



Member of Qatar Foundation

Sidra Begins Open Science Publishing Operations with F1000Research

- Collated genes that play a role in prenatal health, cancer and basic immunobiology now uploaded to Sidra open source browser application
- Allows for scientific discoveries to move towards medication and treatment applications that will reach patients sooner

Doha, Qatar, 12 July 2016 — Sidra Medical and Research Center (Sidra) is pleased to announce the launch of its own open science publishing program on F1000Research. The program, led by Sidra's Research team will use the groundbreaking F1000Research platform as an open science publishing venue for Sidra researchers.

F1000Research is an open science publishing platform that offers immediate publication and transparent peer review of scientific research. The platform aims to avoid editorial bias by ensuring the inclusion of all source data. The process helps scientists to avoid the traditional, anonymous, pre-publication peer-review process that can cause long delays before new results become visible.

The Sidra Medical and Research Center Gateway - <http://f1000research.com/channels/sidra> - publishes academic articles, data and presentations by its research staff, with a particular focus on pregnancy, cancer immunogenomics (treatment of cancer using genomic immunotherapy), and transcriptomics (the study of the subset of transcribed genes in specific organisms). All articles and associated data are published immediately followed by open invited peer review, in line with F1000Research's publishing model.

Dr. Ena Wang, Acting Chief Research Officer of Sidra Medical and Research Center said, "Sidra aspires to set high standards in patient care for the women and children of Qatar through its advanced research programs. We are committed to furthering the scientific understanding of major diseases that have a local and global impact. Big data generation and data sharing are key characteristics of a strong modern research facility like Sidra. It is a driving force for scientific discovery and the implementation of precision medicine."

Under current publication models, it can take months and sometimes years for the description of novel findings or research to see the light of day. By adopting the F1000Research publishing platform, Sidra has cemented its commitment to move the discovery process forward at a faster pace, without making any concession to the quality of its research. This will also allow for discoveries that are being translated into applications to reach patients in Qatar as well as the rest of the world sooner.

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“The open science Gateways that have been developed by F1000Research provides the right platform to ensure the free flow of data, information and knowledge. This is particularly useful for junior scientists and researchers based in Qatar and the GCC region who are eager to share their research outcomes and expecting constructive feedback from peers,” continued Dr. Wang.

The Sidra Gateway on F1000Research launches with nine previously published articles, six of which present valuable collections of gene expression data painstakingly curated from a public repository of 65,000 studies, validated and loaded into an open source web application adopted by Sidra. These data collections, which will be particularly valuable to those researching breast cancer, HIV and prenatal health, can be found in the Gateway’s “Collective Data Access” channel - <https://f1000research.com/gateways/sidra>.

Rebecca Lawrence, Managing Director, F1000, said: “It is gratifying to see the speed with which high profile and prestigious organizations, such as Sidra Medical and Research Center, are embracing open science publishing and using F1000Research as a platform on which to host their information. Making new research findings available quickly so that others can use them and build upon them is vital for scientific progress and we believe that open science publishing will ultimately become the norm.”

The findings reported thus far through the Sidra gateways have potential for direct translation for diseases of both local and global relevance. Novel findings published on the gateway have already received a number of openly available peer reviews including those from scientists working at prestigious institutions such as Oxford University, Harvard University in Boston the Pasteur Institute in Paris.

Dr. Damien Chaussabel, Director of the Systems Biology Department at Sidra said: “The vast body of data now held in public repositories makes it challenging to identify datasets relevant to a particular research area. As such, we have collated genes that play a role in HIV, prenatal health and basic immunobiology and uploaded them to our open source browser application. This tool allows researchers to integrate and visualize these data with the large volumes of other types of data and contextual information needed to promote insight and foster discovery. And by choosing to publish in F1000Research we were able to report our findings in a matter of weeks rather than months or years. Therefore the gain in efficiency and productivity achieved when combining mining of large public databases and open science publishing is quite considerable.”

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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.

Sidra opened its Outpatient Clinic on 1 May 2016 and 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.

About F1000Research

F1000Research is an open research publishing platform for life scientists, from F1000, that offers immediate publication and transparent peer review, avoiding editorial bias and ensuring the inclusion of all source data. All articles must pass an initial in-house quality check and are then published in an open access format on F1000Research. Following open, invited peer review (where the referee's name and affiliation and the referee reports are published alongside the article), authors can revise their article, which are then published as new article versions. Once articles are deemed to have passed peer review they are indexed in PubMed, Scopus, Embase and other databases. <https://f1000research.com>

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