

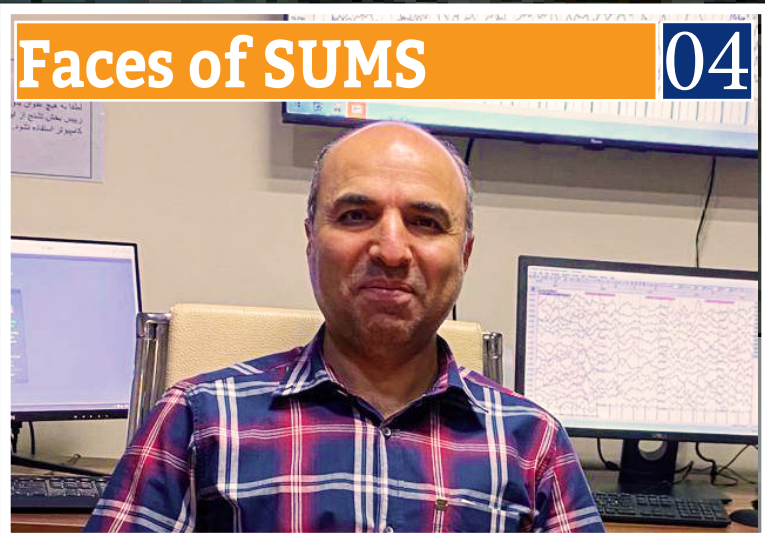
# Shiraz University of Medical Sciences (SUMS) Newsletter



## Triumph for Student Athletes

SUMS Athletes Emerge Victorious at the Second Iran's International Students' Sports Festival

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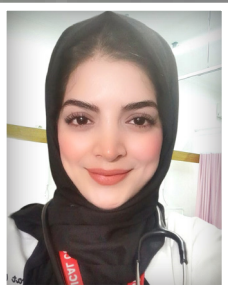
From Vision to Reality:  
Dr. Ali Akbar Asadi-Pooya's Journey in Epilepsy Studies



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Pioneering Valve Construction Method Claims Top Spot in 2023 CTSNet Innovation Video Competition

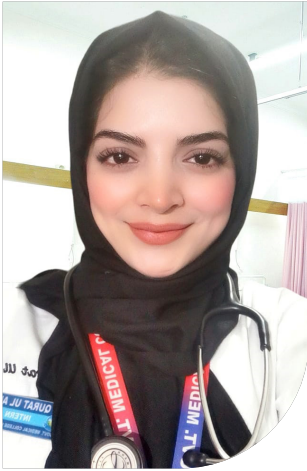


Insights From SUMS International Graduates

## Journey Through Medicine

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# Journey Through Medicine: Insights From SUMS International Graduates



Dr. Qurat ul Aine

In this edition of the SUMS newsletter, we are delighted to feature an insightful interview with Dr. Qurat ul Aine, a former student who embarked on a remarkable journey from Iqbal Memorial Institute in Srinagar, J&K, India, to SUMS in Iran. Dr. Aine shares her experiences of immersing herself in Iranian culture, forming meaningful connections with locals, and reflecting on the differences in medical education systems between her home country and Iran. Through her time at SUMS, Dr. Aine has gleaned valuable lessons on self-discipline, shared humanity, embracing struggles, perseverance and transformation. Join us as we delve into Dr. Aine's unique perspective and the enriching experiences she gained during her study at SUMS.

## **Can you tell us a little bit about your background and what brought you to study at Shiraz University of Medical Sciences?**

I am Dr. Qurat ul Aine and I did my schooling from Iqbal Memorial Institute in Srinagar, J&K, India. I'm currently undertaking my compulsory rotary medical internship at GMC Handwara. The suggestion from my cousin, a neurologist in Minnesota, led me to pursue my MBBS at SUMS in Shiraz, Iran. Through the conversation I had with him, I was impressed by the esteemed reputation of Iranian doctors.

## **How have you been able to immerse yourself in Iranian culture while studying at Shiraz University of Medical Sciences?**

Throughout my stay in Shiraz, I formed meaningful friendships with Iranians, immersing myself in their language and culture. Iran has become an integral part of me, and even today, I occasionally find myself unintentionally using Farsi instead of Urdu when conversing with colleagues.

## **What are some of the differences you've noticed in medical education and practices between your home country and Iran?**

Notable differences I observed between the medical education systems of Iran and Kashmir include the remarkable dedication of Iranian professors to hands-on training, contrasting with the reliance on books in Kashmir. Whereas the Indian educational system offers a more streamlined and student-friendly approach, emphasizing self-study.

## **What are some of the most important lessons you've learned during your time at Shiraz University of Medical Sciences?**

Reflecting on my time at SUMS, I learned a lot of valuable lessons;

- a) Success hinges on self-discipline and consistency.
- b) Despite surface disparities, our shared humanity binds us through love, compassion, empathy, and shared life struggles.
- c) Embracing the struggles inherent in human existence is essential.
- d) Transformation occurs when one is either inspired enough or compelled enough.
- e) Persevere through challenges, as the view from the top is always worth the climb.

# Message From Students



*Ali Al Sheikh Radhi  
MBBS Graduate*

Upon completing my studies at SUMS Medical School, I returned to Iraq to fulfill the educational requirements mandated by the Iraqi healthcare system. I am presently undertaking the final year medical school examination to attain the Iraqi equivalent of my MBBS degree.

My current placement at the surgery ward of the Al-Najaf Teaching Hospital entails a diverse range of activities including shifts, clinic attendance, emergency medicine rotations, operating room duties, and ward rounds. Additionally, we engage in regular morning rounds and conferences to solidify our learning.

While gaining valuable clinical experience here in Najaf, I cannot but appreciate the enriching knowledge and expertise I acquired at SUMS. With its distinguished faculty, well-developed program and advanced facilities, the University imparts an in-depth understanding of medical concepts and practices on par with the latest advances in the field.



*Abdulali Altameemi  
MBBS Graduate*

My time at SUMS stands out as one of the most transformative chapters in my personal and academic journey. Besides receiving rigorous theoretical training in preclinical years, we were offered outstanding hands-on exposure to medical settings during the clinical period. Being a medical focal point in southern Iran, Shiraz is home to some of the nation's premier healthcare facilities, and therefore provides an invaluable opportunity for aspiring medical professionals seeking to excel in their respective homelands.

After graduating from SUMS, I returned to Iraq and started working at Al Baquba hospital near my residence. My current proficiency in diagnosing and treating patients is largely indebted to my clinical years at SUMS. Thank you SUMS for your invaluable support and mentorship throughout my academic pursuits.

# Messages From Students



*Ali Al-Saedi  
B.Sc. Graduate  
Operating Room Technology*

Thanks to god, I managed to successfully navigate four years of arduous studies and a rigorous curriculum offered by Shiraz University of Medical Sciences. I can now claim to have all the required expertise and confidence to serve as an operating room technician at teaching hospitals in Najaf, Iraq. Passionate about my profession, I recommend it to all interested friends and relatives. For those intrigued by surgical procedures, I urge you not to hesitate in pursuing this exceptional opportunity. SUMS Operating Room Program offers a secure career trajectory for those who aspire to become a successful operating room specialist, much like myself.



*Juneefar Farooq  
MBBS Graduate*

Life abounds with various events, moments, memories, and experiences, yet not all are equally important, enjoyable, or memorable. The experience of holding the stethoscope after completing my basic science studies brought me immense pleasure and delight.



*Bilquees Fatima  
MBBS Graduate*

The journey of studying medicine at this prestigious university is unforgettable to me. All the nights of stress and days of joy, the moments of frustration followed by walks to clear my mind, exploring different parts of Iran during breaks, savoring various Iranian cuisines, meeting diverse individuals, and immersing myself in Iran's rich nature and culture have contributed to a treasure trove of memories for me.

# Faces of SUMS

## From Vision to Reality: Dr. Ali Akbar Asadi-Pooya's Journey in Epilepsy Studies



With many years of experience in epilepsy research and care, Dr. Ali Akbar Asadi-Pooya has emerged as SUMS leading figure in fighting this common neurological disorder. His dedication to the treatment of epileptic patients across various age groups and backgrounds has rendered him an authority in addressing different dimensions of this widespread disease.

In 2008, Dr. Asadi-Pooya led a team of multidisciplinary experts in establishing the University's Epilepsy Care Unit and epilepsy surgery program at Namazi Hospital in Shiraz, Iran. In the following years, the expansion of activities called for the creation of a specialized facility for research in the field. To that end, the Shiraz Epilepsy Research Center was founded in 2020 under Dr. Asadi-Pooya's direction. His tireless endeavors have now resulted in SUMS being acknowledged as a national and regional focal point for epilepsy studies. In the year 2021 Dr. Asadi-Pooya was recognized among the world's top 1% of highly cited researchers, as reported by ESI (Essential Science Indicators) database. His scholarly contributions include 350 peer-reviewed papers and 12 books covering various facets of epilepsy.

Presently Dr. Asadi-Pooya holds the position of Professor of Epileptology at SUMS Department of Neurology. Additionally, he serves as an Adjunct Research Associate Professor of Neurology, at Jefferson Comprehensive Epilepsy Center, Department of Neurology, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA, USA.

### Notable Patient Care Accomplishments

- Setting up an epilepsy surgery team in southern Iran (2009)
- Launching unique epilepsy surgeries in Iran and the wider Middle East in collaboration with Dr. Mohammad Sadegh Masoudi.
- First Hemispherectomy in Iran (2020)
- First Surgery on Hypothalamic Hamartoma in Iran (2020)
- VNS in epilepsy and depression (2019)
- Launching an autoimmune epilepsy team in southern Iran (2022)

### Memberships and Awards

- Member of 5 scientific committees of International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE)
- Top-rated expert in seizures in Asia (2019)
- Second place in Iran's Razi Festival (2020)
- Iran's top researcher of the year (2020)

## Campus Updates: What's New at Our Alma Mater



### **Pioneering Valve Construction Method Claims Top Spot in 2023 CTSNet Innovation Video Competition**

The successful implementation of a groundbreaking technique in cardiac surgery was announced at Shahid Faghihi Hospital of Shiraz University of Medical Sciences (SUMS). This innovative procedure focuses on tricuspid valve construction for congenitally malformed or defective right ventricle outflow tract (RVOT) from the right atrial appendage.

Dr. Ahmad Ali Amirghofran, the Head of Cardiac Surgery Department at SUMS, highlighted the benefits of this pioneering method, and added “rather than using artificial or donor tissues, the patient’s own heart tissue is employed in the process, thereby eliminating the side effects of artificial valves or the risk tissue of rejection”. He referred to the creation of heart valves from patients own tissues as a long-held aspiration in the realm of cardiac surgery.

The results of Dr. Amirghofran’ recent study on this innovative technique have been presented at various scientific forums in Iran and across the globe. Notably, a video presentation showcasing this achievement secured the top position in 2023 CTSNet Innovation Video Competition. This prestigious competition serves to acknowledge innovative solutions that address cardiothoracic surgical challenges.

Dr. Amirghofran elaborated on the intricacies of this pioneering approach, maintaining that all phases, from conceptualization to realization, were executed at SUMS. The surgical teams at Shahid Faghihi Hospital perform a substantial volume of complex open-heart surgeries annually, including valve repair, valve replacement, and coronary artery bypass grafting.

# Campus Updates

Showcasing their impressive skills and determination, SUMS international students' sports teams excel at the 2nd National Sports Competition for Non-Iranian Medical Students- February and March, 2024.

## Women's Sports Team

- Swimming: 2 First Places
- Physical Fitness: 1<sup>st</sup> Place
- Tug-of-War: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place
- Rifle Shooting: 1<sup>st</sup> Place



## Men's Sports Team

- Domino: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place
- Dodgeball: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place
- Rifle Shooting: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Places
- Swimming: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Places



# Campus Updates

SUMS International Students' Graduation Ceremony 2024



We are honored to announce that in this ceremony, one Pharm. D. and 37 M.B.B.S. students, as well as three fellowship candidates in Colorectal Surgery, Pediatrics Critical Care Medicine (PCCM) and Hepatopancreatobiliary Surgery celebrated their qualification.

To submit stories and photos for future newsletters, please email us at [newsletter@sums.ac.ir](mailto:newsletter@sums.ac.ir).



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