

WISH ASSEMBLES GLOBAL HEALTHCARE EXPERTS TO SHARE EARLY RESEARCH FINDINGS

Forum Unveils Early Results of Pilot Project To Combat Diabetes

Doha, Qatar, 17 April 2016: The World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH) provided a preview of its research and findings earlier today, ahead of the 2016 summit and under the guidance of its forum chairs.

The forum chairs took part in group workshops and open discussions as part of the final phase of their year-long research initiatives. Their final reports will be made public at the 2016 summit, set to take place from 29th to 30th November in Doha. The evidence-based research will highlight and put forth policy recommendations on seven key topics: Accountable Care, Autism, Behavioural Insights, Cardiovascular Disease, Economic Benefits of Investing in Health, Healthy Populations, and Precision Medicine.

In recognition of WISH's contribution to advancing healthcare initiatives, Fahad Saad Al Qahtani, President of Community Development, Qatar Foundation, said: "It is clear that WISH is not only delivering tangible benefits to the people of Qatar, but, internationally, it is raising the nation's profile in influential health policy circles through its research, ongoing programmes, and global partnerships. This growing success will be further demonstrated at the 2016 summit."

Professor the Lord Ara Darzi, Executive Chair of WISH, said: "The WISH Midterm Summit is an opportunity for us to convene our global community around healthcare issues that really matter. It's a prelude to our summit in November. This year we are focusing on topics that resonate around the world – and here in Qatar – as we continue to create evidence-based research that offers policymakers practical solutions designed to create change."

During the meeting, WISH also shared the early outcomes of an innovative new pilot project at the Al Wakra Health Centre, aimed to combat the prevalence of diabetes in Qatar. The SMART Clinic is an example of the local impact of WISH's global research in Qatar. Its implementation was accomplished in cooperation with Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) and Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) earlier this year. It followed a landmark 2013 WISH report on Accountable Care chaired by Dr Mark McClellan, Director of the Robert J Margolis Center for Health Policy and the Margolis Professor of Business, Medicine and Health Policy at Duke University. Dr McClellan will chair another forum on the same topic at this year's summit.

Dr Mariam Ali Abdulmalik, Managing Director of the Primary Health Care Corporation, said: "The SMART Clinic is improving patient satisfaction and increasing patient engagement by encouraging them to take better care of their health. We continually aim to increase health awareness among individuals and in society, which will in turn contribute towards our efforts of achieving a healthy community. This is what the SMART Clinic is aiming to accomplish."

The SMART Clinic employs accountable care practices to improve the health and wellbeing of Qataris through the delivery of high-quality, efficient care for those who suffer from, or are at risk of, developing diabetes. Using a combination of data analytics and a risk-based screening, the programme identifies those with known diabetes risk factors and invites these high-risk patients to the SMART Clinic for voluntary diabetes screening.

The clinic, which opened in January 2016, offers integrated care for those in need, through a specialised team that includes a physician, nurse, health educator, and dietician. By the end of March, more than 3,000 people had been invited for screening and nearly 1,000 had been tested for diabetes. Of those, 123 patients were identified as pre-diabetic, and 20 patients were diagnosed with diabetes.

Egbert Schillings, CEO of WISH, said: “WISH continually works towards building a community of health leaders for whom their subject matter is a calling rather than an industry. By supporting the local healthcare leadership community – as we did with the Al Wakra clinic, among other projects over the last two years – the WISH programme is directly contributing to the success of Qatar’s exceptional health care sector.”

WISH, a global initiative of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), is a meeting point for thousands of high-level policymakers, academics, and professionals. It has also evolved into a key platform for the dissemination of healthcare innovation and best practices.

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

Image Captions:

Image 1: Health education is an important part of a patient’s visit to the diabetes SMART Clinic.

Image 2: A physician at the SMART Clinic spends time with each patient to assess their risk of diabetes.

Image 3: A physician at the SMART Clinic offers personal consultations.

Image 4: The integrated care team at the diabetes SMART Clinic, Al Wakra Health Center.

Image 5: Patients receive dietary advice as part of their visit to the SMART Clinic.

Image 6: Dietary advice is an important aspect of care offered at the SMART Clinic.

Image 7: All patients are assessed by a nurse as part of the integrated healthcare offered at the SMART Clinic.

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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 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>