

Contact: Kara Nesimiuk
+974 4454 8490
karan@qatar.cmu.edu

PRESS RELEASE
May 4, 2017

Nour Abdelnasser
+974 7021 8260
nour@bljworldwide.com

Student cancer research takes top awards at CMU-Q symposium

QNRf and Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics present special awards at 'Meeting of the Minds'

DOHA, QATAR – A research project that sought to identify novel biomarkers for better diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer won the 'Best Project' and 'Best Poster' awards at the 11th annual Meeting of the Minds undergraduate research symposium hosted by Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMU-Q).

The study was conducted by **Ettaib El Marabti**, a biological sciences student, under the mentorship of **Ihab Younis**, assistant teaching professor of biological sciences at CMU-Q.

"I chose the topic as it wasn't something I was familiar with and I wanted to learn more about how this mechanism is exclusive to certain genes and diseases," El Marabti said. "It's a great feeling to be recognized for the research I conducted."

Kemal Oflazer, associate dean of research, said: "Meeting of the Minds is a long-standing annual tradition at Carnegie Mellon University. Congratulations to our students who submitted their work as posters and presented them eagerly during the event."

Computer science student **Sannan Tariq** received second prize in the 'Best Project' category for his work on computational offloading. Third prize went to **Mohammad Osaama bin Shehzad** for developing an application to enhance learning in Qatar high school biology classes.

Dr. Barak Yehya from the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics presented five awards for research that has particular relevance to Qatar. QNRf awarded a prize for 'Best Project' and 'Best Poster.'

"We thank both the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics and QNRf for their continued support of this event," said Oflazer.

Carnegie Mellon University Qatar

Students presented projects to a panel of judges from Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Hamad Medical Corporation, Ministry of Development, Planning and Statistics, Northwestern University in Qatar, Qatar Biomedical Research Institute, Qatar Computing Research Institute, Qatar Mobility Innovation Center, Qatar National Research Fund, Qatar Science and Technology Park and Weill-Cornell Medicine-Qatar.

Full list of award winners, Meeting of the Minds 2017

Meeting of the Minds Best Project

1. “MAPK14 minor intron splicing as novel biomarker for breast cancer,” **Ettaib El Marabti** (Advisor: **Ihab Younis**)
2. “An agile platform for distributed computation in smart IoT environments,” **Sannan Tariq** (Advisor: **Khaled Harras**)
3. “Application based learning to reinforce academic concepts in Qatar biology curriculum,” **Mohammad Osaama bin Shehzad** (Advisors: **Annette Vincent** and **Saqib Razak**)

Meeting of the Minds Best Poster

- “MAPK14 minor intron splicing as novel biomarker for breast cancer,” **Ettaib El Marabti** (Advisor: **Ihab Younis**)

Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics Awards

- “Potential food poison analysis of phage DNA collected from Al Khor,” **Raghid Bsar** (Advisor: **Valentin Ilyin**)
- “Biofilm formation in water systems in Doha,” **Khawla Al-Darwish** (Advisor: **Annette Vincent**)
- “Application based learning to reinforce academic concepts in Qatar biology curriculum,” **Mohammad Osaama bin Shehzad** (Advisors: **Annette Vincent** and **Saqib Razak**)
- “The effect of culture on image appeal and social presence in Arab e-commerce websites,” **Noor AlQaedi** (Advisor: **Divakaran Liginlal**)
- “Arabic author profiling for cyber-security,” **Wajdi Zaghouni, Anis Charfi** (Post-graduate Poster)

QNRF Awards

QNRF Best Project: “The Hive: An on-edge middleware solution for context and resource sharing in the Internet of Things,” **Aliaa Essameldin** (Advisor: **Khaled Harras**)

QNRF Best Poster: “BCL2L11 as gene target of mir-92 and mir-10a: Gene expression, interaction evaluation and implication in type 2 diabetes and obesity,” **Alya Al-Kurbi** (Advisor: **Dr. Mohamed Chikri, QBRI**)

Carnegie Mellon University Qatar

For details on upcoming CMU-Q events, please visit <http://www.qatar.cmu.edu/news-events>

ENDS

About Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar

For more than a century, Carnegie Mellon University has challenged the curious and passionate to imagine and deliver work that matters. A private, global university, Carnegie Mellon stands among the world's most renowned educational institutions, setting its own course with programs that inspire creativity and collaboration. Consistently top-ranked, Carnegie Mellon has more than 13,000 students and 100,000 alumni worldwide.

At the invitation of Qatar Foundation, Carnegie Mellon joined Education City in 2004 to deliver select programs that will support and contribute to the long-term development of Qatar. Today, Carnegie Mellon Qatar offers undergraduate programs in biological sciences, business administration, computational biology, computer science, and information systems. More than 400 students from 40 countries call Carnegie Mellon Qatar home.

Graduates from CMU-Q are highly sought-after: most choose careers in top organizations, both in Qatar and around the world, while a significant number pursue graduate studies at international institutions. With nine graduating classes, the total number of alumni is 570.

To learn more, visit www.qatar.cmu.edu and follow us on:

Twitter: @CarnegieMellonQ

Instagram: @carnegiemellonq

Facebook: CarnegieMellonQ

YouTube: CarnegieMellonQatar