



## Beginning of Solar Hijri 15<sup>th</sup> Century; A Prologue to a New Year of Change

Over the past two years, the outbreak of COVID-19 disease has caused death and disability of very many individuals around the world and, needless to say, in Iran. The malady has caused a diversity of changes in humankind, provoked new behaviours in the personal/social lives of people, and had unprecedented impacts on the scientific community. In the past year, alongside the feeling of extreme grief and sadness owing to the death of fellow human beings and beloved ones, with the extensive and comprehensive efforts of scientists worldwide and global unity, substantial achievements for the science and public health systems in the vaccination/immunization of populations and control of COVID-19 disease amongst nations began to emerge.

Furthermore, the pandemic and its different consequences have innovatively affected the pace of scientific developments in numerous disciplines; including dentistry and endodontics. Moreover, Last year, 2021 AD, witnessed a new position statement declared by the *American Association of Endodontists*; leading to a paradigm shift and significant changes in the diagnostic and therapeutic approaches in endodontics, i.e. vital pulp therapy (VPT). Iranian researchers have had the honour to play an important part in the endeavour; another glorious triumph for Iran from where most critical research on VPT originated in the last two decades. It should be emphasized that the most significant amendment on the horizon is the expansion of definition on what vision should be established for the scientific innovation, and which services ought to be performed for patients in need with a much higher standard of care.

In this regard, in the very last month of the current Solar Hijri year, the 5<sup>th</sup> international symposium of the *Iranian Association of Endodontists* was virtually held in collaboration with the *Confederation of Asia-Pacific Endodontics* on "Vital Pulp Therapy and Regenerative Endodontics"; a crucial topic which had not been previously discussed/focused with this degree of detail in such a large international forum. The symposium convened from March 1 to 4, 2022; and was, in fact, an excellent venue to schedule a detailed programme; covering various aspects of the rapidly

developing approach/practice, i.e. VPT. The prime purpose of the symposium was to bring together the scientists working in the field of VPT to present its current status and provide a perfect atmosphere for further theoretical/experimental research/developments. The programme included scientific lectures presented in 54 articles in the published proceeding. The scientific community would undoubtedly wish to thank the speakers/delegates for their interest, excitement, and collective thinking that created a truly intellectual yet warm atmosphere, leading to a successful symposium with brilliant and novel ideas.

Although concerns about COVID-19 disease and its repercussions persist, it is certainly hoped that the solar Hijri year 1400 will end with the elimination of COVID-19 pandemic cycle, and the New Year will begin with faster re-growth of the thriving tree of science. In addition, considering Iran's important accomplishments in the field of VPT, we hope that the forthcoming year will march on with the spread and expansion of simple endodontic treatment services, e.g. VPT, to the Iranians as well as people around the world.

With the arrival of beautiful spring, the new solar year of 1401 shall begin with the commencement of the new 15<sup>th</sup> century in Iran; and Iranians, in honour of these days, will celebrate the New Year and shall make another endeavour. To successfully take the *Iranian Endodontic Journal* into the future, we would like to thank/congratulate all the editorial staff/board, reviewers, readers, and researchers/authors who have brought extraordinary commitment and exemplary dedication to their roles, and wholeheartedly contributed to the advancement of the entire scientific enterprise in the knowledge of endodontics and endodontology.

Here is wishing you all a safe, healthy, exciting, and successful new year/century.

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