IAMA. This has been possible through the work of a very energetic, motivated, and dedicated member, Dr. Shafa Amirsoltani. She has revolutionized this section. Many congratulations to her for this & for accepting to be a member of the new board. We have had very successful CME activities and scientific meetings in San Diego, Houston, & Chicago. This year's meeting, which was planned to be in New Jersey was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic. All abstracts that were accepted to be presented this year will be considered for next year's meeting if the authors are still agreeable to present them.

Our finances have been good, and we have been able to generate more funds through donations to IAMA's humanitarian efforts, like the earthquake in Kermanshah, flash floods in Shiraz and now the COVID-19 pandemic, and for IAMA itself. Many thanks to our generous donors who have believed in the humanitarian mission of IAMA and trusted this organization as custodian of their great effort. We promise that these funds will be used as efficiently as possible with the least administrative cost. Detailed report of our activity will be in the treasurer report and results of these activities will be on the website for our great donors to know how their donation is spent.

IAMA has continued its scientific & humanitarian relations with different universities in Iran especially the Liver & Pancreas transplant programs. Missionary works to underprivileged countries, like Honduras, have been carried out successfully over the years as well.

None of these would have been possible without the support of board of trustees, chapters & hard work of board members. I would like to specifically thank Drs. Ganchi, Moshirpur, Bozorgzad, Mohajer, Massumi, Ashouri, Nourbakhsh, M. Shokouh Amiri, Katouzian, Armaghany, Fallahi, Ataei, Ghazi, Madani, Hanjani, Torrei, Shidban, Tavakoli, Farhad, Ameri, Mrs. Mirfakhraee, and Mrs. A. Ashouri for their outstanding effort in advancing IAMA's mission during my four years of serving IAMA.



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Considering that all functions of IAMA are based on volunteerism, still I would like to give my special thanks to those volunteers who gave their love & passion before, during, & after the meetings to make sure everything ran smoothly during our annual conferences. Special thanks to Ms. Donna Daly, IAMA Administrative Assistant, Ms. Yvette Sanchez, WK Transplant Administrator and Mrs. Rhea Whitlock, WK Administrative Assistant, who helped me keep different organizational activities of IAMA performed in a timely manner.

Unfortunately, during these past 4 years we have lost great members of IAMA, Mrs. Fallahi, Drs. Vida, Mirlouhi, Hedayati, Saberi & Mohammadi who have been the pillars of this great organization. It is the hope of IAMA to continue their legacy. They will be immensely missed.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank my lovely wife, Dr. Afsaneh (Sophia) Shokouh-Amiri, who has always helped me with her great enthusiasm and innovative suggestions behind the scenes & without expecting any recognition.

With very best wishes for the new board and its new president, Dr. Mortazavi, I will say goodbye, but I promise to be involved in the affairs of IAMA as the past president and a loyal member of IAMA.

*"Human beings are members of a whole,
In creation of one essence and soul.
If one member is afflicted with pain,
Other members uneasy will remain.
If you have no sympathy for human pain,
The name of human you cannot retain."*

*Saadi's great poem:
(Translation to English by M. Aryanpour)*

Yours truly,

Hosein Shokouh-Amiri, MD, FACS, FICS
IAMA President 2016-2020
HUREC Founding Board Member
Professor of Surgery
Director of Liver Transplantation & Co-Director of Transplant Program at
John C. McDonald Transplant Center, Shreveport, LA