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Sidra Researchers Selected for Prestigious Leadership Program **Dr. Rashid Al Ali and Mr. Ahmad Al Shaibi to attend the International Visitor Leadership Program by the U.S Department of State**

Doha, Qatar, 07 August 2016 — Two Qatari researchers from Sidra Medical and Research Center (Sidra) have been selected to attend a prestigious leadership program hosted by the United States Department of State.

[Dr. Rashid Al Ali](#), Deputy Chief Research Officer and Division Chief Biomedical Informatics and Mr. Ahmad Al Shaibi, Graduate Associate – have both been selected to participate in [the International Visitor Leadership Program \(IVLP\)](#) on *Regional Health Challenges: Research and Remedies* taking place in the U.S.A.

IVLP is the U.S. Department of State's premier professional exchange program offered annually to only a handful of select nominees worldwide. The U.S. Embassy in Doha oversees the IVLP locally and works with Qatari partners to bring this unique professional exchange opportunity to select leaders in a variety of fields.

The IVLP program was formally established in 1952 and boasts a distinguished alumni of leaders, visionaries, innovators, academics and emerging talent. Dr. Rashid and Mr. Al Shaibi, will be among one of few researchers from the Middle East selected to join the program. Notable alumni include British Prime Ministers Theresa May, Tony Blair, Margaret Thatcher and Gordon Brown as well as international leaders such as Kim Dae Jung (S. Korea), Nicolas Sarkozy (France) and Anwar Sadat (Egypt) and luminaries such as Noble prize winner Dr. Muhammad Yunus (Bangladesh).

The *Regional Health Challenges: Research and Remedies* program is based on fostering international cooperation in health management programs that prevent or minimize loss of life to communicable and non-communicable illnesses. It will also address specific public health challenges and needs of countries and communities in crisis.

Dr. Rashid and Mr. Al Shaibi's project activities during the three-week long program will include site visits to hospitals, clinics, rural health facilities, laboratories, as well as academic and research institutions in the U.S.A. They will also examine media coverage of disease and its influence on the public and government. Key takeaways from the program will be to gain a better appreciation of cutting edge research, technology, treatments, and potential solutions to public health threats and challenges that can improve the lives of people in Qatar.

Commenting on the program and the nomination of the researchers, Sidra Chief Learning Officer, Dr. Kholode Al Obaidli said, "We are very proud to have Dr. Rashid Al Ali and Ahmad Al Shaibi attend the IVLP program and representing Sidra as well as Qatar's research expertise. The selection of two worthy individuals – Dr. Rashid with his distinguished twenty five year career in Information Communications technology (ICT) and biomedical informatics and Ahmad who within just months of joining us has showcased excellence in his field - highlights our commitment to supporting the development of our employees, at all stages of their career journey at Sidra. We wish both of them all the best and are confident of their success. The knowledge they will glean from the program and apply here at Sidra, will further enhance the delivery of the research related healthcare that will ultimately benefit our patients."

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Dr. Rashid Al Ali:

“This program could not have come at a better time. At Sidra, we have achieved notable research milestones leading towards personalized medicine and it is part of our ongoing journey of learning and collaboration to learn from best practice health programs from counterparts the world over. I am looking forward to the knowledge and ideas that will be exchanged and to consider best practice applications at Sidra. I expect that valuable enduring collaborations will be catalyzed through our participation in this important program”

Mr. Ahmad Al Shaibi:

“I would like to thank our senior leadership at Sidra for giving me the opportunity to attend this prestigious program at such an early stage of my career. Such an opportunity comes as a continuation of Sidra’s push for my development, which began all the way back during my years at university as a student sponsored by Sidra. To be among such a group of leaders and visionaries who attended this program is a great honor, and I look forward to bring back what I learn to make it beneficial to my research, to Sidra, and to Qatar as a whole.”

Statement from The U.S. Embassy in Doha, Qatar:

The U.S. Embassy is proud to support the cutting edge research being done by Sidra’s talented cadre of professionals and hopes this unique opportunity to exchange best practices and new ideas with researchers from around the world, will contribute to the health and wellbeing of everyone residing in Qatar.

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About Sidra Medical and Research Center

Sidra Medical and Research Center will be a groundbreaking hospital, research and education institution, focusing on the health and wellbeing of children and women regionally and globally.

Sidra represents the vision of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser who serves as its Chairperson. The high-tech facility will not only provide world-class patient care but also brings substantial scientific expertise and resources that will lead to improving the lives of patients and which will further strengthen Qatar’s translational research ecosystem.

Sidra will be a fully digital facility, incorporating the most advanced information technology applications in all its functions. Designed by renowned architect Cesar Pelli, Sidra features a main hospital building and a separate outpatient clinic.

Sidra opened its Outpatient Clinic on 1 May 2016 and offers outpatient services for women and children through a referral based system in partnership with other healthcare providers in Qatar.

Sidra is also part of a dynamic research and education environment in Qatar and through strong partnerships with leading institutions around the world, Sidra is creating an intellectual ecosystem to help advance scientific discovery through investment in medical research. For more information please visit www.sidra.org.

For any media inquiries, please contact:

Mohamed Erbad
T: (974) 44041941
M: (974) 66662264
E: merbad@sidra.org
The Communications Department
Sidra Medical and Research Center