



## **Kambeze B. Etemad, M.D.**

*Founder, Talisman Development Services*

Drawing upon a wide spectrum of professional, academic and personal experience, Dr. Kambeze Etemad naturally integrates and engages his diverse background to create various types of transformative learning encounters for others. Beyond his experience as a psychiatrist, he is an advocate and practitioner of the (re)-creative impact of true learning – both as a general experience, and especially when it focuses on particular themes aimed at stimulating change and progress. His style and approach bring depth and energy to his initiatives and collaborations.

Born and raised in the greater Philadelphia area into a heritage of physicians, educators and artists, Dr. Etemad has always been disposed to both scientific method and holistic views, to consultation and dialogue, to learning and service, to artistry and creativity, the physical sciences and spirituality. From early in his life he's been a natural educator and integrative thinker – natively attentive to people's capacity and purposefulness – and irresistibly inclined to empower others in their learning, advancement and fulfillment on all levels of life. These interests and abilities derive from an evolving inspiration that he has followed since his high school days.

Minoring in both Education and Music, Dr. Etemad earned both his B.A. in Biology and his M.D. at Brown University in Providence, RI, and completed his residency in psychiatry at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia. He has worked in general psychiatry, addiction treatment and psychotherapy – at various sites in the inpatient, outpatient, nursing home, school campus, rehab and urban settings. His training and clinical work in medicine and psychiatry are enhanced by experience in mental-health related research, writing, curriculum development, team building, systems development, executive committee work and community outreach. In 2009, he was appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He continues to keep his hands in psychiatry, in one form or another.

Dr. Etemad has also followed an avid calling and deeper passion in education and development, around topics and in venues outside of mental health care. Beyond study, teaching and advising, this has involved the development and management of courses and curricula, as well as educational resources, programs and systems. It has included interpersonal communication, coaching, consulting, and organizational development. It has also entailed civic outreach, community education/development, public information/speaking, writing/publication, and media work. These have occurred in various settings – including college and university campuses, public and night schools, civic and community venues, hospitals and health care systems, organizations and associations, and conferences – on the local, regional, national and international levels. At one stage, Dr. Etemad spent three-years in Switzerland as faculty, administrator and advisor, helping to develop a newly-formed international college. He also contributed to the Children and War Project based out of the University of Alberta in Canada. Most recently he has focused these skills on homeschooling within his family, in team processes at hospitals, and in freelance work.

As a result of this background, Dr Etemad has from early on pursued two parallel work paths – medicine/psychiatry and education/development – following them for decades in tandem periods of alternating focus – drawn by a broader, more encompassing path: the ongoing pursuit of a unique overarching epistemology. The underlying drive to explore, engage and articulate a novel integrative paradigm of human capacity and learning – which transcends any particular professional field or track, while also synthesizing their

respective insights – has steadily pervaded his efforts throughout his studies and training, during and between jobs. It is one reason why he remains an ongoing student of several other subjects. It has informed and determined the nature, timing and sequence of each step in both paths, as well as several artistic aspects and phases, and even the periods of independent research and freelance work – providing coherence to the overall unfolding of his variegated career.

Beyond these, Dr. Etemad is an ongoing student of diversity and cultural issues, spirituality and religion, the impact of dogmatism and personal activism, war and psychosocial trauma, peace studies, and several other subjects. He eagerly pursues his artistry and creative passions as a writer and a folk pianist/vocalist; whenever possible, he includes these in his educational programs. He's also started and collaborated in programs and projects that foster atmospheres, venues and patterns of learning and dialogue, art and beauty, humor and storytelling, creativity and service – based on the conviction that these types of grassroots amateur settings are fundamental catalysts for healing and progress.

As these parallel paths have continued separately, Dr. Etemad has also steadily sought opportunities to blend them in novel ways, and to in fact pursue his larger integrative approach to growth, well-being and fulfillment. Within his healthcare workplaces, this translated into applying broader approaches to human capacity into his work in conventional psychiatry – including how he interacted with patients and clients, expanding and humanizing practice processes, defining and leading a more enlightened Treatment-Team model, and systems improvement – all a reflection of engaging with colleagues, staff, teams and clients in a more whole and integrative manner. Outside his conventional psychiatric work, it has included educating about mental health issues through a more holistic lens, and with reference to his broader outlook, in both community learning venues and in consultation with individuals. It has also been channeled in his home life through the vigor and substance of his daughter's homeschooling. And it is always part of his ongoing exploration of how to retool himself, and to use his paradigm and skill-set in non-medical settings – including educational, social, public and/or corporate sectors. This has also entailed various freelance activities over the years, in various phases and forms, that eventually resulted in the formation of TDS.

Dr. Etemad's creation of Talisman Development Services represents an opportunity for him to merge his parallel paths – combining a wealth of diverse experience into a best single innovative venue of professional service. With its potential range of activities, TDS provides an unrestricted way to merge and blend his passion for education and development, his training and experience in medicine and psychiatry, his writing and music and commitment to artistry, his study and experience in spirituality, culture and peace, and other skills and experience – into work that applies a multidisciplinary knowledge base and uses novel integrative approaches to facilitate people, organizations and communities through learning processes that more effectively assist them to actualize human capacity in various settings as it pertains to a variety of organizational, social and personal issues. This passion has stemmed from an internal commitment that began at the age of 19 in the mid-1980's – long before the current market for these services existed, and before the concept itself was popularized in recent years – and which Dr Etemad has gradually developed ever since. "It preceded, transcended and permeated my schooling and professional pursuits since early on in college. It's shaped how I've refined and combined the various skills from my medical and psychiatric and other professional experiences. It's now crystallized into this company."

For a personal perspective from Dr Etemad about the implications of his background on TDS's mission and services, watch the introductory video on the website called "About Kambeze and Talisman's Knowledge Base."