Activating medical students is a key to involve community for cancer control

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This year, nearly 8 million people will die of cancer and it is estimated that the number of deaths will increase to 13 million per year by 2030. Involving community in different activities against cancer is a key for the success of cancer control. In developed countries it has been done through different ways including involving students in such activities. One example is Colleges Against Cancer that has been arranged by the American Cancer Society and is a nationwide collaboration of college students, faculty, and staff. It is one of the largest clubs on campus that dedicates students’ time to fighting against cancer and has been able to make an impressive impact, both emotionally and financially, on people that are actively involved in different stages of fighting cancer.

Unfortunately, in low- and middle-income countries such activities have not been supported and are not adequately appreciated. Recently, Iranian Medical Students Association (IMSA) that is an active member of International Federation of Medical Students’ Associations (IFMSA) arranged a series of activities aiming at informing people about cancer, its risk factors, diagnosis and prevention in Kermanshah, a city in the west of Iran. Medical students from Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences was involved in these campaigns. We, by presenting some pictures of their campaigns, appreciate their activities and wish to see better support from public health policy makers for these kind of activities against cancer.