

World Innovation Summit for Health Announces 2016 Forum to Address Universal Health Coverage Challenge

WISH marks Universal Health Coverage Day with announcement of the 'Economic Benefits of Investing in Health' Forum at its upcoming summit

Doha, Qatar, 13 December 2015: The World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH), a global initiative of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), announced today plans to make a powerful case for the economic benefits of investing in health with a new WISH Research Forum during its 2016 conference that will be held from 29th to 30th November in Doha, Qatar.

WISH made the announcement today in support of [Universal Health Coverage Day](#) (UHC) marked on 12th December. The day is designed to urge countries to provide affordable, quality healthcare to every person, worldwide.

WISH brings together thousands of high-level policymakers, academics, and professionals, and has evolved into a significant platform for the dissemination of healthcare innovation and best practices. It is aligned with QF's mission to reinforce Qatar's pioneering role as an emerging center for healthcare innovation while also unlocking human potential.

At the 2016 Summit, WISH will present groundbreaking, evidence-based research during the 'Economic Benefits of Investing in Health' Forum that will show the impact of improved health on personal and national income. Dean Jamison, an Emeritus Professor in Global Health Sciences at The University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), will chair the forum. The research will build on the landmark '[Global Health 2035](#)' report by the *Lancet* Commission on Investing in Health.

Commenting on the launch of the research, Forum Chair Prof Jamison said: "The WISH economic benefits Forum for 2016 provides a first ever effort to integrate the 3 key dimensions of health's economic input – the contribution of improved health to personal and national income, the intrinsic value of health improvements and the financial protection value of UHC. This Forum is a natural follow-on to the 2015 Forum on UHC."

The new research ties in directly with the discussion started at the WISH 2015 [Universal Health Coverage Forum](#), which helped guide policymakers on national health investments and pathways to achieving universal health coverage.

Commenting on the announcement, WISH's Chair Lord Ara Darzi said: "As we stressed at WISH this year, access to effective, quality healthcare without fear of financial struggle, is a basic human right. With more than one billion people around the world deprived of access to even basic healthcare services, we are determined to use the upcoming Summit to accelerate progress towards a grand convergence in global health."

The WISH 2016 Summit will feature six groundbreaking research forums that highlight and address some of the world's most pressing healthcare challenges. In addition to the Economic Benefits of Investing in Health, the forums will generate interdisciplinary, evidence-based reports on topics including Autism, Behavioral Insights, Cardiovascular Disease, Healthy Populations, and Precision Medicine, and will be chaired by internationally renowned experts. For the first time, WISH will also report on its ongoing impact locally and globally on issues previously highlighted at WISH, such as Diabetes, Accountable Care, and Patient Safety.

In addition to new health policy research forums, the Summit will also feature innovation showcases from around the world that are shaping the design, delivery, and financing of care, as well as a cohort of young innovators; emerging health care leaders under the age of 30, whose contributions to global health deserve wider recognition.

The second WISH Summit was held in February 2015, bringing together more than 1,200 delegates from 93 countries to discuss and debate practical, lasting, and innovative solutions to global healthcare challenges. WISH remains closely aligned to the vision of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation.

For further information about WISH, please visit www.wish-qatar.org and [Twitter @WISHQatar](https://twitter.com/WISHQatar)

ENDS



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 on-going 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 is a private, non-profit organisation 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 Amir of Qatar, QF is chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser.

QF carries out its mission through three strategic pillars: education, science and research, and community development. QF's education pillar brings world-class universities to Qatar to help create an education sector in which young people can develop the attitudes and skills required for a knowledge economy. Meanwhile, its science and research pillar builds Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by developing and commercialising solutions through key sciences. Finally, its community development pillar helps foster a progressive society while also 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>

For more information about Qatar Foundation please contact our press office at: pressoffice@qf.org.qa