

WISH HOSTS WEBINAR ON AVOIDING ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS TO ACHIEVE GREATER PATIENT SAFETY

*Doctor Geoff Ginsburg and Doctor Deepak Voora of Duke University Led Discussions on
Strategies to Improve Healthcare through Pharmacogenetics*

Doha, Qatar, 7 August 2016: The World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH) has hosted a webinar discussing methods to improve the quality of healthcare by using pharmacogenetics, a strategy aimed at ensuring the correct use of drugs for each patient to avoid negative side-effects.

The webinar on Pharmacogenetics and Patient Safety took place on 2nd August, as part of the 'Safer Care Accelerator' series by the Leading Health Systems Network (LHSN). LHSN is an initiative of WISH that brings together healthcare leaders and industry experts to identify and discuss areas of improvement in healthcare systems. The webinar was led by Dr. Deepak Voora, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Duke University School of Medicine, and Dr. Geoffrey Ginsburg, Director of the Center for Applied Genomics and Precision Medicine, Duke University School of Medicine.

The WISH webinar highlighted the significant clinical and economic impact of adverse drug reactions as participants outlined examples of drugs that cause such reactions and ways to mitigate them. The speakers also offered recommendations on improving policy through the administration of the right drug that is tailored to a patient's genetic makeup.

Dr Ginsburg said: "Commonly used medications for heart disease, cancer, seizures and many others, have side-effects that are a result of genetic variation that affects the metabolism of these drugs in some people. If genetic testing was done at the time of drug prescribing, many adverse events might have been avoided."

Ms Didi Thompson, Policy Fellow at Imperial College's Centre for Health Policy and WISH Forum Fellow, said: "People often think of patient safety in relation to surgical outcomes or hospital-acquired infections. However, patients receive the majority of care outside of the hospital. With an ageing population, and patients often taking four or five medications concurrently, adverse drug reactions are a significant patient safety issue. The field of pharmacogenetics can provide us with tools to deliver safer, more effective care and reduce the likelihood of adverse drug reactions."

This webinar emphasized the extent of positive impact that effective implementation of pharmacogenetics will have on a global level. "Adverse drug reactions are a global concern for

patient safety. They are costly and can be prevented. Pharmacogenetics is a strategy that aims to provide the right dose of the right drug to the right individual and can contribute to avoiding drug toxicity and improvement of safety and quality of health care,” added Dr. Voora.

Since its establishment in 2009, LHSN has collaborated with 25 health systems from more than 12 countries to exchange knowledge among experts and discuss ways of making significant improvements in the existing healthcare policies. LHSN is based at Imperial College in London and has partnered with WISH to produce a positive change through monthly webinars that aim for healthier populations all over the world. Hamad Medical Corporation and Sidra Medical and Research Center in Qatar are part of the 18 organizations that have joined the effort.

WISH, a global initiative of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), launched the LHSN Safer Care Accelerator Program to share best practice and inspire health systems worldwide to provide safer care for patients. The program brings together a global network of healthcare organizations to exchange insights, experiences, and data on the topic of patient safety, culminating in the publication of a global report. The 2016 WISH Summit will take place 29th – 30th November in Doha, Qatar.

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About the World Innovation Summit for Health:

The World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH) is a global healthcare community dedicated to capturing and disseminating the best evidence-based ideas and practices. WISH is an initiative of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) and is under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, its Chairperson.

The inaugural WISH Summit took place in Doha in 2013 and convened more than 1,000 global healthcare leaders. Through international summits and a range of ongoing initiatives, WISH is creating a global community of leading innovators in healthcare policy, research and industry.

Together, they are harnessing the power of innovation to overcome the world’s most urgent healthcare challenges and inspire other stakeholders to action.

Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF) is a private, non-profit organization that is supporting Qatar on its journey from a carbon economy to knowledge economy by unlocking human potential, for the benefit of not only Qatar, but the world.



Founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir, QF is chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser.

QF's work encompasses education, research and community development. World-class universities are brought to Qatar to help create an education sector in which young people can develop the attitudes and skills required for a knowledge economy. At the same time, QF builds Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by developing and commercializing solutions through key sciences. The Foundation also works to foster a progressive society while enhancing cultural life, protecting Qatar's heritage and addressing immediate social needs in the community.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>