

### *Citation for Soodabeh Joolae*

Soodabeh has been teaching undergraduate and postgraduate nurses for more than 20 years, and from the beginning her concern has been about ethics.

In her endeavour to disseminate an ethical culture in clinical settings she realized that patients, doctors, and nurses were not consulted in the compilation of a patients' bill of rights that had been posted around hospital wards, and none of them were fully aware of those rights. She set about studying the documents, the needs and understanding of nurses, patients and doctors, of those rights. In 2010, her PhD dissertation on the subject of patients' rights won her the prestigious Avicenna Award of the Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS), given for outstanding education and research activities. It also propelled her into health policy work and cooperation with the Iranian Ministry of Health and Medical Sciences.

From that time, Soodabeh has focused her research projects and publications, as well as her academic and clinical work, on the rights of patients. She has led innumerable formal and informal sessions, workshops, seminars and courses to promote nursing ethics and patients' rights in both faculty and clinical settings all over Iran. She has done this by negotiating with managers and leaders everywhere to prepare and train nurses as patients' rights advocates. This is not an easy job for a nurse in a paternalistic health care context.

Soodabeh has cooperated with international research, has translated English textbooks and other material into Farsi, and has travelled as widely as her work situation permits, always learning from other settings and advocating patients' rights and human dignity generally.

She and a number of colleagues from the University's teaching hospitals were the first team to start work on a code of ethics for Iranian nurses, based on her research and wide discussions and consultations in the country. This work was published in a renowned medical ethics journal. It also led her to work with other organizations, notably the Iranian Academy of Medical Sciences, in establishing the code. In cooperation with other research centers, a composite version of the code of ethics has now been adopted by the Ministry of Health for all nursing personnel.

From 2010 a new comprehensive Iranian patients' bill of rights has been in force, legally binding in all health care facilities, and Soodabeh is busy introducing and presenting it to nurses and health care providers up and down the country. As one of the best-known academics in her country, she is a pioneer in nursing ethics, constantly called upon when any issues of patients' rights and nursing ethics are under consideration.

With all this, Soodabeh is also the director of Nursing Continuing Education (NCE) of Tehran University of Medical Sciences, and as such she is responsible for designing and running NCE programs for nurses for the whole country. She is also the head of the Nursing Management Department of the Faculty of Nursing, and with this very high workload in postgraduate and management education, she still teaches nursing ethics to undergraduate and graduate nursing students in various courses.