

MEDIA FACT SHEET

- Qatar Biobank was established in 2010 as a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development.
- Qatar Biobank pilot phase kicked-off on 11th December 2012.
- Qatar Biobank is a large-scale, long term medical research initiative for the population of Qatar. Over the next few years it aims to recruit more than 60,000 Qatari nationals and long-term residents (>15 years residence) aged ≥ 18 years of both genders.
- Working with the Supreme Council of Health, Hamad Medical Corporation and Imperial College London, Qatar Biobank supports Qatar Foundation's mission to enhance national innovation and technology through medical research regarding prevalent health issues in Qatar.
- Qatar Biobank's collection of samples and information on the health and lifestyles of large numbers of the national population makes vital medical research possible for scientists in Qatar, the region, and the world.
- Qatar Biobank is one of the first Qatar Foundation members to be awarded two, International Organization for Standardization (ISO) qualifications, from the British Standards Institute Group Middle East. The ISO 9001 and ISO 27001 address Quality Management Systems and Information Security Management respectively, which remain a top priority for Qatar Biobank.
- In conjunction with the National Genome Committee, Qatar Biobank hosted Qatar's first genome symposium entitled '*Human Genomics and Personalised Medicine – A Global Overview of challenges and opportunities*' in 2014.
- Qatar Biobank will host Qatar's inaugural '*Biobanking in the Content of Personalised Healthcare*' conference on the 8th and 9th of February in Doha at the Qatar National Convention Centre. The symposium will gather local and regional experts with their international counterparts to discuss the future of medical research and personalised medicine in Qatar.
- Qatar Biobank leadership:
 - Dr. Hanan Al Kuwari, Chairperson of Qatar Biobank's Board of Trustees
 - Dr Asma Ali Al-Thani, Vice Chairperson of Qatar Biobank's Board of Trustees
 - Dr Hadi Abderrahim, Managing Director of Qatar Biobank
- Upon consultation at Qatar Biobank, participants complete a questionnaire and sign a consent form agreeing to allow the tracking and assessment of their medical history.
- Participants also agree to have samples and health information stored and used, anonymously and in complete confidence, by approved researchers for several years.

- If at any point during the process, an individual is uncomfortable and wishes to terminate their participation, he or she is able to stop testing and render their record null and void.
- Following the collection of a participant's sample, three copies are made at the Qatar Biobank laboratory. One sample is stored in liquid nitrogen, at -180°C , for long term research purposes of up to 25 years.
- As of mid-January 2015, Qatar Biobank has stored more than 140,000 samples and currently has the capacity to store double that amount.
- Qatar Biobank's storage facility is secure and complies with international biological storage and safety standards, which include rigorous compliance and monitoring systems, along with O_2 level detectors.
- Qatar Biobank's secure storage facility adopts an automated coding system and is only accessible to cleared laboratory team members.
- Participant information is stored responsibly and securely. Any information that may identify an individual participant is removed before their data is shared with approved researchers.

Qatar Biobank Pilot Phase Baseline Clinic Visit

Assessment Station:	Reception	Questionnaire	Measure	Imaging	Fitness
	Welcome Registration	Consent Main questionnaire Diet questionnaire Cognitive tests Nurse interview	Grip strength Saliva Hip-waist <i>Change to gown</i> Urine Height Weight ECG Vicorder Blood pressure Spirometry Blood sample	3-D Carotid U/S iDXA	Treadmill Retinal scan Return to Measure Room to: <i>Get dressed</i> Close of visit Referral info
Estimated time (minutes) for station	10 minutes	60 minutes	70 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes

Actual total time to complete baseline clinic visit: 179 minutes

The visit flow

