

ARC'16

PHOTO RELEASE

INVESTMENT IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADDRESSED AT QATAR FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

*Strategic Investment In R&D Essential To Ensure Economic Prosperity And Health
Security*

Doha, Qatar, 23 March 2016: An informative health panel session that highlighted the progress that has been made to advance the national cancer and diabetes strategies took place as part of Qatar Foundation Research and Development's (QF R&D) Annual Research Conference 2016 (ARC'16).

The session, entitled 'Biomedical and Health Research in Qatar: Transforming Challenges into Competitive Advantages and Economic Opportunities' dealt with two of the nation's Research Grand Challenges pillars in the Qatar National Research Strategy (QNRS).

A key topic of discussion during the session was the prevalence of diabetes in Qatar and effective strategies that can be employed to reduce the number of people suffering from the illness.

The session highlighted the major achievements made by the National Center for Cancer Care and Research at Hamad Medical Corporation, which contribute towards advancing Qatar as a regional leader in cancer research and care. The session closed with two presentations on the progress that has been made on the implementation of the Qatar Genome Project (QGP), which was announced by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) at the World Innovation Summit on Health (WISH) in 2013. The Project is currently being spearheaded by Qatar Biobank and Sidra Medical and Research Center.

The session was organised, chaired and moderated by Dr Hilal Lashuel, from Qatar Biomedical Research Institute (QBRI) who emphasised in his opening remarks the critical importance of continuing to invest in basic and translational research for the national economy and for improving the quality of life and healthcare in Qatar.

Dr Lashuel said: "Investment in research and development today is essential for ensuring economic prosperity and health security tomorrow. It is not an option, not a

ARC'16

luxury, but is a must to fulfill Qatar National Vision 2030 and Qatar's National Health Strategy."

The session and panel discussion brought to light the economic implications that accompany dependency on assistance from the outside world. It highlighted the great investment opportunities and economic returns from investing in research that could yield innovative strategies and technologies for early detection and prevention of diseases such as diabetes and cancer.

The speakers and panellists provided clear examples that illustrate how current investment in research is already impacting the quality of healthcare in the country. They also discussed the potential of more investment in research and how it could position Qatar as a leader in the region, thereby fueling future innovations and economic opportunities.

They included scientists and industry experts that are playing an instrumental role in the implementation of the national health strategies and the Qatar Genome Programme. They include Dr Hadi Abderrahim, Qatar Biobank; Dr Francesco Marincola, Sidra Medical and Research Center; Dr Alexander Knuth, National Center for Cancer Care and Research; Dr Abdul-Badi Abou-Samra, Hamad Medical Corporation and Qatar Metabolic Institute; and Dr Erik Stenehjelm, Office of Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer, QF R&D.

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

Image Captions

Image 1: Dr Hilal Lashuel, Qatar Biomedical Research Institute (QBRI)

Image 2: Dr Hilal Lashuel, Qatar Biomedical Research Institute (QBRI)

Image 3: The ARC'16 Health panel session under the theme 'Biomedical and Health Research in Qatar: Transforming Challenges into Competitive Advantages and Economic Opportunities'.

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About Qatar Foundation Annual Research Conference 2016

ARC '16

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 organisation, Qatar Science & Technology Park, an international hub for technology innovation and commercialisation.