

## INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS TO BRING QATAR AND UK RESEARCHERS TOGETHER

*Partnership Established To Support International Networking Programme To Enrich Qatar's Human Capital*

**Doha, Qatar, 21 February 2016** – Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), a member of Qatar Foundation Research & Development (QF R&D), in partnership with the British Council Qatar, the UK Science and Innovation Network (SIN), and the UK Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), has announced six joint research workshops under the Qatar–UK Research Networking Programme (Q-UKRNP).

The scheme will provide an opportunity for up to 120 early career researchers from Qatar to meet and form connections with their UK counterparts. The programme will also help solidify sustainable, international links with the higher education sectors of each country.

The six workshops, due to start in March, are aligned with Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development's (QF) mandate to drive the development of human capital in the country, while unlocking human potential and fostering a progressive society.

Dr Abdul Sattar Al-Taie, Executive Director, QNRF, said: "Since its inception, QNRF has recognised the importance of international collaborations. These upcoming workshops are an excellent opportunity for researchers, from both Qatar and the UK, to stay connected and exchange information and ideas that will lead to mutually beneficial developments in the future. At QNRF, we are all looking forward to seeing the outstanding output and outcomes generated as a result of this programme."

Frank Fitzpatrick, Director of the British Council, Qatar, said: "The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities, and we seek to promote collaboration in scientific research globally in order to tackle some of the world's most important issues. For this reason, we are delighted to work in partnership with QNRF and to be able to connect scientists from Qatar and the UK on projects that are of importance and benefit to both countries."

Each workshop will focus on a thematic area of academia, relevant to Qatar's national research priorities. This includes: 'Entrepreneurship 2020', 'Empowering Connected Health In Qatar Using Intelligent Medical Devices And IoT', 'Sustainable Materials And Materials For Sustainability', 'Big Data Management', 'Challenges In Speech And Language Processing For Multi-Genre Broadcasts', 'CNS Tumours In Children', and 'Adolescents And Young Adults: From Bench To Bedside And Beyond'.

For more information on the upcoming workshops, please find the relevant links below:

**QNRF:** <http://www.qnrf.org/en-us/Newsroom/Calendar>

**British Council:** <https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/science/current-opportunities/international-research-workshops>

**ENDS**

#### **Notes to the Editor:**

#### **About the Qatar-UK Research Networking Programme**

The Qatar-UK Research Networking Programme offers opportunities to facilitate research collaboration beyond traditional partnership geographies. It comprises thematic workshops and travel grants and is co-funded by QNRF and the British Council.

This initiative encourages outward and inward mobility to enable early-career researchers to make contacts internationally. It encourages the involvement of social sciences and humanities researchers, as well as those in the natural sciences, and provides space for interdisciplinary interaction, with opportunities to bring together researchers from different fields focussed on a common goal.

#### **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 commercialisation, as well as Qatar National Research Fund, a globally renowned scientific research funding organisation.

#### **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, 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)

#### **About the British Council**

The British Council creates international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and builds trust between them worldwide. It is a Royal Charter charity, established as the UK's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations. It has about 7,000 staff in over 100 countries who work with thousands of professionals and policy makers and millions of young people every year through English, arts, education and societal programmes. A quarter of its funding comes from a UK government grant, and it earns the rest from paid services, education and development contracts and from partnerships. For more information, please visit: [www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org)

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