



A Report on the 3rd International West Asia and North Africa (WANA) Congress

Royan Research Institute, affiliated with the Academic Center for Education, Culture, and Research (ACECR), in line with its international activities, has aimed to increase its relationship with Islamic and neighboring countries, especially the West Asia and North Africa (WANA) region, so that in addition to interacting with the scientific community, it can play a more effective role in the scientific development and growth of students, researchers, and experts of this region. Another goal of forming this scientific network is to introduce the scientific potential of Iran and other countries in the WANA region to attract international scholars and create motivation and desire in them to travel to these countries and transfer scientific experiences to them through establishing an effective relationship with the scientific centers of these countries. It is hoped that this will make researchers and scientists in this field more familiar with the scientific achievements of our country. Following the scientific policies of the country, through creating a scientific network of WANA with a global approach, the Royan Institute can establish and consolidate its scientific position, especially in the fields of reproductive medicine, biotechnology, stem cells, and regenerative medicine. By making convergence and synergy in joint educational, research, and clinical programs in the countries of the WANA region, this network intends to strengthen the science of the countries of this strategic region, which has a rich cultural, historical, and scientific background. By creating effective scientific communication and designing and planning joint scientific programs between the prominent scientific centers of WANA countries, this association can try to make this region known as a "scientific pole" following the historical and religious dignity of this strategic region of the world, a region where all the countries are Islamic and in recent decades have not progressed according to their potential and knowledge due to domestic and international challenges.

The 3rd International WANA Congress was held 16-17 May 2024 in cooperation with the Royan Institute and the University of Medical Sciences and Health Services of West Azarbaijan Province (Urmia), and Urmia City Unity Hall. The theme of this year's International WANA Congress was Assisted Reproductive Techniques Outcome (ART Outcome) with the approach of dealing with the latest scientific achievements in infertility treatment at the global level, focusing specifically on the countries of the WANA region. This year's International WANA Congress was organized under the scientific secretaryship of Dr. Ahmad Vosough Taghidizaj (Radiologist and head of Clinical and Specialized Services Deputy at Royan Institute) and executive secretaries of Dr. Hojat Qasimnejad (Reproductive Biologist and head of the Reproductive Health Research Center of Urmia University of Medical Sciences) and Dr. Elham Amirchaghmaghi (Immunologist and head of Reproductive Medicine Research Institute of Royan Institute). It was well represented by students, researchers, clinical specialists, and faculty members.



The 3rd International WANA Congress commenced on Thursday, May 16th at 8:00 AM. The day coincided with the decade of honor of the two lights of Wilayat and Imamate, Hazrat Fatima Masoumeh (PBUH) and Hazrat Ali Ibn Musa Al-Reza (PBUH). The congress was inaugurated with official speeches. At first, the President of Urmia University of Medical Sciences, Dr. Mohammad Amin Valizad, as the president of the congress, presented a brief report of the university's major plans. Afterward, the Scientific Secretary of the Program, Dr. Ahmad Vosough Taghidizaj; the President of ACECR, Dr. Seyed Hassan Moslemi Naeini; the head of the Representative Body of the Supreme Leader in the Universities of the Province, Seyyed Mehdi Qureshi; the Political and Social Deputy of the West Azerbaijan Governorate, Dr. Ebrahimi; and the head of the Population and Family Support Fraction of the Islamic Council, Dr. Fatemeh Mohammad Beigi, who was among the guests of this congress, gave their speeches.



The opening Ceremony of the 3rd International WANA Congress.



This congress can be a place for synergy and meeting of scientific and business activists in medical and biological sciences, as well as an opportunity for the presence of domestic and international knowledge-based companies that have entered the production of consumer equipment for infertility treatment. The opening ceremony featured the presentation of the companies and financial sponsors of the congress, Behrad Royesh Royan, Bon Yakhteh Royan Technology, Orchid Farmed, Exxon Farmed, and Diyaco Plus Hotel. In the pre-congress exhibition, the companies were allowed to present their products, which were mostly equipment and pharmaceutical products in infertility treatment.



The exhibition during the 3rd International WANA Congress.



Sponsors of the 3rd WANA International Congress.



The opening ceremony was ensued by the scientific sessions. The sessions were titled “Follow Up of ART Children/Techniques”, “How Surgical Procedure Can Improve IVF Outcome”, “The Role of Imaging in ART Outcomes”, “The Impact of Environmental Factors and Lifestyle on ART Outcomes”, “Optimizing ART Outcomes: Challenges, Management, and Options”, “Fertility Preservation & Oncofertility”, and “Ethical Consideration in ART Outcomes”.

Presentations were all delivered in English, and the presenters included 10 prominent international speakers from Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Turkey, and Egypt, as well as more than 30 prominent Iranian speakers and experts. More than a thousand participants participated in the 3rd International WANA Congress, including international medical students from India, Pakistan, Iraq, and Turkey.



The 3rd International WANA Congress.



The scientific sessions over the 3rd International WANA Congress.



This year's International WANA Congress featured two pre-congress clinical workshops, one basic science workshop, and one scientific seminar. The two clinical workshops were titled "Hysteroscopy" under the scientific supervision of Dr. Mehri Mashayekhi (Gynecologist, infertility fellowship, and Assistant Professor of Royan Institute) and "Endometrial Examination in Infertile Women" under the scientific supervision of Dr. Firoozeh Ahmadi (Radiologist and Assistant Professor of Royan Institute). These one-day workshops were held at Milad Hospital in Urmia. The basic science workshop was titled "In vitro Maturation and Fertilization of Oocyte in Mice" with the scientific secretary of Dr. Azam Dalman (Reproductive Biologist and Assistant Professor of Royan Institute) was held at the Faculty of Medicine of Urmia University of Medical Sciences in two days. The scientific seminar entitled "Use of Complementary Medicine in Infertility Treatment" with the scientific secretary of Dr. Amirhossein Jamshidi (Pharmacognosist and Associate Professor of Iran University of Medical Sciences) with the participation of more than 130 participants from the scientific programs next to this congress.



Pre- and post-congress workshops.



The visit of the students, speakers, and guests from the beautiful tourist areas of Silvana (the suburbs of Urmia) and Urmia Lake was one of the tourist programs of the 3rd International WANA Congress.



The tourist programs of the 3rd International WANA Congress.

At the end of the second day of the congress, the closing ceremony began with the special blessings of the 8th Imam and the blessing of the Holy Shrine of Razavi to the participants. Then the executive report of the congress was presented by its executive secretaries, and thanks were given to the efforts of the executive colleagues, especially the head of Educational Deputy of Royan Institute, Dr. Rouhollah Fathi. Next, the executive clip of the congress was shown. In the end, the Vice President of Research and Technology of Urmia University of Medical Sciences, Dr. Saber Qolizadeh, and the head of Royan Institute, Dr. Abdolhossein Shahverdi, gave a speech and thanked all the participants, domestic and international lecturers, scientific and executive secretaries of the congress and workshops. Its scientists were thanked by presenting a certificate of appreciation. Finally, a memorable picture was taken.



The closing ceremony of the 3rd International WANA Congress.



The memorial picture at the closing ceremony of the 3rd International WANA Congress