

# ARC '16

## IMPORTANCE OF BIG DATA HIGHLIGHTED AT QATAR FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

*Machine Learning And Wireless Technology To Merge Cyber And Physical Worlds In The  
Near Future*

**Doha, Qatar, 22 March 2016:** The Computing and Information Technology session took place today during Qatar Foundation's Research and Development (QF R&D) Annual Research Conference 2016 (ARC'16). The discussion highlighted the fundamental significance of handling big data, in light of the rapid growth of wireless technology in the past five years, leading to a 74% growth in global mobile data in 2015.

With the proliferation of technologies like Google Glass, holographic wrist phones, 3D conferencing and smart homes, wireless technology is set to continue its rapid growth. Attendees heard how, in the near future, tactile internet will merge the cyberworld with the physical world, and 5G will revolutionise wireless technology.

Machine Learning was labelled as the 'brain' of big data due to the significance of its applications in the field of medicine. The technology is already being utilised in patient diagnosis, White Blood Cell classification, data mining of medical records, and Brain Activity Map analysis.

The panel discussion, entitled 'Big Data for Sustainable Development', featured presentations from industry experts Khaled Ben Letaief, Provost of Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU); Ahmed Elmagarmid, Executive Director of QCRI, and Yasir S. Abu-Mostafa, Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the California Institute of Technology, USA. The session was moderated by Mounir Hamdi, Dean of the College of Science and Engineering at HBKU.

The main underlying topic of discussion throughout the session was the future of intelligent machines and, according to Dr Ahmed Elmagarmid, Executive Director of Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI), there is a pressing need to rely on the deliverability and integrity of big data, thereby making it essential to follow efficient algorithms and principles that can handle big data.

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The session ended on a vital note, emphasising that the patterns detected by machines through Big Data analyses need to be consistent and reliable.

For more information about ARC'16, visit: <http://www.qf-arc.org/>. You can also follow the latest news and announcements: [@QF\\_ARC](#).

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## **About Qatar Foundation Annual Research Conference 2016**

Held under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), Qatar Foundation Annual Research Conference (ARC) is QF Research and Development's (QF R&D) flagship event since 2010.-ARC provides a unique platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration between Qatar's brightest scientific minds and leading international researchers as they work to tackle the nation's Research Grand Challenges defined in Qatar's National Research Strategy (QNRS): Energy and Environment, Computing and Information Technology, Healthcare, and Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities. This year it will for the first time unite several major R&D initiatives under the conference's theme, *"Investing in Research and Innovating for Society."*

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

Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D) is charged with the Qatar National Research Strategy, dedicated to making Qatar a leading centre for research and development excellence and innovation. QF R&D is home to Qatar National Research Fund, a leading scientific research funding organization, Qatar Science & Technology Park, an international hub for technology innovation and commercialization.