

USERN and Companions House and Museum: An Initiative by USERNiversity for the Integration of Science and Art

**Niloufar Yazdanpanah^{1,2}, Mohsen Parnianpour³, Mousa Behniafard⁴, Mohammad Ali Sahraian⁵, Mehrzad Mehdizadeh⁶,
Fatemeh Ramezanzadeh^{7,8}, Mohammad Behnaz⁹, Afrouz Motamed¹⁰, Reza Fekrazad^{11,12}, Mehrshad Esnaashari¹³, Sadroddin
Motevalli¹⁴, Alireza Ranjbar¹⁵, Fereidoun Mahboudi¹⁶, Nima Rezaei^{1,2}**

¹ *Research Center for Immunodeficiencies, Children's Medical Center Hospital, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran*

² *Universal Scientific Education and Research Network (USERN), Tehran, Iran*

³ *Department of Mechanical Engineering, Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran*

⁴ *Avicenna's International Group, Gdansk, Poland*

⁵ *Multiple Sclerosis Research Center, Neuroscience Institute, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran*

⁶ *Department of Radiology, Children's Medical Center Hospital, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran*

⁷ *Vali-e-Asr Reproductive Health Research Center, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran*

⁸ *Atieh Hospital, Tehran, Iran*

⁹ *Department of Orthodontics, School of Dentistry, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran*

¹⁰ *Department of Cardiology, Amir A'lam Hospital, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran*

¹¹ *Radiation Sciences Research Center, AJA University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran*

¹² *International Network for Photo Medicine and Photo Dynamic Therapy (INPMPDT), Universal Scientific Education and Research, Network (USERN), Tehran, Iran*

¹³ *Universal Scientific Education and Research Network (USERN), Riverside, CA, USA*

¹⁴ *Department of Geography, Faculty of Humanities, Islamic Azad University, Noor Branch, Noor, Iran*

¹⁵ *Institute of Interventional Allergology and Immunology, Bonn/Cologne, Bonn, Germany*

¹⁶ *Biotechnology Research Center, Pasteur Institute of Iran, Tehran, Iran*

USERN

January 1st has always marked the celebration of the Universal Scientific Education and Research Network (USERN) establishment (1). On January 1st, 2024, USERN stepped forward to record one more salient event in the calendar; the inauguration of the USERN & Companions House and Museum.

USERN is a non-governmental non-political organization, established for the advancement of authentic, ethical, and professional scientific research and education, leading to science development. USERN pursues "Science without Border", either geographical borders, discipline borders, or borders between junior and senior researchers. After only 8 years of activity, USERN has an Advisory Board of more than 650 top 1% scientists, including 20 Nobel and Abel Laureates, and more than 25000 members from all 5 continents. Research activity in USERN resulted in more than 2700 scientific publications and an H-Index of 92 (Figure 1). USERN has 66 Junior Ambassadors, and more than 150

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and offices worldwide, by January 2024 (Figure 2) (2-4).

USERNiversity

Conceptualized in 2022 and implemented in 2023, USERNiversity successfully passed its first year of official activity. USERN has been always concerned about empowering young scholars' skills for their future career paths in the scientific world, via extracurricular programs/courses (5-8). So, after planning and organizing a handful of local and international educational events, USERN started to design and develop defined non-degree courses aimed to improve some necessary skills, namely scientific writing and basic research skills, basic laboratory techniques, academic and public presentation skills, soft skills, as well as innovation and entrepreneurship skills. People apply to enter the courses, and some of enthusiastic talented applicants are accepted (as interns) to start the courses (9). Interns receive Universal Accreditation System (UAS) credits for some defined activities during

Corresponding Author: N. Rezaei

Research Center for Immunodeficiencies, Children's Medical Center Hospital, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran
Tel: +98 216657, E-mail addresses: rezaei_nima@tums.ac.ir, rezaei_nima@yahoo.com

Copyright © 2024 Tehran University of Medical Sciences. Published by Tehran University of Medical Sciences

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>). Non-commercial uses of the work are permitted, provided the original work is properly cited

USERN

the courses; indeed, UAS credit is a tool to quantify educational activities and professional development (10). In addition to the graduation certificate, interns achieve UAS credits, which are recorded on their profile on the USERN website. In 2023, USERNiversity announced a virtual learning platform, named USERN E-Learning program, and five internships, namely Internship at the Executive Committee, Research Internship, Laboratory Techniques Internship, Presentation Skills Internship (Miniature Talk), and Innovation and Entrepreneurship Internship. In 2023, in

Internship at the Executive Committee, among 160 applications, 21 were finally accepted, and 19 graduated; in Research Internship, among the >400 applications, 160 were accepted, and 46 graduated; among >50 applications, in Laboratory Techniques Internship, 8 were accepted, and 7 graduated; in Presentation Skills Internship (Miniature Talk), among >120 applications, 64 were accepted, and 46 graduated; in Innovation and Entrepreneurship Internship, among 50 applications, 12 were accepted, and 11 graduated.

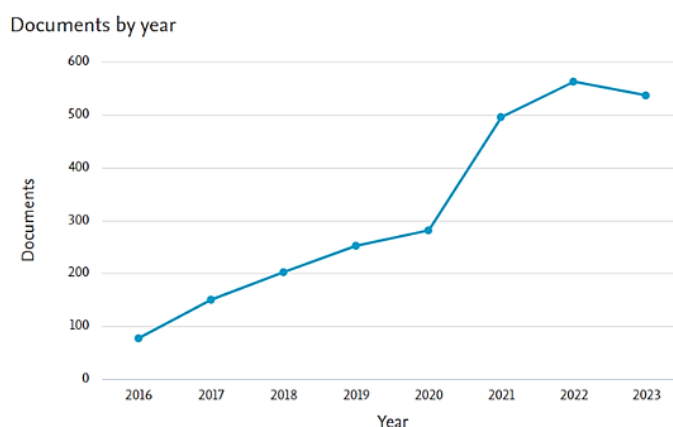


Figure 1. USERN publications 2016-2023

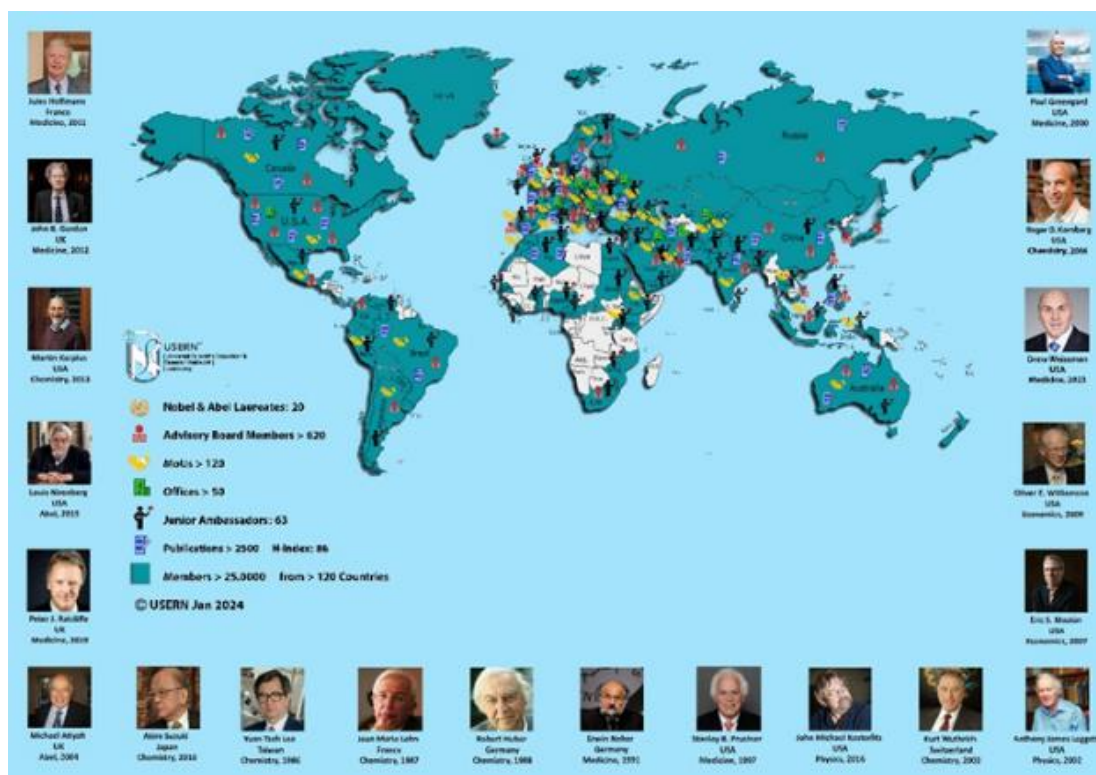


Figure 2. USERN map



Figure 3. USERN & companions house and museum. A) exterior view of the front, B) exterior view of the back, C) cornerstone, D) code of ethics



Figure 4. USERN & companions house and museum. A) Art corner, B) Health and art museum, C) main hall, D) USERN museum, E-G) memory wall, H) balcony

USERN congress 2023

The 8th International USERN Congress and Prize Awarding Festival was held in the beautiful city of Yerevan, Armenia, on November 8th-10th, 2023, hosted by RAU university. After the successful organization of USERN congresses in Tehran (Iran, 2016), Kharkiv (Ukraine, 2017), Reggio Calabria (Italy, 2018), Budapest (Hungary, 2019), Tehran (Iran, 2020), Istanbul (Turkey, 2021), and Muscat (Oman, 2022), the 2023 USERN congress in Armenia was a millstone with more than 140 participants from 11 countries, 21 distinguished in-person speakers from 14 countries, and 27 distinguished speakers in the virtual sessions! Among the in-person speakers' names, there is Abass Alavi, Professor of radiology and neurology and one of the scientist who performed the first human PET scan study; Frank Sellke, chief cardiothoracic surgeon; Artem Oganov, mineralogists and chemist; Michael Schreiber, physicist; Alexander Leemans, physicist and neuroimaging specialist and USERN 2016 Prize Laureate; Bruno Scarpa, statistics and data mining; Ute Romling, medical microbial physiologist; Jianing Fu, expert in translational immunology and USERN Prize Laureate 2022; Joseph Firth, expert in digital health and

USERN Prize Laureate 2022; Simon Rosenbaum, exercise physiologist; Amedeo Amedei, immunologist; Springer Nature editor in biomedicine; Maha Al-Khaduri, OBGYN specialist; Rossella Castagna, expert in material sciences; Emilio Parisini, chemist; Hans Binder, bioinformatician; Dragana Ciric, architecture; Jonathan Schug, geneticist; Tommaso Dorigo, Professor of statistics/physics and USERN President; and Nima Rezaei, Professor of clinical immunology and USERN Founder. On November 8th, along with the opening ceremony of the 8th USERN Congress, the awarding ceremony of the 9th International Festival of Paintings for Pediatric Patients (IFPPP) took place. Winner kinds from Bulgaria, Armenia, India, and Iran joined the ceremony and received their prize (11). On November 10th, the USERN Prize Awarding Festival was held, when the USERN Laureates attended the ceremony to be appreciated and receive their prize (12).

USERN and companions house and museum

From the beginning, the idea of establishing the USERN central building as the headquarter of this network has existed. USERN was established to become the authority in science for peace and development, as

USERN

UNESCO in global peace, and UNICEF in children's rights. The idea of integrated sciences has existed in USERN since about a decade ago. USERN central building has been pictured as "A cultural and social symbol for the integration of science and art". The USERN & Companions House and Museum is set to become a permanent building for forming educational and scientific research activities.

USERN & Companions House and Museum was bought in Nur city, Mazandaran province, on September 5th, 2023. It has been officially inaugurated on January 1st, 2024, at the dawn of the 9th year of USERN activity. USERN & Companions House and Museum is open to all students, researchers, scientists, and artists who consider the attendance etiquettes, which are engraved at the entrance of the place: "When entering, we will be with his name, with a smile, while professional ethics and behavior will be with us. When we are present, we will be at peace with ourselves and others, and we will learn with great effort that our thoughts, words, and deeds will be with us together with kindness. And when we leave, we will be with the hope and plan that we will be accompanied by powerful companions and a beautiful flight to the high peaks."

USERN & Companions House and Museum is designed by the USERN team (Figures 3-5); at the entrance, there is the "Art Corner", as the integration of science and art was always present in USERN activities. At the main hall on the ground floor, there is the "Lab Tec Corner", the "Research Hall", and the "Soft Skills

Hall". Upstairs, at the first floor, there is the "Innovation Hall" and the "Miniature Talk Balcony". So, the place is designed to remind students and young scholars of the main five skills that are crucial to empower their wings to fly toward the highest peak in their life. On the ground floor, there is the "USERN Gallery", where symbols and souvenir of previous USERN Congresses, events, MoUs, Advisory Board meetings, as well as USERN trophies, medals, and booklets are exhibited. Also, on the ground floor, there is the "Health and Art (HEART) Gallery", where trophies, medals, and booklets of the International Festival of Paintings for Pediatric Patients (IFPPP) and Football Mini World Cup are exhibited. On the ground floor, there is the "USERN Library", in which all books published with USERN affiliation can be found; also, books of famous poets, books introducing countries that hosted the USERN Congress, and signed USERN MoU are all available in the "USERN Library". While passing the stairs to reach floor one, the audience will be surrounded by photos, the "Memory Wall", each reminding of an important meeting/event since 2015, when the first idea of USERN was formed. Upstairs on floor one, there are the "Nature Gallery" and the "Science and Art Gallery". Between these galleries, there is the "Dream Wall", where the USERN team and companions write their wishes and dreams for USERN, making origami cranes out of it, and installing them on twigs of a wooden branch. USERN & Companions House and Museum is home to scientists and artists who collaborate to remove borders in science.



Figure 5. USERN & Companions House and Museum. A) Science and Art Gallery, B) Nature Gallery, C) Dream Wall, D) USERN Memorial, E) USERN Library

Acknowledgments

USERN is pleased to acknowledge and appreciate the guidance and support of all USERN advisory board members, stakeholders, collaborators, and the executive committee. We truly thank Mansoor Amiri, Dorsa Group, Massoud Laboratory, Moallem Insurance Company, and Health and ART (HEART) Group for their invaluable support of the USERN & Companions House and Museum. USERN executive committee members, former or current, all are young enthusiastic students interested in removing borders in science. We wholeheartedly appreciate all they have done to make this initiative possible. Finally, we warmly thank those who have devoted their time to USERN for their company, cooperation, and inspiration.

References

1. Rezaei N. Universal Scientific Education and Research Network (USERN): a new horizon for science. *Acta Med Iran* 2016;54:1-3.
2. Universal Scientific Education and Research Network (USERN). (Accessed January 2024, 20, at <http://usern.org>.)
3. Rezaei N. Universal Scientific Education and Research Network (USERN): to make the knowledge without borders. *Acta Med Iran* 2017;55:1-5.
4. Rezaei N. Universal Scientific Education and Research Network (USERN): twinkling stars unite to make the world glow. *Acta Med Iran* 2018;56:1-3.
5. Rahmani F, Keshavarz-Fathi M, Hanaei S, Aminorroaya A, Delavari F, Paryad-Zanjani S, et al. Universal scientific education and research network (USERN): step strong in scientific networking. *Acta Med Iran* 2019;57:1-4.
6. Momtazmanesh S, Rahmani F, Delavari F, Vahedi Z, Ebadirad S, Keshavarz-Fathi M, et al. U100: an innovative USERN platform for education and research without borders. *Acta Med Iran* 2020;58:1-3.
7. Hanaei S, Takian A, Majdzadeh R, Maboloc CR, Grossmann I, Gomes O, et al. Emerging standards and the hybrid model for organizing scientific events during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. *Disaster Med Public Health Prep* 2022;16:1172-7.
8. Hanaei S, Sarzaeim M, Yazdanpanah N, Pirkoohi ZR, Ziaei H, Mohamed K, et al. The Hybrid USERN 2020 Congress: New Standards for Events in Practice. *Acta Med Iran* 2021;59:1-3.
9. Yazdanpanah N, Ziaei H, Loghman A, Sarkar Lotfabadi A, Akbarzadehmoallemkolaei M, Zolfaghari K, Bagheri A, et al. USERNiversity: A New Educational Innovation to Improve Young Scholars' Skills via Extracurricular Programs. *Acta Med Iran* 2023;61:1-6.
10. Yazdanpanah N, Keshavarz-Fathi M, Ziaei H, Jaberipour A, Mirbeyk M, Hanaei S, et al. Universal Accreditation System (UAS): An Innovative Education and Research Credit Appraisal by USERN. *Acta Med Iran* 2022;60:1-4.
11. USERN HEART. 9th International Festival of Paintings for Pediatric Patients (IFPPP). (Accessed January 2024, 20, at <https://userncongress.com/ifppp/>.)
12. USERN Congress, Prize. The 8th International USERN Congress and Prize Awarding Festival. (Accessed January 2024, 20, at <https://userncongress.com/prize/>.)