

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

QATAR NATIONAL RESEARCH FUND ANNOUNCES LATEST WINNERS OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

37 Proposals Awarded In 18th Cycle

Doha, Qatar, 23 November 2015: Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), a member of Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D), has announced the winners of the 18th cycle of its Undergraduate Research Experience Program (UREP).

Out of 139 research proposals submitted by student teams from seven universities across Qatar, 37 were awarded grants. This latest UREP cycle will engage a total of 125 undergraduate students and 68 faculty members. Among the 37 awarded proposals, 24 went to Qatar University, eight to Texas A&M University at Qatar, two grants to Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar and one each to Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, Ahmed bin Mohammed Military College and University of Calgary in Qatar.

By investing in this 'learning-by-doing' program, QNRF continues to build Qatar's innovation and technology capacity and, through Qatar Foundation's science and research pillar, QF R&D, helps the nation develop into a global research hub.

The remaining grants awarded under the 18th UREP cycle address the various pillars of the Qatar National Research Strategy (QNRS) as follows, 18 in energy and environment, ten in social sciences, arts and humanities, five in health, and four in computer science and information and communication technology.

Dr Abdul Sattar Al-Taie, Executive Director of QNRF, said: "I am proud that QNRF is playing a key role in helping undergraduate students acquire the skills necessary to conduct research."

"With each cycle of UREP, QNRF continues to instil a research culture into the country and we can see how the progress of faculty-mentored undergraduates is making an impact on Qatar's journey towards a knowledge-based economy. UREP continues to improve the quality of participating students' education; giving them valuable practical collaborative experience, and inspiring them to continue their studies at the graduate level," he added.

First launched in 2006, UREP is QNRF's longest running program, with two cycles per year. To date, more than 2,700 students have taken part in UREP, with teams of students from universities across Qatar conducting research under the mentorship of their professors, in areas of direct relevance to the QNRS.

For more information about UREP and QNRF, visit: www.qnrf.org

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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.

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, it is dedicated to funding research that meets the needs of Qatar. For more information, visit: www.qnrf.org

Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF) is a private, non-profit organisation that is supporting Qatar on its journey from carbon economy to knowledge economy by unlocking human potential, for the benefit of not only Qatar, but the world. QF was co-founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Qatar Foundation's Chairperson. QF's work encompasses education, research and community development. World-class universities are brought to Qatar to help create an education sector in which young people can develop the attitudes and skills required for a knowledge economy. At the same time, QF builds Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by developing and commercialising solutions through key sciences. The Foundation also works to foster a progressive society while enhancing cultural life, protecting Qatar's heritage and addressing immediate social needs in the community.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>

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