QATAR NATIONAL RESEARCH FUND ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 19th UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

37 Proposals Awarded to Undergraduate Student Teams at Universities Across Qatar

Doha, Qatar, 14 August 2016: Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), a member of Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D), has announced the winners of its 19th Undergraduate Research Experience Program (UREP). Out of 123 research proposals submitted by student teams from six universities across Qatar, 37 were awarded grants.

This latest UREP cycle will engage a total of 146 undergraduate students and 69 faculty members and mentors. Among the 37 awarded proposals, 26 went to Qatar University, five to Texas A&M University at Qatar, and two each to Northwestern University in Qatar (NU-Q) and University of Calgary in Qatar. The remaining two grants were awarded to Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU) and Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q).

"Through the Undergraduate Research Experience Program, QNRF plays a significant role in helping students acquire the skills necessary to conduct research at the undergraduate level," said Dr Abdulnasser Al-Ansari, Deputy Executive Director of QNRF.

"With each UREP cycle, we bear witness to the evolution of the type of research underway at the undergraduate level. This progress is significant since it directly impacts Qatar's journey towards a knowledge-based economy. Qatar's youth are increasingly beginning to understand the importance of how scientific research adds a new dimension to their educational experience, and we look forward to seeing this continued interest from youth across the country," he added.

First launched in 2006, UREP is QNRF's longest running programme. To date, more than 2,700 students have taken part in UREP, with teams of students from universities across Qatar conducting research under the mentorship of their professors, in areas of direct relevance to the Qatar National Research Strategy (QNRS).

Grants awarded under the 19th UREP cycle address the various pillars of the QNRS as follows, 12 in energy and environment; 10 in health; nine in social sciences, arts and humanities; and six in computer science and information and communication technology.

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

For more information about UREP and QNRF's other programmes, visit: www.qnrf.org

ENDS

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

Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D) is charged with the Qatar National Research Strategy, dedicated to making Qatar a leading center for research and development excellence and innovation. QF R&D is home to Qatar National Research Fund, a leading scientific research funding organization, and Qatar Science & Technology Park, an international hub for technology innovation and commercialization.
For more information, visit: http://www.qfrd.org/

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, private, 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:

Ahmed Baghdady

Program Officer

Capacity Building Program

Tel: 44546798

Email: AHMEDB@qnrf.org