



**Subject: Reference letter for Mr. Naser Ahmadi**

**To Whom It May Concern,**

I am delighted for having the opportunity to express my highest recommendation for Mr. Naser Ahmadi.

I'm Farshad Farzadfar, A professor of the Tehran University of medical sciences and the former Chair of the non-communicable disease research center (NCDRC), the 1<sup>st</sup> rank health research center in Iran. I studied Doctor of Sciences at Harvard School of Public health-2011. Afterwards, I returned to Iran and established NCDRC where I mostly focused on the study of the health metric of the population while evaluating the health system performance besides designing and implementing a population-level intervention to decrease the NCD's burden. Now, I work at World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters as a senior scientist in the UHC/Communicable and non-communicable disease unit in Switzerland.

Naser joined of non-communicable disease research center as a statistician in July 2017. He started his work with the IraPEN Program Cost Analysis project, this project was funded by WHO, we are conducting several national and international studies in the computational and quantitative group. He has contributed to many of our studies, which I will mention.

"Surveillance of Risk Factors of Non-communicable Disease in Iran (STEPs)" is a large-scale cross-sectional study that measures risk factors of non-communicable diseases in Iran. STEP's surveys, in 2016 and 2021 have been implemented by NCDRC. Naser as a senior statistician, was involved in most parts of this study on 2021 including Study design (sample size, sampling, software design, questionnaire design, data collection plan, and quality control) conceptualizing, cleaning, analyzing, visualizing reporting, writing research articles, and documentation.

Naser was a main statistician in some other projects like Iran Quality of Care in Medicine Program (IQCAMP) and COVID-19 Epidemiological Study A report to the World Health Organization. Working and familiarity with big data is one of striking Naser's ability, He has worked with claim data, death registry, Covid-19 registry data, longitudinal data, and cross-sectional data sets, and he has used different Methods such as clustering, MatchIt and another advanced statistical model. Cleaning methods in Stata software and R packages like "dplyr", "tidyverse" was used by Naser. He is also an expert in training and capacity-building projects in NCDRC, especially on codes for R, and STATA. Naser has inclusive knowledge of coding in different statistical software, and he is teaching this knowledge to junior researchers with considerable quality. He has the social ability to work with a multi-disciplinary team.



Endocrinology and Metabolism Research Institute  
Tehran University of Medical Sciences

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As a talented, knowledgeable, and hardworking researcher, Naser has a lot of attention to detail. He has contributed a lot to the recent development of population-level health studies in Iran. He has constantly tried to improve his abilities during his time with us therefore, I strongly recommended him.

Please do not hesitate to connect me for any further information or clarification about him.

Yours Sincerely,

**Dr. Farshad Farzadfar, MD, MPH, MHS, D.Sc.**

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