

QATAR NATIONAL RESEARCH FUND ANNOUNCES THE AWARD FINALISTS OF 2014 US-QATAR-MENA INFECTIOUS DISEASE RESEARCH INITIATIVE

Award Finalists Include Team From Supreme Council Of Health

Doha, Qatar, 02 June 2015: In partnership with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Institution of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), CRDF Global, Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), a member of Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D), recently announced the award finalists of the 2014 U.S-Qatar-MENA Infectious Disease Research Initiative, which includes a team led by a researcher from the Supreme Council of Health in Qatar (SCH). The initiative was announced during the Endemic and Emerging Viral Infectious Diseases of Priority North Africa and the Middle East (MENA) meeting that convened in Doha, Qatar from May 26-29, 2014.

By investing in cutting-edge research, QNRF is enhancing a research culture that supports Qatar Foundation (QF) on its mission to build Qatar's innovation and technology capacity, helping the nation develop into a hub of research excellence through QF's science and research pillar, QF R&D.

The research projects for this grant competition focused on endemic and emerging viral infectious diseases affecting the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, including MERS, hepatitis C and E, influenza and HIV/AIDS among others. This year-long grant fosters new biomedical research collaborations between leading researchers from Qatar, the MENA region and the United States, to unite some of the world's brightest minds to solve critical issues of direct relevance to Qatar and its surrounding region.

"Research on biomedical health issues is an important part of the Qatar National Research Strategy which is why QNRF has established a unique partnership through this initiative to support research on viral infectious diseases in the MENA region," said Dr Abdul Sattar Al-Taie, Executive Director of QNRF. "This programme will expand regional and international research collaboration in this field, and facilitate knowledge and technology transfer between researchers in Qatar and their peers throughout the world."



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The SCH team awarded under this grant, led by Dr Mohammed Al-Hajri, will study the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) infection in humans and camels. This project is a collaboration between SCH and the University of Gezira, Sudan.

Other winning teams include researchers from Iran, Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, and the United States. Project titles and institution affiliations of all the award finalists can be found on the CRDF Global website www.crdfglobal.org

For more information about QNRF's various capacity-building and collaborative research programmes, visit: www.qnrf.org

ENDS

About Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D)

Leading Qatar's vision to become an international centre for research and development excellence and innovation, QF R&D is home to Qatar Science & Technology Park, a world-class hub for technology innovation and commercialisation, as well as Qatar National Research Fund, a globally renowned scientific research funding organisation.

About Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF)

Driven by the aim of fostering a culture of research in Qatar, QNRF was established in 2006 to advance knowledge and education by acting as a support system for researchers. It is a member within the Research & Development establishment at Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development.

QNRF administers funding for original, competitively selected research and furthers collaborations within academia, the public, governmental and non-governmental sectors through effective, mutually beneficial partnerships. While QNRF actively seeks internationally recognised researchers, it is dedicated to funding research that meets the needs of Qatar. For more information, visit: www.qnrf.org

For more information on this press release, please contact:

Qatar Foundation Press Office
Tel: +974 4454 5849
Email: pressoffice@qf.org.qa