

Sidra Medicine shares progress on becoming an employer of choice for women on International Women's Day

10 March 2018: [Sidra Medicine](#) marked International Women's Day (IWD), celebrated world-wide on 8 March by hosting a high-level panel of inspiring female professionals. The panelists discussed their careers, aspirations and insights with hundreds of employees. As a specialty children's, young people and women's healthcare organization and member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), Sidra Medicine prides itself on serving the community not only by providing specialty pediatric and maternal care, but by being an employer of choice in Qatar.

This year's IWD theme encouraged participants to "Press for Progress." [Dr. Kholode Al-Obaidli, Sidra Medicine's Chief Learning Officer](#), shared her thoughts on how organizations can mobilize progress and empower women. Some of her most poignant advice centered on harnessing personal passion to drive achievement and growth and not being afraid to employ emotional intelligence as a leadership tool.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Al Obaidli said, "Our goal is to make Sidra Medicine an employer of choice for women and we have taken a number of steps to reflect this ambition by recognizing the importance of working women. With more than 66 per cent of the workforce at Sidra Medicine being female, our focus for this year will be on helping our employees achieve a healthy work-life balance. Studies have shown that organizations that embrace such policies worldwide are more effective, with improved productivity and retention. We want to lead by example in Qatar, by listening to the needs of our employees and enabling them to perform at their best in a supportive environment."

Sidra Medicine has already implemented several policies to gain recognition as an employer of choice for women. These include enhanced maternity leave and the ability to return to work part time on full time pay to encourage retention, among other benefits. Further policies around a flexible working framework and special leave policies for domestic emergencies are being developed this year.

"We are committed to creating a workplace that supports women in reaching their full potential, be it through comprehensive learning and development programs or policies that celebrate the special needs of new mothers and families," added Dr. Al Obaidli.

Following an inspirational opening presentation by Dr. Al Obaidli, panellists representing a wide range of industries and roles shared their success stories and ways in which they overcame challenges on a path towards maintaining fulling lives and careers. These included keynote speaker, former Minister of Social Development for the Sultanate of Oman Dr. Sharifa Al Yhayai; CEO of Qatar Business Incubation Centre, Ms. Aysha Al Mudahkha; Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy CSR Manager, Ms. Mead Al Emadi; Founder and Jewelry Designer of Hiraat, Ms. Nada Al Sulaiti and Lactation Consultant, Ms. Najla Al Kuwari.

A large contingent of Sidra Medicine team members discussed the opportunities available for women within the organization. Event attendees heard from Chief Operating Officer Morag Gates; Chief Human Resources Officer Paul Jones; Chief Financial Officer Ms. Loretta Seamer;

Deputy Chief Nursing Officer Deborah Kelly; Division Chief for Adolescent Medicine Al Anoud Al Ansari and Director of People Capability Development Elizabeth Beetham.

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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. Sidra Medicine main hospital currently accepts inpatient admissions BY REFERRAL and APPOINTMENT ONLY. For more details, please call: 4003 3333.
4. The Emergency Department at Sidra Medicine is NOT 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/>