

UCQ awarded research grant

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Qatari women and breast cancer

By John Gulka

The University of Calgary–Qatar was awarded a research grant of \$1,010,343 USD to study, "Factors that Influence Breast Cancer Screening Practices Amongst Arabic Women Living in the State of Qatar." The project is the brainchild of Dr. Tam Truong Donnelly, an Associate Professor who will be the Lead Principal Investigator.

"I'm very excited and honored that our proposal has been deemed to be valuable and significant enough to get funding that could potentially have a major impact on the health of women living in Qatar," says Donnelly.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women living in Arab countries. Al Amal Hospital in Doha reported that 20 percent of cancer cases receiving treatment in 2007 were breast cancer among women. Data obtained from the Gulf Centre for Cancer Registration for breast cancer incidence from 1988-2002 ranked Qatar as third highest in the Middle East region, just after Bahrain and Kuwait.



Dr. Tam Truong Donnelly

Screening and early detection reduces breast cancer mortality by 35-30 percent. However, the sparse data from Qatar and other countries in the Middle East region suggest that Arabic women do not fully engage in breast cancer screening activities and services.

"What we want to determine is how Arab women view breast cancer screening. The information gathered will be used to formulate an appropriate educational program and health services that will be Qatari-sensitive and Qatari-appropriate to promote screening activity for Arab women," says Donnelly.

"I want to ensure that this project will be successful to give back to the community and the funding body. I am confident we can do that because in order to be successful you need a good team and I have a very good team."

