

### **Qatar Biobank staff members sharpen skills at prestigious training course in Luxembourg**

Clinical staff members from Qatar Biobank were given the opportunity to participate in a prestigious international biobanking training course in Europe.

The highly specialised course, the “Certificate on principles of biobanking for clinical, biological and environmental biospecimens and bioresources” took place in Luxembourg and was co-organised by the Integrated Biobank of Luxembourg (IBBL) and the University of Luxembourg. Qatar Biobank staff members were provided with a wider perspective on the financial, legal and ethical aspects of biobanking.

Other areas covered in the professional development course included the storage, processing and quality control of biological samples, together with practical sessions in IBBL’s laboratories. The sessions helped Qatar Biobank staff members ensure that the data they collect in the future is fit for purpose.

Dr Syed Amir Rizvi, Clinical Data Interpretation Physician at Qatar Biobank, another participant of the course, said, “I particularly enjoyed the interdisciplinary teaching of approaches used in repositories for both human and environmental biospecimens.”

Qatar Biobank’s Managing Director Dr Hadi Abderrahim said “participating in cutting edge training is integral to ensuring Qatar will become further known as a hub for scientists and researchers.”

Participants from more than 10 different countries including Qatar, Australia, Germany and Kenya, all travelled to Luxembourg to attend the only continuing professional development course of its kind in the world.

The certificate achieved by Qatar Biobank staff members is endorsed by the International Society of Biological and Environmental Repositories, the largest international forum addressing technical, legal, ethical, and managerial issues relating to biobanking, and a division of the American Society for Investigative Pathology.

For more information about Qatar Biobank please visit <http://www.qatarbiobank.org.qa/home> or engage on Twitter @Qatar\_Biobank.