

PRESS RELEASE

## HBKU's QBRI Concludes Summer Research Program on Cutting-Edge Biomedical Research

**Doha, October 07, 2017** – Hamad Bin Khalifa University's (HBKU) Qatar Biomedical Research Institute (QBRI) recently celebrated the conclusion of its Summer Research Program by hosting an appreciation day on Thursday, October 5, to honor the program's interns. With the presence of QBRI researchers and staff, 15 undergraduate students from across Qatar's various universities presented their months-long research projects in the fields of diabetes, cancer and neurological disorders to an impressed audience. The Summer Research Program is a highly competitive and rigorous, research-based internship program that aims to enhance the capabilities of aspiring researchers.

Commenting on the program, Dr. Omar El-Agnaf, acting executive director of QBRI, said: "Our summer internships are a gateway for students to experience what life on the cutting-edge of innovative biomedical research is like. We strive to ensure that merit-based talent from all over Qatar receives practical real-world research training and knowledge through our internships. Afterwards, we see that most students have channeled their passion into pursuing a research oriented career, and apply to graduate programs to continue working on their newfound passion."

Najlaa Al-Thani, a student at Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMU-Q) and an intern at QBRI for this summer, worked on a Parkinson's disease project. Talking about her experience, she said: "Overall, it was an unforgettable experience that nurtured my love of research in the biomedical field. My mentor has taught me a great deal in terms of techniques and practical knowledge. She has also become an inspiration to me by being a successful female researcher in a very novel field."

Located in HBKU's Research Complex, QBRI's state-of-the-art facilities attract renowned scientists from Qatar and all over the world to conduct pioneering and innovative research on cancer, diabetes, or neurological disorders. The institute focuses on these three topics as they are an integral part of ensuring that the established healthcare goals of the country are reached.

Vijaykumar Krishnadec, a student at Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar and a summer intern at QBRI, noted: "For a medical student who aspires to work in the research field, the program is extremely beneficial as it provides a thorough perspective on the research process. It helps me by building on my skills and inspiring me to develop novel techniques that would form a solid foundation for the future."

A student at Qatar University's College of Pharmacy, Ola Hussein says the program has helped her build on her knowledge in the biomedical field. "Training at QBRI was a great experience and I would highly recommend any student interested in biomedical research to apply for next year's program," she said.

To learn more about how HBKU's QBRI is contributing towards the sustainable development of Qatar through innovative projects and collaborative partnerships, visit [hbku.edu.qa](http://hbku.edu.qa).

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**About Hamad Bin Khalifa University**  
***Innovating Today, Shaping Tomorrow***

Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF), was founded in 2010 as a research-intensive university that acts as a catalyst for transformative change in Qatar and the region while having global impact. Located in Education City, HBKU actively contributes to the Qatar National Vision 2030 by building and cultivating human capacity through an enriching academic experience, innovative ecosystem, and unique partnerships. HBKU delivers multidisciplinary undergraduate and graduate programs through its colleges, and provides opportunities for research and scholarship through its institutes and centers. For more information about HBKU, visit [www.hbku.edu.qa](http://www.hbku.edu.qa).