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# **Message from the President**

### Dear Wolves,

Welcome to the thirteenth issue of our UDST POST.

As we close the vibrant and eventful month of October, I wish to reflect on the remarkable strides we have taken together. This month was monumental for UDST in terms of forging new alliances and strengthening our position on the national and global academic stage.

We have successfully finalized a vast array of partnerships; each carefully chosen to elevate the stature of our university and align us more closely with the world's leading higher education institutions. At UDST, we have a collective vision of becoming a hub for science and technology education and we relentlessly work to achieve what we believe in.

As you go through the pages of the UDST Post you will notice the tireless efforts of our community specifically our faculty with whom we proudly

celebrated World Teachers' Day. Our teachers' dedication and unwavering commitment to excellence are the cornerstones of our students' success. Their innovative teaching techniques and deep passion for education do not just convey knowledge but shape the future of our world.

Let us all take a moment to celebrate our achievements and recognize the efforts of every individual in our community. Together, we are building a legacy of educational excellence, research innovation, and societal impact. As we move forward, let us carry the momentum of this significant month into the rest of the academic year.

Thank you all for your dedication, hard work, and for being an integral part of this journey.

### Dr. Salem Al-Naemi President,

University of Doha for Science and Technology

### ▼ The Highlight



# **UDST hosts a successful international** conference on drug discovery and development



University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) recently hosted the International Conference on in silico Trends and Approaches in Drug Discovery and Development, sponsored by the Qatar National Research Fund, under the Qatar Research Development and Innovation Council. The three-day conference, which took place from the 22nd to the 24th of October, 2023, was an important forum for knowledge exchange among researchers, academics, students, and industry professionals. The event showcased contemporary ideas and tools for in-silico drug discovery and development.

Dr. Salem Al-Naemi, the President of UDST officially opened the conference in the presence of representatives from Qatar Research, Development, and Innovation (QRDI), Sidra Medicine, and with the participation of the World Health Organization (WHO) and many institutions. The conference featured multiple keynote speakers from different parts of the world, each an expert in pharmacology, pharmaceutical sciences, and bioinformatics, covering an array of current topics.

During his opening speech, Dr. Salem Al-Naemi said: "By bringing together diverse expertise in the field of in-silico pharmacology, this conference helps push the boundaries of drug discovery and development research within the context of education. The conference, being hosted at UDST, underscores our commitment to support, and be part of, pivotal scientific discussions and developments, and it also represents the University's integral role in fostering an environment for scientific innovation and dialogue."



"Sponsoring the International Conference on in silico Trends & Approaches in Drug Discovery and Development at UDST is not just an honour, it's a testament to our unwavering commitment to pushing the boundaries of in silico pharmacology and drug discovery & development research and education. This conference signifies a pivotal moment for Qatar, where we consolidate our position as leaders in these critical fields. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all participants for being part of this groundbreaking event, where innovation, education, and inclusivity converge to craft a brighter, more promising future. Your presence exemplifies the collaborative spirit and dedication that fuels our collective pursuit of knowledge and progress." said Dr. Hisham M. Sabir, Executive Director of QNRF Program Office, Qatar Research, Development, and Innovation (QRDI) Council.

### ▼ The Highlight



Dr. Rayana Bou Haka, WHO Representative in the State of Qatar said: "The promising contributions to the global public of pharmacogenomics open new domains for working on scientific innovations while highlighting the importance of networking and knowledge sharing."

On the first day, a welcome reception was held for keynote speakers, hosted by Dr. Rachid Benlamri, the Vice President (VP) of Academic at UDST, followed by a tour of the University, leading to an engaging roundtable discussion on digital health research pillar at UDST, and concluding the day with flash oral talks by participants whose scientific abstracts were accepted. The second day was the conference highlight, featuring talks by invited keynote and plenary speakers, interleaved with poster presentations during the breaks. Included were talks by Dr. Ian Haworth from the University of Southern California, USA, who provided an overview of in silico approaches to research; Dr. Mona Minkara from Northeastern University, USA, who presented insights from molecular dynamics studies to decipher enhanced antiviral activity; Dr Mohammad Asif Khan, Associate Dean at UDST's College of Computing and IT (CCIT) and also the President of the Asia Pacific Bioinformatics Network (APBioNET), who talked about human orthologous peptide sequences and their implications for drug design; Prof. Christopher W. Cunningham from Concordia University, USA, who shared a 10-year study on translating pharmaceutical science into practice; and Dr. Bhumika Patel from Nirma University in India, who discussed an important case study on PARP1 inhibitors; Dr. Pornchai Rojsitthisak from Chulalongkorn University in Thailand, who dissected computational approaches in drug discovery; and Dr. Puthen Veettil Jithesh from Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) in Qatar, who showcased in silico analyses for identification of potential SARS-CoV-2 inhibitors.

The conference witnessed more than 300 individual registrations and featured more than 50 accepted abstracts from different parts of the world, evaluated by the scientific program committee and judged by the distinguished international keynote speakers for the Best Postgraduate Student Presentation, awarded to Noor Abdulla, University of Bahrain and Dana Nizar Mustafa Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar and the Best Researcher Presentation Award given to Shimaa Mohammed Sherif Khedr, Sidra Medicine. In a separate achievement, UDST honored one of its students, Raniah Farooq, from amongst undergraduate students at the College of Health Sciences with the Undergraduate in silico Pharmacology Research Excellence Award.



Attendees navigated complex topics within computational biology, exploring and debating the potentials and challenges of the recent trend, applying artificial intelligence and machine learning to drug discovery. The conference also offered a comprehensive look at the practical and academic implications of in-silico approaches in pharmacology education, providing participants with fresh perspectives and insights. The productive three-day conference provided a solid platform for sharing knowledge and establishing new collaborations, expected to fuel future innovations and studies, as well as research endeavors and partnerships in Qatar, ultimately contributing to the research and development activities of the global scientific community.





University of Doha for Science and Technology recently welcomed a special visit from the Rt. Hon. Nicholas Lyons, the Lord Mayor of the City of London. The visit forged and strengthened ties between UDST and the City of London around their shared commitment to technological and educational advancement, and enabled the University to showcase its innovative approach to education and training specifically around the subjects of banking, fintech, digital communications and cybersecurity.

The delegation included His Excellency Jon Wilks CMG, British Ambassador to the State of Qatar, and other key officials from the British Embassy, Daniel Rathwell, Director of Trade, Investment & UK Export Finance, and Ann-Mhairi Wilson, Senior Commercial Attaché, Investment and Financial Services. The distinguished guests were treated to an exclusive tour of the educational Banking and Fintech Trading Room at UDST's College of Business, followed by a visit to the College of Computing and Information Technology, with special emphasis on its Cybersecurity Lab, Artificial Intelligence (AI) Lab, and the Digital Communication and Media Production (DCMP) Lab.





# **UDST** and Edaa announce landmark collaboration

Edaa, Qatar's Central Securities Depository, announced a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to bolster cooperation between the two institutions. The MoU was signed by Dr. Salem Al-Naemi, President of UDST and Sheikh Saif Abdulla Al-Thani, CEO of Edaa.

As the country's leading university specialized in applied academic, technical, and vocational education, UDST is positioned to play a pivotal role in training the next true standard-setter in the realm of safekeeping, clearing, settlement of securities, derivatives, and several other financial instruments. The MoU serves to bridge the gap between education and workplace, offering unique opportunities to UDST students, whilst enriching the services offered by Edaa. The MoU also serves as a mutual growth and shared learning in several areas, including the facilitation of student internships and work placements at Edaa, enabling UDST students access to real-world exposure.



# **UDST** celebrates **World Teachers' Day**

TEACHERS' 05 DAY OCT. teacher [noun] [tee-cher] a person who inspires, enlightens, motivates, and encourages, possessing the ability to change the world. Thank you teachers

University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) recently held a forward-thinking and successful event on campus to celebrate World Teachers' Day 2023. The occasion featured key participants, Mr. Salah Khaled, Director, UNESCO Doha Office for Gulf States & Yemen, Sheikha Aisha Mubarak Al Thani, Head of the UNESCO Section at the Oatar National Commission for Education. Culture and Science (QNCECS) alongside 20 distinguished educators from the QNCECS and the University's faculty. The program included an interactive presentation and talks focused on important themes: the current global teacher shortage, the UNESCO perspectives in addition to delivering Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in an age of disruption.

The event was a chance for the University to raise awareness of key global issues affecting education, and to recognize the adaptability and creativity of its own teaching staff. The celebration demonstrated a high level of support and appreciation for UDST teaching staff and all educators present at the event. Technology may be reshaping education, but teachers remain as crucial as ever.







## **HR Symposium** spotlights the digital transformation

In an event that marks a significant milestone in the field of Human Resources, University of Doha for Science and Technology recently hosted a symposium themed around the revolutionizing power of human resource transformation in an era of digitalization and artificial intelligence. The symposium brought together a diverse group of industry experts, academics, and students to delve into the future of workplace transformation.

The symposium's agenda was rich with thoughtprovoking topics, starting with a keynote on "Thinking the Future" presented by CIPD and followed by a session on embracing digitalization and AI through sustainable people processes in addition to a dynamic presentation titled "The Future of Workplace Automation" that captured the audience's attention. It offered a deep dive into how automation is not just streamlining processes but also creating new roles and opportunities within the HR domain, encouraging a blend of technology and human touch in future workplaces. One of the symposium's highlights was the "Alumni Talk" and the panel discussion with renowned experts.

The symposium provided an insightful outlook on how digital advancements and AI are reshaping the landscape of human resources, emphasizing the need for current HR professionals to adapt and evolve. The event featured illustrious HR figures from top organizations such as Qatar Science and Technology Park, Qatar Aluminum, Waldorf Astoria, UDST, Qatar Airways, and Power International Holding.

# **UDST becomes CIPD's** first Accredited Program **Provider in Qatar**



University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) hosted an official visit by representatives from the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) to mark the newly formed partnership between the two esteemed organizations. Through the University's partnership with CIPD - the leading professional body for HR and People Development - the Bachelor of Business Administration in Human Resources Management (BBA HRM) Program at UDST is the first ever program in Qatar to be CIPD accredited, and UDST is the first university in Qatar to achieve CIPD's Approved Program Provider status.

The collaboration was celebrated in a ceremony organized by UDST and attended by prominent representatives from both organizations. Officials from CIPD presented a certificate and plaque to Dr. Salem Al-Naemi, President of UDST, to honor the alliance in the presence of the other delegates.

On this occasion, Dr. Salem Al-Naemi said "We are honored and delighted to take this important step as we strive to continuously elevate the standard of education offered by the University. There is constant change in today's workforce and the University is continually evolving to enable students to meet real-world challenges with aptitude."

Mr. Mark Baker, Channel Partner Manager at CIPD, said, "UDST is a pioneering institution in Qatar, focused on delivering world-class applied education. The synergy between UDST and CIPD will set new benchmarks in HR education and fortify Qatar's talent landscape. Our collaboration ensures that UDST students are prepared to navigate the complexity of the Human Resources field with yet another internationally recognized qualification under their belts."



The Student Engagement Department, a division of Student Affairs at UDST, in collaboration with the UDST community and Qatar Charity, have recently demonstrated an extraordinary display of solidarity and generosity through their successful "For Palestine" fundraising event. The UDST community, comprising students, faculty, and staff, came together in an inspiring effort, managing to raise a remarkable sum of QR 46,734 in just a few days.

Particular commendation is due to the group of dedicated Palestinian student volunteers, who played a pivotal role in the event's success. These students organized an informative booth, where they not only shared valuable information about the Palestinian cause but also showcased the rich culture of Palestine.

This fundraising initiative reflects the strong unity and collective strength of the UDST community, especially during challenging times. The success of the event shows a deep commitment highlighted by the significant impact of such communal efforts. For those who wish to donate click **HERE**.









# **UDST Joins EC Council as an Academia Partner to Advance Cybersecurity** Education

University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) has signed an agreement with EC-Council, inventor of the Certified Ethical Hacker Certification (C|EH) and a global leader in cybersecurity training and education to join its Academia program, emphasizing a solid commitment to practical cybersecurity education.

Over the past 20 years, EC-Council has been steadfast in its commitment to building a culture of security by pioneering cutting-edge cybersecurity training and education programs. These programs are pivotal in equipping individuals with the necessary knowledge and skills to safeguard digital landscapes against evolving threats. The cornerstone of EC-Council's endeavors lies in its Academia Program, an innovative initiative designed to bridge the gap between the theoretical realm of academia and the dynamic landscape of practical cybersecurity application.

The program aims to enhance students' readiness for the prevailing cybersecurity challenges encountered by all organizations today by incorporating industrystandard certifications into educational curriculums. The agreement allows UDST to incorporate wellrecognized cybersecurity certifications like the Certified Ethical Hacker (C|EH) and Computer Hacking Forensic Investigator (C|HFI) into its cybersecurity degree program. Students will also be provided with access to EC-Council's educational platforms and resources, ensuring they gain both theoretical knowledge and practical skills.

# **UDST's Diploma in Pharmacy Technology Program Receives Five-Year Accreditation** from CCAPP





University of Doha for Science and Technology has achieved significant milestone in its academic offerings with the Diploma in Pharmacy Technology (Dip. PT) Program being awarded a five-year Accreditation Status by the

Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs (CCAPP). This prestigious accreditation underscores the program's adherence to the highest educational standards.

CCAPP, renowned for setting and maintaining benchmarks for pharmacy and pharmacy technician education, evaluates programs to ensure they meet stringent criteria. The accreditation granted to UDST's program is a testament to its commitment to offering a curriculum that meets international standards and promotes continuous improvement.

The official certificate was presented in a ceremony attended by distinguished members from both UDST and CCAPP. This accreditation is a remarkable achievement for UDST, highlighting the university's dedication to providing high-quality education in the healthcare sector. It assures current and prospective students that the Diploma in Pharmacy Technology Program meets the comprehensive educational standards required for a robust and effective education in pharmacy technology.

# **UDST** at the Health **Literacy Conference**





University of Doha for Science and Technology actively participated in Sidra Medicine's

edition of the Health Literacy Conference. The theme " Connecting the Dots: Factors Associated with Health Literacy" offered a crucial platform for discussion and learning.

Participation in such a prestigious conference enabled attendees from the university, including faculty and students to deeply understand and apply health literacy principles within their professions. The conference focused on empowering healthcare professionals with effective communication skills, delivering health information in an accessible format, and providing tools to overcome health literacy barriers resonated with the attendees.

Key conference objectives included acknowledging factors affecting patient health literacy, discussing these factors' impact on health-seeking behavior, and identifying strategies to improve patient outcomes. Through interactive discussions and showcases, including a booth for the College of Health Sciences at the conference, participants gained valuable insights into UDST's programs and research leading to enhancing health literacy.

This event not only provided a fertile ground for learning and professional development but also aligned perfectly with the University's dedication to fostering wellequipped future healthcare leaders.



# Information session to raise breast cancer awareness



On the occasion of breast cancer awareness month, UDST partnered with West Bay Medicare to conduct a special awareness session. The session, aimed at students, faculty, and staff provided valuable insights into the risks, prevention, early detection, and treatment options related to breast cancer. The engaging discussions emphasized the importance of regular screenings and self-examinations in early detection.

In addition to the informative session, the College of Health Sciences at UDST organized an activity booth. This booth served as an interactive platform where participants could receive more personalized information, ask questions, and engage with health professionals in a more informal setting.

Adding a unique and energetic twist to the event, a Zumba session exclusively for ladies was organized. This fun and invigorating activity promoted physical fitness and fostered a sense of community and support among participants. The choice of Zumba underscored the message that regular exercise is a key component in cancer prevention and overall health.







# **UDST IELTS Office Makes Impactful Participation at IELTS Annual Meeting in Bali**

University of Doha for Science and Technology's IELTS office marked a significant presence at the IELTS Annual Meeting held in Bali, Indonesia. The event, a convergence of experts and professionals in the field of language testing, witnessed active participation from Kholoud Hashem, Head of the Testing Centre, and Niveditha Sundar, IELTS Administrator at UDST.

This year's conference centered around addressing key issues and future developments in the IELTS system. Discussions were geared towards finding efficient ways to introduce new systems, processes, and products, enhancing support for Test Centres in managing change, and understanding the evolving expectations of IELTS candidates and test-using bodies.

A highlight of the meeting was the introduction of the new IELTS platform, IELTS on Computer (IOC), and the implementation of the One-Skill Retake (OSR) system. These advancements are aimed at significantly improving the testing experience for candidates worldwide.

In addition to these developments, the UDST IELTS office was recognized for its participation in the Testing Centre Compliance Group (TCCG). This group, comprising 16 IELTS Administrators from various regions including the Middle East, Africa, the European Union, and the Commonwealth of Independent States, plays a crucial role in ensuring compliance across these regions.





# **UDST** reaches the **Grand Final of Qatar Universities Debate** League

In an impressive display of debating skills and critical thinking, UDST's Debate Club has reached the Grand Final of the British Parliamentary tournament. This achievement marks a significant milestone in the club's history and highlights the depth of debating talent within Qatar. The tournament saw the participation of 40 teams from various academic institutions across the country, involving a total of 81 speakers.

The Grand Final's topic. "In new democracies. This House believes that the state should center the national identity around leaders and iconic figures rather than ideologies," sparked a highly engaging and thought-provoking debate. In the semifinals, the UDST team, comprising debaters Abdelillah Benhalima and Victoria Honoridec, tackled the subject "This House believes that countries should prioritize international cooperation on space exploration and research, rather than pursuing individual national space programs." For this round, UDST collaborated with debaters from Northwestern University on the proposition bench, presenting a united front against teams from Qatar University and DPS Modern Indian School.

This remarkable journey to the final was supported by UDST's Student Engagement team and guided by the club's mentor, Kholoud Hashem, who contributed to the tournament as a judge representing UDST. The university community extends its congratulations to the team and looks forward to their continued success in the upcoming tournament scheduled for January. This milestone is not just a triumph for the debaters but also a proud moment for UDST, showcasing the university's commitment to fostering critical thinking and eloquence among its students.

# **UDST Hosts Inaugural Scientific Breakfast**



The College of Computing and Information Technology (CCIT) hosted its first Scientific Breakfast, a pioneering event that brought together delegates from diverse sectors and industries. Esteemed participants included representatives from DHL Express, Al Jazeera Media Institute, Hamad Medical Corporation, National Cyber Security Agency, Gartner, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, USC School of Cinematic Arts, Commercial Bank of Qatar, Civil Service and Government Development Bureau. Al Jazeera Research Studies, and Microsoft.

The theme of the event, "Digital Transformation in the Al Era," prompted an in-depth discussion among the delegates. Key topics addressed during the breakfast included the ways in which organizations are revising their practices in light of Al developments and whether this is considered a facet of digital transformation.

Moreover, the discussion broadened to consider other technologies that could be instrumental in advancing digital transformation, beyond the scope of Al. Lessons learnt from past Al-based digital transformation experiences were shared, offering valuable insights and reflections. A crucial aspect of the dialogue centered around the impact of the human factor on Al-driven digital transformation, acknowledging the complex interplay between technology and human input.

This event signifies an important step for CCIT in leading conversations on cutting-edge topics, fostering crossindustry collaboration and thought leadership in the rapidly evolving technological landscape.

# **UDST Wins Third Prize** in **UREP** Competition



In a notable achievement for the University's research community, a project led by Dr. Wagdi Alrawagfeh from the College of Computing and Information Technology (CCIT) has been awarded the Third Prize in the 15th Annual Undergraduate Research Experience Program (UREP) Competition - Poster Category.

The winning project, titled "Smart and Efficient Cross Platform App for Waste Collection Using Machine Learning in the State of Qatar," bears the Project ID: UREP27-159-1-041. This innovative research initiative was primarily mentored by Dr. Wagdi Alrawagfeh and was significantly contributed to by students Wasim Ibrahim and AbdulMuksith Rizvi.

This award-winning project focuses on enhancing waste collection processes in Qatar through the integration of machine learning technology in a crossplatform application. It demonstrates a commitment to environmental sustainability and technological advancement in the region.

The achievement in the UREP competition, which annually showcases outstanding research projects by undergraduate students, highlights the University's dedication to fostering research and innovation among its students. The recognition of this project at such a prestigious platform is a testament to the quality and impact of research conducted at the University.





In a remarkable showcase of talent and innovation, students from our local university embarked on an extraordinary journey, commencing with their selection for Huawei's prestigious 2023 Seeds for the Future program held in Qatar. This initiative, famed for its dedication to nurturing the next generation of ICT talents, provided a unique stage for our students to augment their skills in the rapidly evolving tech world.

Cultivating digital talents and young future leaders

### **Cultural Exchange and Learning: A Qatar Experience**

The program was more than a mere educational venture; it fostered an environment where students could dive deep into the realms of Cloud, AI, 5G, and Digital Power, completing four intensive courses. But perhaps more crucially, it was a melting pot of cultures, encouraging interactions among a dynamic group of international students, thereby laying the groundwork for cross-cultural collaboration and shared learning.





### **Dubai's Accelerated MECA Camp: Scaling New Heights**

The journey then steered to the Accelerated MECA Camp in Dubai, where our students, as part of the elite top 7 teams, excelled once again, achieving a top 3 ranking. The camp, a congregation of some of the finest minds in technology and entrepreneurship, proved to be a transformative experience, sharpening their skills and preparing them for future challenges.

### **Tech4Good Competition: A Platform** for Innovative Brilliance

Our students partook in the esteemed Tech4Good competition. Their entry, "TactoBraille: A Touch Away!" emerged as a beacon of innovation among 29 teams from 15 different countries. The project's unique approach and potential impact catapulted the team into the second round, marking a significant milestone in their journey.



### The Innovation Ignition Crown Award

The pinnacle of their journey was reached at the MECA Camp with the conferment of the Innovation Ignition Crown Award. This accolade positioned our team as one of the top 2 out of the 7 competing teams, highlighting "TactoBraille: A Touch Away!" as the most innovative solution with a realistic roadmap and timeline. This achievement, as adjudged by a jury of experts and validated by audience votes, is a resounding endorsement of the project's potential.

Moreover, the event opened doors to promising opportunities, with investment offers and collaborative possibilities flowing in from jury members and seasoned entrepreneurs. This recognition reflects our students' dedication and their relentless pursuit to make a meaningful impact in the tech world.

As they return with experiences, accolades, and opportunities, the journey of these bright young minds is more than a story of success; it's a beacon of hope and inspiration, signaling a brighter future shaped by innovative thinking and collaborative spirit.



The **TECHxperts** team:

Sumaiya Rizwan: Data and Cyber Security - 3<sup>rd</sup> year [Team Leader] Sarra Chouk: Data Science and Artificial Intelligence - 2nd year

Mary Villanueva: Data and Cyber Security - 3rd year

Faraz Chowdhury: Data Science and Artificial Intelligence - 3rd year Sadia Hafez: Data Science and Artificial Intelligence - 4th year

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You are invited to attend the International Symposium on

# (ISAI'2023) Challenges & Opportunities

November 29 - 30, 2023 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Building 1, Dukhan Auditorium, UDST

**CLICK TO REGISTER** 



# SAVE THE DATE

20 November

10:00 am - 2:00 pm & 4:00 - 8:00 pm

21 November

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Multipurpose Hall, UDST

















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