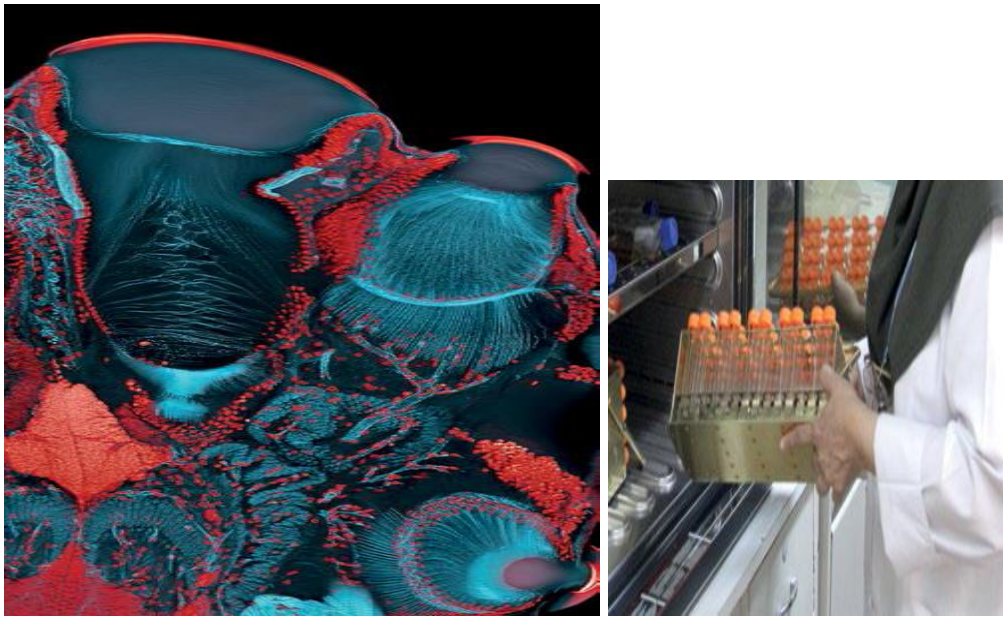


Meshkin-Shahr Education and Research Station



Introduction: Meshkin-Shahr Station was established in 1992 as a temporary Kala-Azar diagnosis station to investigate and identify visceral leishmaniasis which is considered a deadly and dangerous parasitic human diseases and its endemic centers are mainly in Ardabil and East Azerbaijan Provinces. According to the memorandum of understanding no. 241/86/62 dated July 28th, 2008 signed by deputies of Health, Research and Technology of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education and Former President of Health Research Institution and also sessions with Health and Research Deputies of Ardabil and Tabriz Universities of Medical Studies, considering the increasing development of traditional and industrial animal husbandry in those regions, the research requirements for these provinces were determined in order to investigate the zoonosis of these provinces and to decreasing their occurrences and prevent probable mortalities caused by them.

Purpose: Initial purpose of the station at the time of establishment was to study and investigate different types of visceral leishmaniasis (Kala-Azar) such as reservoirs, vectors, human infections and control methods in Ardabil and East Azerbaijan provinces. Strategic objectives of the station in the next three years are as follows:

- Determining the epidemiologic characteristics of some of zoonotic diseases in Ardabil and East Azerbaijan provinces such as Hydatid Cyst especially the alveolar, Kala-Azar (cutaneous forms of post Kala-Azar), toxoplasmosis, neosporosis, cryptosporidiosis, Malta Fever to perform necessary interventions in order to control and prevent the spread in the area
- Evaluating antigens and prepared kits to conduct laboratory diagnosis on Kala-Azar in endemic areas of this disease mostly found in northwest of Iran in order to perform a quicker diagnosis on human and animal reservoirs of this disease
- Evaluating vaccines of leishmaniasis on owned dogs of Meshkin-Shahr as the most important source of animal visceral leishmaniasis to control Kala-Azar in humans

Research Activities:

Staff of Meshkin-Shahr Education and Research Station has conducted 5 international research projects and 66 national and regional research projects which are about various aspects of Kala-Azar and other endemic diseases in the area. Additionally, M.Sc., Ph.D. and MPH students have carried out

their field dissertations with the assistance of staff of this station the result of which are 52 articles published in English, 35 articles published in Persian and presentation of over 60 abstracts in international conferences and 75 articles in national conferences. It must be mentioned that in Avicenna Festival held in 2003 this station was acclaimed for the highest number of English articles published. There are other research projects which are carried out in this station. For instance Meshkin-Shahr Education and Research station ranked second in the 10th festival of Medical Sciences of Iran in 2004, ranked first in the sixteenth Razi Festival of Research in Medical Sciences in 2010 and ranked first in the first Avicenna Festival held in 1999.