

Dear Colleagues,

The American Society of Iranian Pharmaceutical Scientists (ASIPS) held its 27th Annual Meeting on Sunday, Oct 25th, 2020, virtually. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order with opening remarks by the executive director, Dr. Parviz Mojaverian at 8:00 pm, followed by, brief attendees introduction. After that, as a president of the ASIPS, I provided updates including but not limited to launching new ideas such as the "pick a mentor" program and the addition of a guest speaker section to our agenda. Moving forward, 2020 Senior Graduate Student Awardees presented their researches which were followed by our gracious sponsor's talk and award ceremony by, Dr. Ron Najafi and Farideh Najafi. This year's award winners were Nahal Habibi from the University of Michigan Ann Arbor and Alireza Sohrabi, from the University of California Los Angeles. Subsequently, we had our guest speaker Dr. Bonakdar, presenting "From an F1 Visa to a Pharmaceutical Career at Alcon and Beyond!". In the end, the floor was opened to discussion to hear the attendee's concerns/suggestions. The following items were suggested during our meeting:

- To add a semi-annual meeting Zoom meeting to touch base with our friends and colleagues (with a more relaxed agenda), and add Zoom access during our 2021 annual meeting in Philadelphia.
- To provide more assistance in terms of mentorship and future academic/industry job hunting and salary negotiation techniques for our senior Ph.D. students and young upcoming Iranian scientists, as was suggested by Drs. Ron Najafi, Moji Bonakdar, and others.
- To present the best scientific paper award to a qualified young investigator (post Ph.D.) in academia or industry during our next year 28th annual meeting in Philadelphia.

On a personal note, I want to thank everyone who made the time and effort to attend our very first virtual meeting this year. With more than 30 virtual attendees, this was most certainly one of our successful meetings. I would particularly like to welcome those who attended the ASIPS meeting for the first time. We are looking forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to reach out to me with any concerns regarding ASIPS. I am including group pictures which we took at the end of the meeting, excuse us as we missed some of our dear attendees since they had already left the meeting.



Yours sincerely,
Elham Hatami, Ph.D.
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