

Final Report Sabbatical Leave

Date: 2023-11-05

Professor Kazem Zendehtdel

Cancer Research Center, Cancer Institute, Tehran University of Medical Sciences

Duration: 9 months

Start: 20 January, 2023

End: 20 October, 2023

Host: University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy.

Subject: Waterpipe Smoking and Cancer

Activities:

During my sabbatical leave, I had the opportunity to work closely with Professor Boffetta on various projects related to cancer research. During this time, I was involved in organizing and contributing to a number of important activities.

1- International Workshop on Cancer among Immigrants

One of the most significant events was the International Workshop on Cancer among Immigrants, which I suggested and actively contributed to in March 2023. The workshop was held in Turin, Italy, and saw participation from several countries across the US, Europe, and Asia. As a result of this workshop, we were able to establish an international consortium on cancer in immigrants.

2- Waterpipe smoking and cancer meeting

Another notable event was the Waterpipe Smoking and Cancer Meeting, which I proposed and was able to secure a grant from the University of Bologna to organize. This meeting was held in December 2023 and brought together around 30 participants from Iran, Lebanon, Qatar, Jordan, Egypt, Kashmir, France, Italy, the US, and Germany. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the existing evidence and plan for future grant applications to form a consortium and conduct studies on waterpipe smoking and cancer in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

3- Grant Application to Horizon-Health (European Commission)

I also led the grant application to Horizon-Health (European Commission) for a large grant of 6 million euros to work on cancer among immigrants. We established a research network from Iran (Cancer Institute) and six European countries including Italy, Spain, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Norway, and Germany. We have submitted the first stage (10

pages) and are now waiting for a response. If approved, we will need to work on the second stage, which will be 45 pages.

4- Peer-Reviewed Publication

I have also prepared several peer-reviewed publications on topics related to waterpipe smoking and cancer, including bladder cancer, lung cancer, head and neck cancer, and early-onset colorectal cancer.

No	Subject of Paper	Status
1	Waterpipe smoking and Bladder Cancer	Under Review
2	Waterpipe smoking and Lung cancer	Under Review
3	Waterpipe smoking and Head and Neck Cancer	Ongoing
4	Determinant of waterpipe smoking	Under Review
5	Early onset Colorectal Cancer	Under Review

Conclusion:

Overall, my experience working with Professor Boffetta has been invaluable, and I believe it has helped to increase international collaboration between the cancer institute and several international partners. This experience has not only expanded my horizons but also given me a deeper appreciation for the importance of international collaboration in advancing scientific research and improving global health outcomes. I am grateful to TUMS International Affairs for providing me with this opportunity and I am available to present my experience in person if necessary.