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## QATAR NATIONAL RESEARCH FUND ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF INAUGURAL BRIO PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

### *Researchers Encouraged To Show Artistic Side Of Their Scientific Discoveries*

**Doha, Qatar, 20 March, 2016:** Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), a member of Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D), recently announced the winners of its inaugural 'Best Representative Image of an Outcome' (BRIO) competition.

Launched in September 2015, the competition aims to encourage QNRF-awarded research teams to use artistic images and visuals to highlight the outcomes of their research to a wider audience. From a total of 50 submissions, ten were shortlisted and three outstanding images have been awarded. Designed to showcase scientific discoveries, the award demonstrates QNRF's dedication to building the nation's innovation and technology capacity, positioning Qatar as a global research hub.

Dr Abdul Sattar Al-Taie, Executive Director, QNRF, commented, saying: "The artistic quality of the images submitted has been quite astounding; they give the public a unique insight into the research as seen through the eyes of scientists. These are more than just pictures, they are the art of science."

First prize was awarded to an image of a novel species of fungi discovered during the analysis of sediment collected from Salwa beach in Qatar. Through their project 'Mapping the Microbial Diversity in the Arabian Gulf Surrounding Qatar using Genomics, Metagenomics and Culturing Approaches', Dr Rashmi Fotedar, a Lead Principal Investigator from the Ministry of Environment, and her team demonstrated that Qatari marine sediments could harbour a variety of yet-to-be-discovered fungal species.

Second prize went to an image taken using a high-speed camera operating at 20,000 frames per second, and was entitled 'Converting Liquid Fuel into Small Droplets During Spray Process to Enhance Engine Performance'. The picture showed the relevance of predictive models for fuel spray research in a real-life application, and was captured by Dr Kannaiyan, an Principal Investigator in the project. The project, called an 'In-depth Characterization of Spray and Combustion Performance of Alternative Jet Fuels at Gas Turbine Combustor Conditions', is led by Dr Reza Sadr from Texas A&M University at Qatar.

An image entitled 'Fat Stem Cells Full of Red Fat Droplets' submitted by Dr Mohamed Elrayess and his team from the Anti-Doping Lab Qatar, from their project entitled 'The role of preadipocyte differentiation in site-specific adipocyte dysfunction and development of obesity-induced insulin resistance', took third place. The research relates to fat deposition on the liver, kidney, and heart, and illustrates sensitivity to type-2 diabetes.

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Commenting on the success of the first BRIO competition, Ms Noor AL-Merekhi, Director of Programs at QNRF, said: “It is very rewarding to receive images representing the research funded by QNRF, and we are very keen on encouraging researchers to share the outcomes of their work with the larger community. Whilst the winning images stood out, all submissions received were significant and had artistic value in their respective areas, and I want to thank all those who took part.”

The shortlisted images will be displayed by QNRF during QF R&D’s Annual Research Conference (ARC’16), and the winners will be recognised during the award ceremony of ARC’16. Additionally, a number of the images will be featured on the QNRF website, in books, and online publications in order to encourage research teams to compete in future competitions.

For more information about QNRF’s funding programs, visit: [www.qnrf.org](http://www.qnrf.org)

### **Image Captions**

**Image 1:** A photo of a novel species of fungi discovered at Salwa Beach claimed first prize in Qatar National Research Fund’s (QNRF) ‘Best Representative Image of an Outcome’ (BRIO) competition.

**Image 2:** Second prize was awarded to an image entitled ‘Converting Liquid Fuel into Small Droplets’.

**Image 3:** An image entitled ‘Fat Stem Cells Full of Red Fat Droplets’ submitted by Dr Mohamed Elrayess and his team, won third prize at QNRF’s ‘Best Representative Image of an Outcome’ (BRIO) competition.

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

Leading Qatar’s vision to become an international center 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 Qatar National Research Fund, a globally renowned scientific research funding organization.

### **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,



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