

## News

# QU hosts experts at biomedical research symposium



Dr. Hassan Al-Derham with other QU officials and guests



Dr. Hilal A. Lashuel, QBRI Executive Director

Experts in biomedical research and related fields attended the research symposium organized jointly by Qatar University Biomedical Research Center (QUBRC) and Qatar Biomedical Research Institute (QBRI) in September.

The event was attended by QU Vice President for Research Dr. Hassan Al-Derham, QBRI Executive Director Dr. Hilal A. Lashuel, and scientists and researchers from Qatar Biobank, Qatar Cardiovascular Research Center (QCRC), Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF) and Qatar Foundation (QF).

Its purpose was to bring together experts, scientists and researchers to discuss developments in biomedical research in Qatar, and more specifically, for QU and QBRI scientists to meet and strengthen their scientific interactions. Discussions also focused on the aims, objectives and strategies of QUBRC and QBRI towards achieving a breakthrough in biomedical research.

In her remarks, QUBRC Director Dr. Asmaa

Al-Thani said that the new center would focus on research, training and services in applied and basic biomedical research. She added that, to achieve this objective, QUBRC would work closely with QBRI and other partners in Qatar such as Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), Qatar Cardiovascular Research Center (QCRC), Sidra Medical and Research Center, Qatar Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Hospital (Aspetar) and Qatar Biobank (QBB).

“Through its activities and functions, the Center will strive to reduce the transmission of infectious diseases in the community and hospitals and enhance public health in Qatar in collaboration with the Supreme Council of Health (SCH) and HMC”, Dr. Al-Thani said, adding, “Concerted efforts will be made to advance research on drug development and testing in the long run”.

Dr. Al-Thani highlighted QU’s competitive strength in biomedical sciences, noting its many college-based labs, a faculty body of over 50 in the field of biomedical sciences, and a host of graduate programs. “The Center itself has

ample facilities, equipment and resources and will provide state-of-the-art labs and support for interdisciplinary and translational research and complement the already existing or planned biomedical research capabilities in the country”, she said.

She stated further that, while attracting industry partnerships for research and development (R&D), the Center will leverage resources at other QU units such as the Center for Advanced Materials (CAM), Kindi Lab for Computing Research, Laboratory Animal Research Center (LARC), College of Pharmacy (CPH), and the Environmental and Biological Sciences department in the College of Arts & Sciences (CAS), and provide expanded capabilities to faculty and student researchers.

Dr. Lashuel remarked: “The QUBRC is a significant achievement for QU and the biomedical landscape for the State of Qatar. Also, this milestone is a great opportunity to build a bridge between QU and QBRI in areas of education, training and research”.