

Dr. Hajar Ahmed Hajar Albinali is a cardiologist, a poet, and public health official. As a child living in a society without modern medicine, he was inspired to pursue medicine after a physician came to treat patients in his village and he became specifically interested in cardiology because his mother complained of palpitations. After finishing high school, he earned a government scholarship to study in the United States. He earned his MD from the University of Colorado's School of Medicine in 1973 after earning his bachelors from the University of Colorado Boulder in 1969.

After his internship in Kansas City, medical residency, and cardiology fellowship in Portland, he returned home to Qatar in 1978. He achieved his childhood wish to be a cardiologist, and established cardiology service with a coronary care unit, a cardiac catheterization laboratory and cardiac surgery, and finally a state of the art cardiac hospital in Qatar. Appointed Minister of Public Health in 1999, Dr. Albinali led anti-smoking campaigns that were recognized and awarded by the World Health Organization twice, in 1992 and 2003. In 1993, the WHO further recognized his medical service in Qatar. In 2009, Dr. Albinali received the Qatar State award for Medicine. Then, in 2015, he was awarded with the distinction award from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) for Excellence in the field of health. He worked to further modernize the Qatari health system, including digitizing the medical record system and creating the world's longest cardiac disease database. A poet himself, he has also wedded his love of the written word with his medical expertise, publishing several poetry books and books analyzing Arab poet's medical issues through studies of their poetry.