

HMC AND QBRI COMBINE LOCAL RESEARCH CAPABILITIES IN EFFORT TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE IN QATAR

Doha, 14 January, 2015: Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Qatar Biomedical Research Institute (QBRI), formalizing an agreement that will see both entities harness their combined medical research capabilities.

The agreement will also further enhance an environment in which clinical discoveries will be translated into practical applications for the benefit of patients more quickly.

The MoU was signed by HMC's Managing Director, Hanan Al Kuwari, PhD and QBRI Executive Director, Dr. Hilal Lashuel. The new agreement will boost the resources of existing research teams studying health problems like diabetes, cancer, degenerative diseases and genetic disorders and pave the way for new research studies.

The MoU is expected to lead to further development of a skilled national healthcare workforce, providing numerous career and professional development opportunities for clinicians, researchers and faculty.

Dr. Al Kuwari said the agreement emphasizes HMC's and QBRI's dedication to improving patient outcomes through research and innovation. "HMC and QBRI have shown a commitment to fostering a culture of translational research and evidenced-based care, which will ultimately lead to better overall patient outcomes across Qatar," said Al Kuwari.

"Combining the talents of both entities on joint projects is logical and consolidates the academic health expertise within the country's medical community," she added.

Dr. Lashuel said the initiative was demonstrative of the country's strengthening scientific and medical research capabilities.

"This agreement is a catalyst for cutting-edge biomedical research, which is an essential element in today's complex and evolving healthcare landscape. It reinforces Qatar's position as a regional leader in biomedical research and scientific discovery," said Dr. Lashuel.

HMC's Chief of Scientific, Faculty, and Academic Affairs and chief policy advisor on academic health, Professor Edward Hillhouse said the agreement allows for the cross-appointed QBRI faculty to work closely with HMC clinicians and researchers.

"Under the linked agreement, it provides access to HMC's state-of-the-art research facilities. Reciprocally, cross-appointed clinicians from HMC will engage in basic and translational research activities at QBRI, in support of clinical enterprise at HMC," said Prof. Hillhouse.

QBRI is the newest member of Qatar's Academic Health System, a dynamic collaborative partnership of eight organizations that draws together Qatar's leading healthcare, academic and research entities towards improving patient care and delivering innovative healthcare solutions.

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Captions:

QBRI 1 – From left to right: Dr. Hilal Lashuel; Dr. Hanan Al Kuwari and HMC's Chief of Scientific, Faculty and Academic Affairs, Prof. Edward Hillhouse

QBRI 2 – From left to right: Dr. Hilal Lashuel; Dr. Hanan Al Kuwari and Prof. Edward Hillhouse

QBRI 3 - Scientists and executive management from Qatar Biomedical Research Institute and Hamad Medical Corporation following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance cooperation on biomedical research.

Caption:

About HMC

HMC has been the principal public healthcare provider in the state of Qatar for over three decades and is dedicated to delivering the safest, most effective and compassionate care to all patients.

HMC manages eight hospitals, incorporating five specialist hospitals and three community hospitals. HMC also manages the National Ambulance Service as well as home and residential care, all accredited by Joint Commission International. While HMC continues to upgrade its facilities and services, it has also embarked on an ambitious expansion program, targeting the areas of need in our community.

HMC is leading the development of the region's first academic health system and is committed to building a legacy of healthcare expertise in Qatar. We collaborate with partners who are key experts in Qatar and beyond, including Weill Cornell Medical College-Qatar, the Institute for Healthcare Improvement and Partners Healthcare, Boston.

We are also the first hospital system in the Middle East to achieve institutional accreditation from the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education -

International (ACGME-I), which demonstrates excellence in the way medical graduates are trained through residency, internship and fellowship programs.

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About Qatar Foundation Research and Development

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QF R&D is home to Qatar National Research Fund, a leading scientific research funding organization, Qatar Science & Technology Park, an international hub for technology innovation and commercialization, and Research institutes operating at the frontiers of science, including Qatar Biomedical Research Institute, Qatar Computing Research Institute and Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute.