Inspired by the heritage of Islamic arts and science, the WCMC-Q building features geometric decorative detail.
The year under review saw important progress in all three parts of our triple mission – education, patient care and research – as we worked in close cooperation with Qatar Foundation, the National Health Authority and Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC).

Numbers of faculty and students increased significantly, with medical faculty growing strongly and student numbers reaching 130. WCMC-Q's students continued to set an impressive record of community involvement: Most notably, one group volunteered overseas for the first time.

A highlight of the year was the inaugural Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani Lecture, delivered in December in the presence of Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Missned, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation, by Dr. Ronald Crystal, professor and Chairman of the Department of Genetic Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City.

Fall 2005 saw the first official visit to WCMC-Q by leaders of the Cornell University Weill Medical College Alumni Association. President of the Association, Dr. Kenneth Swan ’60, and Vice President, Dr. Gene Resnick ’74, met with the medical students to explain the work of the Association and explore ways to keep open the lines of communication with them. In addition, they took the opportunity to discuss career options with the young physicians-in-training. Accompanying them were Larry Schafer, Vice President and Vice Provost of Development at NewYork-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center, and Adee Shepen, Director of Alumni Relations and Giving at Weill Cornell in New York City.

A further notable “first” for the Medical College was the Education Retreat held in May, to become an annual event thereafter. This provided faculty with an opportunity to gather and review the progress we had made and consider possible changes to enhance the learning experience for students going forward. It proved a stimulating and beneficial experience. Among the recommendations was an expansion of the pre-medical curriculum, and increased interaction between the Pre-medical and Medical Programs.
Progress in education
We were delighted to welcome 18 students in the Class of 2009 to the Medical Program in September. The entering pre-medical class hit a four-year high, with 57 students; for the first time since the Medical College opened in 2002, males outnumbered females.

Rollout of the first two years of the Medical Program, covering the basic sciences, was completed in April. The impressive progress of the Class of 2008 was confirmed both by their performance in Weill Cornell’s pre-clinical courses and by the outstanding scores they achieved in the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 1.

Written by all graduates of U.S. medical schools, the USMLE provides an external, nationwide reference against which to measure our students. The 16-member Inaugural Class achieved results that demonstrated their stellar academic caliber and the excellent quality of teaching by Weill Cornell faculty.

Working closely with HMC
Preparations proceeded for the Clinical Clerkships, ahead of their start in July 2006, with considerable support from the leadership of HMC. The number of Weill Cornell-appointed faculty members at HMC rose from 19 to 22 during the year, a figure that was set to increase significantly, with more than 100 appointments under way at the end of the year in review.

Faculty and staff worked closely with HMC’s Department of Medical Education led by Acting Director, Dr. Abdul Latif Al Khal, in a number of areas. The Corporation generously prepared customized lounges for use by our medical students and by residents in the Hamad General and Women’s Hospitals. Access – including remote access – to WCMC-Q’s library resources was provided for the HMC community. In addition, senior faculty visited from Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City to collaborate on the evolution of the residency programs in the Corporation’s hospitals.
Lecture named for His Highness the Emir of Qatar

The first Hamad Bin Khalifa Lecture was delivered at WCMC-Q in December. Named for His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar, the lecture is to be given every year by an outstanding physician or scientist who has made a significant contribution to the field of biomedical research.

The 2006 Lecture, given by Dr. Ronald Crystal and entitled *Genetic Medicines: Therapies for the Twenty-first Century*, focused on his investigation into the use of genes to prevent and treat human diseases. Gene therapy and stem cell research make up the backbone of the genetic and molecular medicine research strategy proposed for WCMC-Q.

Building cooperation in the field of research

Dr. Crystal is also the leader of one of two groundbreaking joint research projects between Weill Cornell in New York City and Qatar, and Hamad Medical Corporation, launched in 2006; his research focuses on gene expression and lung disease. The second project, into the impact of diabetes and cardiovascular risk factors on acute myocardial infarction and on acute stroke, is led by Dr. Mark Callahan, associate professor of medicine and public health at the Medical College in New York.

Among the most exciting developments in the field of research during the year was a Roundtable held at WCMC-Q in February. Senior officials from Qatar Foundation, the National Health Authority, Hamad Medical Corporation, the Sidra Medical and
Research Center and Weill Cornell Medical College in New York and Qatar met to discuss the future biomedical research program for Qatar.

One outcome was the development of a Research Proposal outlining a strategy to help build the future research capacity of the country, focusing on the areas that were identified as of most concern to Qatar: genetic and molecular medicine, and women’s and children’s health.

It is envisaged that biomedical research in Qatar will take the form of “one program in multiple institutions.” In the initial phase, it will be carried out in HMC and WCMC-Q. Research will be concentrated at HMC and will have both translational and clinical orientation, while basic research will take place primarily at WCMC-Q. Once Qatar Foundation’s Sidra Medical and Research Center opens, in late 2010, it will have a central role in the program. Supported by research faculty at Cornell in Ithaca and at Weill Cornell in New York City, faculty and staff of WCMC-Q worked on drawing up a comprehensive series of research projects during the year, ahead of submission of the proposed Research Program to Qatar Foundation in fall 2006. Work also continued on formation of future institutional review boards (IRBs) for WCMC-Q and HMC, covering clinical research.

Looking ahead

The pace of work in all areas of WCMC-Q’s triple mission is set to increase over the coming period. Now that we have moved into the clinical phase of the curriculum, we are working on plans for residency training for the young graduates of WCMC-Q from 2008. Cooperation with HMC on the provision of residencies and on accreditation of its facilities and training programs continues. The future research program is actively under development, under the leadership of Dr. Javaid Sheikh, WCMC-Q Vice Dean for Research designate.

In all of these areas, we depend on faculty and staff members in both Doha and New York City, and in our partner institutions, to achieve our goals. Their unstinting efforts and dedication are essential to our purpose, and for these we owe them our gratitude and thanks.

Daniel R. Alonso, M.D.
Dean
Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar
The Joint Advisory Board of WCMC-Q comprises four members appointed by Cornell University, four members appointed by Qatar Foundation and three additional, external members jointly appointed by Cornell and Qatar Foundation. Mr. Sanford I. Weill, Chairman of the Board of Overseers of Weill Cornell Medical College, the Dean and Vice Dean of WCMC-Q, and Dr. Abdulla A. Al-Thani are non-voting ex officio members.

**Qatar Foundation Representatives:**

- **H.E. Hajar A. Hajar Al-Binali, M.D.**
  Co-Chair
  Minister & Advisor on Public Health Affairs to H.H. the Emir
  Board Member, Qatar Foundation for Education, Science & Community Development

- **Sheikha Al-Misnad, Ph.D.**
  President, Qatar University
  Board Member, Qatar Foundation for Education, Science & Community Development

- **H.E. Ghalia Bint Mohammed Al-Thani, M.D.**
  Chairperson
  Board of Directors, National Health Authority

- **Mohammad Fathy Saoud, Ph.D.**
  Board Member and Higher Education Advisor
  Qatar Foundation for Education, Science & Community Development

**Cornell University Representatives:**

- **Antonio M. Gotto, Jr., M.D., D.Phil.**
  Co-Chair
  Provost for Medical Affairs and Dean
  Weill Cornell Medical College

- **Mrs. Barbara B. Friedman**
  Vice Chair, Board of Overseers
  Weill Cornell Medical College

- **James J. Mingle, Esq.**
  University Counsel and Secretary of the Corporation
  Cornell University

- **Mr. Steven P. Rosalie**
  Associate Provost for International Initiatives & Executive Vice Dean
  Weill Cornell Medical College

**Independent Representatives:**

- **John A. Cairns, M.D., F.R.C.P.C.**
  Faculty of Medicine
  University of British Columbia

- **Jordan J. Cohen, M.D.**
  President Emeritus
  Association of American Medical Colleges

- **Sir Christopher Paine, D.M., F.R.C.P.**
  Former President
  British Medical Association

**Ex-Officio Members:**

- **Daniel R. Alonso, M.D.**
  Dean
  Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar

- **Abdulla A. Al-Thani, Ph.D.**
  Vice President - Education
  Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development

- **Ms. Havva S. Idriss**
  Vice Dean, Administration
  Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar

- **Mr. Sanford I. Weill**
  Chairman, Board of Overseers
  Weill Cornell Medical College

Absent from the picture: Mrs. Barbara B. Friedman.
The year July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006 saw significant progress in delivery of the Medical Program, with completion of the rollout of the two-year pre-clinical curriculum. At the same time, intensive preparations for the third year Clinical Clerkships proceeded through the year. The clerkships began in July 2006.

Among highlights of the year was the first Education Retreat for faculty and senior administrators, held by the Medical College in May. In addition, WCMC-Q faculty and senior staff participated in a number of meetings and conferences in Qatar. They included IQ 2006, the Founding Conference for Expatriate Arab Scientists; and the second of Qatar Foundation’s Innovations in Education series, which focused on Technology, Empowerment and Education.

Outside Qatar, leaders of the Medical College attended the annual meeting of the Association of American Medical Colleges in Washington, D.C., where WCMC-Q’s unique model for international medical education was the subject of a presentation in the Innovations in Medical Education exhibition.

Outreach activities organized by faculty, and community service activities by students, increased significantly in this period.

The second year of the Medical Program, comprising the Brain and Mind and Basis of Disease courses, was successfully delivered at WCMC-Q for the first time this year. In addition, faculty and staff forged ahead with intensive preparations for the third year Clinical Clerkships.

Medical Education

The year July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006 saw significant progress in delivery of the Medical Program, with completion of the rollout of the two-year pre-clinical curriculum. At the same time, intensive preparations for the third year Clinical Clerkships proceeded through the year. The clerkships began in July 2006.

Among highlights of the year was the first Education Retreat for faculty and senior administrators, held by the Medical College in May. In addition, WCMC-Q faculty and senior staff participated in a number of meetings and conferences in Qatar. They included IQ 2006, the Founding Conference for Expatriate Arab Scientists; and the second of Qatar Foundation’s Innovations in Education series, which focused on Technology, Empowerment and Education.

Outside Qatar, leaders of the Medical College attended the annual meeting of the Association of American Medical Colleges in Washington, D.C., where WCMC-Q’s unique model for international medical education was the subject of a presentation in the Innovations in Medical Education exhibition.

Outreach activities organized by faculty, and community service activities by students, increased significantly in this period.

Implementation of the second year curriculum

Two courses form the core of the second year basic science curriculum: Brain and Mind (11 weeks), and Basis of Disease (16 weeks).

They comprise lectures, problem-based learning (PBL) tutorials, journal clubs and small group conferences with important laboratory and clinical components. Considerable administrative coordination was required on both the Doha and the New York City sides to ensure smooth delivery of the courses.

While faculty resident in Qatar taught a proportion of the sessions, visiting clinical faculty travelled from Weill Cornell Medical College in the U.S. to teach in each course. During the year, a total of 26 faculty from Weill Cornell visited WCMC-Q to participate in the first and second years of the Medical Program, with each one spending between one week and 10 days in Doha.

In addition, some teaching took place via e-Learning technology, a system well-established during the first year of implementation of the Medical Program.

Patient-based learning activities, including physical diagnosis, neurology and psychopathology, occurred under the supervision of WCMC-Q full-time faculty and voluntary Weill Cornell faculty at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC).

The Class of 2008 maintained the excellent
Twenty-four standardized patients were trained during the year to help students in the Medicine, Patients and Society II course. Here, a medical student performs a physical exam after taking a full patient interview.
A system well-established in the first year of the Medical Program, teaching via e-Learning technology helped deliver a portion of the second year medical curriculum. Here, students in Doha have a videoconference with Weill Cornell faculty in New York: Dr. Powers Peterson, WCMC-Q associate professor of pathology, and Dr. David Levine, New York assistant professor of orthopaedic surgery.

record of academic achievement they established during the first year of the Medical Program. This impressive demonstration of knowledge of the basic sciences was confirmed by the outstanding performance of the class in the USMLE Step 1 exams, which they wrote in May.

All 16 members of the class passed the exam; five of the students achieved scores of 99, 11 of the 16 scored 92 and above, and 13 surpassed the USMLE mean for U.S. and Canadian medical schools.

The year-long Medicine, Patients and Society II (MPS II) course focused on instruction and practice in the complete physical examination, both at HMC and using standardized patients in WCMC-Q’s Clinical Skills Center (CSC). It included a full patient interview and physical examination in February, similar to the experience of the medical students at Weill Cornell in New York City.

At HMC students were paired with preceptors (physicians holding Weill Cornell faculty appointments). They spent one day a week over a period of 12 consecutive weeks learning how to do a complete physical exam on patients. They were evaluated and graded by the HMC preceptors on their clinical knowledge, procedural skills and communication skills.

In April, class members had their first experience of multi-station objective structured clinical examinations (OSCEs). This required them to carry out a series of focused interviews and physical examinations of much shorter duration than the full OSCE.

Under the supervision of Dr. Monica Bishop, Director of the CSC, 24 recruits from the expatriate community were trained during the year as standardized patients. In addition, the facility was renovated in summer 2005, to incorporate advances in practice and technology since it was first designed five years earlier.

The year saw the arrival of new equipment to enhance the teaching of clinical skills, including “Harvey”, a cardio-respiratory simulated mannequin, and wireless stethoscopes.

Entry of the second medical class
The Class of 2009 comprised 18 students, representing a 12 percent increase in numbers over the preceding year. Two members of the class were external applicants with undergraduate degrees from the American University in Cairo, of whom one had carried out additional graduate work in the U.S.

The White Coat Ceremony, held at the Medical College on September 7, included a reading of a revised form of the Hippocratic Oath. This updated version was drafted following roundtable discussions by videoconferencing between Weill Cornell faculty and students in New York City and Doha.
Increase in faculty numbers
Numbers of medical faculty resident in Doha increased during the year, from 17 to 25. Among clinical faculty, appointments were made in the departments of medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, and psychiatry (sessional). In the basic sciences, appointments were in genetic medicine, microbiology and immunology, pathology and laboratory medicine, and physiology and biophysics.

Applications from HMC physicians for appointments as Weill Cornell faculty also increased significantly. (See Patient Care section, page 17).

Preparations for third-year Clinical Clerkships
The Medical Program moved into the clinical phase in summer 2006, with the start of the Introductory Clerkship in June followed by the first two (of a total of nine) core Clinical Clerkships in July.

The process was coordinated by Dr. Nounou Taleghani, assistant professor of medicine, who was appointed Associate Dean for Clinical Curriculum in May 2006, and the Department of Medical Education at HMC, under the leadership of Dr. Abdul Latif Al Khal, Acting Director, and Dr. Ismail Helmi, Assistant Dean of Medical Education.

Each clerkship is directed by a full-time Weill Cornell faculty member, recruited for this purpose, and taught by attending physicians of HMC, who are also members of faculty.

During the year, the following faculty were recruited to also serve as Clerkship Directors: Dr. Nady E. Nady-Mohamed (Obstetrics and Gynecology); Dr. Nasir Hussain (Medicine); Dr. Marcellina Mian (Pediatrics). In addition, Dr. Amal Khidir joined the Medical College as Associate Clerkship Director for Pediatrics, effective July 1, 2006.

In preparation for the start of the clinical curriculum at HMC, several student-related facilities were commissioned during 2005-2006. They included an Education Center on hospital grounds, containing classrooms, a library/reading room, and faculty and student space. The Center is due for completion in 2006-2007.

In addition, five lounges within the hospital were remodelled, outfitted with new furniture and
Training of medical interpreters
During the year, a first group of medical interpreters was trained at WCMC-Q by the Seattle-based Cross Cultural Health Care Program (CCHCP).

Twenty-five people attended the 40-hour course, titled *Bridging the Gap*, which prepared them to work as translators and interpreters between medical students and patients in HMC hospitals and clinics.

All the trainees were fluent in English and one of four other languages: Arabic, Hindi, Tamil or Urdu. The first professional medical interpreters to be trained in Qatar, they achieved excellent results.

It is expected that a significant proportion of them will be supporting our students as they work with patients during their clerkships at HMC.

Developments in information services
During the year, important steps were taken to extend the services of the Distributed eLibrary to HMC personnel. Members of the HMC medical
staff appointed as Weill Cornell faculty were given remote access to the library. This added over 4,000 e-journals, 2,500 e-books, 150 databases, and 4,500 print books and audio-visual publications to the resources at their disposal.

In addition, in collaboration with Hamad Health Services Library, the Distributed eLibrary began offering delivery of books and articles from its own collection or from those of its international partners to HMC personnel through interlibrary loans.

In a further development, the process of merging the catalogues of the HMC and WCMC-Q libraries was under way during the year.

Following work by information technology and library staff in summer 2005, new website architecture came on-stream allowing for easier maintenance of resource URLs and descriptions with regard to currency and consistency. Among the features built into this project was a choice of ways to search database lists. The team also incorporated RSS* feeds into the Website to provide rapid response course support content.

Information services staff continued to work closely with a number of faculty members to enhance students’ learning experience. For example, they undertook a successful pilot project to expand students’ knowledge of resources and scholarly communication, in support of the journal club component of the first-year Human Structure and Function course.

The year saw significant improvement in the speed with which staff members were able to respond to requests for documents, thanks to the implementation of the ILLiad management system. This allows library staff to manage all the library’s borrowing, lending and document delivery through a single interface.

Although article requests rose from the hundreds to the thousands, delivery of almost 75 percent of the materials requested was achieved within 48 hours.

**Pre-medical Education**

The First Year Writing Seminars, offered for the first time in the academic year 2004-2005, were further developed during the year.

As part of this initiative, students were allowed to choose their course topic and all were successful in obtaining their first or second choice. In addition, a wider range of topics was offered, extending from ecology to literature to philosophy. This proved to be a most rewarding experience for the faculty, as for the students who enjoyed the diversion from purely science subjects.

Information services staff provided reference and instruction to all of the Writing Seminars, and set

---

* RSS stands for Really Simple Syndication, a method to access news or information Websites.
Group work continues to be an important element of the Pre-medical Program at WCMC-Q. Here students in the Class of 2011 are seen working together in the lab. Pre-medical students got to choose from a wide range of topics in the Writing Seminars course for the first time this year. Here, professor of English Mary Ann Rishel takes one such class.

Outreach
University education is never provided in isolation, and WCMC-Q’s pre-medical faculty are keen to interact with colleagues in other educational institutions, at high school as well as university level. To this end, a number of meetings and activities were organized with Qatar University and several local high schools.

i) Laboratory teaching is an important ingredient in science education since it leads to an understanding of how scientific knowledge is generated. A number of meetings were held in cooperation with faculty of Qatar University to examine the use of modern technology in the development of new laboratory exercises. These activities were greatly supported by the state-of-the-art facilities and technology of WCMC-Q.

ii) Open Houses for high school students were inaugurated, with invitations to 11th and 12th graders, teachers and parents for weekend visits to the Medical College on four occasions in March and April. Students from seven schools attended the events.

The idea behind organizing the Open Houses was to inform visitors about the programs offered by WCMC-Q, to give an insight into what it is like to study at the Medical College and to enhance their understanding of careers in medicine.

There were opportunities to meet with faculty, tour the facilities, and attend lecture and laboratory sessions. In addition, admissions staff, faculty, current students, and physicians from HMC were available to answer visitors’ questions.
Reaction to the Open Houses was positive, with participants reporting that they left the events with a better understanding of the medical education process and of WCMC-Q.

**Education Retreat**

The first Education Retreat for WCMC-Q, held in May, provided pre-medical and medical faculty, and key members of the administration and staff involved in the educational programs, with an opportunity to review the implementation and delivery of the two programs since the Medical College opened in 2002.

Among the recommendations arising from the two-day meeting was the extension of the two-year Pre-medical Program to an optional three-year program.

Most students enrolled in WCMC-Q have comparable academic skills, but different educational backgrounds. Many of them have been well prepared both in mathematics and science, and are able to meet the challenge of the material. However, a gentler pace might benefit those that are less well prepared.

As the two-year curriculum is almost wholly devoted to the scientific disciplines, it allows only limited access to courses in the humanities. In addition, the absence of electives means that it is entirely prescribed.

It was recognized that some students would benefit from a reduction in the intensity of the science curriculum and access to a choice of courses from the humanities and social sciences. This might assist them in successfully competing for admission into the Medical Program.

Following discussions during the Retreat, a draft curriculum was developed. It would extend the pre-medical courses over a three-year period, providing more time for the study of the sciences basic to medicine and courses in disciplines other than the sciences. Tentatively, implementation will start Fall 2008.

Further recommendations included enhancement of interaction and coordination between the Pre-medical and Medical Programs, and a number of measures to refine delivery of the medical curriculum.

**Extracurricular Activities**

WCMC-Q students were involved in a variety of extracurricular activities, including volunteering and participating in various groups and organizations. These activities were generally organized by students or by the Medical Student Executive Council in Qatar (MSEC-Q) with the
Reaching out to the community: WCMC-Q pre-medical students have shown their compassion for humanity by participating in Qatar’s national polio immunization campaign (above left) and by travelling to India to help rebuild homes in a village devastated by the 2004 Asian tsunami (above right).

support and guidance of the Office of Student Affairs. They included:

Volunteering

i) Observerships: Pre-medical students were fascinated by their first exposure to the culture of the hospital as they visited the various departments of HMC over a four-week period, observing everything from surgeries and deliveries to the care of sick children. They explored the institution and saw how doctors interact with patients, allied health workers, administrators and the families of patients. A number of students followed this by riding the ambulances and seeing at first hand the work of the first responders to traffic accidents, trauma victims and other medical emergencies. Other students volunteered at private offices.

ii) Blood Donor Clinic: The MSEC-Q organized a Blood Donor Clinic for students, faculty, and staff to donate blood to the Hamad Blood Bank. This has become an regular event at Education City.

iii) Vaccination Campaign: Pre-medical and medical students volunteered with the National Health Authority to administer oral polio vaccine to children.

iv) Pediatric Visits: Students visited the pediatric ward of the Hamad General Hospital to bring gifts and cheer to young inpatients on the occasion of Eid Al Adha.

v) Habitat for Humanity: Twenty-five members of the second year pre-medical class, under the leadership of Tasnim Khalife, Sadaf Nasir and Midhun Mukundan, teamed up with Habitat for Humanity to participate in a project in Pondicherry, India. They dedicated their time during the January vacation to help build new houses for handicapped people whose homes were destroyed or damaged by the 2004 Asian tsunami.

vi) Terry Fox Run: Students volunteered as staff helpers and participated in the Annual Terry Fox Run to raise funds for cancer research.
**Student Life**

During the year, students initiated peer-tutoring programs, with upperclassmen providing tutoring throughout the year to those students who sought such assistance. A peer counseling group led by Hala Mint El Moctar and Nayera Girguis, and located in the residences, offered advice, support and friendship to new and returning students as they began a new school year.

With 130 students at the Medical College, the number of clubs, organizations and activities set up by the students for the students continued to increase.

During the year there were 11 functioning clubs. Each club organized events that were open to the entire WCMC-Q community. Activities ranged from debating to sports, and from Arabic conversation classes to movies.

Students from Al Shafallah School were welcomed for a day by the MSEC-Q; events included drawing, reading, painting and writing.

Under the leadership of Fouad Otaki, Class of 2009, and with the support of the Qatar Photographic Society, a photography contest and exhibition was organized for faculty, students and employees from across Education City.

In keeping with medical school tradition, the second year medical class put on a wonderful satire *East Side Story* in which they took humorous aim at the medical faculty of the first semester. Written and directed by Rana Biary, the skit was an inspired glimpse of the funny side of medical school.

Pre-medical students Tania Jaber, Nadia Merchant, Adam Khader, Mohamed Shazly and Divya Varghese brought a lively International Evening to the WCMC-Q community in April. Sponsored by the MSEC-Q, the event featured cuisine, bazaar, fashion show, and dancing from across the world.

The Council also organized two coffee houses, with the help of teaching assistant Erin King, to showcase the talents of students from each of the four classes.

The photography contest and exhibition led by medical student Fouad Otaki was a chance for the Education City community to come together.
Admissions

The Office of Admissions recorded 200 applications for entry to the Pre-medical Program in 2005. Seventy-three applicants were offered admission to the program; 52 enrolled, bringing the total to 57 with the inclusion of five students who had previously enrolled in 2004. Gender balance continued to shift toward males, who constituted 56 percent of the 2005 entering pre-medical class.

Average SAT Math scores, a key academic quality indicator, rose 18 points to 664 and TOEFL scores rose three points to 607. The overall academic quality of this class compares well with that of a counterpart population of Cornell freshmen in Ithaca.

The inclusion of five “repeaters” in the class underscored the need to address the challenges that a number of students face on entering the Medical College. The issue was discussed during the Education Retreat and adjustments to the Pre-medical Program were recommended (see page 13).

Eighteen students enrolled in the Medical Program including two external candidates who graduated from the American University in Cairo.

Admissions staff joined colleagues from Education City institutions in recruitment activities throughout the region, visiting high schools and conducting special exhibitions in Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Lebanon, Oman and Kuwait.

The staff accompanied pre-medical faculty members on visits to local and expatriate high schools in Qatar and teamed with them in hosting groups of Qatari and international education counselors, Qatari diplomats, high school students, and prospective applicant families on visits to the Medical College.

Answering questions about WCMC-Q’s programs of study at a special recruitment exhibition in Doha were medical students Imran Farooq, Heba Haddad, Manisha Deb Roy, and Director of Admissions Lee Askin.
Patient Care

Working with our partners in Qatar and New York – Qatar Foundation, Hamad Medical Corporation, the National Health Authority and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital – Weill Cornell Medical College made great strides towards delivery of the third year Medical Program. In addition, planning of the clinical and operational program for the Specialty Teaching Hospital was completed.

Partnership with Hamad Medical Corporation

CMC-Q hosted exams over a two-day period in September for graduates of medical schools outside Qatar who had applied for residency training positions at HMC. As an early step towards adopting Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) standards for the residency training programs, over 170 medical school graduates took standardized exams in medicine, surgery, pediatrics, and obstetrics and gynecology (U.S. National Board of Medical Examiners’ subject exams).

Test scores were used to evaluate the candidacy of the applicants in conjunction with personal interviews conducted by HMC physicians and WCMC-Q full-time faculty.

(Above) A HMC physician who holds a faculty appointment with Weill Cornell Medical College, teaches a second-year medical student during the first responder course.

(Below) Hamad Women’s Hospital, Doha.
In the Clinical Skills Center at WCMC-Q, a HMC physician teaches first year medical students Imran Farooq, Manisha Deb Roy and Sara Hassan.

At the request of HMC’s Department of Medical Education, residency program directors from the Departments of Medicine and Psychiatry at NewYork-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center visited Doha in spring 2006. The program directors worked with their counterparts at HMC on the development of strategies for the evolution of the residency programs towards compliance with the standards of the ACGME.

Throughout the 2005-2006 academic year, a significant level of activity continued in the area of clinical faculty recruitment from amongst the ranks of HMC physicians. A number of them applied, and were recommended, for a faculty appointment with the corresponding department at Weill Cornell Medical College.

The aim was to ensure that a well-qualified group of clinical faculty would be available to teach in the Medical Program once the Clinical Clerkships began in July 2006. By June, over 100 Weill Cornell faculty appointments were being processed, to add to the existing complement of 22 appointed faculty members at HMC.

In January, the National Health Authority (NHA) appointed the Dean of WCMC-Q, Dr. Daniel R. Alonso, to the HMC Board of Directors, confirmation of the close working relationship between the Medical College and HMC.

Meanwhile, in June 2006, the Women’s Hospital was surveyed by the Joint Commission International (JCI). This private, not-for-profit subsidiary of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) accredits hospitals outside the United States. The Affiliation Agreement among Weill Cornell Medical College, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital (NYPH) and HMC
required the Corporation’s hospitals to achieve JCI accreditation by October 2006, and the remaining HMC hospitals were to be visited by JCI in the fall of 2006. There remain a number of jointly agreed JCAHO standards to be met by October 2009.

During the year, Weill Cornell Medical College assisted HMC in the appointment of the Chair of the Department of Pediatrics. A search for a Chair in the Division of Dermatology, Department of Internal Medicine, also began. Chairs of the respective departments at Weill Cornell have assisted in the search process by visiting the HMC departments and providing a report with recommendations. They have been actively involved in the identification and selection of candidates for the positions.

**Sidra Medical and Research Center**

During the fall of 2005, the Clinical and Operational Planning Program for the Sidra Medical and Research Center was completed. As program planning was finalized, agreement was reached regarding the division of high-risk obstetric-gynecology cases between HMC and the Sidra Medical and Research Center: They will be evenly split between the two facilities. A decision regarding pediatric cardiac surgery is still pending while expert advice is sought.

Searches for an Executive Project Director commenced and a U.S. firm, Ellerbe Becket Inc., was chosen as the executive architect for the project. Construction of the Sidra Medical and Research Center is expected to commence in 2007, with the opening in late 2010.

Meanwhile, the Executive Steering Committee, under Dr. Fathy Saoud’s leadership, was actively involved in selecting the official name of the Center.

In June, Mr. Daniel Bergin was appointed as the Executive Project Director for the Sidra Medical and Research Center. A health-care professional with nearly 20 years experience in administration and management in the Australian health-care environment, Mr. Bergin has previously had extensive experience with major capital projects for hospitals and has managed two major teaching hospitals.

---

Dr. Richard D. Granstein, the George W. Hambrick Jr. Professor in Dermatology and Chairman of the Department of Dermatology at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York, presented Grand Rounds at Rumeillah Hospital in May.
**Research**

Plans to build biomedical research capacity in Qatar gained pace during 2005-2006 with the development of a Research Proposal focusing on genetic and molecular medicine, and women’s and children’s health. Meanwhile, two clinical research projects began, led by Weill Cornell investigators in cooperation with HMC physicians.

**Roundtable Meeting: Building Biomedical Research Capacity in Qatar**

The major stakeholders in health care in Qatar gathered at WCMC-Q, February 21-22, to discuss plans to develop biomedical research in Qatar and at the Medical College.

Dr. Mohamed Fathy Saoud, Member of the Board of Directors, Qatar Foundation; H.E. Dr. Ghalia Al-Thani, Chairperson of the National Health Authority; Dr. Latifa Al Houty, Chairperson of Hamad Medical Corporation; and additional representatives from HMC and the Sidra Medical and Research Center met with the Weill Cornell delegation.

They included Dr. Daniel R. Alonso, Dean of WCMC-Q; Dr. David P. Hajjar, Vice Provost and Executive Vice Dean, and Dean of the Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Weill Cornell Medical College; Dr. Ronald G. Crystal, Chairman of the Department of Genetic Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical College; Dr. Gary B. Schneider, Senior Associate Dean for Research, WCMC-Q, and Dr. Javaid I. Sheikh, professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Stanford University School of Medicine and WCMC-Q Vice Dean for Research designate.

Discussions centered on the research concept developed by Drs. Saoud and Alonso over the preceding three months.

Drs. Alonso, Hajjar, Sheikh and Crystal provided presentations on the state of modern biomedical research, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) of Medical Sciences, Weill Cornell Medical College; Dr. Ronald G. Crystal, Chairman of the Department of Genetic Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical College; Dr. Gary B. Schneider, Senior Associate Dean for Research, WCMC-Q, and Dr. Javaid I. Sheikh, professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Stanford University School of Medicine and WCMC-Q Vice Dean for Research designate.

Discussions centered on the research concept developed by Drs. Saoud and Alonso over the preceding three months.

Drs. Alonso, Hajjar, Sheikh and Crystal provided presentations on the state of modern biomedical research, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) of Medical Sciences, Weill Cornell Medical College; Dr. Ronald G. Crystal, Chairman of the Department of Genetic Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical College; Dr. Gary B. Schneider, Senior Associate Dean for Research, WCMC-Q, and Dr. Javaid I. Sheikh, professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Stanford University School of Medicine and WCMC-Q Vice Dean for Research designate.

Discussions centered on the research concept developed by Drs. Saoud and Alonso over the preceding three months.

Drs. Alonso, Hajjar, Sheikh and Crystal provided presentations on the state of modern biomedical research, the National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Roadmap, and biomedical research in Qatar. There was in-depth discussion to map the interest in, and possibilities of, developing clinical and translational research at Hamad Medical Corporation. HMC representatives Dr. Naser Al Ansari, Chief of Medical Staff*, Dr. Abdul Latif Al Khal, Chairman of Medicine and Acting Director of Medical Education, and Dr. Abdul Bari Bener, Head of Medical Statistics, amongst others, expressed enthusiasm for making the Corporation an integral part of a biomedical research enterprise in Qatar.

There was general consensus on the research focus and approaches as put forward in the research concept. It was agreed that a Qatar biomedical research program should draw upon the strengths and expertise of the various Roundtable participants. It was therefore decided that the next step would be to build on the research concept, incorporating the outcomes of the Roundtable meeting, and for WCMC-Q to develop a full research proposal to be presented to Qatar Foundation in 2006.

Research Proposal
The Research Proposal developed during 2006 aims to support the development of the biomedical research capacity of Qatar, by building a self-sustaining academic community of basic, translational and clinical scientists, and by establishing strong research programs in the country.

Initially, the main focus of the programs will be on genetic and molecular medicine, and women’s and children’s health, areas that were identified during the Roundtable meeting as the major healthcare challenges in Qatar.

Research projects begin
During the year, two clinical research projects led by Weill Cornell investigators in cooperation with HMC physicians were initiated in Doha. The first is

* and Head of the Research Center and Committee
a proof of concept, demonstration pilot study that is part of an ongoing project led by Dr. Ronald Crystal, professor and Chairman of Genetic Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College.

With the active participation of physicians in the Pulmonary/Allergy section of HMC, the study will help to establish a clinical research infrastructure at HMC and WCMC-Q. The first goal of the study is to assess the patterns of gene expression in the bronchial epithelium and alveolar macrophages of patients undergoing diagnostic bronchoscopy.

Dr. Crystal is co-principal investigator with Dr. Lotfi Chouchane, professor of genetic medicine, and of microbiology and immunology, at WCMC-Q, and Dr. Hisham Abdul Sattar, consultant pulmonologist and Head of the Pulmonary/Allergy section at HMC. The clinical protocol for the work was approved by the Institutional Review Board of Weill Cornell Medical College, and the Research Committee of HMC.

The second project, headed by Dr. Mark Callahan, associate professor of medicine and public health at Weill Cornell in NYC, is entitled: The Clinical Impact of Diabetes Mellitus in Qatar: Evaluating Treatment Patterns, Risk Factors and Outcomes.

In close collaboration with HMC consultants in the Departments of Cardiology and Medicine, two primary studies are underway:

i) Impact of diabetes and cardiovascular risk factors on acute myocardial infarction in Qatar; and

ii) Impact of diabetes and cardiovascular risk factors on acute stroke in Qatar.

Human Research Protection
Training Seminar
The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs organized a seminar in Doha, February 1 and 2, for
WCMS-Q and HMC personnel who were, or would be in the future, engaged in research involving human subjects.

It was attended by over 70 faculty members, library, information technology and administrative staff from the Medical College; and physicians, nurses, educators and administrators from HMC.

Presentations were made by Dr. Robert Levine and Ms. Helen McGough, Board members of Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIM&R), a non-governmental organization dedicated to advancing the highest ethical standards in the field. Other speakers from Weill Cornell Medical College included Dr. David A. Behrman, Chairman of the New York-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center’s Committee on Human Rights in Research; Sheila Cohen Zimmet, Associate Dean for Research Compliance; and Dorothy Hilpmann, Director of Research Subject Protection.

During the seminar, participants received the first Arabic translation of The Belmont Report, the 1979 document that established the ethical framework for the conduct of research involving humans in the U.S. All those who registered and attended the full two-day event also received certificates from both Weill Cornell Medical College and PRIM&R.

**Student research**

During the summer of 2005 WCMC-Q medical students carried out research alongside Cornell University and Weill Cornell Medical College faculty, post-docs, graduate students and staff in Ithaca, New York City and, for the first time, in Doha.

Members of the Classes of 2008 and 2009 were selected by competition for Summer Research Fellowships. This was the third year that WCMC-Q students travelled to the United States to experience research in laboratories at Cornell and Weill Cornell.

The culmination of the program was the Second Annual Medical Student Research Forum held at WCMC-Q in November. The event was attended by representatives of HMC, the NHA and WCMC-Q students, faculty and staff.

A total of 20 medical students took part in the Forum, sharing their research by way of oral and poster presentations. It was the first time that WCMC-Q students presented their findings using posters.

In addition, the event included presentations by three medical students who conducted their research in Doha under the supervision of Dr. William Greer, assistant professor in the Department of Public Health. The project focused on worldwide population differences in lumbar bone mineral density in women and a comparison of the findings with those from women in the region.
With its sloping ramp, the attractive tower in the South Hall of the WCMC-Q building is sometimes likened to the Rotunda in the Guggenheim Museum in New York.
Statistics

Faculty and staff numbers, 2001-2006  Faculty and staff on the WCMC-Q payroll as of June 30, 2006. This includes staff residing in New York.

Total Number of Students, 2002-2005  Figures are as of September 1. Student count reflects any attrition that may have occurred from incoming classes in subsequent years.

The above statistics refer to the academic year from July 1 to June 30.
Profile of classes entering the Pre-medical Program, 2002-2005

Total enrollment and applicants

Gender profile

Entering profile: SAT 1 math score

Student Citizenship (2005 entering class)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Qatar</th>
<th>Algeria</th>
<th>Bosnia</th>
<th>Canada</th>
<th>Egypt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>Mauritius</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Profile of Class of 2009 on entry to the Medical Program

Enrolled students .................................................................................................................. 18
Male ......................................................................................................................................... 5
Female ..................................................................................................................................... 13

**Citizenship** (Class of 2009)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citizenship</th>
<th>Qatar</th>
<th>Iraq</th>
<th>Tunisia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>UAE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bosnia</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>Oman</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Previous education:**

- WCMC-Q ................................................................. 16
- American University in Cairo (AUC) ......................... 1
- AUC & University of Michigan .................................... 1

**Average Science GPA** ......................................................... 3.4

**Average age** (Sept 1st, 2005) ............................................. 21
Scholarships

Two new scholarships were established during the year 2005-2006, bringing the total number of scholarships available to students of WCMC-Q to seven.

A second Abdulla Bader Al Darwish Scholarship was established by an anonymous donor in memory of Abdulla Bader Al Darwish, for a student resident in Qatar. It was awarded to Karima Becetti.

(The first Abdulla Bader Al Darwish Scholarship is held by Ali Saad.)

The Qatar Petroleum Scholarship was established to support a student to the extent of his or her academic fees throughout the Pre-medical and Medical Programs. The recipient of this award was Khalid Al Mohannadi.

The following scholarships, listed in the Annual Report 2005, continue:

The Abdul Ghani Hammour Scholarships, one to support a student of Lebanese origin and one to support a student of Syrian origin, are held by Tania Jaber and Hekmat Al Rouh.

The Moufid Farra Scholarship, established to support a student of Lebanese origin, is held by Juman Takeddin.

The HSBC Qatar Scholarship to support a student throughout his or her studies at WCMC-Q, to the extent of $10,000 per annum, is held by Nigel Pereira.
Leadership

Cornell University

Peter C. Meinig, Chairman, Board of Trustees
Hunter R. Rawlings III, Interim President

Weill Medical College of Cornell University

Sanford I. Weill, Chairman, Board of Overseers
Hushang Ansary, Vice Chair
Barbara B. Friedman, Vice Chair
Arthur J. Mahon, Vice Chair
Antonio M. Gotto, Jr., M.D., D.Phil., Provost for Medical Affairs and the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of the Medical College

Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar

Daniel R. Alonso, M.D., Dean
Havva S. Idriss, Vice Dean, Administration
Elizabeth A. Alger, M.D., F.A.C.P., Senior Associate Dean, Education
Gary B. Schneider, Ph.D., Senior Associate Dean, Research
Nounou Taleghani, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Dean, Clinical Curriculum
David Robertshaw, Ph.D., Associate Dean, Pre-medical Education
Marco Ameduri, Ph.D., Assistant Dean, Pre-medical Education
Susan E. Lacey, Assistant Dean, Administration
Laurie K. Summers, Assistant Dean, Academic Planning & Development

Lee Askin, Director, Admissions
Thomas Doyle, Director, Environmental Health & Safety
Siraj Halil, Acting Director, Information Technology (from June 2005)
Robert Howat, Director, Facilities Management
Sharon Hynes, Director, Human Resources
Jane Ann Lindley, Director, Distributed eLibrary
Jeremy Merrill, Director, New York Office
Betty Monfort, Registrar
Bruce Montgomery, Director, Finance
Charles Paragg, Director, Student Affairs
Michael Vertigans, Director, Public Affairs
As the sun goes down, WCMC-Q students take time out for a game of soccer at the west end of the building.
WCMC-Q Chronology: Milestones from 2005-2006

1. August 29, 2005  
New students find their feet during Pre-medical Orientation.

2. September 7, 2005  
The Class of 2009 enters the Medical Program.

3. April 29, 2006  
An Open House event brings high school students, their parents and teachers to the Medical College.

4. September 7, 2005  
The Class of 2009 enters the Medical Program.

5. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.

8. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.

9. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.

10. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.

11. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.

12. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.

13. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.

14. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.

15. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.

16. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.

17. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.

18. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.

19. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.

20. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.

21. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.

22. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.

23. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.

24. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.

25. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.

26. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.

27. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.

28. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.

29. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.

30. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.

31. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.

32. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.

33. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.

34. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.

35. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.

36. May 18, 2006  
The Class of 2010 celebrates completion of the Pre-medical Program.
التسلسل التاريخي للمحطات الرئيسية: 2006 - ٢٠٠٦

3. نوفمبر ١٣، ٢٠٠٥ – معرض "اكتشف المدينة التعليمية" يطلق من قطر.

4. فبراير ١-٢، ٢٠٠٦ – WCMC-Q تُنظم ورشة تدريبية حول حماية الأفراد المشاركون في البحث العلمي.

6. أبريل ١١، ٢٠٠٦ – تُكرم المعلمين المشرفون في مؤسسة جهد الطبية أثناء تكريمهم في احتفال رمسي.

7. أبريل ٢٠، ٢٠٠٦ – WCMC-Q يحتفل بالموظفين في احتفال الإجلال.

5. أبريل ٥، ٢٠٠٦ –_face.jpg -جمعية الفيزياء في قطر تتعقد للمرة الأولى بمبادرة مشتركة بين كلية طب وابل كورنيل في قطر وجامعة قطر.