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Fields: ▪ Health

In the past 25 years, Iran has experienced a dearth of institutional communication between university faculty, students and researchers with American universities. Since the medical educational system and the very texts from which Iranian medical students study are either structured or appropriated from the U.S., it is most crucial that we establish communication for the sake of the future of medicine in Iran. We propose a system in which we have 1) joint research, 2) joint training courses and 3) joint educational exchange programs for students and professors to benefit both American and Iranian scientific knowledge. More information: 1) Joint Research a. After Iranian health experts approached Iranian government officials about the lack of collaboration between Iran and other developed countries, including the United States, the government listed seventeen university institutes to be labeled as model institutions (and now hold a legal license for institutional collaboration) that are encouraged to close the gap between Iran and developed countries, and NRITLD was one of them. b. In the past quarter century, there have been some contacts between Iranian and American researchers, but it was mainly conducted through individual actors within universities, and rarely (if never) have we seen an official institutional

collaboration with the United States. 2) Joint Training Courses a. In NRITLD, we have started a successful program in which we brought physicians, technicians and nurses from Iran and its border countries to train them in medical methods. We hope to expand this to create a PhD program in collaboration with a U.S. university. That is, we hope to create a joint PhD program where students study both in the U.S. and Iran in culturally appropriate methods in health care. 3) Exchange of Students/Professors a. We wish to create a mechanism in which American professors can teach and perform research in Iran, and vice versa, as well as a student exchange in which American students can work on research and workshops with Iranian students and vice versa. i. REACH is an American-Iranian exchange of students involved in education and research that promotes the strengthening of healthcare systems in Iran in accordance with the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

Map this organization

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1 – To create a university student network (REACH) in which local student groups in Iran and the United States will collaborate on scientific research and advocacy/educational programs related to the MDG. The Iranian REACH committee has students hailing from ten universities and they are in the process of establishing a training course in Iranian universities regarding health/MDG and creating research projects to be carried out in collaboration with American student researchers. The American REACH committee has students hailing from Ivy League universities and other top colleges and work to recruit student researchers to go to Iran and participate in MDG workshops and collaborative research projects. In 2006, a group of second generation Iranian students attending universities in North America formed an organization to promote partnership among Iranian and American institutions in order to facilitate achieving the MDG in Iran and further scientific knowledge in the United States. 2 - To invite American professors to come to Iran to present lectures and teach courses to Iranian students and faculty, and specifically at the Masih Danesvari hospital/NRITLD. 3 - To provide Iranian students and professors to have short educational visits to the United States as research fellows where they will participate in research and educational activities. 4 – To facilitate joint institutional research opportunities for American and Iranian students and professors for the furthering of scientific and cultural knowledge.

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