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# Press Release

## **Qatar National Cancer Society and SAH Global sign Memorandum of Understanding to bring innovative cancer treatment to Qatari patients**

From left to right; Jean-Marc Andral (IBA, President), Jose Benedicto (RHT Partners), Dr. Abdul Azim Hussein (QNCS, Vice Chairman), Feroz Agad (SAH Global, Chairman/CEO), Tariq Shaikh (RHT Partners)



**Dubai, UAE – January 28, 2010** – The Qatar National Cancer Society and SAH Global announced today at **Arab Health 2010** that they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to make the next generation of cancer treatment, **Proton Therapy**, available to cancer patients in Qatar. The agreement, the first of its kind in the Middle East, promises to promote Proton Therapy as the primary treatment for cancer patients in the State of Qatar. Through this agreement, Qatari citizens and residents will gain access to a cutting edge cancer treatment that provides a higher quality of life and fewer side effects to those suffering from cancer.

The Qatar National Cancer Society (QNCS) in junction with SAH Global, with the signing of this agreement, will become pioneers of this treatment in the region. Through the agreement, SAH Global's subsidiary **SAH Care** will coordinate end-to-end treatment through its arrangements with Proton Therapy centers around the world as of second quarter 2010. Consequently, Qatari patients will receive high-quality care and service through all aspects of treatment and travel. Even though waiting time for treatment can exceed 3 months in many cases, Qatari cancer patients will benefit from SAH Care's network of providers to reduce time-to-treatment to a matter of weeks.

"With the signing of the agreement today we have reached a major milestone in the fight against cancer. The QNCS is committed to educating and helping cancer patients in their fight against cancer and this agreement will help us to further our goals and provide a higher quality of life for cancer patients from Qatar," said Dr. Khalid Bin Jabor Al-Thani, Chairman of the Qatar National Cancer Society.

**For Immediate Release**

Feroz Agad, CEO of SAH Global said, “We believe this is the first critical step in creating awareness for this cutting edge and proven technology. We commend Dr. Khalid and the Qatar National Cancer Society for their visionary leadership in working to bring Proton Therapy to the people of Qatar.” SAH Global is in the process of making cutting edge cancer treatments available to the Middle East. Additionally, SAH Global is committed to bringing next generation cancer treatments to the Middle East and is working with RHT Partners and other advisors to review the opportunity to build an initial flagship Proton Therapy center in the region. SAH Global plans to build a network of Proton Centers in the Middle East in order to better serve the growing number of cancer patients. SAH’s commitment to education will ensure that the Middle East will not only serve as an avenue for treatment, but also as a center for research and development in the fight against cancer.

Proton Therapy was pioneered in the United States 30 years ago and to date has been used for treatment on over 60,000 patients. Proton Therapy treatment uses protons, the positively charged particles in the nucleus of an atom. The power of protons allows higher doses of radiation to be used to control and manage cancer while *significantly reducing* damage to healthy tissue and vital organs. The result is a higher quality of life and higher success rate than is currently offered by traditional radiation therapy.

The population in the Gulf region is growing at an estimated 15% per year, and the total population in the region is expected to reach 520 million by the year 2030. It is estimated that 65% of the population of the Middle East is under the age of 30.<sup>1</sup> Additionally; in recent years the increasing expatriate population has sparked great demand for more advanced health care in the region. It is estimated that there are 250,000 cancer cases reported annually in the Middle East region. It is further estimated that cancer kills 145,000 people annually in the Middle East – a nearly 60% mortality ratio.<sup>2</sup>

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### About the Qatar National Cancer Society

The **Qatar National Cancer Society** is a national society whose main objective is to control cancer disease through public awareness, to contribute in cleaning the environment, and to cooperate with the health authorities via various media, conferences, lectures, and research studies. The society was formed in 1997 under the Patronage of his highness **Sh. Jassim Bin Hamad Al Thani**, honorary president of the Qatar National Cancer Society and the chairman is **Dr. Khalid Bin Jabor Al Thani**.

The main purpose of the society lies in the fact that almost 70% of cancer can be avoided and controlled by using preventative measures, but nevertheless as many citizens and residents die every year as a result of this hazardous disease.

### About RHT Partners

**RHT Partners** is a leading independent investment management firm that brings together top caliber investment management professionals, entrepreneurs, and prominent financial stakeholders from Europe, the Middle East and the US in a firm dedicated to creating value through carefully considered investments in selected industry segments.

For more information please visit [www.rhtpartners.com](http://www.rhtpartners.com)

### About SAH Global

**SAH Global's** vision is committed to the introduction of Proton Therapy as one of the primary solutions for cancer treatment in the Middle East and around the World. SAH Global believes in building a strong sustainable society, and as such, will leverage the success of its global ventures to make long-term contributions to the community, promote the growth of their employees, and help create a greener environment.

**SAH Care**, a subsidiary of SAH Global, was formed to fill a niche-underserved market. SAH Care is committed to providing Proton Therapy treatment through its innovative medical tourism approach. By establishing a network of Proton Therapy providers around the world, SAH Care is able to provide Proton Therapy treatment to patients from anywhere in the world.

For more information about SAH Global, SAH Care, and Proton Therapy please contact:

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.brookings.edu/speeches/2008/0522\\_middle\\_east\\_youth\\_dhillon.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/speeches/2008/0522_middle_east_youth_dhillon.aspx)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.cancer.org/docroot/AA/content/AA\\_2\\_5\\_8x\\_Africa\\_and\\_Middle\\_East.asp](http://www.cancer.org/docroot/AA/content/AA_2_5_8x_Africa_and_Middle_East.asp)