Stem cell treatment success enhances UAE's stature as a research destination, says TRENDS DG

Dr. Mohamed Abdullah Al-Ali, Director-General of TRENDS Research & Advisory, says the UAE recognizes the importance of building a knowledge-based society

The success of the Abu Dhabi Stem Cell Center (ADSCC) in developing a Covid-19 treatment using stem cells is a unique achievement and has global dimensions. It has enhanced the UAE’s position among countries with noticeable advancement in medicine and scientific research. The success also proves that the country’s investment in its healthcare sector in recent years is the outcome of a robust strategic vision that believes in the importance of scientific research and its central role in the advancement of nations and their people.

This groundbreaking achievement in the field of medicine is the result of fruitful cooperation between ADSCC and several universities and medical research centers. It embodies the philosophy of teamwork embraced by the UAE, which has been the cornerstone of all its achievements across various fields. ADSCC’s success inspires confidence and optimism about other similar innovations in the pipeline that can support global efforts to find a cure for this virus. It will also contribute to other areas of research around the world.

Besides the UAE extending its generous hands to many countries, by providing medical and humanitarian assistance to help them tackle Covid-19, it is now contributing to the enhancement of research activities led by numerous laboratories and medical research centers around the world determined to find treatment for Covid-19. These endeavors stem from the UAE’s belief that international cooperation, especially in scientific and medical research, is the primary path to fighting this pandemic whose victims across the world are increasing by the hour.
The UAE, under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, is known for its strategic planning and preparing for the future. The successes achieved by the UAE, including the development of this stem cell treatment, have been the result of well-thought initiatives, most notably the launch of the UAE Platform for Scientific Laboratories (Open Labs) in 2018, which linked the UAE laboratories to scientists and experts. The project supported researchers and academics and helped them in developing the country’s technological capabilities. The launch of the National Advanced Sciences Agenda 2031, to utilize advanced sciences for finding solutions to future challenges, was another step in this direction.

With this new achievement, the UAE has sent a message ray of hope and optimism to the Arab and Muslim people assuring them that they can contribute to human civilization. This is not the first achievement of its kind and is preceded by the “Hope Probe” mission, which has moved from the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Center in Dubai to its station on Tanegashima Island in Japan in preparation for its launch in July. Such highly advanced achievements had been an arena exclusive for the developed countries but now the UAE has become capable of competing in these areas and contributing to human advancement.

For several years, the UAE has recognized the importance of building a knowledge-based society as it is the real path to the future in a world where knowledge of science is the true wealth of countries and the main criterion for progress. The UAE has invested in education and scientific research with this in mind, nurturing the talented national workforce and providing them with higher education opportunities in the most prestigious universities in the world. The UAE has succeeded in attracting the most important foreign universities to establish its branches in the country and now stands among those with advanced education and scientific research programs.

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