***Press release***

**Aspetar Re-Accredited as IOC Research Centre Until 2026**

**Aspetar is one of just 11 exclusive IOC-recognised research centres in the world, and one of very few organisations to be accredited by FIFA, IOC, AFC, and other global sports entities.**

Doha: 30th October 2022

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced in a statement issued that Aspetar, orthopaedic and sports medicine hospital, has been re-accredited within the network of Research Centres for the next 4 years. IOC nominated Aspetar as one of the few hospitals in the world to be a Research Centre for the Prevention of Injury and Protection of Athlete Health for the third time in a row since their initial inspection in 2014.

Guided by its Medical and Scientific Commission, the IOC has reaffirmed its commitment to protecting athletes’ health by naming just 11 specialist organisations around the world as IOC Research Centres for 2023-2026, continuing a highly successful initiative that launched in 2009.

As an IOC Research Centre for 2023-2026, Aspetar will work to research, develop, and implement effective preventive and treatment methods for sports-related injuries and illnesses.

**Professor Uğur Erdener, Chair of the IOC Medical and Scientific Commission**, welcomed the announcement of the new IOC Research Centres: *“I am delighted that we will once more be working with many of the world’s leading experts in sports medicine through these partnerships.”*

He continued: *“These 11 IOC Research Centres are conducting vital research into athletes’ health and the prevention of sports injuries. The IOC’s desire to keep athletes at the heart of the Olympic Movement includes a robust commitment to athlete welfare, and we look forward to partnering with these Centres as they explore new ways to prevent injury in athletes.”*

**Mr Mohammed Khalifa Al Suwaidi, Director General of Aspetar**, expressed: *"This renewed recognition by the International Olympic Committee confirms Aspetar's excellence in the scientific and research field in parallel with its successes in the medical field and even settles the hospital's continuation of the approach it has outlined in providing distinguished and quality medical services to the elite athletes, we are proud of the trust that Aspetar has gained from major sports bodies, which strengthens Aspetar's leadership position."*

Aspetar is the only Research Centre in the MENA region nominated by IOC, and one of only two Asian medical centres to be amongst the 11 IOC Research Centres worldwide, joining other Centres from Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Korea, Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, UK, and the USA.

Commenting about the achievement, **Dr Abdulaziz Jaham al Kuwari, Aspetar CEO**, said: *“Through this scientific collaboration, Aspetar as one of the leading centres in sports medicine and sports science continues to work closely with IOC. Aspetar has established a leading programme to protect athletes' health and prevent injuries and illnesses in sports and the IOC promotes injury and disease prevention and the improvement of athletes’ physical and mental health. As such, we are delighted to gain the trust of the biggest sports institutions in the world, which motivates us more to work for the benefit of athletes and sports worldwide.”*

The IOC has long supported the work of established Research Centres that have demonstrated research, and educational and clinical expertise in elite sports. Since 2014 Aspetar has worked in partnership with IOC, supporting research in sports medicine while simultaneously building an international network of expert scientists and clinicians in sports injury and illness prevention research.

Aspetar has a recognised track record in screening athletes and is pursuing an ambitious research programme including their Sports Cardiology project, a programme entirely dedicated to injury prevention, and numerous studies on environmental factors affecting athletes’ health and performance (e.g. exercising in the heat). Through the National Sports Medicine Programme, Aspetar provides care to all athletes in Qatar, offering unique opportunities for research on and implementation of prevention initiatives.

-ENDS-

**About Aspetar:**

Aspetar is a world leading specialised orthopaedic and sports medicine hospital, and the first of its kind in the Middle East. Since 2007, with a world expert team, the hospital has provided top-level comprehensive medical treatment to all athletes in a state-of-the-art facility that sets new standards internationally.

In 2009, Aspetar was accredited as a “FIFA Medical Centre of Excellence” by F-MARC. In 2013, Aspetar was adopted as a reference collaborator centre by the Gulf Countries Council (GCC) Health Ministers Council and “IOC Research Centre for Prevention of Injury and Protection of Athlete Health” in 2014.

In 2015, Aspetar has been recognised as the “IHF Reference Centre for Athlete and Referee Health”. In the same year, the hospital also achieved the obtained-on December 15 the Accreditation Canada International (ACI) “Platinum Level”. In 2018, Aspetar was also awarded the Diamond Level Status.

Aspetar is a member–organisation of Aspire Zone Foundation, Qatar’s innovative sports and healthy lifestyle destination.

**For more information: please contact**

**Lyes Fodil**
PR and Media Relations Section
Mobile: +97455543390
Office: +974 444132112
Lyes.fodil@aspetar.com
[www.aspetar.com](http://www.aspetar.com)
Twitter: @Aspetar
Facebook.com/Aspetar