

## **Qatar National Research Fund Awards Grants to Junior Scientists**

**Doha, Qatar, 19 May 2014:** Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), a centre of Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D), has awarded three grants to junior scientists in Qatar conducting research in the fields of health, energy and environment.

The Junior Scientists Research Experience Program (JSREP), now in its 6<sup>th</sup> cycle, funds young Qatar-based researchers under the age of 40 who hold a Ph.D., M.D. or terminal academic research degree.

One of the awarded proposals from Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, which is based at Qatar Foundation, will investigate new methods to treat obesity, a medical condition due to excess body fat. Obesity is a serious health issue which can lead to type 2 diabetes, heart conditions, osteoarthritis, and certain types of cancer.

Another project, from Qatar University, will seek to improve patient care in Qatar for individuals that suffer from mental health issues. This study will examine the benefits of having healthcare providers from different professions collaborate on the most optimal treatment for their patients. The research also aims to improve public awareness of mental health.

In addition, a team from Texas A&M University at Qatar was awarded a grant for their innovative proposal that seeks to improve existing methods for process monitoring, which could be used to enhance monitoring of air quality, drinking water distribution networks, and wastewater treatment.

QNRF programs are designed to engage researchers with different levels of experience, from students to top tier scientists.

The twice-yearly Junior Scientists Research Experience Program awards successful applicants up to a maximum of US\$100,000 in grants per proposal, per year, for research projects lasting from one to three years.

QNRF's Executive Director, Dr Abdul Sattar Al-Taie, said: "At QNRF, we support scientific talents by providing gifted young people with the opportunity to carry out their own independent research that is of national priority to Qatar.

"It is through supporting their efforts that we can effectively build a knowledge-based economy and transform our nation into a global centre of research excellence."

Elaborating further on the benefits of this year's awarded JSREP proposals, Nadine Younes, Program Officer at QNRF, added: "The two awarded projects in health areas will certainly help develop a comprehensive, world-class, healthcare system, which would contribute directly to the goals and objectives of the Qatar National Health Strategy 2011-2016.

"Similarly, the research proposed in the environmental project could prove essential in meeting the country's needs for environmental health and safety improvements."

For more information about QNRF's Junior Scientists Research Experience Program and QNRF's other funding programs, visit: [www.qnrf.org](http://www.qnrf.org)

**Ends**

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

Leading Qatar's vision to become an international centre for research and development excellence and innovation, (QF R&D) is home to Qatar Science & Technology Park, a world-class hub for technology innovation and commercialization, as well as the Qatar National Research Fund, a globally renowned scientific research funding organization, and prominent research institutes operating at the frontiers of science, including Qatar Biomedical Research Institute, Qatar Computing Research Institute and Qatar Energy and Environment Research Institute.

### **About Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF)**

Driven by the aim of fostering a culture of research in Qatar, Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF) was established in 2006 to advance knowledge and education by acting as a support system for researchers. It is a centre 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](http://www.qnrf.org)

**For more information on this press release, please contact:**

Basil Mahfouz



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Account Manager

BLJ Worldwide

Tel: +97470218269

Email: [basilm@bljworldwide.com](mailto:basilm@bljworldwide.com)

**For more information about Qatar Foundation, please contact**

Anwar El-Shamy

Press Office Coordinator

Qatar Foundation

Tel: +974 5590 4407

Email: [aelshamy@qf.org.qa](mailto:aelshamy@qf.org.qa)