



## QATAR BIOBANK PARTICIPATE IN RENOWNED BIOBANKING COURSE IN LUXEMBOURG

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**Doha, 14 October 2015:** Qatar Biobank, a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, participated in a prestigious biobanking academic course at the Integrated BioBank of Luxembourg (IBBL) Institute.

Organized with the University of Luxembourg and endorsed by the International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER), the learning course encouraged the exchange of knowledge and skills across different groups involved in the conservation, storage and study of biospecimen. It covered technical, scientific, legal and ethical aspects of human and environmental biobanking.

Qatar Biobank's Scientific and Education Manager, Dr. Nahla Al Afifi, one of the participants of the highly specialised course, said: "As we embark on the second phase of Qatar Biobank, courses such as these provide us with the opportunity to learn about international best practices and the future of biobanking. We then ensure that the knowledge is transferred to our staff."

Home to local, regional and international scientists, Qatar Biobank aims to nurture the local medical research culture and ensure that their quality of standards adhere to international best practices.

Other areas covered in the professional development course included biobank landscape, scientific collections and application methods together with practical sessions in IBBL's laboratories and examples of fully functional biobanks.

Qatar Biobank supports Qatar Foundation's mission to enhance national innovation and technology through medical research regarding prevalent health issues in Qatar. Through its collection of samples and information on the health and lifestyles of large numbers of the national population, Qatar Biobank is making vital medical research possible for scientists in Qatar, the region, and the world.

Qatar Biobank recently inaugurated their state-of-the-art building following the conclusion of its two-year operational pilot phase, the results of which provided a snapshot into the current health of the population - gathered from samples collected from 1,200 participants.



For more information about Qatar Biobank, please visit:

[www.qatarbiobank.org.qa/home](http://www.qatarbiobank.org.qa/home)

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#### **About Qatar Biobank**

Qatar Biobank is a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development. Working with the Supreme Council of Health, Hamad Medical Corporation and scientists from Imperial College London, Qatar Biobank enables medical research on prevalent health issues in Qatar. Through its collection of samples and information about the health and lifestyles of large numbers of Qatar's population, Qatar Biobank makes vital medical research possible for scientists in Qatar, the region, and the world. Qatar Biobank is a unique resource that will raise Qatar's profile in biomedical research regionally and globally.

#### **For more information:**

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