

PRESS RELEASE

Nicosia 28/11/11

Qatar supports the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics Ceremony on the occasion of the establishment of a new piece of equipment donated by the Government of Qatar

A ceremony was held today at the Cyprus Institute of Neurology & Genetics on the occasion of the establishment of a new piece of equipment (a tandem mass spectrometer) bought through a donation by the Emir of Qatar, H.H. Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, and his wife, H.H. Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser Al Missned. The ceremony was held in the presence of the Ambassador of Qatar in Cyprus, H.E Mr Mubarak Bin Rahman A. Al-Nasser, and the wife of the President of the Republic, Mrs Elsi Christofias, Patron of the Cyprus Institute of Neurology & Genetics. The donated equipment, which cost 350.000 euros, has been installed in the Department of Biochemical Genetics; it is a state-of-the art technology capable of simultaneously quantitating a large number of molecules in complex biological mixtures. The tandem mass spectrometer will be used for the laboratory investigation of patients suspected of having an inherited metabolic disorder.

The President of the Board of Directors of the CING, Mr Christos Phylactou, thanked the Ambassador of Qatar and especially the Emir of Qatar and his wife for their generous donation. He also thanked Mrs. Christofias for her continued support to the CING, and referred to the Memorandum of Understanding between Cyprus and Qatar, which has already been activated, emphasising that the cooperation between the two countries is very important and that their people will have many benefits, especially in the social and healthcare sectors.

The Ambassador of Qatar stated that the donation is an act of support and solidarity to the people of Cyprus and wished the CING every success in its mission.

The First lady thanked the Ambassador, the Emir of Qatar and his wife, and emphasized that this donation is the beginning for further strengthening the ties between the two countries.

The Head of the Department of Biochemical Genetics, Dr Anthi Drousiotou, expressed her appreciation to the Emir of Qatar and his wife for their generous donation and emphasized that the new equipment will upgrade the services of her department and facilitate the prompt diagnosis of inherited metabolic disorders, which affect mainly infants and young children. She also said that this equipment can be used for expanded neonatal screening to test all newborns in Cyprus.