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Press release

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF QATAR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE CO-CHAIRS SUCCESSFUL BRAIN FORUM 2015 IN SWITZERLAND**

### ***Professor Hilal A. Lashuel Joined By Global Experts At Leading Event Aimed At Improving Understanding Of The Human Brain***

**Doha, Qatar, 8 April 2015:** Professor Hilal A. Lashuel, Executive Director of Qatar Biomedical Research Institute (QBRI), a research and development entity under Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), co-chaired The Brain Forum 2015 in Lausanne, Switzerland, last week.

The annual global event highlighted the challenges and opportunities in translating scientific advances in neuroscience, computing, drug discovery, and brain research to new technologies, tools and treatments that will improve the quality of life and healthcare.

The Brain Forum 2015 was a joint partnership between the W Science Initiative and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne. It was co-chaired by QBRI's Professor Hilal A. Lashuel; Professor Patrick Aebischer, President of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne; Dr Walid Juffali, Chairman of W Science Initiative; and Dr Jamil Al-Imad, CEO of the W Science Initiative. The high-profile event was first launched in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in 2013.

As a key research and development entity, QBRI contributes to the mission of Qatar Foundation to build Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by improving and transforming healthcare through scientific research in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases. With the primary aim of addressing national priorities for growth and development, the work of QBRI also highlights Qatar's role as an emerging global centre for healthcare innovation.

The Brain Forum was founded on the principle that progress is achieved through dialogue, engagement and collaboration between all stakeholders involved in shaping the landscape and future of brain research.

Commenting on the forum, Professor Lashuel said: "Towards achieving this goal, we sought to bring together leading scientific and academic experts from around the world, including philanthropists and leaders from the industry, funding agencies, and policy makers to share their knowledge and expertise with the aim of improving our understanding of the human brain in addition to finding new ways to enhance brain function and find treatments for neurological diseases that are threatening our society today."

Professor Lashuel, one of the key individuals behind the development of The Brain Forum, is a founding member of the Scientific Advisory Committee and co-chaired the development of scientific programmes for The Brain Forum in 2013 and 2015.

On the first day of the forum, Professor Lashuel chaired a panel discussion with some of the pioneers and scientific leaders behind major national and regional brain initiatives, including the US Brain Initiative launched by US President Barack Obama in 2013, the European Human Brain Project, The Allen Institute for Brain Science and the recently announced China Brain Science Project.

“It is truly amazing to think about what we have been able to achieve with our limited understanding of the brain today and what will be possible once these ambitious global initiatives achieve their goals. There is no doubt that advances in the interface of neuroscience, engineering and computer science during the next five to ten years will transform many aspects of our lives and bring new hope to those suffering from brain diseases,” Dr Lashuel concluded.

### **Image Caption**

#### **Image 1:**

Professor Hilal A. Lashuel, Executive Director of Qatar Biomedical Research Institute, speaking at The Brain Forum in Switzerland where he was the conference co-chair.

#### **Image 2:**

Pictured from left at The Brain Forum 2015 in Switzerland are: Professor Patrick Aebischer, President of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, and co-chair Professor Hilal A. Lashuel, Executive Director of Qatar Biomedical Research Institute.

#### **Image 3:**

Panellists at The Brain Forum 2015 held in Switzerland last week are, from left: moderator Bruno Giussani; Dr. Jamil Al-Imad, CEO of W Science Initiative; Professor Patrick Aebischer, President of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne; and co-chair Professor Hilal A. Lashuel, Executive Director of Qatar Biomedical Research Institute.

**-ENDS-**

### **About Qatar Biomedical Research Institute (QBRI)**

QBRI, a research and development entity under Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), aims to improve and transform healthcare through innovation in prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases affecting the Qatari population and the region. As a disease-focused institute, QBRI focuses on applying integrative and multidisciplinary approaches to provide novel insights into the molecular basis of Breast Cancer; Type 2 Diabetes; and Neurological Disorders such as Autism and Epilepsy and the development

of novel biomarkers, diagnostic and therapeutic strategies to facilitate early diagnosis, treatment and management of these devastating diseases.

**About The Brain Forum – [www.thebrainforum.org](http://www.thebrainforum.org)**

The Brain Forum, first launched in 2013, brings together novel thinkers and pioneers in the fields of brain research, technology and healthcare. Academics, entrepreneurs, healthcare professionals, investors and policy makers will meet at The Brain Forum 2015 to share their knowledge, experience and vision for the future.

**About EPFL (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, Switzerland) – [www.epfl.ch](http://www.epfl.ch)**

EPFL (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, Switzerland), is one of the most recognised international higher education institutions in Europe. It counts among its ranks roughly 10,000 students and 5,000 employees representing more than 120 nationalities. Education and research are organised into five schools and two colleges, with a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary work. In 2013, the European Commission selected the Human Brain Project, an international effort at understanding the human brain, led by EPFL, as a “FET Flagship initiative”.

**About W Science**

W Science Laboratories AG is a private company that provides funding as well as technology and leadership resources to support initiatives that enable the integration and packaging of science with information technologies that advance personal healthcare and well-being. The goal is to create an interdisciplinary, dynamic environment to address new age health challenges and rapidly develop innovative applications using prevailing technologies across sectors.

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Media information (videos, pictures):

<http://thebrainforum.org/Media>

<http://bit.ly/TheBrainForum2015>