

Subject: New partnership aims to mainstream precision medicine

Hi X,

The mainstreaming of precision medicine is beginning through a new partnership between Qatar Foundation's Research, Development and Innovation division and international pharmaceutical company Roche.

Representative of Qatar Foundation's larger efforts in precision medicine, this three-year collaboration is designed to take more personalized, tailored treatments from the laboratory to primary healthcare settings, advancing this approach into mainstream clinical care.

The two entities will develop a repeatable process that translates the outcomes of precision medicine research into clinical use in Qatar, with the first stage focusing on how genetic markers can guide diagnoses and treatment decisions for diseases such as cancer.

If you are interested in learning more about this partnership or Qatar Foundation's work around precision medicine, I would be happy to connect you with [Dr. Richard O'Kennedy](https://www.hbku.edu.qa/en/officials/richard-okennedy) [https://www.hbku.edu.qa/en/officials/richard-okennedy] Vice President for Research, Development and Innovation at Qatar Foundation. The full press release is included below.

Best,  
X

***This material is distributed by RF/Binder Partners Inc. on behalf of the Qatar Foundation. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.***

## **QF AND ROCHE PARTNER WITH THE AIM OF TAKING PRECISION MEDICINE INTO MAINSTREAM HEALTHCARE**

*Collaboration with international pharmaceutical company will also create life-science opportunities for Qatari students*

**Doha, Qatar, February 17, 2021:** A new partnership between Qatar Foundation and an international pharmaceutical company is aiming to advance precision medicine into mainstream clinical care in Qatar – and open up opportunities for Qatari students to gain experience in the pharma industry.

Qatar Foundation Research, Development and Innovation (QF RDI) and Roche have announced a three-year collaboration designed to help take more personalized, tailored treatments from the laboratory stage to the point where they are being used in primary healthcare settings.

By combining their expertise, QF RDI and Roche will develop a repeatable process that translates the outcomes of precision medicine research into clinical use in Qatar, with the first stage focusing on how genetic markers can guide diagnoses and treatment decisions for diseases such as cancer. The two partners will also create registries and repositories of genomic data to support this process.

Meanwhile, the partnership will pilot a scheme to provide six-month placements for Qatari postgraduate students in molecular biology programs at QF's Hamad Bin Khalifa University and Qatar University to gain real-world experience of the life-sciences field with Roche, and heighten their awareness of career opportunities within pharmaceutical research.

"We are delighted to be entering into this collaboration on precision medicine with our newest partner, Roche," said Dr. Richard O'Kennedy, Vice President for Research, Development and Innovation at Qatar Foundation, who signed the Memorandum of Understanding between QF and Roche with Padraic Ward, Head of Roche Pharma International.

"Precision medicine is one of the key advances that has taken place in the field of human healthcare. We now know that tailoring treatment to a particular subgroup of patients is certainly complex, but ultimately it is incredibly rewarding and effective and will improve disease treatment significantly.

"This demonstrates the importance of personalized medicine, particularly in a world that continues to face the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Qatar Foundation is determined to be at the vanguard of precision medicine development, for people in Qatar and for the wider world. We see this collaboration as a perfect platform for continuing this crucial work, and look forward to what we all believe will be an extremely valuable partnership."

Mr. Ward said: "Personalized healthcare (PHC) is a cornerstone of our strategy at Roche, and we are honored and excited to work together with Qatar Foundation and jointly accelerate the realization of PHC in Qatar.

"Qatar Foundation and ourselves share the vision of improving outcomes for patients at the confluence of innovative medicines, diagnostics, and data insights, and we look forward to this strategic collaboration."

A key element of the collaboration between QF RDI and Roche will concentrate on accelerating and increasing the accuracy of disease diagnosis through using genetic markers; identifying whether diseases have a genetic root cause; and supporting clinicians to deliver precision medicine in a way that generates the best patient outcomes. The partners will also create a regulatory framework against which this work will take place.

Through the collaboration, QF RDI's growing mass of phenotypic and 'omics' data, and Roche's track record of healthcare leadership and growing capabilities in innovative Artificial Intelligence and machine learning tools, will be combined to create a vault of genomic data that can help translate precision medicine research into widespread clinical use.

The signing of the agreement between QF and Roche was also attended by Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al-Thani, Chairman of Al Faisal Holdings, the official Roche distributor in Qatar; His Excellency Edgar Dörig, Swiss Ambassador to Qatar; Dr. Ahmed Tawfik, Roche Gulf Cluster Country Manager; and Ahmed Medhat, Roche Personalized Medicine Lead.

**ENDS**

### **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, research and development, and community development.

QF was founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, 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, please visit: [www.qf.org.qa](http://www.qf.org.qa)

For any media inquiries, please contact: [pressoffice@qf.org.qa](mailto:pressoffice@qf.org.qa)

***This material is distributed by RF/Binder Partners Inc. on behalf of the Qatar Foundation. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.***