

## **QATAR NATIONAL RESEARCH FUND ANNOUNCES SECOND CYCLE RESULTS OF THE POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH AWARDS**

*13 Proposals Awarded To Postdoctoral Scholars Across Qatar*

**Doha, 24 June 2015:** Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), a member of Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D), has announced the winners of the second cycle of its Postdoctoral Research Awards (PDRA). Out of 101 peer-reviewed research proposals submitted from research institutions across Qatar, 13 grants were awarded to PhD scientists to conduct research in alignment with the four pillars of the Qatar National Research Strategy (QNRS).

Among the 13 awarded proposals, six went to Texas A&M University at Qatar and five to Qatar University. The two remaining grants were awarded to Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar and Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar.

QNRF programmes are designed to engage researchers with different levels of experience, from students to top-tier scientists. PDRA is one of QNRF's capacity building programmes created to build human capital for research within Qatar.

Through investing in cutting-edge research, QNRF is enhancing a scientific culture that supports Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) on its mission to build Qatar's innovation and technology capacity, and helping the nation develop into a hub of excellence through QF's science and research pillar, QF R&D.

PDRA targets outstanding early career researchers who are interested in pursuing their research in Qatar, regardless of availability of funding in their institutions. The programme aims to select candidates with the highest potential and offer them highly competitive fellowship awards and mentoring to ensure that they can achieve their highest potential in Qatar.

Proposals undergo rigorous scientific merit and programmatic reviews, with successful applicants awarded with up to two years of financial support, which may be extended for one additional year.

QNRF's Deputy Executive Director, Dr Abdulnasser Al-Ansari, said: "Our goal with this programme is to attract top-notch postdoctoral scholars to work within research groups located in Qatar in areas considered as national priorities, as outlined in the Qatar National Research Strategy (QNRS). We are confident that, by supporting their efforts, we will contribute in helping Qatar develop into a hub of research excellence and ensure Qatar's competitiveness in the global economy."

Elaborating further on the benefits of this year's awarded PDRA proposals, Ms. Riham Daher, Programme Manager - Capacity Building at QNRF, added: "I am impressed with the high quality of the research proposals submitted. The winning proposals look into finding solutions for pressing environmental issues in Qatar, as well as creating innovative technology that will raise Qatar's profile in the global research arena. Through this programme we are not only creating research opportunities but also highlighting the significant potential of early-career investigators."

For more information about QNRF's Postdoctoral Research Awards and QNRF's other funding programmes, please visit: [www.qnrf.org](http://www.qnrf.org).

**Ends**

#### **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)

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