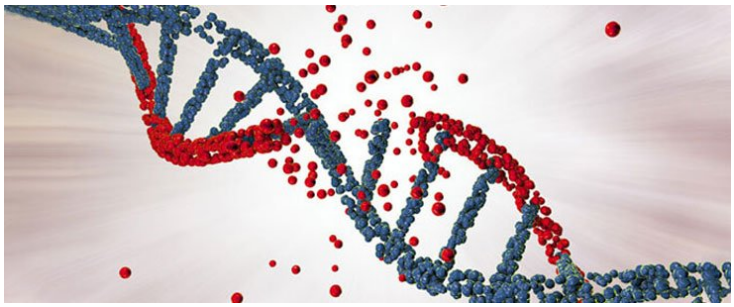
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UAE to launch rare disease R&D project Ã¢â?¬Ë?NADER' in partnership with US

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Intended to span multiple phases, starting from mapping rare diseases in the UAE and wider region



Burjeel Holdings, one of the largest healthcare providers in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, and US-based BridgeBio Pharma, Inc., a commercial-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on genetic diseases and cancers, have announced a new project to revolutionise the field of early diagnosis and treatment of rare diseases or disorders in the UAE and the region.

The two entities signed a preliminary, non-binding Collaboration Agreement establishing a mutual intention to work together on project 'NADER' (Needs Assessment and Therapeutics Development for Rare Diseases – 'nader' meaning 'rare' in Arabic).

The partnership will launch operations in Abu Dhabi to conduct clinical trials and research, leveraging the Emirate's advanced infrastructure for innovation and life science.

In the first phase of project 'NADER', the two entities intend to utilise innovative risk assessment algorithms that will be deployed through the healthcare provider's secure internal data to identify patients at risk for specific rare diseases.

Expectations for future phases of the project include analyses of vast amounts of data to identify patterns and markers associated with the diseases and generate personalised risk scores for patients, followed by genetic testing to confirm the diagnosis of identified potential patients.

The project also aims to run awareness campaigns and education activities about such rare diseases, to further support the mapping activity and encourage local collaborations from other healthcare providers. Burjeel Holdings will deploy the project across its widespread hospitals and medical centers across the UAE as part of routine diagnostic care, with plans to expand the project through its growing healthcare infrastructure in the region. Local partnerships will also be sought to facilitate wider implementation.