**Press release**

**Sidra Medicine welcomes first inpatients to new hospital building**

*New achievement by Qatar Foundation Supports Country’s Development*

Doha, Qatar, *January 14, 2018* - Sidra Medicine, a specialty children’s, young people and women’s healthcare organization and member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), today opened its new hospital building and welcomed the first inpatients to be treated in the state-of-the-art facility.

The first inpatients to be seen by Sidra Medicine will be children requiring low-risk surgeries and women undergoing elective C-sections. These services will be ramped up through mid-2018 to include more complex pediatric surgeries, specialist pediatric services in neurology and cardiology, among others, as well as deliveries, focusing on high-risk pregnancies.

“The clinical teams at Sidra Medicine are some of the best in the world. They have been united by a passion to deliver the very best care to women, young people and children in Qatar and will be trusted partners throughout the journeys that our patients will take with us. As a state-of-the-art facility handling high-risk and specialty cases, our approach to opening is necessarily phased to allow for proper testing at each stage. The safety and comfort of our patients is of utmost importance and we look forward to welcoming them,” said Sidra Medicine CEO Peter Morris.

Patients are encouraged to continue seeing their regular physicians unless they have a scheduled appointment at Sidra Medicine. No Emergency Department (ED) is currently open at Sidra Medicine and emergency cases should continue to be seen at established ED centers throughout Qatar. Sidra Medicine will open its ED in mid-2018.

“The opening of the main hospital at Sidra Medicine marks the achievement of another major milestone in the expansion of healthcare facilities in the country. The new hospital will further enhance the healthcare provided for women and children and reinforce our commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of the people in Qatar,” said Minister of Public Health H.E. Dr. Hanan Mohamed Al Kuwari.

Speaking on the opening of the main hospital, Vice Chair of the Board of Governors at Sidra Medicine, Professor the Lord Darzi of Denham, said: “As part of Qatar Foundation, Sidra Medicine is a true embodiment of the country’s wider, long-term efforts to build a world-class healthcare and research infrastructure in Qatar, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser’s specific focus on transforming the care of women and children. Qatar Foundation, with Her Highness Sheikha Moza at the helm, has been a powerful force for progress. It has established Qatar as a leader in education, science and community development. We are incredibly proud to bring Her Highness’s vision to life. Sidra Medicine is a first of its kind facility in the Middle East and will become a resource for the entire Gulf region in terms of specialty care for women and children supported by an impressive research infrastructure that will help lead the way in personalized medicine. I have no doubt that Sidra Medicine will become an international beacon of best practice and high-quality, academically-driven patient care.”

**An innovative facility designed to promote healing**

Once fully operational by mid-2018, Sidra Medicine will handle 275,000 outpatient appointments, 11,000 procedures, 100,000 emergency attendances and deliver over 9,000 babies per year, adding capacity to a rapidly growing population and delivering world-class specialist care. The hospital will include 10 operating theatres, 400 beds, 100 percent single rooms with a private bathroom, a birthing center and emergency department.

**High-tech, high-touch**

As a high-tech facility, Sidra Medicine has adopted breakthrough technologies to enhance the patient experience and underpin the highest standards of care and patient safety.

Examples of the high-tech devices at Sidra Medicine include palm vein recognition technology – a biometric technology that identifies patients by capturing their vein pattern and which connects with patients’ individual medical records automatically, and a 3D printer which provides models of a patient’s organs such as the heart or the brain to help with treatment planning. The technology at Sidra Medicine has been developed to ensure patient data, patient experience and patient care are all maintained at the highest standards, while enabling healthcare professionals to spend more time with patients.

**World-class care supported by cutting-edge research**

Medical care at Sidra Medicine is supported by research aimed at advancing the understanding of the epidemiology and mechanisms of diseases for the people of Qatar. This will help develop personalized preventative, diagnostic and therapeutic tools and improve the health outcomes of the women, young people and children of Qatar.

In line with QF’s mission to make Qatar a leading center for research and development excellence and innovation, the research programs currently underway at Sidra Medicine are on par with other leading research institutions internationally. They range from delivering key milestones with the Qatar Genome Project, to patenting ways to monitor the spread of cancer using MRI technology, and reviewing the use of immunotherapy to treat breast cancer.

**Regional and international referrals**

Sidra Medicine will also accept regional and international referrals for women, young people and children who need its specialist expertise. An international referrals office has already handled 117 cases from Bahrain, Egypt, Ghana, Greece, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and the UAE since Sidra Medicine opened its Outpatient Clinic in May 2016.

The most highly sought-after services have been cardiology and urology, including procedures for treating structural and congenital heart diseases, valve replacements and bladder exstrophy.

Sidra Medicine CEO Peter Morris concluded Sunday’s press conference by emphasizing: “Sidra Medicine not only stands for medicine today, but medicine tomorrow, which is why our tripartite focus on patient care, biomedical research and medical education is so important. Researchers at Sidra Medicine are looking for ways to personalize care for every child, young person and mother who walks through our doors by focusing on specific aspects of their condition and personal circumstances. At the same time, our world-class healthcare professionals are sharing and spreading their knowledge and expertise to support the development of the next generation of healthcare professionals in Qatar who will care for the patients of the future.”

**-ENDS-**

**The top five things Qatar needs to know about Sidra Medicine:**

1. Sidra Medicine is a specialty children’s, young people and women’s healthcare organization, and forms an integral part of the dynamic education, research, and community development environment at Qatar Foundation (QF).
2. Sidra Medicine will provide comprehensive specialist healthcare services for children and young people and maternity care for the women of Qatar. Sidra Medicine includes an outpatient clinic, a main hospital and a research institution. It is also an academic medical center.
3. On January 14, 2018, the Sidra Medicine main hospital will begin accepting inpatient admissions BY REFERRAL and APPOINTMENT ONLY.  For more details, please call: 4003 3333.
4. On January 14, 2018, the Emergency Department WILL NOT BE OPEN. More services will become available including the opening of the Emergency Department during the course of 2018.
5. As a member of QF, and through strong partnerships with leading institutions in Qatar and around the world, Sidra Medicine helps to position Qatar as a leading center of excellence for healthcare globally. As a landmark project located within Education City, Sidra Medicine is emblematic of Qatar Foundation’s investment in the health and well-being of Qatar’s community.

 **Notes to editors**

* Sidra Medicine’s mission is to be a beacon of learning, discovery and exceptional care, ranked among the top academic medical centers in the world.
* Sidra Medicine will provide world-class healthcare services for children, young people and women in Qatar and internationally.
* Sidra Medicine includes an outpatient clinic, a main hospital and a research institution. It is also an academic medical center.
* Sidra Medicine, a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, represents the vision of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser who serves as its Chairperson.
* Sidra Medicine’s values are trust, care, teamwork, transparency, innovation and efficiency
* Sidra Medicine’s research program will help develop ground-breaking treatments, technologies and techniques, especially in the areas of Maternal Fetal Medicine, Genetics and Genomics and Maternal Diabetes and Metabolic Syndromes
* Once fully operational, Sidra Medicine:
	+ Will become the leading children’s hospital in Qatar.
	+ Will be the only specialist center treating pregnant women with fetal complications.
	+ Will handle 275,000 outpatient appointments, 11,000 procedures, 100,000 emergency attendances and deliver over 9,000 babies.
	+ Will feature 140 clinic rooms, 10 operating theatres, 400 beds, 100 per cent single rooms with a private bathroom, a birthing center and emergency department.
	+ Will employ 2,000 nurses, 600 doctors and 800 other health care professionals, as well as administrative staff.
* Sidra Medicine outpatient services launched on 1 May 2016 and now operates 47 clinics and services for children, young people including maternity care for the women of Qatar.
* Sidra Medicine is located in Education City, Doha.
* For further information, please visit <http://www.sidra.org/>

**Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential**

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) is a non-profit organization that supports Qatar on its journey to becoming a diversified and sustainable economy. QF strives to serve the people of Qatar and beyond by providing specialized programs across its innovation-focused ecosystem of education, research and development, and community development.

QF was founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, who shared the vision to provide Qatar with quality education. Today, QF’s world-class education system offers lifelong learning opportunities to community members as young as six months through to doctoral level, enabling graduates to thrive in a global environment and contribute to the nation’s development.

QF is also creating a multidisciplinary innovation hub in Qatar, where homegrown researchers are working to address local and global challenges. By promoting a culture of lifelong learning and fostering social engagement through programs that embody Qatari culture, QF is committed to empowering the local community and contributing to a better world for all.

For a complete list of QF’s initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>