

Qatar Biomedical Research Institute Participates in World Stem Cell Summit

Doha, December 29, 2013—A delegation from Qatar Biomedical Research Institute (QBRI) made a big impression by attending its first World Stem Cell Summit in America this year, with two scientists presenting research posters and Executive Director Dr Abdelali Haoudi speaking in a panel discussion on "Strategic Partnerships for Successful Research, Commercialization and Economic Development—An International Perspective."

QBRI, a member of Qatar Foundation Research and Development made many new contacts for collaboration and recruitment at its exhibition booth and was the only institute from the Gulf region invited to give a panel presentation. Dr Prasanna Kolatkar, a senior scientist with QBRI, and Dr Essam Abdelalim, a postdoctoral researcher, both had their posters accepted for the event, which drew more than 1,100 attendees from 40 countries. The posters discussed the molecular mechanisms behind the functions of different stem cells. "This is the first time QBRI has presented outcomes of its research at a major stem cell conference," said Dr Haoudi. "It demonstrates that QBRI is becoming a productive member of the international stem cell community, and really producing research with global impact."

"QBRI is taking an integrated approach to biomedical research," Dr Haoudi told an audience of about 150 in his panel discussion. "For example, we are currently combining stem cell research and genomic medicine to address diabetes, and we are bringing together stem cell research and biomedical engineering to address cancer."

Dr Haoudi went on to describe the partnerships QBRI has formed with entities inside Qatar—including The Supreme Council of Health, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, Hamad Medical Corporation, Sidra Medical and Research Center, and Qatar Biobank—to conduct basic biomedical research, translational research, and clinical trials in Qatar. In addition, QBRI works with international entities such as the James Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University to develop stem cell policy, and in order to train the next generation of biomedical researchers through the Qatar Science Leadership Program,

QBRI works with Cambridge University, Oxford University, Imperial College London and Harvard University.

“The end goal of our multidisciplinary, integrated approach is to develop personalised medicine that will improve the health of individuals by addressing their unique genetic and systemic makeup,” said Dr Haoudi.

The World Stem Cell Summit took place in San Diego, California, America between 4th-6th December 2013.

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About Qatar Biomedical Research Institute (QBRI)

A proud member of Qatar Foundation Research and Development, Qatar Biomedical Research Institute (QBRI) was established in 2012 to tackle diseases of major worldwide importance (and particularly prevalent in Qatar and the Middle East) such as diabetes and certain forms of cancer. QBRI has a specific focus on developing translational biomedical research and biotechnology. To fulfill its mission, QBRI has set up eight cutting-edge research centers: Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine Research Center, Genomic Medicine and Systems Biology Research Center, Gene-based Therapy Research Center, Biomedical Engineering Research Center, Diabetes Research Center, Cancer Research Center, Genetic Diseases Research Center, and the Qatar Biobank.

About Qatar Foundation Research and Development (R&D)

Leading Qatar’s vision to become an international center for research and development excellence and innovation, QF R&D is home to the Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP), a world-class hub for technology innovation and commercialization, as well as the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), a globally renowned scientific research funding organization, and prominent research institutes operating at the frontiers of

science, including Qatar Biomedical Research Institute (QBRI), Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI) and Qatar Environment & Energy Research Institute (QEERI).