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Sidra Appoints Internationally Renowned Chief Research Advisor

Doha, March 10, 2009

The Sidra Medical and Research Center is pleased to announce the appointment of Professor David Kerr, a cancer expert with an international reputation, as Chief Research Advisor.

At Sidra, Prof. Kerr will help develop a center of biomedical excellence that will benefit the people of Qatar and the health science research community, in collaboration with academic and health partners.

Prior to his appointment, Prof. Kerr was Rhodes Professor of Clinical Pharmacology and Cancer Therapeutics at Oxford University in the UK. He has an international reputation for the treatment of and research into colorectal cancer. Prof. Kerr has also made a significant contribution to reforming the National Health System in the UK in various capacities including Founding Commissioner for Health Improvement and Chair of the National Cancer Services Collaborative. He has established a series of international collaborations to improve the delivery of cancer care in sub-Saharan Africa. He was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences in 2000, an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners in 2007, and was appointed Commander of the British Empire in 2002. Prof. Kerr was recently appointed President-elect of the European Society of Medical Oncology.

Professor Kerr said he was 'delighted to rise to this extraordinary challenge'. He added: "There is a fantastic vision to build a world leading academic medical center, underpinned by world class research. I fully share the values of the Sidra board and I am honoured to play a part in the development of biomedical sciences in Qatar".

Commenting on the appointment, Dr. Fathy Saoud, Vice Chairperson of the Sidra Board of Governors, said: "We are truly delighted to have someone of Professor Kerr's reputation join Sidra. One of Sidra's important missions is biomedical research, and we look forward to working with Professor Kerr as we develop Sidra as an international academic medical center."

Mr. Dan Bergin, Executive Project Director for Sidra, commented that he and the Sidra Implementation team were 'very enthusiastic at the prospect of working with someone of Prof. Kerr's caliber in planning and implementing the visionary research agenda set for Sidra'.

The Sidra Medical and Research Center is one of the first academic medical centers in the Middle East to be designed and built to the best international standards. Sidra will open in 2012, and will provide women's and children's patient care, biomedical research and medical education, in collaboration with Weill Cornell Medical College-Qatar and other international research partners.

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More information:

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