

INTERNATIONALIZATION  
OF HIGHER EDUCATION WORKSHOP  
YALDA | AJUMS | IUIS  
SPECIAL NEW ACADEMIC YEAR IMMUNOLOGY  
CEREMONY CONGRESS

# AJUMSIA

AJUMS INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
YALDA NIGHT



JANUARY 2024

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL AHVAZ- IZMIR- GAZI SYMPOSIUM

AJUMS BEYOND THE BORDERS

AJUMS INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE





## Director's Note

Thanks to the God who gave us the opportunity to present the first issue of International Affairs journal of Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences (AJUMSIA) to those interested in the field of internationalization after going through various stages and many follow-ups. AJUMSIA tries to publish seasonally by International Affairs in order to introduce the events and news of International Affairs of Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences to all students and academics, worldwide.

Internationalization of higher education heavily influences the development of science and technology in countries. It also brings economic, cultural, social, and political advantages to countries. Internationalization of higher education is at the top of countries' plans and many countries have prepared and implemented special short-term, medium-term, and long-term programs in this field.

The last word, I appreciate the efforts of my colleagues at AJUMS International Affairs for their generous assistance during the first release of the AJUMSIA. May God support my colleagues and I to bring AJUMSIA closer to its international perspective day by day and to play a role, however small in familiarization of AJUMS worldwide.

*Prof. seyed ali mard*



## Editor in Chief note

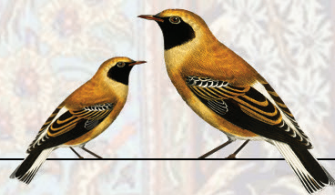
Undoubtedly, one of the most important achievements of the AJUMS International Affairs is the publication of journal of AJUMSIA which has the support of Director of AJUMS International Affairs and academic editorial board. The AJUMSIA tries to share all the latest university news from AJUMS International Affairs including AJUMS international program of studies, our international students, and their academic experiences in Ahvaz. I hope that the efforts of my colleagues and I in AJUMSIA draw a real picture from AJUMS International Affairs to those interested in studying in this university.

*Mergan Tahmasbi Bergani*



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# AJUMS

**A Prestigious Center of Medical Excellence**

## AHVAZ JUNDISHAPUR UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences (AJUMS) is one of the oldest universities in the world whose history dates back to 1700 years ago and its name was taken from Gondishapur city in the northwestern Khuzestan Province in the Sassanid period. Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences (AJUMS) is a medical university in Khuzestan Province, southwestern of Iran in the city of Ahvaz. The university was established as a College of Medicine at 1955, which itself was a revived reincarnation of the ancient Academy of Gondishapur that existed in the same area in the late antiquity. The university separated and fell under the Ministry of Health and Medical Education of Iran in 1986.



## AJUMS FACULTY MEMBERS

The AJUMS has been known as one of the top universities in Iran with eight schools, 805 faculty members with a total of 77 Full Professors , 160 Associate Professors, 489 Assistant Professors , 63 lecturers and 81 retired professors. The largest number of faculty members at AJUMS works at school of medicine (with total of 448 professors). Dentistry is the second faculty for having faculty members in the AJUMS (with a total of 83 professors). Eight professors of AJUMS are among the top one percent of the world's Highly Cited Researchers in 2022. Academic members have published 117 books, 11642 papers, and 5808 research projects.

## AJUMS HOSPITALS

The university administers 8 public hospitals in the city of Ahvaz, and 20 other hospitals in the surrounding areas, as well as dozens of clinics scattered across the province. The university is organized into eight academic schools: Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Public health, Allied Medical School, Rehabilitation, Nursing and Midwifery and Bostsan's nursing. Each school offers both undergraduate and post graduate courses and degree programs.



## AJUMS RESEARCH CENTERS

There are twenty six research centers at the university including Diabetes Research Center, Thalassemia and Hemoglobinopathy Research Center, Cancer Research Center, Environmental Technologies Research Center, Social Determinants of Health Research Center, Research Center hyperlipidemia, Physiology Research Center, Infectious & Tropical Diseases, Nutrition and Metabolic Disorders Research Center, Reproductive Health Promotion Research Center, Medicinal Plant Research Center, Nursing care in chronic disease research center, Nanotechnology Research Center, Muscle Rehabilitation Research Center – Skeletal, Skeletal Muscle Rehabilitation Research Center, Alimentary Tract infections Research Center, Pain Research Center, Center for Cardiovascular Research, Research Center menopause and andropause, Toxicology Research Centre, Research Center for Hearing and Speech, Pharmaceutical Technology Development Center, Cellular and Molecular Research Center, Research Center for eye infections, Air



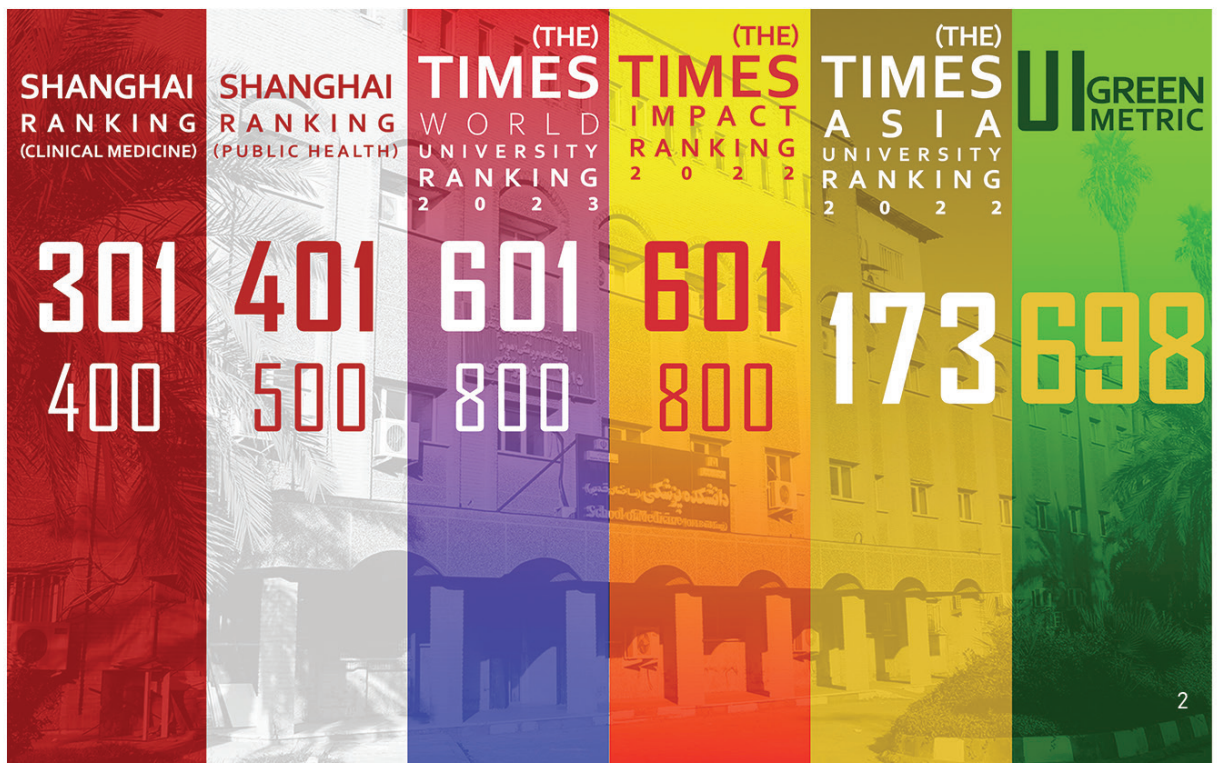
## AJUMS INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS S T A T I S T I C S

The total number of international students in the AJUMS is 342 (Graduates, and current students) in 16 fields of study with different degrees including B.Sc., MBBS, M.Sc., MD, Ph.D., Specialty, and Subspecialty. The countries of origin at AJUMS are Iraq, Pakistan, India, Syria, Afghanistan, and Ghana. The country with the most international students at AJUMS is Iraq, followed by Pakistan, India, Syria, Ghana, and Afghanistan, respectively.

## A J U M S F A C U L T I E S

The university is constituted of 8 Schools, offering doctorate degrees in science and medicine in 27 fields. These included with school of medicine, school of dentistry, school of Pharmacy, school of Dentistry, school of rehabilitation, school of Allied Medical Sciences , and school of Nursing and Midwifery. School of medicine has the highest number of international students with a total of 203 students. The largest number of international students in AJUMS are studying medicine (MBBS, and MD). Dentistry is the second most chosen subject of study for international students at AJUMS (with a total of 17 students). The remaining students are studying in programs Pharmacy (Pharm D), Traditional Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Toxicology, Medicinal chemistry, Nursing, Immunology, Pulmonary Medicine, Medical Imaging Technology, Anesthesia Education, Orthodontic specialty, Anesthesiology, Laboratories Sciences, Physiotherapy, Midwifery, and Health education in different academic levels.

## AJUMS RANKINGS







## AJUMS INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

Language College of AJUMS International Affairs started in 2020. This college provides high quality Persian and English courses for international and domestic medical students.

Located on the top floor of School of Medicine (old building), with a unique view, Language College is accessible from every school which you are studying in. To reach the main reception area wherein the classrooms are located, simply use the elevator or walk up the stairs. The classes held in bright classrooms equipped with all electronic devices essential for high-standard language education.

In Persian courses, international students improve their general and medical Persian. They can enjoy a unique educational experience in a mature and supportive environment, perfect for preparing them to communicate with their Iranian peers, improve their conversational skills, and get familiar with medical genre. In this way, the students gain confidence, become more fluent and succeed at building up their Persian language skills during the extensive courses. In General Persian programmes, the students will develop their listening, reading, writing and speaking skills, as well as expand their vocabulary and grammar knowledge. In addition, they will learn about Persian-speaking culture and way of life.

International students also take medical Persian course. The highly specialised teaching offered will enable our students to communicate in all situations, confident when interacting with colleagues and patients and able to use the Persian language to achieve highly specific aims. The medical Persian course equips our students to succeed in effective communication in hospitals and laboratories. Fluency, accuracy, and the ability to express themselves with ease are just three of the many advantages the students will take away from medical Persian classes.

After passing Basic Science and Pathophysiology courses, the international medicine students have to be equipped with the key language skills to understand medicine texts in Persian and participate effectively in professional discussions in hospitals. The medical Persian courses in the Language College will give them this distinct advantage to get ready for such situations.

This college also provide English language courses at all levels from Beginner to Advanced. This course is not only for international and domestic medical students, but for the faculties, staff, and anyone who wants to start learning English.

All international students are warmly welcomed to visit Language College of AJUMS International Affairs where they will be educated, encouraged, inspired, challenged, and supported





## SPECIAL EVENT HOSTED BY AJUMS

# INTERNATIONALIZATION

### Internationalization of higher education workshop

The fourth international workshop on the Internationalization of higher education in medical sciences hosted by Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences On November 30 till December 1, 2023, and specifically targeting the universities in the macro Region 4 (Ahvaz, Abadan, Behbahan, Dezful, Lorestan, and Shushtar). This two-day workshop was attended by Dr. Bagherifard (Deputy Minister of Education at the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education), presidents, deans, faculty, and staff members from the universities of the macro Region 4. The workshop was aimed to introduce the internationalization of higher education from various viewpoints by experts from the relevant fields. On the first day of the workshop, Dr. Shabani (Head of the international college of TUMS) and Dr. Namazi (Executive Manager of the EducationIran) presented their activities in the recent year. The diplomacy of international cooperation and development, international marketing, and international correspondence were also discussed in the next speeches. Subsequently, the status of the specialized web pages of the member universities in the macro region 4 in the EducationIRAN portal was presented based on the criteria established for the evaluation of the web pages, and recommendations were given to the facilitators to improve the current status of the university websites. It is worth mentioning that Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences has 342 international students (current students and graduated) from Iraq, India, Pakistan, Syria, and Ghana studying in 16 program of medical sciences.

On the sidelines of the this workshop, to improve education quality and encourage healthy competition among students, two AJUMS top students were honored. In this ceremony, in the presence of Dr Abolfazl Bagherifard, Deputy Minister of Education at the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education, Dr Mohammad Hossein Sarmast, AJUMS President, Dr Seyyed Ali Mard, Director of AJUMS International Affairs, and a large number of professors and officers from the universities in Macro Region 4, Mr. Dara Rassoul, a medical student from Syria, and Mr. Ibrahim Mohammed Othman, a dental student from Iraq, were honored with appreciation certificates and special gifts.





# YALDA NIGHT

Yalda Night, also known as Shabe Yalda, is one of the most important and joyous celebrations in Iran, marking the longest night of the year and the triumph of light over darkness. It is a time for families and friends to gather, share stories, and enjoy delicious food. The festivities typically begin in the afternoon, as families start preparing the traditional Yalda spread. This includes an array of fruits and nuts, such as watermelon, pomegranate, almond, and pistachio. The watermelon, in particular, is a symbol of abundance and fertility.

As the sun sets and darkness descends, the candles are lit, casting a warm glow over the room. Families gather around the korsi, a traditional Iranian table heater, and share stories, poems, and riddles. The laughter of children and the chatter of adults fill the air, creating a sense of warmth and togetherness.

Throughout the night, families indulge in the delicious Yalda spread. They savor the sweet and juicy watermelon, the tart and refreshing pomegranate, and the crunchy nuts. These treats are not only delicious but also believed to bring good luck and prosperity in the new year.

One of the most cherished traditions of Yalda Night is the reading of Shahnameh, a classic Iranian epic poem. The stories of Shahnameh, with its tales of heroes and battles, captivate both young and old, and provide a sense of connection to Iranian history and culture.

As the night progresses, the stars twinkle brightly in the clear winter sky. Families step outside to admire the celestial spectacle, making wishes and hoping for a year







## AJUMS BEYOND THE BORDERS A TRIP TO INDIA

Introducing the educational, research and therapeutic capacities of the university with the aim of attracting international students is one of the main mission of the International Affairs Office. In line with this aim and at the invitation of Nibraska Career Consultancy, the Director of AJUMS International Affairs, Dr Seyyed Ali Mard, and the Supervisor of AJUMS International Students, Dr Fariba Shirali, together with the Directors of International Affairs of some other local and foreign universities, took a business trip to Srinagar, India, late in May, 2023. Giving speeches on AJUMS academic capacities in various schools and colleges in Srinagar and its neighboring city (Sopore), face-to-face meetings with applicants and their parents, and handing out AJUMS Student Guidebook and brochures to potential applicants were high on their agenda. It is worth mentioning that the vast majority of the population in this region of India which is globally known as the 'Paradise on Earth' due to its amazing natural beauties are Muslims who interestingly share many cultural similarities with Iranians thanks to Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani who spread Islam in Kashmir seven centuries ago.



### THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL AHVAZ- IZMIR- GAZI SYMPOSIUM ON BLOOD TRANSFUSION

The First International Symposium on Blood Transfusion, organized by the International Affairs Office of Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences in Ahvaz, Iran, in collaboration with the Universities of Izmir and Ankara, Turkey, was successfully conducted on November 20, 2023. The symposium aimed to enhance international relations and showcase the capabilities of Jundishapur University to neighboring countries.

Preparations for the event began on July 12, 2023, with discussions on the symposium date and collaboration with the University of Economics, Izmir. A student panel featuring short presentations by international students was planned to highlight the possibility of admitting foreign students to Jundishapur University.

The symposium, attended by 130 participants (70 in person and 60 virtually), showcased presentations by 12 international speakers, covering topics such as the latest advances in blood transfusion technology, challenges in developing countries, and the importance of blood donation. At the opening ceremony, Dr. Ghafouri, Scientific Secretary of J-USERN, and Dr. Mard, director of international affairs introduced AJUMS and greeted attendees who showed up or joined the Symposium online. Dr. Jalalifar, Dr. Jaseb, Dr. Mard, Dr. Ayhan, and Dr. Apak and international students of AJUMS and Izmir University Mubeen Imran, Sardar Huzaifa, Zeeshan Bilal, Sana Masoud, Dara Rassoul, and Arta Farhadikia gave their scientific presentations on basic, and clinical aspects of blood transfusion. A student panel further enriched the event with talks on various blood transfusion-related subjects.

The organizers expressed gratitude to key contributors, including Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences, University of Economics Izmir, Gazi University Ankara, Iranian Students' News Agency (ISNA), and the International Affairs Office of Jundishapur University.

In conclusion, the symposium successfully facilitated knowledge exchange, introduced Jundishapur University to international stakeholders, and fostered collaboration between Iran and Turkey. The organizers plan to host a second symposium in the future, continuing the momentum of this impactful international event





## AJUMS IN A VIRTUAL MEETING

CHUNGNAM NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (CNU)UMS

Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences (AJUMS)'s International Affairs participated in a virtual meeting with office of international at Chungnam National University (CNU), South Korea On November 28, 2023. Members of this meeting were Dr. Seyed Ali Mard, director of AJUMS international Affairs, Dr. Maryam Tahmasebi-Birgani, supervisor of AJUMS international cooperation and development, Heedon Bang, Senior Coordinator, Office of International Affairs at Chungnam National University of south Korea , and Dr. Maryam Adelinezhad as academic representative of AJUMS. The purpose of this webinar was familiarizing the educational and research capacities of two universities for future cooperation. In this meeting, Dr. Seyed Ali Mard, emphasized on the expansion of joint scientific collaboration between Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences and other prestigious universities in the world and considered it as a valuable step in improving the scientific level of the two universities. He considered Chungnam National University as having good and positive potential for academic cooperation. CNU has been cultivating the best minds in Korea under the educational motto of "Creativity, Development, and Service to the Community" during its proud history of 70 years. It has also been actively performing a key role for national development as the most prestigious university in the central region of Korea, through the efforts of its prominent faculty members. Further progress will be achieved through their on-going active research and educational capabilities, in addition to academic-industrial cooperation. Dr. Maryam Tahmasebi also said Science knows no Boundaries, it spans continents. In fact, knowledge belongs to humanity, and scientists must thus stand together to improve the worldwide knowledge and technology. The Heedon Bang, Senior Coordinator of CNU further , stated that Chungnam National University is also eager for international cooperation and has many experiences in this field. At the end of the meeting, the parties agreed to provide a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between two universities that can include general terms and goals on their first steps of working together.



### AJUMS CHESS TEAM EXCELS AT SPORTS INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICERS

I am Marzieh bahari babadi and honored to work at international affairs as admission officer. Fortunately AJUMS has a vast sport's potential and there are many staff who can follow their talents in different fields of sports. Chess is one of those sports and until now there were several tournaments and chess competitions and after I awarded as the best women's employee in chess competition that was held by AJUMS it sparked an interest in me to play chess. Soon-after I took part to chess classes and I was chosen as a team member and we started our exercise for the 3rd sport's Olympiad. I was honored to be the supervisor of chess team. After 8 tough rounds in 4 days in a row we reached the 4th among 26 team and also win the first place for the second-table player Ms. Rahil Kiyani. In chess, we say "Nobody ever won a chess game by resigning" so we hope that to reach the first place in the next tournament.



### FWD: DARTS COMPETITION NEWS

Exercise has a positive impact on promoting mood and cognitive functions like memory and learning. To this aim, on the occasion of Women's Day, Mr Afshah, the Director of AJUMS Physical Education Office,

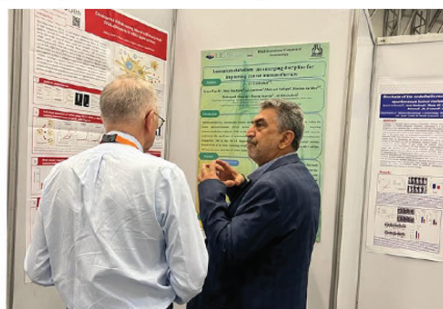


along with the senior officers of physical education, Ms Sohrabi, Mr. Raheem and Mr. Hayati visited Shahid Rajaie Dormitory and held a darts competition among the students



# The 18th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF IMMUNOLOGY IUIS

The International Congress of Immunology (IUIS) is the world's leading conference in the field of immunology. It assembles immunologists from universities, health providers, independent research organizations, and industry. The 18th International Congress of Immunology IUIS was held on 27 November – 2 December 2023 in Cape Town, South Africa, and attended by over 100 countries and nearly 3000 immunologists. At the conference, 500 oral presentations and over 1000 posters were presented in 145 scientific sessions. Dr. Khodadadi, the full professor of immunology at AJUMS and the head of the Immunology Department, participated in this meeting through the two presentations entitled "immunometabolism: an emerging discipline for improving cancer immunotherapy" and "evaluating the potential relationship between human papilloma infections and prostate cancer and effect on interleukin 12 levels". Attending academic conferences resulted in sharing our researches and building a strong scientific network by meeting subject matter experts and in learning new skills in your field of interest", Dr. Khodadadi said. He also emphasized on all-round support of universities from their academic staff and students from all sides and in all forms to participate in international congress.



## INTERVIEW WITH TOP- RANKED INTERNATIONAL STUDENT DARA RASSOUL

Interviewer (I): Salam, Dara! Thank you for joining us today. Would you please introduce yourself to our readers?

Dara Rassoul (DR): I am Dara Rassoul. I am Kurd-Syrian. I study medicine at AJUMS. Now, I am in 5th educational semester and studying physiopath.

(I): Dara, the educational office of International affairs registered you as 1st rank student among your classmate, what was your average?

DR- my average was 16.55 .

I- That's great. Why did you decide to study in the field of medicine?

DR: Well, what truly captivates me about medicine is the direct connection with what God created – the human. I'm particularly drawn to the intricate complexity of the human brain, the most enigmatic organ in the universe. Through the study of medicine, I feel like I am serving humanity and gaining a deeper understanding of our existence. It all boils down to the fundamental question: Why are we what we are, neither less nor more? And what are the consequences of being less or more? This curiosity is what drives my passion for medicine.

I: That's a profound perspective. Can you tell us why did you choose AJUMS?

DR: Absolutely. AJUMS is one of the oldest universities globally, and I believe that with age comes wisdom. There is a wealth of experiences here that can be shared, creating an enriching environment for learning. Moreover, my ideal university is one that focuses on active students, providing them with authority and opportunities to showcase and develop their hobbies. AJUMS aligns with this vision, and having a complete degree program in English was crucial for me. Lastly, my ideal university emphasizes the importance of scientific research and offers comprehensive courses in this field.

I: It sounds like AJUMS aligns well with your vision of an ideal university. Dara, what professional goals have you set for yourself?

DR: I want to be a neurosurgeon. Besides, I believe in the significance of global collaboration in this field of medicine. I am interested to participate in international meetings or workshops to improve my expertise. I believe, this not only broadens my own perspective but also facilitates the exchange of knowledge and ideas on a global scale. I am eagerly anticipating the internationalization of our affairs office, hoping for more opportunities to connect with the broader medical community.



I: and the last word:

DR: It's a reminder to be mindful of our thoughts and not let them define us entirely. The complexities of the human mind and consciousness are profound, and our identity goes beyond the noise within our heads. It's a philosophical reflection urging self-awareness and a deeper understanding of the self. "Please be careful, the sound in the box of your head is not you".

I: Thank you, Dara, for sharing your insights and aspirations with us. We wish you the best in your medical journey at AJUMS and beyond.





# WELCOME CEREMONY FOR NEW STUDENTS

International affairs of AJUMS celebrated the beginning of academic year of New international medical students . Dr. Mard , director of international affairs of AJUMS , and his team at AJUMS explained the laws , and regulations of educational ( main , and Persian courses ) , welfare , dormitories , cultural , consular affairs , and etc. in detail . One of the most important thing explained was disciplinary rules , and strictly following University dress code . Authorities of international affairs of AJUMS recently published a bilingual Guidebook for international students to help them out to get familiar easily with the laws and regulations . Authorities of IAD emphasized the importance of respecting and following the rules .





# FERDOWSI

## THE KEEPER OF IRANIAN HISTORY

Abu I-Qasim Ferdowsi Tusi (940-1020 CE), an Iranian poet and epicist, was born in 940 CE in the village of Paj, near the city of Tus, in the Khorasan region of the Samanid Empire, which is located in the present-day Razavi Khorasan province of northeastern Iran. He is the author of the immortal epic of Shahnameh ("book of kings") which is the world's longest epic poem that created by a single poet, and the national epic of Iran. Ferdowsi has a unique place in Persian history. He made great strides in reviving and regenerating the Persian language and cultural traditions. Ferdowsi is celebrated as one of the most influential figures of Persian literature and one of the greatest in the history of literature. Opening lines of Shahnameh is in praise of God:

بنای آباد گردد خراب	ز باران و از تلبیس آفتاب	جهان کرده ام از سخن چون بهشت	از این پیش تخم سخن کس نکشت
پی اکلندم از تلم کانی بلند	که از باد و باران نیابد گزند	چو این نامور نامه آمد به بن	ز من روی کیتی شود بر سخن
برین نامه بر عمر با بگذرد	بخواند هر آن کس که دارد خرد	نمیرم از این پس که من زنده ام	که تخم سخن را پرکنده ام
بی رنج بروم بدین سال سی	عجم زنده کردم بدین پارسی	هر آن کس که دارد دُش و رای و دین	پس از مرگ، بر من کند آفرین



SCAN  
TO GET  
SHAHNAMEH  
THE BOOK OF  
KINGS



# AJUMSIA

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Gondishapur is a city in southwest Iran, located in the province of Khuzestan. It is a historical city with a rich and vibrant culture, and it is home to many important historical sites. Gondishapur was once a major center of learning and culture, and it is known as the birthplace of Islamic medicine. The city is also home to a number of beautiful mosques, bridges, and gardens. Historically, Gondishapur was founded in the 3rd century AD by the Sassanian king, Shapur I. The city quickly became a major center of learning, and it was home to a number of important libraries and schools. The claim that Gondishapur was the first hospital in the world is a popular one, but it is not entirely accurate. Gondishapur is a city with a rich history and culture, and it is a popular destination for tourists from around the world.