

“Biobank Qatar is a scientific and altruistic partnership between the research community and the people of Qatar to build a better, healthier future”

Dr Hanan Al Kuwar, Hamad Medical Corporation Managing Director, and Chairperson of Biobank Qatar's Board of Trustees. Read more on page 2

Scientists backing Biobank Qatar

RESEARCH. Biobank Qatar has an important role to play in meeting the needs of research institutions across the country, according to a survey of experts conducted during an inaugural 'Scientific Stakeholder Strategy Forum'.

The biobank, which promises to be the most ambitious project of its kind in the region, will rely on public support to aid research into life-threatening diseases that affect the Qatari community, including diabetes, cardiovascular disease and obesity.

An overwhelming 97 percent of participants at the Scientific Stakeholder Strategy Forum believed that access to Biobank Qatar's resources

would be important for supporting research in Qatar over the next 10 years.

In addition, more than 92 percent of participants felt that lack of access to banked samples and data sets is an impediment to research in Qatar.

THE FORUM convened leading figures in the national biomedical research field as part of Biobank Qatar's efforts to engage scientific stakeholders and discuss how they can best use the resources and services to be provided.

Dr Hanan Al Kuwari, Hamad Medical Corporation's Managing

Director and Chairperson of Biobank Qatar's Board of Trustees, said: "Biobank Qatar is a scientific and altruistic partnership between the research community and the people of Qatar to build a better, healthier future for generations to come.

"One of the most interesting things I have taken away from the session is the overwhelming commitment of all key stakeholders to support that vision."

Dr Abdelali Hacudi, Qatar Foundation Vice President of Research and Acting Executive Director of the Qatar Biomedical Research Institute, said such forums are integral to developing actionable plans for

scientists and researchers to work more collaboratively.

Participants included Sir Magdi Yacoub, founder of Qatar's Cardiovascular Research Center, as well as senior scientists and researchers from organizations such as Qatar Foundation (QF), Hamad Medical Corporation, Qatar University, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q), Sidra Medical and Research Center and Imperial College London.

Biobank Qatar was created by QF and the Supreme Council of Health, working with Hamad Medical Corporation and supported by scientists from Imperial College London.