**tad Talks at Qatar University**

The Office of Graduate Studies under the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies will be launching tad Talks as part of the Annual Research Forum planned for April 23rd - 24th, 2019. The graduate event, the first of its kind, provides a platform for showcasing the resilience and perseverance required of graduate students to complete impactful research that addresses global challenges. With nine countries being represented, twelve exceptional graduate students will have ten minutes each to emphasize a particular challenge they had to overcome in their research and what strategies they used to come out on top. Following the individual sessions, tad speakers will participate in a panel where members of the audience will have the opportunity to ask questions. Inspired by the well-known TED Talks, the idea behind tad (thesis and dissertation) Talks is that graduate students play a major role in much of the cutting-edge research being conducted at universities all over the world, and, as such, understanding and sharing their experiences is key to supporting graduate research. tad Talks is an event intended to model to current and incoming graduate students who may doubt whether they are up to the task, that taking on thesis research that directly impacts the community is doable, is highly valued, and is supported at QU.

Joining the brightest graduate researchers from Qatar University, Hamad bin Khalifa University, and Doha Institute are international students from Kuwait, Oman, Turkey, US, Canada, Denmark, Japan, and China. Commenting on the addition of tad Talks as part of the Annual Research Forum, Prof. Mariam Al-Maadeed, Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies at Qatar University, said, “This is an excellent opportunity to discuss the different challenges graduate students face in their research as well as a way to celebrate the outcome of their efforts”. Dr. Ahmed Elzatahry added, “The Research Forum goes from strength to strength every year, and this year is no exception; The Graduate Studies day of the Forum showcases the innovative research being done by QU grad students and provides an opportunity to share the outstanding research of our students with their international peers”.

The visiting group of graduate researchers will be invited for a tour of Qatar University and its Research Centers and facilities prior to the opening of the Annual Research Forum and will have several other opportunities to engage with the QU graduate community over the course of their stay.

With the theme of ‘*Resilience in Research*’ Qatar’s own resilience in the aftermath of the blockade serves as the backdrop for the event, perpetuating the notion that resilience in the pursuit of knowledge can overcome any obstacle. The event will also welcome Mr. Mohammad Al-Mannai as a special guest sharing his exceptional story of resilience as a cross-country rally car driver. For more information on tad Talks or the Annual Research Forum, visit the event website.