

SEYED ABBAS MOTEVALIAN, MD, PhD

Professor of Epidemiology | Scientific Advisor | Health Research Methodologist

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Seyed Abbas Motevalian, MD, PhD, is a Professor of Epidemiology and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology at Iran University of Medical Sciences, with more than two decades of experience in the design, implementation, analysis, and scientific leadership of health research. His expertise encompasses epidemiologic and clinical research methodology, population-based surveys, cohort studies, advanced statistical analysis, mental health and substance use epidemiology, injury prevention, health research systems, and research priority setting. He has led or advised major national and international projects in collaboration with the World Health Organization and other United Nations agencies and has extensive experience in methodological consultation, evidence synthesis, scientific publishing, and translating research evidence into policy and practice.

CAREER AT A GLANCE

20+ years of research leadership	150+ peer-reviewed publications	50+ supervised/co-supervised theses	WHO & UN international advisory experience
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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Epidemiologic and clinical research methodology
- Cohort study design and longitudinal analysis
- Mental health and substance use epidemiology
- Health research priority setting and research systems
- Population surveys and complex sampling
- Advanced statistical and causal inference methods
- Injury epidemiology and traffic safety
- Evidence synthesis, scientific publishing, and knowledge translation

CURRENT ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

- 2026-present Scientific Advisor**
Shafa Research and Innovation Company, Tehran, Iran
- 2023-present Chair, Department of Epidemiology**
School of Public Health, Iran University of Medical Sciences
- 2020-present Professor of Epidemiology**
School of Public Health, Iran University of Medical Sciences
- 2018-present Founding Director**
Psychosocial Health Research Institute, Iran University of Medical Sciences

SELECTED LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

- 2019-2021 Vice-Chancellor for Research and Technology**
Iran University of Medical Sciences
- 2019-2021 Project Leader, Science and Technology Park**
Iran University of Medical Sciences
- 2018-2020 Director, MPH Program**
Iran University of Medical Sciences
- 2013-2014 Vice-Chancellor for Research and Technology**
Iran University of Medical Sciences
- 2011-2013 Director, Iranian National Center for Addiction Studies**
Tehran University of Medical Sciences
- 2009-2010 Director, Burn Research Center**
Iran University of Medical Sciences
- 2007-2008 Director, Office for Knowledge Translation and Networking**
Iran University of Medical Sciences

SELECTED INTERNATIONAL CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

- Oct-Dec 2025 Consultant - Development of a Regional Research Agenda on Substance Use**
World Health Organization, Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office, Cairo, Egypt
- Mar-Jul 2023 Consultant - Communicable Disease Research Priority Setting**
Qatar Foundation / Doha International Family Institute, Doha, Qatar
- Nov 2022-Apr 2023 APW Holder - Surveillance System for Hospital Drug Emergencies in Iran**
World Health Organization Country Office, Tehran, Iran
- Jan-Jul 2022 Individual Contractor - Evaluation of Harm Reduction Services During COVID-19**
UNDP, Tehran, Iran
- Oct-Dec 2021 Consultant - National Health Research Priority Setting**
World Health Organization Pakistan Country Office, Islamabad, Pakistan
- Feb-Jun 2021 Consultant - Health Research Priority Setting**
World Health Organization, Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office, Cairo, Egypt
- 2020 Consultant - COVID-19 Behavioral Insights among the Iranian Elderly Population**
United Nations Population Fund, Tehran, Iran
- 2015 APW Holder - Development of a Health-Related Alcohol Information System for Iran**
World Health Organization Country Office, Tehran, Iran
- 2012 National Consultant - Safe Community Implementation and Evaluation Guideline**
World Health Organization Country Office, Tehran, Iran
- 2011 APW Holder - Development of a Computerized Online Burn Registry**
World Health Organization Country Office, Tehran, Iran
- 2007 APW Holder - Case Study on Intersectoral Action for Health**
World Health Organization Country Office, Tehran, Iran
- 2005 APW Holder - Evaluation of Community-Based Initiatives in Iran**
World Health Organization Country Office, Tehran, Iran

SELECTED INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL ADVISORY SERVICE

- 2021-2022 Member, Working Group on the Responsible Use of the Life Sciences**
World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland
- 2014 Temporary Advisor, International Group for Implementation Science in HIV/AIDS ARV Treatment**
World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland
- 2010 Member, Expert Group on Data Collection**
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Vienna, Austria
- 2020-present Member, COVID-19 Research Committee**
Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Iran
- 2018-present Member, Research Advisory Board**
National Drug Control Headquarters, Iran
- 2008-present Member, Epidemiology Evaluation and Examination Board**
Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Iran
- 2023 Chair, Scientific Program Committee, 10th National and 3rd International Iranian Congress of Epidemiology**
Tehran, Iran
- 2023 Chair, Scientific Program Committee, 16th National Congress on Addiction Science**
Tehran, Iran

SELECTED RESEARCH LEADERSHIP AND MAJOR PROJECTS

- 2019-present Employees' Health Cohort Study of Iran (EHCSIR), Follow-up Phase**
Principal Investigator; Iran University of Medical Sciences.
- 2015-present Persian Youth Cohort (PYC)**
Co-Investigator; National Institute for Medical Research Development.
- 2017-2022 Second Iranian National Mental Health Survey (IranMHS-II)**
Co-Investigator; National Institute for Health Research.
- 2020-2022 COVID-19 Population Survey of Iran (COPSIR)**
Principal Investigator; repeated national survey of knowledge, risk perception, preventive behaviors, psychological problems, essential needs, and public trust.
- 2021 National Health Research Priority Setting in Pakistan**
WHO consultant; contributed to development and implementation of a national priority-setting exercise.
- 2023 Communicable Disease Research Priority Setting in Qatar**
Consultant; Qatar Foundation / Doha International Family Institute.
- 2025 Regional Research Agenda on Substance Use in the Eastern Mediterranean Region**
WHO/EMRO consultant.
- 2018 Hotspot Mapping and Size Estimation of People Who Use Drugs in Iran**
Principal Investigator; Ministry of Health and Medical Education.
- 2014-2015 Iranian Drug and Alcohol Treatment Information System (IDATIS)**
Principal Investigator; Ministry of Health and Medical Education.
- 2010 Iranian National Mental Health Survey (IranMHS)**
Co-Investigator; Ministry of Health and Medical Education.
- 2000-2001 First National Roadside Survey of Driving under the Influence of Opiates**
Principal Investigator; Center for Research and Studies of Police.

TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP

- Course developer and lead instructor for graduate and doctoral courses in epidemiologic methods, case-control and cohort studies, survey sampling, genetic epidemiology, occupational epidemiology, substance use epidemiology, and advanced research methods.
- Supervised or co-supervised more than 50 PhD, MSc, MPH, and MD-MPH theses in epidemiology, public health, mental health, substance use, injury prevention, and quantitative research methods.
- Recipient of the 2024 Excellence in Teaching Award, Iran University of Medical Sciences.

EDITORIAL AND SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHING ROLES

- 2023-present Deputy Statistical and Methodology Editor**
Addiction
- 2013-present Editorial Board Member**
Research on Addiction
- 2007-present Editorial Board Member**
International Journal of Fertility and Sterility
- 2006-present Editorial Board Member**
Iranian Journal of Epidemiology

EDUCATION

2001-2006 PhD in Epidemiology

School of Public Health, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

1990-1997 Doctor of Medicine (MD)

School of Medicine, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

2025 Vosough Award for International Achievements

Iran University of Medical Sciences

2024 Excellence in Teaching Award

Iran University of Medical Sciences

2018 Researcher of the Year Award

Iran University of Medical Sciences

2016 University-Industry Collaboration Award

Iran University of Medical Sciences

2003 National Award for Best PhD Student of the Year in Biomedical Sciences

Ministry of Health and Medical Education

1997 Ranked among the Top 3% of Medical Students

Tehran University of Medical Sciences

1988 Ranked 19th in the National Mathematics Olympiad

Iran

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Member, American College of Epidemiology.
- Elected Board Member and Member, International Traffic Medicine Association.
- Member, Iranian Epidemiological Association; former Directorate Member and Treasurer.
- Member, Medical Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

SELECTED PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Selected recent and representative publications are listed below. The complete publication record includes more than 150 peer-reviewed articles.

1. Pirani A, Dodangeh M, Nasirpour N, Ghanbari B, Hajebi A, Motevalian A. Obsessive-compulsive disorder and smartphone addiction among public sector employees in Iran. *BMC Psychology*. 2026;14(1):145.
2. Goodarzi E, Solaymani-Dodaran M, Motevalian A, Mansourzadeh MJ, Momenan AA, Khalili D. Validity of self-assessment cardiovascular disease risk assessment: evidence from a population-based study. *Journal of Diabetes & Metabolic Disorders*. 2026;25(1):108.
3. Abasi A, Ayatollahi H, Motevalian SA. Characteristics of cohort data management systems (CDMS): a scoping review. *BMC Medical Research Methodology*. 2025;25(1):256.
4. Abasi A, Motevalian SA, Ayatollahi H. COVID-19 risk stratification among older adults: a machine learning approach to identify personal and health-related risk factors. *BMC Public Health*. 2025;25(1):2577.
5. Motevalian SA, Ahmadi SAY, Tehrani-Banihashemi A. Mediating role of physical activity in the relationship between personality traits and body mass index among participants of the Employees' Health Cohort Study of Iran. *Iranian Journal of Public Health*. 2025;54(6):1272-1281.
6. Savari E, Nasirpour N, Rahimi-Movaghar A, et al. Social capital and major depressive disorder among youth in Iran. *BMC Psychiatry*. 2025;25(1):111.
7. Nasirpour N, Mojtabai R, Savari E, Hajebi A, Rahimi-Movaghar A, Motevalian A. Objective socioeconomic status, subjective social status, and mental disorders in the Iranian Mental Health Survey: a mediation analysis. *Journal of Affective Disorders*. 2025;372:279-286.
8. Motevalian SA, Asghar MN, Afzal S, et al. Health research priorities in Pakistan: a Child Health and Nutrition Research Initiative exercise. *Journal of Global Health*. 2024;14:04116.
9. Nasirpour N, Shalbafan M, Savari E, Pirani A, Baradaran HR, Motevalian A. Effort-reward imbalance and common mental disorders among public sector employees of Iran: a cross-sectional analysis. *BMC Public Health*. 2024;24(1):1447.
10. Shabani A, Rasoulzadeh M, Naserbakht M, et al. Prevalence and determinants of post-traumatic stress disorder five months after the 2019 flooding in Iran. *BMC Public Health*. 2024;24(1):346.
11. Nasirpour N, Esmailzadehha N, Hajebi A, Savari E, Ghanbari B, Motevalian A. Preexisting depression and COVID-19: a cohort study on the risk of susceptibility and hospitalization. *BMC Psychiatry*. 2023;23(1):942.

SELECTED PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

12. Molaeipour L, Hajebi A, Janani L, et al. Monitoring the COVID-19 vaccine acceptance trend and its determinants among Iranian adults. *Archives of Iranian Medicine*. 2023;26(8):427-433.
13. Zamani M, Poustchi H, Mohammadi Z, et al. Seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2 antibody among the urban Iranian population: findings from the second large population-based cross-sectional study. *BMC Public Health*. 2022;22(1):1031.
14. Khodadost M, Ghalekhani N, Hajebi A, et al. Mapping and size estimation of people who inject drugs: an innovative approach for a targeted harm-reduction program in Iran. *Journal of Substance Use*. 2022;28(4):588-596.
15. Rajabzadeh R, Janani L, Motevalian SA. Effects of different invitation strategies on participation in a cohort study of Iranian public sector employees: a cluster randomized trial. *BMC Medical Research Methodology*. 2021;21(1):206.
16. Khalili P, Nadimi AE, Baradaran HR, et al. Validity of self-reported substance use: research setting versus primary health care setting. *Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention, and Policy*. 2021;16(1):66.
17. Mandil A, Motevalian SA, Altaf A, et al. Research on health priorities: a regional agenda and its implementation in Jordan and Pakistan. *Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal*. 2021;27(4):319-320.
18. Rahimi-Movaghar A, Amin-Esmaeili M, Baheshmat S, et al. Assessing risk behaviours in the Iranian general population: results from the Iranian Mental Health Survey. *Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal*. 2021;27(10):953-961.
19. Janani L, Hajebi A, Nazari H, et al. COVID-19 Population Survey of Iran (COPSIR) study protocol: repeated survey on knowledge, risk perception, preventive behaviors, psychological problems, essential needs, and public trust during the COVID-19 epidemic. *Medical Journal of the Islamic Republic of Iran*. 2020;34:52.
20. Hajebi A, Motevalian SA, Rahimi-Movaghar A, et al. Major anxiety disorders in Iran: prevalence, sociodemographic correlates, and service utilization. *BMC Psychiatry*. 2018;18(1):261.
21. Amin-Esmaeili M, Rahimi-Movaghar A, Sharifi V, et al. Alcohol use disorders in Iran: prevalence, symptoms, correlates, and comorbidity. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*. 2017;176:48-54.
22. Amin-Esmaeili M, Rahimi-Movaghar A, Sharifi V, et al. Epidemiology of illicit drug use disorders in Iran: prevalence, correlates, comorbidity, and service utilization. *Addiction*. 2016;111(10):1836-1847.
23. Motevalian A, Haddadi M, Saadat S, Tehrani A, Rahimi V. Strengthening the injury surveillance system in Iran. *Chinese Journal of Traumatology*. 2011;14(6):348-353.
24. Motevalian SA, Asadi-Lari M, Rahimi H, Eftekhari M. Validation of a Persian version of the Motorcycle Rider Behavior Questionnaire. *Annals of Advances in Automotive Medicine*. 2011;55:91-98.

SELECTED TECHNICAL REPORTS AND OTHER OUTPUTS

- World Health Organization. Global guidance framework for the responsible use of the life sciences: mitigating biorisks and governing dual-use research. Geneva: WHO; 2022. Contributor through WHO Working Group 5.
- WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean. Summary report on the national workshop for health research priority setting in Pakistan. Cairo: WHO/EMRO; 2021.
- Rahimi-Movaghar A, Motevalian SA, Hajebi A, et al. Iranian National Mental Health Survey. Tehran: Ministry of Health and Medical Education; 2012.
- Motevalian SA. A case study on intersectoral action for health in the Islamic Republic of Iran: community-based initiatives experience. WHO/EMRO; 2007.

Complete publication and project details are available through institutional and scholarly profiles.