

PRESS RELEASE

HBKU's QCRI Research Director, Dr. Ashraf Abounaga named Distinguished Scientist by the Association for Computing Machinery

Doha, November 25, 2015 – Dr. Ashraf Abounaga from the Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI), one of Hamad bin Khalifa University's (HBKU) three specialized national research institutes, has been named a Distinguished Scientist by the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), the world's largest educational and scientific computing society. The 2015 list of ACM Distinguished Members highlights the work of innovators in the areas of education, engineering, and science. The prestigious designation recognizes the most significant accomplishments or impact individuals have made within the computing field, placing Dr. Abounaga, Distributed Systems Research Director at QCRI, on a list of leading scientists selected from around the world.

Dr. Abounaga is the only individual representing a university based in the GCC region to make the 2015 list, with others representing companies such as Google, Adobe Systems, Huawei Technologies, IBM Research – Tokyo and universities such as the University of Southern California, Virginia Tech, Imperial College London, and University of Helsinki in Finland. With developments in computing changing the way the world works, ACM President Alexander L. Wolf, noted: "For the general public, our recognition and awards program serves as a reminder that the technology we all take for granted springs from a dedicated community of professionals who are building on the foundations of their predecessors and shaping the future in significant new ways."

Dr. Abounaga who leads the Distributed Systems research group at QCRI focuses on conducting research on cloud computing and its applications in areas such as video streaming, sports analytics, and scientific computing. He currently holds five US patents and serves on several editorial boards. Previous recognition has included an Ontario Early Researcher Award, a Google Research Award, and an IBM Centre for Advanced Studies Innovation Impact of the Year Award.

Dr. Abounaga commented: "I am honored to receive this distinction from ACM. I view this award as recognition not only of my own research, but also of my collaborators at QCRI. QCRI has successfully established itself as the leading center of computing research in the region, and one of the best worldwide."

The institute, established in 2010, seeks to help build Qatar's innovation and technology capacity, focusing on tackling large-scale computing challenges that address national priorities for growth and development. To learn more about QCRI's research initiatives, please visit <http://qcri.org.qa/our-research>.



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About Qatar Computing Research Institute

Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI) is a national research institute within Hamad bin Khalifa University. As a national research institute, QCRI aims to build Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by focusing on large-scale computing challenges that address national priorities for growth and development, supporting Qatar's transformation from a hydrocarbon-based economy to a knowledge-based economy. In doing this, QCRI conducts world-class multidisciplinary computing research that is relevant to the needs of Qatar, the wider Arab region, and the world. It performs cutting-edge research in such areas as Arabic language technologies, social computing, data analytics, distributed systems, cyber security and computational science and engineering. The research conducted at QCRI is aligned with the Qatar National Research Strategy and supports the strategic priorities outlined in the Qatar National Vision 2030.

For more information, please visit www.qcri.qa