



Member of Qatar Foundation

Sidra Physician Awarded as Honorary Member of Hungarian Academy of Science

To pioneer life-saving neonatal clinical research at Sidra

Doha, Qatar, 14 December 2016 — Sidra Medical and Research Center (Sidra) today announced that Dr. Istvan Seri, Division Chief of Neonatology, was feted as an Honorary Member of the [Hungarian Academy of Science](#) this year. The award is reserved for distinguished Hungarian academicians and scholars who have made internationally recognized contributions to various fields of science.

As Division Chief of Neonatology, Dr. Seri is in charge of the Neonatology Prenatal Consultation Clinic at the Sidra Outpatient Clinic. He was nominated for his work in developmental cardiovascular physiology¹ and neonatal hemodynamics² and neonatal shock³. The vast body of his research focused on neonatal transition from in-utero life to postnatal life (from fetus to after delivery). Neonatology is a subspecialty of pediatrics that consists of the medical care of newborn infants, especially if they are ill or premature.

“The Hungarian Academy of Science has many leading scientists, researchers and clinicians in its midst. It is a source of pride for me to be recognized by peers from our profession. I am honoured to receive the recognition. However, the ultimate reward is to see the culmination of my research positively impact on saving lives, during every step of a baby’s journey from womb to delivery. It gives me great pleasure that I am able to further my research at Sidra where clinical research is a strong focus,” said Dr. Seri.

The Sidra Outpatient Clinic launched its Neonatology Prenatal Consultation Clinic on 1 June 2016, where Dr. Seri and his team offer prenatal consultation services for pregnant women and their families with complex and high-risk pregnancies. The women and their families are given an opportunity to learn about the baby’s condition and the available treatment options after delivery or, if warranted, during pregnancy. Examples of the type of prenatal consultation services at the Neonatology Clinic include the care and treatment for those patients expected to deliver a baby prematurely, having a pregnancy with more than one fetus (twins, triplets, etc.) or where the fetus is smaller or larger than expected for its gestational age.

“Together with the bioinformatics team at Sidra, we are currently working to develop comprehensive early warning systems via monitoring and data acquisition. This will help us establish individualized medicine and treatment methods for neonatal patients at Sidra. I hope that we will contribute towards a stronger understanding of life-saving methods for neonates and offer treatment choices in a culturally sensitive and family-centered manner,” continued Dr. Seri.

In addition to his role as Division Chief at Sidra, Dr. Seri is also the Vice Chair of Faculty Development at the Department of Pediatrics and the Professor of Pediatrics (Academic Clinical Track) at Weill Cornell Medicine Qatar. Dr. Seri’s dual role is representative of Sidra’s mission to serve as a teaching hospital for medical students in Qatar. One of the hospital’s core missions and commitments to the country is ensuring that the skills and knowledge it attracts by recruiting some of the world’s leading experts are passed on to the next generation of medical professionals in Qatar.

For his research accomplishments, Dr. Seri has been recognized as an international leader in the field of developmental cardiovascular physiology in general and neonatal hemodynamics and neonatal shock in particular. He has published over 250 peer-reviewed scientific publications, editorials, and chapters.

Dr. Seri is also the recipient of several awards for his educational and mentoring activities including the “Sammelweis Award” from Sammelweis Medical School, the “Faculty Teacher of the Year Award” and the “Blockley-Osler Award for Excellence in Teaching Modern Clinical Medicine” from University of Pennsylvania (UPenn) and the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). In 2001, the “Istvan Seri Faculty Teaching Award in Neonatology” was established in the Department of Pediatrics and Division of Neonatology at CHOP and UPenn.

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Notes to the Editor:

1 and 2: Developmental cardiovascular physiology and neonatal hemodynamics – These topics are related and cover the circulation (heart and the vessels in both the lungs and the rest of the body) in the fetus and neonate. They also describe the complex changes in the circulation during and immediately after birth (“transitional changes”) when, in the newborn the lungs become the organ of gas exchange – thereby taking it over from the placenta in the fetus.

Problems with this complex process (transitioning) – especially in the preterm infant or the sick term infant – can lead to many abnormalities and severe conditions/diseases. This includes bleeding in the brain; developing brain injury due to less than adequate oxygen delivery; pulmonary hypertension; etc.

3: Neonatal Shock – Is the failure to carry enough oxygen to the tissues and, if not recognized early and treated appropriately, can lead to severe morbidities (bleeding in the brain, ischemic brain injury, organ failure [kidneys, liver, intestines, etc.] or multi-organ failure and death.

About Sidra Medical and Research Center

Sidra Medical and Research Center will be a groundbreaking hospital, research and education institution, focusing on the health and wellbeing of children and women regionally and globally.

Sidra represents the vision of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser who serves as its Chairperson. The high-tech facility will not only provide world-class patient care but will also help build Qatar's scientific expertise and resources.

Sidra will be a fully digital facility, incorporating the most advanced information technology applications in all its functions. Designed by renowned architect Cesar Pelli, Sidra features a main hospital building and a separate outpatient clinic. The main hospital will initially have 400 beds with infrastructure to enable expansion to 550 beds in a subsequent phase.

Sidra opened its Outpatient Clinic on 1 May 2016 with the launch of three clinics – Dermatology, Pediatric General Surgery Consultation and Obstetrics. These clinics are supported by radiology, pathology, pharmacy and laboratory facilities. The Sidra Outpatient Clinic offers outpatient services for women and children through a referral based system in partnership with other healthcare providers in Qatar.

Sidra is also part of a dynamic research and education environment in Qatar and through strong partnerships with leading institutions around the world, Sidra is creating an intellectual ecosystem to help advance scientific discovery through investment in medical research. For more information please visit www.sidra.org.

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