

In memoriam: Hamid Ghodse

After graduating as a Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) in the Islamic Republic of Iran (1965), Professor Ghodse specialized in psychology and psychiatry in the United Kingdom, where he was awarded a Diploma in Psychological Medicine (D.P.M.), United Kingdom (1974), Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), University of London (1976), and Doctor of Science (D.Sc.), University of London (2002).

Professor Ghodse devoted his professional life to treatment, research and teaching in the field of drug addiction, becoming Professor of Psychiatry and of International Drug Policy, University of London, in 1987 and Director of the International Centre for Drug Policy at St. George's, University of London in 2003.

In addition to an extensive teaching career, Professor Ghodse was extremely active in research in fields of drug addiction, public health, psychiatry and drug policy. He was the author or editor of over 350 scientific books and papers on drug-related issues and addiction, including a number of highly regarded reference books. He was rapporteur, chairman and convener of various World Health Organization and European Community expert committees, review groups and other working groups on drugs and alcohol dependence.

Professor Ghodse's academic and professional achievements were recognized through numerous awards and recognitions, including: Honorary Fellowship, Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine (FFFLM) (2012); International Distinguished Fellow, American Psychiatric Association (2009); Fellow (1985) and Honorary Fellow (2006), Royal College of Psychiatrists (R.C.Psych.), United Kingdom; Honorary Fellow, World Psychiatric Association (FWPA) (2008); Honorary Professor, Peking University (since 1997); Honorary Fellow, St. George's, University of London (2011) and Lifetime Achievement Award, Royal College of Psychiatrists, United Kingdom (2011). He was a Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists (F.R.C.Psych.), United Kingdom (1985); Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (F.R.C.P.), London (1992); Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (F.R.C.P.E.), Edinburgh (1997); Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine (F.F.P.H.), United Kingdom (1997); Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (F.H.E.A.), United Kingdom (2005).

Professor Ghodse made major contributions to policymaking at the highest international level. He became a member of the International Narcotics Control Board in 1992 and served as its President in 1993, 1994, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2004, 2005, 2008, 2010 and 2011.

In recognition of his unparalleled contribution to international drug control, the Board dedicates this report to the memory of Professor Hamid Ghodse. He will be remembered for his unique and outstanding academic and scientific knowledge, his remarkable leadership, wisdom and elegant diplomacy and, above all, for his deepest compassion for the suffering of people affected by drug abuse, his passionate work to bring about changes to reduce such suffering worldwide and his warmth and kindness. Professor Ghodse's legacy and vision in the field of international drug control will provide guidance and inspiration to generations to come.