

**Girish Banwari**, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Sheth V.S. General Hospital, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad, Gujarat INDIA  
e-mail: drgirishbanwari@yahoo.com

#### References

1. Banwari GH. Portrayal of psychiatrists in Hindi movies released in the first decade of the 21st century. *Asian J Psychiatr.* 2011 Sep;4(3):210–13. doi: 10.1016/j.ajp.2011.07.001
2. Gharabeih NM. The psychiatrist's image in commercially available American movies. *Acta Psychiatr Scand.* 2005 Apr;111(4):316–19.
3. Sartorius N, Gaebel W, Cleveland HR, Stuart H, Akiyama T, Arboleda-Flores J, Baumann AE, Gureje O, Jorge MR, Kastrup M, Suzuki Y, Tasman A. WPA guidance on how to combat stigmatization of psychiatry and psychiatrists. *World Psychiatry.* 2010 Oct;9(3):131–44.

### Scientific sanctions: a catastrophe for the civilised world

Nowadays, Iranians are being subjected to the strictest sanctions ever imposed against a country. The political deadlock between six international powers and Iranian officials has resulted in a proliferation of sanctions touching all aspects of Iranian activities. Economic sanctions have caused intolerable suffering to the people and now, another type of sanctions has been foisted on us – scientific sanctions.

I am not a politician, but as a young physician, committed to research and engaged in scientific publishing, am deeply afraid for humanity and civilisation. Science has now been reined in. During the past year, I have sensed the increasing pressure on the scientists in my country to report the results of their surveys. I cannot understand why the scientific community tolerates the pressure mounted by politicians to compromise the independence, purity and honesty of science, which is now being undermined.

During the past year, I have experienced many difficulties in publishing articles. Surveys which could have been published in the best international journals and helped all scientists

around the world to continue to improve the quality of human life and our knowledge were rejected. My articles have been rejected, even after frequent revisions, without any reasonable excuse. In one instance, a Canadian journal rejected my article after one year and three sessions of revisions, claiming that the article possibly had some limitations which had not been reported. An interesting question is why was such a decision not taken after the first revision itself? And why were doubts cast on our honesty when we were reporting on a registered clinical trial? The question arises as to whether journals can be assured of the honesty of the researchers involved in all American or European surveys.

Another problem faced by us was that of banking sanctions. These sanctions made the payment of publication fees and offprint requests impossible and thus, the number of journals we could submit our articles to shrank. Elsevier as well as Taylor and Francis have officially announced that they will impose these sanctions (1,2).

My country has suffered such problems frequently in recent decades. We have a rich history and our civilisation and culture go back thousands of years. As Isaac Newton said, we stand on the shoulders of giants, giants such as Avicenna and Razi, the Iranian pioneers in science. We do not want to restrict our capabilities, but it seems that the international community wants us to. This is a catastrophe for civilisation and science, and will stand out as a blemish in the history of science.

**Behnam Baghianimoghadam**, Research Consultant and Resident in Orthopaedic Surgery, Shahid Beheshti Hospital, Babol University of Medical Sciences, Keshvari Square, Babol, IRAN

#### References

1. Taylor and Francis Group bans publication of articles by Iranian authors [Internet]. PressTV. 2013 Jul 28 [cited 2014 Feb 9]. Available from: <http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2013/07/28/315973/ukbased-publisher-bans-iranian-articles/>
2. Seeley M. Trade sanctions against Iran affect publishers [Internet]. Elsevierconnect. 2013 May 9 [cited 2014 Feb 9]. Available from: <http://elsevierconnect.com/trade-sanctions-against-iran-affect-publishers/>

### SUPPORT IJME

The Indian Journal of Medical Ethics needs your financial support urgently.

If you are a short term subscriber, please consider upgrading to a Life Subscription.

If you are already a Life Subscriber, you may wish to gift Life Subscriptions to friends.

Advertisements from non-health sector companies are also welcome.

For advertising rates please contact us at [ijmemumbai@gmail.com](mailto:ijmemumbai@gmail.com)