

HOW DO I?

QF Telegraph helps you make the most of your time at Qatar Foundation (QF).

Are there any upcoming art exhibitions I can participate in?

The Education City Art Exhibition will be held at the HBKU Student Center from 18 October 2015. Organized by Qatar Foundation member Hamad bin Khalifa University's (HBKU's) Student Life Department, the exhibition will focus on showcasing a variety of artistic talents including arts, sculpture, photography and design. It aims to give budding artists an opportunity to exhibit their work.

What are the requirements to participate?

Participation is open to all Education City staff, faculty, alumni and students. Various art mediums – including painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, handicrafts, and digital art – can be submitted.

How do I participate?

To register, visit www.hbku.edu.qa/ECart2015 and fill in the application form. The form requires personal and contact details, plus information about the exhibit you aim to showcase. You will also be required to submit images of the artwork, a brief biography and your CV.

When is the last date for submission?

Completed application forms must be submitted on or before 30 August 2015. Late submission will not be accepted.

How can I get more information on the exhibition?

For more information, please contact Abdulla Al-Emadi at aaalemadi@qf.org.qa or call 44540707.

Do you have a question you want answered? Email us at: qft@qf.org.qa

Dr Telal El Maki

Dentist, Qatar Foundation Primary Health Care Center (PHCC), talks about being awarded the Best Employee of the Group of Capital Projects, Facilities Management and HSSE accolade.

How do you feel about receiving this prize?

Quite delighted, and thankful to the senior management.

What is your role?

As a dentist I am obliged to provide preventive, therapeutic and consultation services to QF's wide-ranging community. Essentially we at PHCC offer all the basic primary dental services in one central place. I am proud to be part of the pioneering team that commenced in 2013 to make this a reality.

What are your department's goals?

The dental clinic at PHCC is committed to providing the best world-class standards in primary oral and dental health care practice for its patients. While continuously reviewing and implementing ideas, procedures and protocols to accommodate urgent and elective dental care, we strive to extend our services to six days a week and 12 hours a day as we anticipate a growing community service demand. We also intend to expand our preventive awareness sessions, especially to the children at QF through oral hygiene workshops and check-ups.

What was your career path up to this point? Highlights?



Best Employee of the Group
of Capital Projects, Facilities Management & HSSE

Although I have more than 18 years' experience in many countries, working at QF for the past three years has been a huge highlight. Especially as I, as part of a team, participated in building up this center from scratch.

What are the most challenging and rewarding aspects of your work?

The biggest challenge for any dental clinic is to accommodate the growing number of clients while delivering excellent services. The most rewarding aspect

is when you are able to make patients smile again by eliminating their dental pain.

What are your career ambitions?

To continue serving those in need of dental care, and to excel at my work while being committed to continuously developing my knowledge to better treat the people at QF with the highest possible standard of care.

What do you like the most about Qatar?

I grew up here, so it is my second



home. I like the mutual respect, and the peaceful and friendly culture. Therefore, when I had the opportunity to serve Qatar, I did not hesitate one bit. I'm very happy to work and play a role in pursuing Qatar's 2030 vision.

What do you like most about QF?

It's a unique institution within the region, with a noble mission. QF has grown internationally in a fairly short time, building ties with the most innovative and reputable scientific communities across the world. I also like meeting people from so many different countries.

What advice would you give to someone who is considering pursuing a similar career to you?

Plan what you want to do and work hard for it. Also look at working and studying in other countries as well, to get the best possible skills and experiences.

What hobbies do you enjoy?

I enjoy listening to QF Radio, football and watching documentaries.

Linking up for a historic exhibition Art and Medicine Project is the first of its kind in Qatar

The recently-held Art and Medicine Project is an interdisciplinary collaboration between Qatar Foundation (QF) partner universities Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar (VCUQatar) and Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q), allowing medical students to rethink medical decision making and patient care, and art students to incorporate science into their creative practice.

Lead instructor Professor Thomas Himsworth – and the Co-Principal Investigators Amy Andres of VCUQatar and Professors Alan S. Weber and Stephen Scott of WCMC-Q – designed the project as a one-semester special topic art seminar.

The project grew out of the four faculty members' mutual interest in investigating how art, design and medicine can create synergies that lead students

to more informed, reflective, collaborative and interdisciplinary methods and practices.

Students were challenged to work together on various assignments, including the design of their first exhibition, "Chromesthesia", an immersive experience that enabled visitors to interact at the intersection of medicine and contemporary art. Visitors were encouraged to submit their emotional status either through their own Twitter account or on a provided tablet before and after entering the installation.

Himsworth said: "Students were enthused by various artists who were discussed during class, such as James Turrell, an American artist focusing his pieces on light and space."

Himsworth added that "Chromesthesia" was the first interactive exhibition of its kind in Qatar.



Promoting the path to a career in science

QBRI's Summer Research Program launch is accelerated due to high demand

The Summer Research Program (SRP) is a new internship initiative launched by Qatar Biomedical Research Institute (QBRI), an institute of Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU) which is a member of Qatar Foundation (QF). QBRI recently celebrated its inaugural group of students completing the eight-week course.

The SRP was developed as part of QBRI's strategy to build national research capacity, and to encourage young students to pursue careers in science and biomedical research in Qatar. "To attract more students to the research field it is important to expose them to the research frontiers, to recent exciting discoveries, and give them the opportunity to gain an insight into the impact of biomedical research in society, and what a career in research entails" explained Lina Hassna, Program Manager, QBRI. "The program provides a great mechanism to increase awareness and educate the next generation of scientists about Qatar's research priorities and the health challenges facing our society today."

Although the original plans were to launch this program in 2016, the development and launch of the program was accelerated due to the high demand for such a program and after being approached by many students that expressed interest in internship opportunities.

The proactive engagement and enthusiastic support of QBRI scientists and principal investigators were both encouraging and reassuring to the organizers.

"We are also grateful to other research institutes, especially Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI, an institute of HBKU), for sharing their experience in organizing successful summer research programs in Doha and QF operations for their tremendous support and facilitating all the logistics for hosting local and international students"

The program targets students who have completed at least two years of undergraduate studies in life sciences, engineering and health-related programs. The selection process included submitting a formal application with supporting documents, including a letter of interest, references and academic record followed by a personal interview by QBRI program director and scientists.

The main criteria for selection were academic performance and the level of commitment to personal development and interest in pursuing a research career. In its



inaugural year, seven students were accepted. They were then given the option to choose from a series of projects designed by junior and senior QBRI scientists covering a wide range of scientific problems and techniques in diabetes, cancer or stem cell research.

The program requires a full-time commitment to their projects and to engaging in a wide range of group activities aimed at supporting the students to further develop their scientific, communication and professional skills.

An example of that would be their participation in the QBRI weekly seminars, where students had the opportunity to meet with leading scientists from Qatar and

learn about the latest research being conducted at QBRI and in other local institutions.

Other activities included special lectures by QBRI scientists on how to write and present scientific articles, the use of scientific databases, research ethics, how to prepare posters, and much more. Other activities were organized jointly by QBRI and QCRI and provided unique opportunities for the students from both programs to meet and interact with each other.

The feedback from students have been very positive and brought a great sense of reward and satisfaction to the QBRI staff and scientists. "I learnt and gained a lot of experience in several techniques

used in biomedical research. This was an amazing learning experience. I would definitely recommend this program to other students," said Safa Salim, student, Carnegie Mellon University.

Besides learning more about QBRI, the students are better informed about the country's research priorities and have had various networking opportunities which will benefit each and every one of them in the future in many ways. "I learnt something new every day, it is not just about technical work, but also about acquiring professional skills," said Maryam Al-Sulaiti, student from Carnegie Mellon University. "I feel it has been well worth giving up a big part of

my summer holiday." From the QBRI's side, the researchers/mentors enjoyed tremendously the opportunity to interact challenge and be challenged by young and talented students.

"We have been extremely lucky to get such a group of talented undergraduate students that are eager to learn," says Dr Mohamed Dehbi, Principal Investigator, QBRI.

"I was really impressed by their enthusiasm and commitment. I really believe that they will have a terrific future in biomedical research and wish them luck.

Dr Manale Doldur, Post Doc Researcher, QBRI said: "I was happy to see the interns motivated and developing their interest in research. They acquired good scientific knowledge in their respective projects and learned several research techniques. I wish our 2015 interns good luck in their education and future career, and I am looking forward to training more students during our next year's Summer Research Program."

Dr Hilal Lashuel, QBRI Executive Director said: "Given the success of the 2015 SRP, and tremendous support and interest by QBRI scientists and the QF community, QBRI plans to expand this program. We will target talented students from local, regional and international institutions in the hope of attracting them to pursue research careers and join QBRI and other Qatari biomedical institutions in the future."

QBRI SUMMER PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Train the next generation of scientists from Qatar and the region
- Attract and encourage talented students to pursue a career in biomedical and health research
- Provide students with opportunities to broaden their knowledge, acquire new skills and explore their scientific interest and career options
- Strengthen the ties between the students and research scientists at QBRI
- Increase awareness about national research priorities and the Qatar National Research Strategy

BENEFITS TO THE STUDENTS

- Get hands-on research experience and exposure to cutting-edge research
- Improve their critical thinking skills, including learning how to conduct scientific research, formulate ideas, design experiments and test hypotheses
- Gain an insight into what a career in research entails
- Receive mentoring and career counseling from distinguished QBRI scientists
- Enhance their communication and team building skills
- Interact, network and form new friendships with talented students from Qatar and the region