QATAR BIOBANK ATTENDS INTERNATIONAL PRECISION MEDICINE SYMPOSIUM IN CHINA

QF member shares progress with experts from around the world

Doha, Qatar, December 20, 2017: Qatar Biobank, a member of Qatar Foundation (QF), recently participated in the Annual Biobank China 2017 & International Symposium on Precision Medicine.

The conference, which was held in Changsha, China, brought together leading experts on biobanking and precision medicine from around the world to discuss recent precision health innovations.

Held under the theme ‘Moving Precision Medicine Forward in the 21st Century,’ the event provided a platform for representatives of national biobanks to share their strategies and developments with researchers and industry experts from around the world.

Representing Qatar’s biobanking community, Dr. Nahla Maher Afifi, Scientific and Education Manager and Acting Director at Qatar Biobank, delivered an informative presentation titled ‘Qatar Biobank Milestones Toward Personalized Medicine’ during the inaugural day of the conference. The presentation highlighted Qatar’s vision of making personalized medicine a reality and how the overall drive fits within the broader national health strategy.

“Qatar Biobank has now become an active member of the international drive for precision medicine. Through our participation at the conference, we aim to share our findings and progress with the wider international community. Along with the Qatar Genome Programme, Qatar Biobank is now making a tangible impact in the field. Our attendance at these gatherings allows us to meet with important stakeholders and share knowledge and expertise with one another,” said Dr. Afifi.

Qatar Biobank recently welcomed its 10,000th participant. Qataris over the age of 18 and adult residents who have lived in Qatar for at least 15 years are invited to take part in this pioneering medical research endeavor. This coincides with Qatar Biobank expanding its participant intake capacity to enable more visitors to pass through the approximately three-hour process each day.

For more information about Qatar Biobank, please visit: www.qatarbiobank.org.qa/home

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About Qatar Biobank

Qatar Biobank, a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, is a population-based platform where biological samples are provided by participants. Through the collection of samples and information on the health and lifestyles of Qatari citizens and long-term residents, Qatar Biobank aims to make vital medical research possible for scientists in Qatar, the region and the world.

Launched in 2012 in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health, Hamad Medical Corporation and supported by expert scientists from Imperial College London, Qatar Biobank completed the two-year operational pilot phase in 2014 marked by the official inauguration of the state-of-the-art facility by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation For Education Science and Community Development.

To learn more about Qatar Biobank and how to become a contributor, please visit: www.qatarbiobank.org.qa

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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, science and research, 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