



# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2025

**In the name of God**

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# Message of the Director-General

The year 2025 was a period of remarkable achievement and dynamic growth for the Pasteur Institute of Iran, reinforcing its century-long legacy as a cornerstone of public health and scientific innovation in Iran and beyond. Since being trusted with the role of Director-General in February, I have overseen a year marked by strengthened international partnerships, notable scientific recognition, and a reinforced focus on national health security.

This annual report reflects our strategic expansion in global health diplomacy. We consolidated collaborations with key international partners, including the signing of a five-year cooperation agreement with Uzbekistan, advancing critical vaccine technology transfers with Cuba, and successfully exporting major shipments of BCG and Hepatitis B vaccines to Venezuela. Our global standing was further enhanced by designation as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Vector-Borne Diseases and by the active participation of our experts in pivotal Pasteur Network and WHO initiatives.

Domestically, the Pasteur Institute of Iran reaffirmed its role as a national leader in combating infectious diseases. We were entrusted with developing a national genomic surveillance system, hosted major conferences addressing

threats ranging from avian influenza to antimicrobial resistance, and continued pioneering work in vaccine and diagnostic kit production. Our scientific excellence was highlighted through international accreditation of our tuberculosis laboratory, the impact factor achievement of the Iranian Biomedical Journal, and the recognition of four of our researchers among the world's top 2% scientists.

From launching a French-language website to broaden international outreach, to training health professionals across the Islamic world, we demonstrated unwavering commitment to knowledge sharing and capacity building. This report illustrates how our historic legacy has been combined with forward-looking strategies, showcasing an institution dedicated to safeguarding public health through scientific excellence, collaboration, and innovation at both national and international levels.

I hope this report provides a clear and comprehensive picture of the recent efforts and achievements of the Pasteur Institute of Iran.

**Dr. Ehsan Mostafavi**  
Director-General  
Pasteur Institute of Iran

# Pasteur Institute of Iran

The Pasteur Institute of Iran (PII) was founded in downtown Tehran in August 1920, through an agreement between the Institut Pasteur in Paris and the Iranian government. The Institute stands as one of the oldest and most prestigious medical research and public health centers in Iran and West Asia. For over a century, this national flagship institution, operating under the Ministry of Health, has been a cornerstone of Iran's healthcare system, dedicated to advancing biomedical sciences and safeguarding public health. Since 1988, it has been a leading facility in the development and manufacturing of essential biological products, including vaccines, biopharmaceuticals, and diagnostic kits, at its Research and Production Complex in Karaj (~30 km west of Tehran).

Throughout its glorious history, the Pasteur Institute of Iran has been a pioneer in controlling diseases—from smallpox, cholera, and plague to typhoid, rabies, tuberculosis, and COVID-19—as well as in monitoring emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. This has been achieved by producing a variety of vaccines and diagnostic kits, maintaining specialized laboratories, and conducting research based on the real needs of society. The institute has also played an important role in improving the knowledge and skills of health workers in these fields by training specialists and researchers in the fields of basic sciences,

public health, infectious disease diagnosis, and vaccines.

The Pasteur Institute of Iran's current primary production activities encompass a diverse range of biomedical products. These include recombinant hepatitis B, BCG, COVID-19 (Pastocovac), and rabies vaccines; intravesical BCG (PastoCys) fluid; and various small-volume injectable solutions. The Institute also produces laboratory animals, cell and microbial culture media, diagnostic tools such as Vidal and Wright antigen tests and *Vibrio cholerae* detection kits, and purified water and water for injection. Additionally, it formulates recombinant products and vaccines in both liquid and lyophilized forms under aseptic conditions. Simultaneously, as an active member of the Pasteur International Network, the institute functions as a major research hub and a critical public health asset. Its specialized services, provided through diagnostic laboratories, National Reference Laboratories, and WHO-collaborating centers, are vital for disease surveillance and for controlling infectious diseases nationally and regionally. Complementing these efforts, it fosters the next generation of scientists through diverse Ph.D. programs and educational initiatives in fields of Medical Biotechnology and Microbiology. Through its integrated activities in research, production, public health, and education, the PII has gained significant credibility and made great strides in disease prevention, solidifying its esteemed reputation both nationally and internationally.

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## January 2025

### January 29, 2025 | Virtual Summit Fosters Biotechnology Partnership with Uzbekistan

A significant virtual meeting was convened between the directors of the Pasteur Institute of Iran and Uzbekistan's Tashkent Research Institute of Vaccines and Serums, marking a strategic step toward enhanced international scientific cooperation. The discussion focused on building robust partnerships in the field of biotechnology and establishing comprehensive technical training programs for the next generation of scientists. Dr. Abdurahman Akbaraliyevich Ashurov, director of the Uzbek institute, articulated his institution's eagerness for technical support to advance its product development initiatives. In response, Director General of the Pasteur Institute of Iran, welcomed the proposal and highlighted the profound potential for collaboration between these two historic institutions, extending a formal invitation for an in-person visit to Tehran in the spring to solidify the nascent partnership.



Tropical Diseases, a major event timed to coincide with World NTD Day. The conference convened leading national experts to address critical scientific advancements, persistent challenges, and coordinated strategies required to combat NTDs that disproportionately affect vulnerable populations in tropical regions. The event concluded with a dual celebration, recognizing both the progress in NTD research and Gender Equality in Science Day, where several senior Iranian female scientists were honored for their transformative contributions to public health, thereby underscoring the vital role of diversity in the scientific community.



## February 2025

### February 5, 2025 | Inaugural National Conference Addresses Neglected Tropical Diseases

The Pasteur Institute of Iran successfully hosted its inaugural National Conference on Neglected

### 22 February 2025 | Tuberculosis Laboratory Earns International Excellence Ranking

The Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Research Department at the Pasteur Institute of Iran achieved an Excellent Ranking in the 2024 international quality assessment organized by Iran's National Reference Health Laboratory and the WHO-coordinated Supra-national Reference Laboratory Network (SRLN) in Sweden. The evaluation rigorously tested the laboratory's proficiency in determining drug sensitivity of Mycobacteria. It demonstrated exceptional accuracy in analyzing first-line treatments Isoniazid, Rifampicin, and Ethambutol. This recognition validates the laboratory's adherence

to the highest global diagnostic standards and reinforces Iran's standing within the vital international SRLN network for combating tuberculosis.



## April 2025

### April 19, 2025 | National Day Honors Vital Role of Medical Laboratory Professionals

The National Day of Medical Laboratory Professionals was commemorated with a dedicated ceremony at the Pasteur Institute of Iran, honoring the vital contributions of these specialists to the national healthcare system. The event's lectures powerfully emphasized the indispensable role of medical reference laboratories in enabling timely disease diagnosis, sophisticated epidemic monitoring, and the development of advanced technologies like Next-Generation Sequencing. Discussions also highlighted the critical need for stronger collaborative networks between the institute and national disease control centers. Furthermore, the event provided a platform to reflect on and celebrate the institute's groundbreaking and historic role in pioneering and advancing the field of biotechnology across Iran since the early 1990s.



### April 20, 2025 | Joint Forum Explores AI in Fight Against Antimicrobial Resistance

A pivotal joint scientific meeting was convened between the Pasteur Institute of Iran's Center for Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases and the Ministry of Health's Center for Managing Communicable Diseases, focusing on "The Application of Artificial Intelligence in Combating Antibiotic Resistance." The session, attended by key officials, faculty, and students, began with remarks stressing the importance of such collaborative forums to tackle emerging public health threats. Detailed presentations covered AI fundamentals, its clinical applications for infection diagnosis and resistance monitoring, and its potential in drug discovery. A subsequent expert panel delved into national AI infrastructure development, strategic challenges, and the necessity of evolving research priorities to fully integrate AI into Iran's scientific and healthcare advancement.



### April 29, 2025 | Symposium Advances Immunology on World Immunology Day

World Immunology Day was commemorated through a comprehensive one-day symposium organized by the Pasteur Institute of Iran in collaboration with the Iranian Society of Immunology and Allergy at its Tehran campus. The

event was attended by the Director-General, senior immunology professors, researchers, and students, fostering a vibrant academic exchange. Keynote lectures traversed a wide spectrum of topics, including the rich history and development of the Immunology Department at the institute, philosophical underpinnings of immunological science, recent breakthroughs in understanding brain immunity, and the profound influence of emerging technologies on the future trajectory of immunological research. The symposium successfully underscored the institute's deep commitment to advancing this vital field and fostering collaboration within the scientific community.



## May 2025

### May 10, 2025 | Landmark Export of BCG Vaccine to Venezuela Bolsters Health Diplomacy

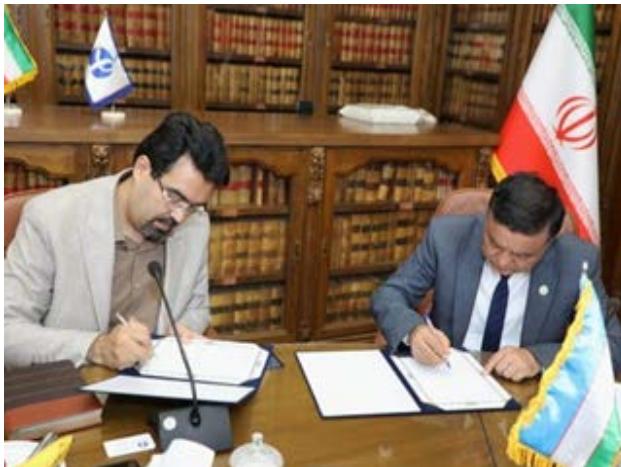
The Pasteur Institute of Iran achieved a major milestone in health diplomacy by exporting over 700,000 doses of its BCG vaccine to Venezuela, marking its largest single shipment in decades. Director-General Dr. Ehsan Mostafavi hailed the export as a landmark in international health cooperation, showcasing Iran's scientific influence. The vaccine, continuously produced since 1947 and meeting international standards, is vital for preventing



tuberculosis. This success highlights the historic role of Iran's oldest health institution, known for producing vaccines against cholera, smallpox, rabies, and other diseases. The move signals an intent to expand Iran's role in the global health supply chain and support public health in developing nations.

### May 12, 2025 | Uzbek Delegation Visit Culminates in Five-Year Cooperation Pact

A high-level delegation from Uzbekistan, led by Dr. Abdurakhman Ashurov and Dr. Farkhodjon Tukhtaev, the Director and Deputy Director of the Tashkent Scientific Research Institute for Vaccines and Serums, conducted an extensive visit to the Research & Production Complex of the Pasteur Institute of Iran in Karaj. The delegation received detailed tours of the production facilities, where experts showcased the complex's activities and product portfolio. Dr. Tukhtaev presented his institute's history, current projects, and future plans, while Dr. Ashurov emphasized their training needs. The visit culminated in a high-level meeting with Director-General Dr. Mostafavi and the formal signing of a five-year Memorandum of Cooperation, establishing a concrete framework for upcoming educational, production, and research collaborations.



## May 20, 2025 | Director General of Pasteur Institute of Iran Meets COMSTECH Coordinator to Advance Health Collaboration

Dr. Ehsan Mostafavi, Director-General of the Pasteur Institute of Iran, held strategic talks with Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, the Coordinator-General of COMSTECH, during the latter's visit to Tehran. The meeting built upon a five-year Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2023, which has already facilitated joint training programs, including a course on infectious disease outbreaks in Pakistan. Dr. Choudhary emphasized the critical role of practical educational initiatives led by the Pasteur Institute, particularly in diagnostics and pandemic preparedness for the benefit of Islamic nations. In response, Dr. Mostafavi reaffirmed the institute's full readiness to expand these collaborative efforts, describing the partnership as a catalyst for strengthening public health systems across the Muslim world.



## May 21, 2025 | Institute Designated as WHO Collaborating Centre for Vector-Borne Diseases

Director-General Dr. Ehsan Mostafavi announced a landmark achievement: the official designation of the Pasteur Institute of Iran as a WHO Collaborating Center for Vector-Borne Diseases.

This recognition, accompanied by a formal letter of appreciation from the Iranian Minister of Health to the WHO EMRO Regional Director, marked a significant milestone in the institute's century-long efforts to strengthen regional health security. The new designation underscored Iran's prominent role in disease control, as it now hosts the highest number of WHO Collaborating Centers in the EMRO region, enhancing its capacity to support regional efforts against malaria, dengue, rabies, and other vector-borne threats.

WHO Collaborating Center for Vector-Borne Diseases  
مرکز همکار سازمان جهانی بهداشت در حوزه بیماری های منتقله از ناقلين

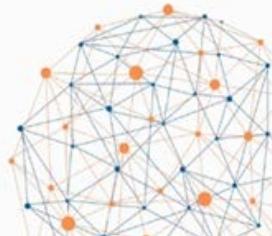


## May 22, 2025 | Pasteur Institute of Iran Experts Selected for Key Pasteur Network Scientific Groups

Four specialists from the Pasteur Institute of Iran have been selected to join the newly established Scientific Working Groups of the International Pasteur Network, serving a three-year term. These groups aim to enhance global scientific excellence and collaboration on critical health challenges. Dr. Mostafa Salehi Vaziri will contribute to the group on Vector-borne Diseases Affected by Climate Change, focusing on environmental impacts on disease patterns. Dr. Farzad Badamsti joins the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) group, concentrating on surveillance and molecular studies. Dr. Alireza Kavyanpour will engage with the Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) in Vaccines group, and Dr. Yasaman Taslimi will participate in the RDI in Diagnostics group, focusing on creating accessible diagnostic tools for high-burden regions.



## Scientific Working Groups (SWGs)



## May 24-29, 2025 | Cuban Vaccine Institute Delegation Deepens Technical Collaboration

A senior delegation from Cuba's Finlay Institute of Vaccines, including Director-General Professor Vicente Verez and Deputy Director Dr. Yury Valdés, visited Iran at the formal invitation of the Pasteur Institute of Iran. The intensive six-day visit was strategically aimed at deepening bilateral cooperation in advanced vaccine development and biotechnology. Central discussions focused on advancing specific joint projects, including the production of pneumococcal conjugate vaccines and next-generation COVID-19 vaccines. Both institutes explored collaborative opportunities in cutting-edge mRNA vaccine technology and agreed to establish specialized working groups to oversee regulatory approvals, clinical studies, and the technical complexities of technology transfer, thereby laying a structured pathway for future co-development. During the Cuban delegation meeting with Iran's Minister of Health, the historic collaborations between the two countries, including Hepatitis B vaccine technology transfer, joint COVID-19 production and progress toward pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) production was mentioned. Moreover, the Director General of International Affairs at the Ministry of Health, expressed satisfaction that the joint PCV technology transfer has been initiated. Both sides emphasized their mutual trust and the excellent



foundation for deepening strategic cooperation in biotechnology and vaccine development, expressing strong commitment to expanding this successful partnership.

## May 26, 2025 | Veterinary Organization Commends Institute for High-Efficacy Animal Rabies Vaccine

The Iranian Veterinary Organization formally commended the Pasteur Institute of Iran for its valuable efforts in producing a highly effective animal rabies vaccine. In a letter to the institute, the organization cited scientific studies showing that the vaccine induces the highest level of immunity in dogs for a period of 2 to 3 years compared to other injectable vaccines. In line with the national goal of self-sufficiency, the organization requested the institute to produce 750,000 doses in the coming year. Researchers at the institute have enhanced the vaccine's quality and efficacy while reducing production costs through improved formulation.



## June 2025

### June 4, 2025 | French-Language Website Launched to Enhance Global Outreach

The Pasteur Institute of Iran marked a significant step in its internationalization strategy with the official launch of its comprehensive French-language website. Accessible at [fr.pasteur.ac.ir](http://fr.pasteur.ac.ir), the site provides French-speaking visitors, researchers, and partner institutions with essential information on the institute's history, missions, and its extensive production, research, and educational activities. This initiative was specifically designed to facilitate and promote scientific exchange with researchers in life sciences and public health across French-speaking nations, particularly in Africa. Furthermore, it aims to effectively showcase the institute's scientific activities to the Pasteur Network community, nearly half of whose member institutes are located in countries with significant French-speaking populations.



## July 2025

July 1, 2025 |  
Iranian Biomedical  
Journal Achieves  
Clarivate Impact  
Factor



The Iranian Biomedical Journal (IBJ), published by the Pasteur Institute of Iran, has been awarded an Impact Factor of 1.1 in the recent evaluation by Clarivate. This achievement reflects the high scientific quality of the published articles and the continuous efforts of its editorial board, authors, and researchers. It is envisaged that with continued support and collaboration, the journal's national and international standing will be further enhanced.

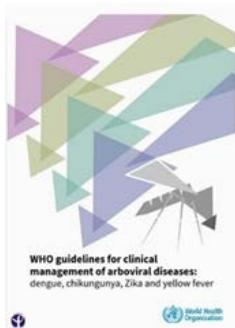
## July 15, 2025 | Workshop on Joint External Evaluation program (JEE)

A specialized and high-level workshop on the Joint External Evaluation program was hosted at the Pasteur Institute of Iran, a key national initiative to enhance preparedness against public health threats. The workshop was attended by Dr. Syed Jaffar Hussain, the WHO Country Representative, senior officials from the Ministry of Health including Dr. Ghobad Moradi, and representatives from multiple relevant ministries and stakeholder committees. In his opening address, Dr. Ehsan Mostafavi emphasized the strategic importance of the JEE in strengthening International Health Regulations and national health security. Detailed sessions covered assessment methodologies, the benefits of inter-sectoral coordination, and the development of a robust national action plan to meet international health security standards.



## July 26, 2025 |

Pasteur Institute  
of Iran Contributes  
to New WHO  
Guidelines for  
Arboviral Diseases



Dr. Mostafa Salehi-Vaziri, a faculty member of the Pasteur Institute of Iran, was invited by the World Health Organization as a key expert to help develop its 2025 integrated guidelines for the clinical management of arboviral diseases. These comprehensive guidelines provide standardized, evidence-based protocols for managing dengue, chikungunya, Zika, and yellow fever. They establish criteria for patient classification and recommend best practices for treatment and monitoring, while advising against unproven therapies. This contribution highlights the international recognition of Iranian expertise in virology and strengthens global efforts to combat the spread of these vector-borne diseases.

## August 2025

August 10, 2025 | World  
Dengue Day Conference Calls  
for Coordinated Action

Under the theme "Awareness, Action, Dengue Control," the Pasteur Institute of Iran organized a high-level national conference to mark World Dengue Day. The event brought together national and international health experts, including a virtual keynote from Dr. Raman Velayudhan of WHO headquarters, to discuss urgent strategies for combating the expanding threat of this vector-borne disease. Technical sessions comprehensively covered dengue virology, advanced diagnostic testing, current vaccine development landscapes, and integrated Aedes mosquito control methodologies. Public health officials underscored the necessity of community engagement and awareness campaigns. The conference concluded with a strong consensus on the need for enhanced national and regional coordination to effectively mitigate the growing public health risk posed by dengue fever.



## August 20, 2025 | World Mosquito Day Symposium Examines Vector Control Challenges

A one-day scientific symposium titled “A New Look at Vectors of Parasitic and Viral Diseases” was held at Pasteur Institute of Iran to observe World Mosquito Day. The meeting assembled prominent researchers from major universities and the Ministry of Health to address the latest achievements and contemporary challenges in controlling mosquitoes as critical disease vectors. Presentations covered a wide range of topics, including mosquito taxonomy in Iran, the impact of climate change on vector ecosystems, the epidemiology of arboviruses, and innovative control strategies such as natural vector engineering using Wolbachia bacteria. The symposium concluded with an honoring ceremony for Professor Mehdi Asmar and the awarding of prizes for outstanding research papers in the field of medical entomology.



## August 21, 2025 | Institute Marks 106<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Message of Commitment

On the occasion of the 106<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Pasteur Institute of Iran,

Director-General Dr. Ehsan Mostafavi issued a formal congratulatory message to all staff members, veterans, and associates. In his message, he reflected with pride on the institute’s century-long legacy as a steadfast symbol of public trust within the nation’s health system. Professor Mostafavi emphasized the collective commitment to continue on the path of progress, innovation, and scientific excellence. He reaffirmed the institute’s unwavering dedication to serving the health of the Iranian people, highlighting the enduring mission that has guided its activities since its founding in 1920 as one of the country’s oldest and most prestigious scientific centers.



## August 27-29, 2025 | Pasteur Institute of Iran Showcases Products and Engages Pharma Professionals at National Conference

The Pasteur Institute of Iran marked a significant presence at the 47<sup>th</sup> National Pharmacist Day Conference, held at the Razi Conference Hall of Iran University of Medical Sciences. By establishing a specialized exhibition booth, the institute fostered direct engagement with attendees, receiving a notably positive response from pharmacists and professionals within the pharmaceutical manufacturing sector. A key takeaway from the event was the expressed demand from visitors for the wider distribution and improved accessibility of the Institute’s products, specifically its antineoplastic agent against bladder cancer, *PastoCys*® (Freeze-Dried Intravesical BCG) line and injectable solutions. The conference served as a vital platform for the Pasteur Institute to amplify awareness of its portfolio and facilitate valuable knowledge exchange with leading experts in the pharmaceutical field.



## September 2025

### September 9, 2025 | Scientific Review Assesses Global Threat of Chikungunya Virus

A critical scientific review session entitled “The Global Status of Chikungunya: Challenges and Threats” was held at the Pasteur Institute of Iran, a collaborative effort between its Research Center for Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases and the Ministry of Health’s Center for Communicable Disease Management. The session featured in-depth expert lectures on the infection dynamics of arboviral diseases, the genomic structure and genetic diversity of the Chikungunya virus, and the current global landscape of vaccine development. A key focus was placed on assessing and bolstering Iran’s domestic scientific capacity for effective monitoring, rapid diagnosis, and coordinated response to a potential outbreak. A subsequent panel discussion integrated scientific control strategies with the crucial need for public health education and community-level awareness campaigns.

### September 8-16, 2025 | Director-General Visits Havana to Advance Key Vaccine Partnership

Dr. Ehsan Mostafavi, Director-General of the Pasteur Institute of Iran, led a high-ranking health delegation to Cuba to advance bilateral collaboration in biotechnology. The visit centered on following up on prior agreements, most importantly the technology transfer for pneumococcal vaccine production from Cuba’s Finlay Institute of Vaccines to Iran. In meetings with Cuban officials, both sides explored additional opportunities for joint vaccine development. The delegation also held extensive talks with the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (CIGB), reviewing past successes like the Hepatitis-B vaccine transfer and discussing new cooperative ventures, including work on a pentavalent vaccine. The sessions concluded with a mutual agreement to strengthen the strategic partnership and develop detailed proposals for future joint projects in vaccine innovation.



### September 17, 2025 | International Symposium on Microbiome and Health Hosted by Institute

The Microbiology Research Center of the Pasteur Institute of Iran held a one-day International Symposium on Microbiome and Health to mark World Microorganism Day. The event featured national experts from Tehran and Shahid Beheshti Universities of Medical Sciences, the Iranian



Academy of Medical Sciences, and online participation by international researchers from Germany and the United States. Dr. Ehsan Mostafavi, the Director General of the institute opened the symposium with remarks on the institute's historic role. The symposium covered diverse topics including the lung microbiome, immunity, AI applications, antibiotic resistance, and links to cardiac and gastrointestinal diseases. During the ceremony, Dr. Seyed Davar Siadat was honored for his decade of pioneering research in microbiome studies.

## September 21, 2025 | Planning Meeting Held for Upcoming International Vaccine Congress

A key organizational meeting was held at the Pasteur Institute of Iran to plan the International Congress on Vaccines and Vaccination, scheduled for the following spring. The congress is a collaborative initiative between the Pasteur Institute and the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute, representing the core of Iran's vaccine ecosystem. A select group of researchers and executive managers from both institutes reviewed the event's overall structure, specialized panel topics, and scientific proposals. Participants emphasized the necessity of regular follow-up meetings and expressed full readiness for coordination across all scientific and executive dimensions. Discussions also focused on leveraging the international networks of both institutions to invite global experts and ensure the congress meets international standards.

## September 28, 2025 | National Rabies Day Conference Forges Elimination Strategy

In collaboration with key national bodies and municipal administrations, the Pasteur Institute of Iran organized a national conference for World Rabies Day. The forum concentrated on the crucial role of national institutes in controlling rabies, reviewed historical progress, and reinforced the goal of eliminating human rabies transmitted by dogs by 2030. Discussions extensively emphasized the importance of a cross-sectoral "One Health" approach, engaging the private veterinary sector, and addressing national challenges such as integrated bite case management and the intersection of rabies control with waste management. The conference successfully forged a consensus on a formal resolution underscoring the necessity of a unified national effort and honored two esteemed professors for their lifelong scientific contributions to the field.



## September 30, 2025 | Conference on Avian Influenza Stresses “One Health” Pandemic Readiness

The Center for Research on Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases of the Pasteur Institute of Iran convened a one-day national conference titled “Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza: A Real Threat and Lessons for Pandemic Preparedness.” Organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the Veterinary Organization, and several academic institutions, the conference featured expert lectures revolving around four central themes: the global threat and future outlook, the epidemiological status in Iran, future preparedness needs, and identified weaknesses in control strategies. Experts unanimously stressed the necessity of a coordinated “One Health” approach. At the conclusion, Dr. Saber Esmaeili, head of the organizing center, emphasized the imperative for synergistic action between human health, veterinary, and environmental sectors to effectively combat future pandemic threats.



Attended by the heads, deputies, and department managers of both institutes, the meeting served as a strategic platform to align efforts and prevent parallel work. Dr. Ehsan Mostafavi outlined PII’s dual missions in diagnostics and production, introducing potential collaboration areas in R&D, quality control, diagnostic kit development, and vaccine policy-making. Dr. Ali Es’haghi, Head of the Razi Institute, emphasized the necessity of developing a concrete roadmap. The meeting concluded with an agreement to appoint liaison officers to operationalize discussed projects and ensure continuous follow-up.



## October 2025

### October 12, 2025 | Joint Board Meeting Aligns Strategies with Razi Institute

The second joint meeting of the board of directors of the Pasteur Institute of Iran and the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute was held in the Avicenna Hall of the Pasteur Institute.

## October 14-16, 2025 | Pasteur Institute of Iran’s Representative Advocates for Biosafety at Key WHO Regional Meeting in Cairo

Dr. Mostafa Salehi Vaziri, Director of Specialized Health Services at the Pasteur Institute of Iran, delivered Iran’s national statement on strengthening biosafety and biosecurity at the 72nd session of the WHO EMRO Regional Committee in Cairo. His address underscored the country’s commitment to mitigating biological risks and fortifying regional health security frameworks. The active participation of the Pasteur Institute in this high-level forum highlights its strategic role in advancing Iran’s health diplomacy and its mission to enhance national laboratory capabilities and preparedness against emerging biological threats.



## October 20-22, 2025 | Active Participation at Pasteur Network Annual Meeting in Vietnam

A delegation from the Pasteur Institute of Iran actively participated in the Pasteur Network Annual Meeting 2025 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The delegation, led by Director-General Dr. Ehsan Mostafavi, engaged in various scientific working group sessions and high-level managerial discussions aimed at enhancing the role of member institutes within the network. Dr. Mostafavi participated in a panel with heads of other Pasteur Institutes, elaborating on PII's activities. Furthermore, Dr. Ali Maleki represented the institute in the network's "40 Under 40" initiative, presenting on Iran's COVID-19 diagnostic network. The meeting reinforced the importance of international collaboration for capacity building, rapid response to health threats, and strengthening global health security through shared knowledge and resources.



## October 21 – November 1, 2025 | Pasteur Institute of Iran Leads Regional Pandemic Preparedness Training in Pakistan

Researchers from the Pasteur Institute of Iran successfully led a specialized international training course in Karachi, Pakistan, titled "Investigating Infectious Disease Outbreaks with a Focus on Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever." Organized in collaboration with COMSTECH and Pakistan's ICCBS, the intensive course was part of the broader "Virology and Future Pandemic Preparedness" initiative. It equipped over 30 researchers and health professionals from 11 Islamic countries with critical skills in virology, biosafety, outbreak planning, and epidemiology. The curriculum blended theoretical knowledge with practical workshops. Dr. Tahmineh Jalali managed the scientific coordination, and the course was hailed as a significant step in bolstering regional health security under the existing five-year MoU between PII and COMSTECH.



## October 27-29, 2025 | Pasteur Institute of Iran Engages at International Genomic Surveillance Forum in South Africa

Dr. Mostafa Salehi Vaziri, Director of Rapid Response Team for Infectious Diseases of the



Pasteur Institute of Iran participated in the joint PHA4GE & IPSN Global Partners Forum 2025 in Cape Town, South Africa, themed “Data for Action.” The conference focused on overcoming challenges in public health pathogen genomics. Key engagements included scientific meetings with international institutes like the Pasteur Institutes of Senegal and Laos to discuss collaboration on emerging disease surveillance. The forum highlighted critical tools such as the open-source Pathoplexus data-sharing platform and Australia’s national AusTrakka surveillance system. A core recommendation for the Pasteur Institute of Iran arising from the event was to establish a national genomic surveillance laboratory to monitor priority pathogens including respiratory viruses, arboviruses, and antimicrobial resistance (AMR).



participated in the laboratory working group, receiving intensive training in next-generation sequencing, serological testing, and disease modeling. A key outcome was the privilege granted to Iran to nominate a representative for future sessions, securing the country’s role in the regional scientific network and paving the way for enhanced national dengue surveillance and control strategies.

## November 17, 2025 | WHO EMRO Director Visits to Assess Institute’s Diagnostic Capabilities

Dr. Benedetta Allegranzi, Director of the Communicable Diseases Control division at WHO EMRO, led a delegation from the WHO Country Office on a detailed visit to the Pasteur Institute of Iran. The primary objective was to gain firsthand insight into the institute’s scientific capacities and specialized capabilities in diagnosing and combating infectious diseases. Dr. Mostafavi underscored the importance of human resource capacity building and expanded collaboration with WHO. The delegation conducted extensive tours of national reference laboratories, including the Rabies Department and the Arboviruses and Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers Department, and reviewed the activities of the institute’s two WHO Collaborating Centres. The visit concluded with technical meetings focusing on strengthening regional cooperation to enhance collective preparedness for public health crises.

## November 2025

### November 4-13, 2025 | Representative of the Pasteur Institute of Iran Advances Dengue Expertise at International Workshop in Singapore

Dr. Tahmineh Jalali, Head of the Arboviruses Department at the Pasteur Institute of Iran, represented the institute at the 9th International Dengue Workshop in Singapore. The event, co-organized by Singapore’s government and the WHO, united 24 specialists from 19 countries to strengthen collaboration on modern surveillance, diagnostics, and vector control. Dr. Jalali



## November 24-29, 2025 | Pasteur Institute of Iran Contributes at International Immunology Course in Cambodia

The Pasteur Institute of Iran participated in the IUIS–Pasteur Network Immuno-Cambodia 2025 course in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The course was organized by the International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS), the Pasteur Network, and the Pasteur Institute of Cambodia. Dr. Mostafa Salehi Vaziri served as an invited international instructor, delivering lectures on arbovirology and immunology, while PhD candidate Mr. Mohammad Ali Hamidinejad attended as a selected participant. The course, focused on “Immune Responses to Arbovirus Infections from a One Health Perspective,” brought together 40 early-career researchers worldwide. This engagement showcased the institute’s expertise and fostered future collaborations to enhance regional capacity in monitoring and controlling arthropod-borne diseases.



## November 26, 2025 | Iran and Cuba Sign Strategic Pharma and MedTech Agreement

In a significant move for health diplomacy, Iran and Cuba formally signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding in the pharmaceutical and medical equipment sectors. The agreement, finalized by the heads of the respective national regulatory bodies, established a comprehensive framework for the mutual recognition of manufacturing companies and their products. A key feature is the expedited registration process, with certificates to be issued within one month. The MoU also includes provisions for joint educational courses in regulatory affairs and the transfer of technical and biological knowledge. This agreement is expected to streamline ongoing collaborations, such as PII’s project for pneumococcal vaccine technology transfer from Cuba, and facilitate the export of Iranian-produced biological products to the Cuban market.



## December 2025

### December 2-4, 2025 | Symposium at Institute Strengthens National Dengue Response Plan

A three-day specialized symposium titled “From Prevention to Response to Dengue Fever Outbreaks” was held at the A Research centre for emerging and reemerging infectious diseases of



the Pasteur Institute of Iran in at Akanlu, Hamedan. The meeting gathered specialists and representatives from medical sciences universities across Iran, particularly from regions considered potential hotspots for dengue transmission. In his opening remarks, Director-General Dr. Ehsan Mostafavi stated that the core purpose of the symposium was to systematically enhance the knowledge and operational capabilities of the country's medical universities to better prepare for and respond to potential dengue fever outbreaks. The event featured comprehensive presentations by instructors from PII, the Center for Communicable Diseases Management, and the National Reference Health Laboratory, fostering a nationwide strategy for dengue preparedness.

## December 6-8, 2025 | Malaria Elimination Training

A three-day national training course on Malaria Elimination Program Management was conducted at the Research centre for emerging and reemerging infectious diseases of the Pasteur Institute of Iran in at Akanlu, Hamedan. Co-organized by the institute and the Ministry of Health with WHO support, the course equipped newly appointed national program experts with essential skills. Senior officials, including the institute's Director-General, highlighted Iran's commitment to elimination. Technical sessions covered parasite biology, advanced diagnostics, drug resistance monitoring, vector control, and clinical case management. The Akanlu base, a historic center for plague research, now serves as a premier national and international training hub and houses Iran's National Molecular

Reference Laboratory for Malaria, reinforcing the institute's role in applied research aligned with WHO strategies.

## December 7, 2025 | Pakistani Researcher Begins COMSTECH Fellowship at the Pasteur Institute of Iran



Dr. Hanaa Iqbal, a researcher from the National Institute of Virology at the University of Karachi, Pakistan, has been invited to undertake a three-month fellowship at the Pasteur Institute of Iran, under the Organization of Islamic Countries Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (OIC/COMSTECH) framework. From December 07, 2025, to February 28, 2026, the specialized program will focus on advanced studies in infectious diseases, encompassing biosafety, public health operations, and hands-on training in advanced laboratory techniques and virological methods. The curriculum also includes vaccine development platforms, biosecurity policy, and outbreak preparedness. The air transport and accommodation expenses for the fellowship are covered by COMSTECH.

## December 8, 2025 | Institute Proposes Health Partnership with Africa at Medical Diplomacy Forum

At a forum for African ambassadors hosted by Iran University of Medical Sciences, the Pasteur



Institute of Iran presented a vision for deepened health cooperation. The institute highlighted its century of leadership in vaccine development, infectious disease control, and its roles as a WHO partner and Pasteur Network member. It proposed establishing specialized training courses in pandemic preparedness, virology, and infectious diseases for African professionals, particularly through collaboration with COMSTECH. In response, African diplomats emphasized the need for structured academic exchanges, joint research projects, and simplified processes to transform proposals into tangible, practical partnerships that benefit public health across the continent.

## December 4, 2025 | Four Pasteur Institute of Iran Researchers Rank Among World's Top Scientists

Based on the latest list of highly cited scientific authors and the August 2025 assessment, four researchers from the Pasteur Institute of Iran have been ranked among the world's top 2% scientists. The distinguished researchers are Dr. Azam Bolhassani, Dr. Mohammad Ali Shokrgozar, Dr. Mahdi Farrokhi, and Dr. Amir Ghaemi. The Pasteur Institute of Iran extends its congratulations to these esteemed researchers and wishes them continued success.



## December 11-12, 2025 | Faculty Members of the Pasteur Institute of Iran Present Expertise at International Infectious Disease Congress in Russia

Faculty members from the Pasteur Institute of Iran participated in the Sixth International Congress on Combating Infectious Diseases in St. Petersburg, themed "New Challenges", in collaboration with the Saint Petersburg Pasteur Institute in Russian Federation. Invited as key speakers, Dr. Parvaneh Mehrbod, Dr. Maryam Shahali, Dr. Mostafa Salehi Vaziri, and Dr. Mohammadreza Asadikaram presented the institute's expertise in areas including antiviral drugs, rabies vaccines, viral hemorrhagic fevers, and bacterial vaccines. The congress, attended by representatives from over 30 countries, focused on big data in epidemiology, antimicrobial resistance, and new technologies for outbreak response. This engagement builds upon a Memorandum of Cooperation signed in 2022, aiming to strengthen joint research and training initiatives between the two historic Pasteur Institutes for enhanced public health collaboration.



## December 10-17, 2025 | Expert Represents Pasteur Institute of Iran at Key Biological Weapons Convention Session in Switzerland

Biological Weapon Convention (BWC) is a multilateral disarmament treaty that prohibits the development and use of biological and toxin

weapons. Marking its 50th anniversary this year, it also promotes peaceful scientific cooperation and assistance during biothreat events. Pasteur Institute of Iran has been a member of a multisectoral technical committee responsible for coordinating national activities in this regard since early 2000. Dr. Kayhan Azadmanesh attended the seventh session of the Working Group on Strengthening the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and the concurrent Meeting of States Parties on behalf of the institute, held at the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG). In April 2025, he lectured on the Convention's Science and Technology review mechanisms at a training course for national stakeholders, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Dr. Azadmanesh has also been recently nominated as an Expert to the UN Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Biological and Toxin Weapons.



## Throughout 2025 | Pasteur Institute of Iran Virtually Participated at BRICS e-R&D Hub Meetings

The International Affairs Office of the Pasteur Institute of Iran participated actively in six BRICS Electronic R&D Hub meetings, convened in March, August, September, October, November and December 2025. The e-Hub was initially proposed by Russia in 2024 and the discussions were continued under Brazil's Bio-Manguinhos/Fiocruz supervision, is a strategic digital platform designed to strengthen scientific collaboration and health resilience among the BRICS countries. Its core purposes are to establish an interoperable data repository for health R&D, facilitate joint research projects in areas like vaccines, and build capacity through equitable knowledge sharing. This structured initiative, governed by a Steering Committee and Secretariat, aims to translate collective discussion into actionable R&D initiatives among member states.



Pasteur Institute of Iran  
69 Pasteur Ave., Tehran 13169-43551  
I.R. Iran.  
Phone: +98 21 66953311-20  
Email: [info@pasteur.ac.ir](mailto:info@pasteur.ac.ir)

<https://en.pasteur.ac.ir>