Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Missned with the students of Education City’s third Senior Convocation.
The year has seen significant progress across all areas of our triple mission of excellence in education, research and clinical care.
The year has seen significant progress across all areas of our triple mission of excellence in education, research and clinical care
It is a pleasure to introduce this annual report to highlight some of the accomplishments of Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar. The year has seen significant progress across all areas of our triple mission of excellence in education, research and clinical care.

We graduated our third class of new physicians in May, sending 17 young men and women to residency or fellowship programs in the United States and Qatar. These new doctors will help shape the progress of advances in medicine through the rest of the 21st century.

During the year, new knowledge generated by our biomedical research program began to appear in important international journals as our scientists conducted basic, clinical and translational research on pressing health issues, such as diabetes and cardiovascular disorders, that are facing Qatar and the Gulf Region.

With grants from the National Priorities Research Program, our scientists are working on fundamental issues of molecular and cellular biology with other experts at research centers around the world. These collaborations help us produce new knowledge while developing the skills and capabilities of the people of Qatar and making the country a hub for international biomedical research.

Our faculty physicians continue to contribute to the health and wellbeing of people throughout Qatar, providing direct care to hundreds and working collaboratively with the Supreme Council of Health and with other governmental and private organizations to improve the nation’s health care system.

We are indebted to the vision of His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of Qatar, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser Al-Missned, chairperson of the Qatar Foundation, for their vision and their commitment to transforming Qatar into a knowledge-based society. Their valued support provides a firm foundation for the establishment of WCMC-Q as a world-class medical college.

Javaid Sheikh, M.D.
Dean, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar
It is a pleasure to introduce this annual report to highlight some of the accomplishments of Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar. The year has seen significant progress across all areas of our triple mission of excellence in education, research and clinical care.

We graduated our third class of new physicians in May, sending 17 young men and women to residency or fellowship programs in the United States and Qatar. These new doctors will help shape the progress of advances in medicine through the rest of the 21st century.

During the year, new knowledge generated by our biomedical research program began to appear in important international journals as our scientists conducted basic, clinical and translational research on pressing health issues, such as diabetes and cardiovascular disorders, that are facing Qatar and the Gulf Region.

With grants from the National Priorities Research Program, our scientists are working on fundamental issues of molecular and cellular biology with other experts at research centers around the world. These collaborations help us produce new knowledge while developing the skills and capabilities of the people of Qatar and making the country a hub for international biomedical research.

Our faculty physicians continue to contribute to the health and wellbeing of people throughout Qatar, providing direct care to hundreds and working collaboratively with the Supreme Council of Health and with other governmental and private organizations to improve the nation’s health care system.

We are indebted to the vision of His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of Qatar, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser Al-Missned, chairperson of the Qatar Foundation, for their vision and their commitment to transforming Qatar into a knowledge-based society.

Their valued support provides a firm foundation for the establishment of WCMC-Q as a world-class medical college.

Javaid Sheikh, M.D.
Dean, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar
The Joint Advisory Board provides advice and assistance to the dean and the governing parties of WCMC-Q. It consists of four members selected by Cornell University, four members selected by Qatar Foundation, additional members who are selected jointly by Cornell and Qatar Foundation, and four ex-officio members.

Qatar Foundation Representatives

H.E. Ghalia Bint Mohammed Al-Thani, M.D.
Co-Chair, WCMC-Q Joint Advisory Board
Member, Qatar Supreme Council of Health

Mohammad Fathy Saoud, Ph.D.
President
Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development

Hassan Ali. S. A. Al-Thani, MB.BCh.
F.R.C.S.(C), F.R.C.S. (Ire), CABS
Head of Vascular Surgery, General and Vascular Surgery
Director of Arab Board Program of Surgery in Qatar

Jassim Al Suwaidi, M.B., B.Ch.
B.A.O., L.R.C.P., & S.I. (Honors)
Consultant Cardiologist
Hamad Medical Corporation

Cornell University Representatives

Antonio M. Gotto, Jr., M.D., D.Phil.
Co-Chair, WCMC-Q Joint Advisory Board
Provost for Medical Affairs
Dean, Weill Cornell Medical College

Ambassador Hushang Ansary
Vice-Chair, Board of Overseers
Weill Cornell Medical College

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

James J. Mingle, Esq.
University Counsel & Secretary of the Corporation
Cornell University
AnnuAL RepoRt 2010

the Joint Advisory Board provides advice and assistance to the dean and the governing parties of WCMC-Q. It consists of four members selected by Cornell University, four members selected by Qatar Foundation, additional members who are selected jointly by Cornell and Qatar Foundation, and four ex-officio members.

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

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

Javaid I. Sheikh, M.D.
Dean
Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar

Havva S. Idriss
Vice Dean for Administration
Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar

Members of the Joint Advisory Board (Standing left to right):
Dr. Hassan Ali A. Al-Thani, Mr. Sanford I. Weill, Dr. Antonio M. Gotta, Jr., Dr. Jordan J. Cohen, Dr. Javaid I. Sheikh, Dr. Jassim Al Suwaidi, Ambassador Hushang Ansary, Sir Christopher Paine, Dr. Abdulla A. Al-Thani
(Seated left to right):
Mrs. Barbara B. Friedman, H.E. Dr. Ghalia Bint Mohammed Al-Thani, Dr. Mohammad Fathy Saoud, Ms. Havva S. Idriss
Absent from the picture: James J. Mingle, Esq.

Independent Representatives

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

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

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

Javaid I. Sheikh, M.D.
Dean
Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar

Havva S. Idriss
Vice Dean for Administration
Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar
WCMC-Q physicians join the international medical community with the recitation of the Hippocratic Oath
physicians join the international medical community with the recitation of the Hippocratic Oath.
With the graduation of its third class in May, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar added 17 new physicians to the international medical community, bringing its number of alumni to 49.
The graduates joined residency programs and research fellowships at highly ranked institutions in the United States and at Hamad Medical Corporation, Qatar’s premier nonprofit health care provider.

As the physicians moved on to the next phase of their training, WCMC-Q welcomed new students into the Class of 2013. September witnessed the entrance of a record 41 students from more than a dozen countries into the first year of the medical program.
Enhancing Delivery of the Curriculum

Faculty members continued their efforts to ensure all students receive an outstanding medical education. Several new measures helped enhance the delivery of the Weill Cornell Medical College curriculum in Qatar. Recruitment of a number of clinical and basic science educators to WCMC-Q continued to strengthen the local faculty. In January 2010, Dr. Lyuba Konopasek was appointed as associate dean for medical education. Dr. Konopasek, a pediatrician and nationally recognized medical educator, joined the Doha faculty from Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City. Dr. Dietrich Büsselberg, formerly of Texas Tech University Health Science Center, joined to teach in the first year Human Structure and Function course. He also serves as coordinator of student research. Dr. Mamoon Elbedawi, formerly of the University of Florida in Gainesville, joined to teach in the medicine clerkship and the second year Basis of Disease course. Dr. Nasrin Mesaeli, formerly of the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, joined to teach in the first year Human Structure and Function course.

Dr. Stephen Scott, formerly of Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, joined to direct the Medicine, Patients and Society 1 course. Dr. Benjamin Shykind, formerly of Columbia University, joined to teach in the Human Structure and Function course, as well as the pre-medical curriculum. Dr. Kristina Sole, formerly of the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University, joined to teach in the obstetrics and gynecology clerkship and take on the role of director of women’s health. Dr. Dora Stadler, formerly an attending physician under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations based in Rome, joined to co-direct the medicine clerkship.
A number of programs for developing faculty teaching skills in the classroom and at the bedside were also implemented. In November, Dr. Thuraya Arayssi, associate dean for graduate medical education, completed the month-long training course to become a clinical teaching facilitator for the Stanford Faculty Development Program and brought this course to Hamad’s Medical Education Center and the WCMC-Q faculty physicians. The curriculum uses lectures, group discussions, role-playing and video review to focus on the process of teaching. Dr. Arayssi is the latest of the WCMC-Q and HMC faculty members to be certified as a facilitator for the training program, which has been delivered to more than 200 faculty members in Doha. “Along with mastery of content, effective clinical instruction requires excellent teaching skills,” says Dr. Konopasek. “This course gives our faculty members an opportunity to focus on the process of teaching and to carefully review their own teaching methods to improve and enhance their effectiveness.”

Dr. Mai Mahmoud introduced the new virtual patient program into the internal medicine clerkship that she co-directs. The Simulated Internal Medicine Patient Learning Experience (SIMPLE) program complements the curriculum by covering cases not usually seen in Qatar, such as HIV/AIDS and sarcoidosis. Additionally, the interactive, computer-based learning program provides students with immediate feedback as they analyze data and develop treatment plans for their virtual patients.

**More Interactive Training**

This year, Dr. Basim Uthman, director of the neurology clerkship, substituted live lectures for video-streamed presentations on epilepsy, palliative care, pediatric neurology, and stroke, incorporating more demonstrations and the use of standardized patients to make the training more interactive for students. He also introduced a series of local lectures in neuro-radiology; and he served as presenter and moderator at Rumaillah Hospital’s first symposium on anti-epileptic drugs in February.

Live broadcasts of grand rounds in surgery and pediatrics at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital became available to faculty and students in Doha in November. The weekly presentations on the latest issues and treatments feature experts not only from Weill Cornell Medical Center but also from other top academic medical centers around the country. These sessions, hosted in surgery by Dr. Bakr Nour, chief of clinical affairs and vice chair of surgery, and in pediatrics by Dr. Amal Khidir, the director of the pediatrics clerkship, give participants the opportunity to interact in real time with colleagues in the United States.
Enriching Students’ Learning Skills

New workshops for students and faculty were introduced in May as Lawrence “Hy” Doyle, Ed.D., executive director of the PRIME Program at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, led a two-day program on learning strategies. Timed to help students prepare for the summer MCAT and USMLE examinations, the course covered reading skills and effective studying. “The workshops, which Dr. Doyle has given at elite medical schools throughout the US, are designed to help students improve their study and test-taking skills and, ultimately, their academic performance,” says Dr. Konopasek.

Dr. Mohamud Verjee, director of the primary care clerkship, began teaching rotations at Aspetar Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Hospital, giving students greater access to clinical issues relevant to treatment and rehabilitation of musculoskeletal and soft tissue injuries.

Rumaillah Hospital and Al Amal Hospital also became teaching sites for medical students during the year, complementing the use of the facilities of Hamad Medical Corporation, which is WCMC-Q’s primary clinical partner.

Dr. Uthman, director of the neurology clerkship, added teaching rotations at Rumaillah and Al Amal Hospitals to give students greater access to a broader range of patients with neurological symptoms and diseases.
Ongoing Collaboration with HMC

Collaboration with Hamad Medical Corporation continued throughout the year as WCMC-Q and HMC faculty worked together on accreditation goals. The effort was rewarded by reaccreditation from the Joint Commission International for all HMC hospitals, giving them an important international seal of approval.

Work continued on another goal: certification by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education-International for the 20 residency programs sponsored by HMC. Together, WCMC-Q and HMC faculty developed a training course to prepare HMC physicians and residency program directors for ACGME-I accreditation. Working with Ara Tekian, Ph.D., an internationally recognized leader in medical education from the University of Illinois at Chicago, they led 45 clinical faculty members through a five-day course in June to fully acquaint them with ACGME-I requirements.

“Accreditation of our residency programs demonstrates that HMC is a world-class organization and that our physicians and our clinical services meet international standards,” says Dr. Abdullatif Al-Khal, director of medical education at HMC.
Foundation Program Broadens Path to Medical Program

The Foundation Program, established in 2007 as an enrichment program for students interested in the study of medicine, saw 10 of its participants accepted into the pre-medical program in the fall. The program’s intensive English, math, and science courses prepare students for WCMC-Q’s rigorous academic course of studies.

Continued Growth for Pre-Medical Program

Interest in the pre-medical program rose significantly with over 822 applications received, compared to 539 the previous year. Sixty students matriculated, creating a fully enrolled class for the third year in a row.

Travel to Ithaca for selected pre-medical students continued as eight attended the Summer Session, taking English and science courses, and eight attended the Summer College program, focusing on development of English language and critical thinking skills. Besides improving their skills, students interact with peers whose worldview has been shaped by a completely different set of cultural factors.

The links between WCMC-Q’s rigorous pre-medical program and Cornell University in Ithaca were strengthened by two other initiatives during the year.

A new guaranteed transfer program allows qualified WCMC-Q pre-medical students to transfer directly into B.A or B.S. programs at Cornell University in Ithaca. Other pre-medical students may be allowed to take courses at Cornell to improve their eligibility for full transfer. While pre-medical students earn Cornell credits for courses they complete successfully, access to the university’s degree granting programs broadens educational and career options for those who do not enroll in the four-year medical program.

A visitation program sends several WCMC-Q faculty members to Cornell University for a week to interact with researchers and teachers in their disciplines and attend lecture and laboratory classes. “Exposure to different classroom dynamics and pedagogical approaches is extremely valuable,” says writing lecturer Ian Miller, one of three premedical faculty members to visit Cornell during the year. “Many of my own approaches were both validated and challenged,” adds Miller, who discovered a wealth of resources in the Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines, which he plans to incorporate in current and future courses.
Foundation Program Broadens Path to Medical Program

The Foundation Program, established in 2007 as an enrichment program for students interested in the study of medicine, saw 10 of its participants accepted into the pre-medical program in the fall. The program’s intensive English, math, and science courses prepare students for WCMC-Q’s rigorous academic course of studies.
Providing the best possible care to patients is part of WCMC-Q’s mission as an academic health center.
Providing the best possible care to patients is part of WCMC-Q’s mission as an academic health center.
Ensuring Excellent Care

Hundreds of patients are seen at regular weekly outpatient clinics by 11 faculty members, who help Qatar ensure that its fast-growing population has access to the latest clinical treatments.

“Providing the best possible care to patients is part of WCMC-Q’s mission as an academic health center,” says Dr. Bakr Nour, associate dean for clinical affairs and professor of surgery who sees more than a dozen patients every week at a regular clinic at Hamad Medical Center. “As we educate our students, we continually educate ourselves and that translates into better care for patients.”

In one of his many cases during the year, Dr. Nour worked closely with HMC surgeons to remove a large congenital cyst from the liver of a young adult female. “The condition is usually found and treated in children, so it was a rare case for someone her age,” he says. Bothered by infection and, ultimately, cancer if the cyst was not removed, the patient was operated on by Dr. Nour and Dr. Mohamed Aboul Nada, from HMC.

Dr. Arash Rafii Tabrizi continued to expand the kinds of surgeries done laparoscopically in Qatar. During the year he used the minimally invasive surgical technique to remove the uterus and pelvic lymph nodes on two patients and to remove the para-aortic lymph nodes on three patients. Advantages for patients are smaller incisions and shorter recovery times, which is particularly beneficial to cancer patients since it allows them to start adjuvant treatments such as chemotherapy or radiation therapy sooner.

Clerkships at Hamad Medical Center are a vital part of medical students’ clinical training, beginning in the third year of the medical program.
Ensuring Excellent Care

Hundreds of patients are seen at regular weekly outpatient clinics by 11 faculty members, who help Qatar ensure that its fast-growing population has access to the latest clinical treatments.

“Providing the best possible care to patients is part of WCMC-Q’s mission as an academic health center,” says Dr. Bakr Nour, associate dean for clinical affairs and professor of surgery who sees more than a dozen patients every week at a regular clinic at Hamad Medical Center. “As we educate our students, we continually educate ourselves and that translates into better care for patients.”

In one of his many cases during the year, Dr. Nour worked closely with HMC surgeons to remove a large congenital cyst from the liver of a young adult female. “The condition is usually found and treated in children, so it was a rare case for someone her age,” he says. Bothered by infection and, ultimately, cancer if the cyst was not removed, the patient was operated on by Dr. Nour and Dr. Mohamed Aboul Nada, from HMC.

Dr. Arash Rafii Tabrizi continued to expand the kinds of surgeries done laparoscopically in Qatar. During the year he used the minimally invasive surgical technique to remove the uterus and pelvic lymph nodes on two patients and to remove the para-aortic lymph nodes on three patients. Advantages for patients are smaller incisions and shorter recovery times, which is particularly beneficial to cancer patients since it allows them to start adjuvant treatments such as chemotherapy or radiation therapy sooner.

WCMC-Q faculty continued to make a positive contribution to the health of people throughout Qatar, providing direct care and working collaboratively with a variety of organizations in the country to improve the health care system.
Expanding Access to Care and Screening Programs

While most WCMC-Q physicians practice at HMC medical facilities, rheumatologist Thurayya Arayssi became the first faculty member credentialed to practice at Aspetar Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Hospital during the year. During a weekly clinic, she sees patients with problems related to joints and connective tissues, expanding access to care for people in Qatar and the region.

Medical geneticist Ahmad Teebi worked closely with colleagues at the Supreme Council of Health and HMC to help Qatar launch its mandatory premarital genetic testing and counseling program in December. The Middle Eastern cultural tradition of consanguinity, or marriage among close relatives, is a risk factor for genetic disorders or birth defects. The pre-marital testing and screening program is designed to provide couples with information on whether they are carriers of inherited disorders or infectious diseases that might affect future children. Dr. Teebi was also involved in efforts to expand genetic counseling in Qatar so that people can understand possible options and treatments related to genetic disorders.

Pediatrician Marcellina Mian worked with HMC colleagues on a summer workshop designed to increase awareness of child abuse in Qatar and the resources available to address it. Dr. Mian, an adjunct professor of pediatrics and medical director of the Child Protection Unit at Massachusetts General Hospital in the US is a member of the Executive Council of the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and a consultant to the World Health Organization working on guidelines for an integrated approach to child maltreatment prevention worldwide.

Four new faculty members who are awaiting medical licenses from the Supreme Council of Health will soon begin providing clinical services in internal medicine, family medicine and obstetrics and gynecology.

Dr. Ali Raza, associate professor of clinical neurological surgery at WCMC-Q and head of the Neurosurgery Department at Hamad Medical Corporation, discusses a patient’s test results with medical students Basma Basha and Essa Abu Helalqa.
Expanding Access to Care and Screening Programs

While most WCMC-Q physicians practice at HMC medical facilities, rheumatologist Thurayya Arayssi became the first faculty member credentialed to practice at Aspetar Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Hospital during the year. During a weekly clinic, she sees patients with problems related to joints and connective tissues, expanding access to care for people in Qatar and the region.

Medical geneticist Ahmad Teebi worked closely with colleagues at the Supreme Council of Health and HMC to help Qatar launch its mandatory premarital genetic testing and counseling program in December. The Middle Eastern cultural tradition of consanguinity, or marriage among close relatives, is a risk factor for genetic disorders or birth defects. The pre-marital testing and screening program is designed to provide couples with information on whether they are carriers of inherited disorders or infectious diseases that might affect future children. Dr. Teebi was also involved in efforts to expand genetic counseling in Qatar so that people can understand possible options and treatments related to genetic disorders.

[Note: Dr. Ahmad Teebi died in July after a long illness. He was an internationally known geneticist with particular expertise in craniofacial and cleft lip and palate abnormalities. He was considered a leading authority on genetic abnormalities unique to Middle Eastern populations and was a founding director of the Arab Genetic Diseases Consortium.]

Pediatrician Marcellina Mian worked with HMC colleagues on a summer workshop designed to increase awareness of child abuse in Qatar and the resources available to address it. Dr. Mian, an adjunct professor of pediatrics and medical director of the Child Protection Unit at Massachusetts General Hospital in the US is a member of the Executive Council of the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and a consultant to the World Health Organization working on guidelines for an integrated approach to child maltreatment prevention world wide.

Four new faculty members who are awaiting medical licenses from the Supreme Council of Health will soon begin providing clinical services in internal medicine, family medicine and obstetrics and gynecology.
Major research by WCMC-Q scientists began appearing in significant international scientific journals during the year.
Major research by WCMC-Q scientists began appearing in significant international scientific journals during the year.
Focus on Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolic Syndrome

WCMC-Q launched a research center focused on causes and treatments for diabetes, obesity and metabolic syndrome, major health challenges for the people of Qatar and the Gulf Region. A major effort began to recruit basic science and clinical faculty with a focused interest in the area of diabetes and metabolic syndrome. “Our current and expanding expertise in genomic analysis, molecular and cellular biology and epidemiology will help us understand the high risk for diabetes in the Qatari population and begin to tailor therapies for individuals based on their genes,” says Machaca.

Qatar and other countries in the Gulf Region have the highest rates of diabetes in the world. The biomedical research program at WCMC-Q gained momentum through the year with the arrival of three new faculty members: Dietrich Büsselberg, Ph.D., with expertise in cell signaling; Nasrin Mesaeli, Ph.D., who focuses on the molecular and cellular biology of cardiovascular development; and Benjamin Shykind Ph.D., who studies gene expression related to odorant receptors. Another major impetus to the program came in June from the Qatar National Research Fund, which provided approximately $15 million in grants to support 15 new scientific projects related to diabetes, stem cell therapies, cancer, viruses, desertification, and the effects of shisha smoking, among others.

Student research gained additional support through Qatar Foundation’s Undergraduate Research Experience Program. Twenty-eight students received grants totaling $280,000 to conduct advanced research on 11 different topics related to cancer diagnosis and treatment, diabetes care, science learning, purifying drinking water, infectious diseases, and gene therapy, among others.

The ongoing financial support for biomedical research from Qatar Foundation not only supports specific projects but also helps WCMC-Q expand Qatar’s research infrastructure as it hires and trains local staff to support the growing research program. It also helps WCMC-Q build collaborations linking Qatar with research centers of excellence around the world.

Major research by WCMC-Q scientists began appearing in significant international scientific journals during the year, evidence that the biomedical research program is generating important new knowledge.

Khaled Machaca, Ph.D., professor of physiology and associate dean of research, published his research on the regulation of calcium signaling during cellular division in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The study provides insights into the importance of specific modulation calcium signaling pathways during the cell cycle.

Hong Ding, M.D., Ph.D., published her studies on the effects of high blood sugar on tissue and cells in The American Journal of Physiology and the Journal of Cellular Physiology during the year. The research, which expands our understanding of the very early effects of high glucose on blood vessels, was funded in part with a grant from Qatar Foundation’s National Priorities Research Program.

In June, Laith Abu-Raddad, Ph.D., helped fill in the huge gap in knowledge about HIV/AIDS in the Middle East and North Africa with a study produced by the World Bank in collaboration with UNAIDS and WHO. The report, seven years in the making, provides the first comprehensive scientific assessment of the spread of HIV in different population groups across the region.

“These publications provide strong evidence that our research program is making important scientific contributions to Qatar, the Gulf Region and the world,” says Machaca.
Focus on Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolic Syndrome

WCMC-Q launched a research center focused on causes and treatments for diabetes, obesity and metabolic syndrome, major health challenges for the people of Qatar and the Gulf Region. A major effort began to recruit basic science and clinical faculty with a focused interest in the area of diabetes and metabolic syndrome. “Our current and expanding expertise in genomic analysis, molecular and cellular biology and epidemiology will help us understand the high risk for diabetes in the Qatari population and begin to tailor therapies for individuals based on their genes,” says Machaca. Qatar and other countries in the Gulf Region have the highest rates of diabetes in the world.

The biomedical research program at WCMC-Q gained momentum through the year with the arrival of three new faculty members: Dietrich Büsselberg, Ph.D., with expertise in cell signaling; Nasrin Mesaeili, Ph.D., who focuses on the molecular and cellular biology of cardiovascular development; and Benjamin Shykind Ph.D., who studies gene expression related to odorant receptors.

Another major impetus to the program came in June from the Qatar National Research Fund, which provided approximately $15 million in grants to support 15 new scientific projects related to diabetes, stem cell therapies, cancer, viruses, desertification, and the effects of shisha smoking, among others.

Student research gained additional support through Qatar Foundation’s Undergraduate Research Experience Program. Twenty-eight students received grants totaling $280,000 to conduct advanced research on 11 different topics related to cancer diagnosis and treatment, diabetes care, science learning, purifying drinking water, infectious diseases, and gene therapy, among others.

The ongoing financial support for biomedical research from Qatar Foundation not only supports specific projects but also helps WCMC-Q expand Qatar’s research infrastructure as it hires and trains local staff to support the growing research program. It also helps WCMC-Q build collaborations linking Qatar with research centers of excellence around the world.
More Space and Core Labs for Growing Program...

To accommodate the program’s impressive growth, WCMC-Q began construction to double the size of space allocated to research. About 17,000 square feet of unfinished space on the floor above the existing research wing is being turned into research laboratories, specialized procedure rooms and offices for the biomedical investigators.

In addition to the existing basic, genomics and imaging core laboratories, a biostatistics core under the leadership of Laith Abu-Raddad, Ph.D., was established to help investigators with study design and data analysis. In addition, bioinformatics and proteomics core functionalities are being implemented.
...And Greater Oversight

To ensure that its research meets stringent international and national standards and regulations, WCMC-Q continued to broaden its research compliance program. Besides establishing local committees to oversee research involving human volunteers and biological materials, WCMC-Q was the first to register its human volunteer protection program with the Supreme Council of Health. More than 30 proposals were reviewed to ensure they meet appropriate standards.

While WCMC-Q continues to send students to New York and Ithaca campuses to work with world-class scientists who are helping to shape the future in basic and translational science, an increasing number of students stayed in Doha to work with local faculty on equally challenging projects. During the summer, 10 premedical students traveled to Ithaca, 10 medical students went to New York and four students, two pre-med and two medical, stayed in Doha for their research experience. Their work culminated in poster or oral presentations on a broad range of biomedical topics at the 6th Annual Student Research Forum.

As the research program grows in depth, breadth and size, faculty are sharing their work and their expertise. Through regular monthly seminars, researchers discuss their completed, current or planned projects with students and other faculty members throughout the Medical College.

Knowledge about intellectual property was also shared broadly through a Qatar Foundation forum hosted by WCMC-Q. “With 2.8 percent of Qatar’s national GDP dedicated to invention and innovation, it’s important to think about the best way to tackle intellectual property,” according to Dr. Abdelali Haoudi, QF vice president for research.

Ethical issues related to embryonic stem cell research were discussed at another forum hosted by WCMC-Q in May. According to Dr. Ali Mohayuddin Qaradaghi, a researcher and professor in the Faculty of Sharia at Qatar University, Islam endorses the extraction of stem cells from embryos under certain conditions. “Activities that can save human life are promoted by Islam,” says Sheikh Al Qaradaghi.

Stem cells are a major focus for medical research for Qatar Foundation and WCMC-Q.
WCMC-Q students continued to demonstrate their talent and...
WCMC-Q students continued to demonstrate their talent and determination to create an enthusiastic and supportive community.
Inside and outside the classroom, WCMC-Q students continued to demonstrate their talent and determination to create an enthusiastic and supportive community focused on academic excellence and positive extracurricular activities.

First-year medical student Maen Abou Ziki received honorable mention in the James A. Perkins Award for Interracial Understanding and Harmony for his work with the IthacaQatar program to bridge the physical and cultural gap between students in Ithaca and Doha. As president of the program, Abou Ziki, along with Zena Ghazala, Abdulwahed Zainel and Yassmin Ibrahim helped arrange visits to the Doha campus by members of the group in Ithaca. Abou Ziki and his counterpart in Ithaca, Jonathan Soh, arranged several activities, including a slide show of campus life that helped highlight the traditions they share as members of the Cornell community.

**Bridging the Gap**

That visit followed an earlier one to Ithaca by WCMC-Q students during the summer where they bonded on Cornell Outdoor Education’s Hoffman Challenge Course, heard a chimes concert featuring Middle Eastern music atop McGraw tower and took weekend trips to New York City and Niagara Falls.

Travel to Cornell campuses in Ithaca and New York City continues to be a highlight for many WCMC-Q students. During the summer, eight premedical students attended Summer Session in Ithaca, taking English and science courses. Eight premedical students participated in the Summer College Program in Ithaca, focusing primarily on developing English language and critical thinking skills. The summer programs allow the students to study and interact with peers shaped by a completely different set of cultural factors.
Embracing Debate

Four members of the Debate Club traveled to Istanbul in February to take part in the 30th World Universities Debating Championship. Premedical students Emad Mansoor Alam, Arunima Bera, Mariam Gabrial and Zahra Naqvi represented WCMC-Q at the nine-day event, going head-to-head with some of the best university debaters from around the world. Then in April, club members won the Qatar National Universities Debate Championship in Doha for the third year in a row. Opposing the motion, “This House Believes Social Networking Sites Do More Harm than Good,” second year premedical students Emad Mansoor Alam, Arunima Bera and Zahra Naqvi defeated a team from the College of the North Atlantic-Qatar in the final round.

WCMC-Q also hosted Cornell’s first inter-campus debate as three students came from Ithaca in November to argue the motion “That Medical Research Institutions Should Not Accept Tobacco Industry Funding.” Judges handed the victory to Ithaca, but both teams celebrated the opportunity to bridge the distance between them with their shared passion for a good argument. “Debating sharpens communication skills and builds confidence,” says Rodney Sharkey, Ph.D., assistant professor of writing at WCMC-Q and debate team coach. “It is arguably the best possible training for becoming efficient communicators.”

The Global Health Club joined the list of clubs created by WCMC-Q students to enrich their lives on campus. To kick off the first meeting, members hosted Dr. Abdul Latif Al Khal, director of medical education for Hamad Medical Corporation, to give a presentation on tuberculosis. Throughout the academic year, medical students volunteered at health care programs in countries such as Haiti and Tanzania.

Athletic Prowess...

On the field, WCMC-Q’s football team defended their 2009 league championship title with a record of seven wins, two draws and one loss over the ten-game schedule. “It was a great season. And we expect to be strong contenders for the title next year,” says coach Gerard McKee.

... and Artistic Talent

In March, WCMC-Q hosted Coffee House, the annual event at which students from all Education City campuses entertain each other and the community with singing, dancing and traditional arts.

In April, students launched a new creative publication with the help of writing lecturer Autumn Watts. Entitled “Between Seminar Rooms,” the book contained oil paintings, sketches, and poetry by students, who shared the inspiration and feeling behind their works at a book launching ceremony in April. It was a moving supplement to Qira’at, the collection of medical student essays published the preceding year.

In between studies and extracurricular activities, students received ongoing advice and individualized counseling by staff members in the Office of Admissions and Student Affairs. The guidance is designed to help students gauge their progress through all aspects of the rigorous academic program. Workshops on study skills and time management are provided throughout the year to help students move successfully toward their medical degree.

Additional information about international training opportunities was provided to students in February through a symposium that brought to Qatar representatives of the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates, the New York State Board of Medicine, and international medical student exchange programs.

“The symposium gave our students and staff members in admissions and student affairs fresh perspective on additional training possibilities and the state of health care and medical education in Qatar,” says Dr. Ravinder Mamtani, associate dean for global and public health and acting associate dean for admissions and student affairs.
Faculty, staff, and students contribute their time and expertise to programs and activities that enhance the health and well-being of the people of the state of Qatar.
Faculty, staff, and students contribute their time and expertise to programs and activities that enhance the health and well-being of the people of the state of Qatar.
Reaching Out to Students

During the summer, WCMC-Q welcomed about 60 students from schools throughout Qatar to its campus to participate in free summer enrichment programs. Through educational games and interactive activities, WCMC-Q faculty, alumni, and medical students help the young people explore their intellectual curiosity while learning about science and medicine as exciting potential careers.

In the fall, WCMC-Q welcomed students and their families to its second annual Medicine Unlimited event. Using simulations, live experiments, and demonstrations, the faculty and staff brought to life the excitement of health care and biomedical research in Qatar. While young people explored the educational and research activities and participated in games and quizzes, their parents took advantage of free health screenings and vaccinations provided by WCMC-Q, Hamad Medical Corporation, Qatar Diabetes Association and the Ministry of Health Blindness Prevention Committee, who were sponsoring the event. “Through such activities, WCMC-Q aims to showcase different educational opportunities and resources to parents and prospective students,” says Noha Saleh, director of student recruitment.

Throughout the year, WCMC-Q faculty shared their expertise on health care treatments and topics with the community at the Medicine and U monthly lecture series. Topics included vision protection, benefits of breastfeeding, identifying child abuse, seasonal and H1N1 flu, the social and health implications of cousin marriage, recognizing and treating stroke, and handling and managing stress. “People are eager for information about ways to improve their health and our faculty members are delighted to share their knowledge,” says Dr. Basim Uthman, professor of neurology, who organizes the lecture program.
Involving Opinion Leaders

In February, more than 30 high school counselors from Qatar and the Gulf Region visited WCMC-Q and other Education City campuses to meet with students and learn about the admissions process, the courses of study and the available financial aid.

In March, principals and counselors from 23 Qatar high schools took part in WCMC-Q’s first Local Schools Open Forum. “These education professionals play a vital role in inspiring students in Qatar to explore careers in medicine and biomedical research,” says Dean Javaid Sheikh, M.D. “We want to help them learn first hand about WCMC-Q.”

In April, Dean Sheikh welcomed Qatari physicians to WCMC-Q to enlist their efforts in broadening interest among qualified Qatari students in health care careers. “Qatari physicians are opinion leaders and role models for the nation’s young people. Their support is essential to our efforts to expand recruitment among Qatari students,” says Dean Sheikh.

Forty-five science teachers came to WCMC-Q and became undergraduates again, racing tiny cars and calculating the physics of rock climbing, all in the name of improving their instruction for local students. They participated in the second annual physics workshop by WCMC-Q and Cornell University’s Center for Nanoscale Systems Institute for Physics Teachers. “The activities expose teachers to new approaches and to resources we can share with them,” says Syed Ahmed Hasnain, senior physics lab assistant. Through its lending library of instructional materials, WCMC-Q makes resources available to science teachers throughout Qatar.

Sharing Inspiration

In the annual literary lecture series, WCMC-Q writing faculty shared their own works in progress with the public. Rodney Sharkey, Ph.D., discussed his novel “Aeneas,” which draws its inspiration and structure from The Odyssey by Homer and Ulysses by James Joyce. Ian Miller, MFA, explored the concepts of time, accomplishment and death in his novel-in-progress, “The Job.” Mary Ann Rishel, MFA, read several chapters from her murder mystery novel set in Qatar, “A Near Absence of Blood.” Autumn Watts, MFA, shared parts of her novel “A Great and Terrible Light,” about a character who leaves a wealthy family and arranged marriage in the American East to live an impoverished life in a mining camp in the West. “Part of our social responsibility to our students and to the people of Doha is to help make writing and literature as accessible as possible. By sharing our own, I hope we can help demystify the writing process a bit,” says Sharkey.

As the academic year drew to a close, WCMC-Q sponsored its third annual Healing Hands Essay Contest to encourage Qatari high school students to think about the nation’s health care challenges and their role in meeting them. The contest drew participation from high school students across Qatar, from Doha to outlying schools as far away as Al Shahanya municipality and from government, independent and international schools alike.

The two winning students, Abdulaziz Majed Al-Malki, an 11th grader at Qatar Academy, and Noora Sawan Al Awam, a 12th grader from Doha College, received a Doctor of the Future Scholarship, which included a trip to Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City to spend time with world-class physicians and scientists in their research labs.

“We believe our essay contest inspires more Qatari students to consider careers in health care and research and to think about the role WCMC-Q plays in helping Qatar build a knowledge-based economy,” says Dean Sheikh.
Faculty and Staff Numbers, 2001-2010

Figures for faculty include all those on the WCMC-Q payroll considered active within the 2009-2010 academic year. Figures for staff are as of June 30, 2010, and include those residing in New York. Academic non-faculty includes postdoctoral positions in the research program.

Total Number of Students, 2002-2009

Figures are as of September 21, and reflect any attrition from incoming classes in subsequent years.

STATISTICS
Faculty and Staff Numbers, 2001-2010

Figures for faculty include all those on the WCMC-Q payroll considered active within the 2009-2010 academic year. Figures for staff are as of June 30, 2010, and include those residing in New York. Academic non-faculty includes postdoctoral positions in the research program.

Total Number of Students, 2002-2009

Figures are as of September 21, and reflect any attrition from incoming classes in subsequent years.
Profile of Classes Entering the Pre-medical Program, 2002-2009

Total Enrollment and Applicants

Gender Profile

Entering Profile: SAT 1 Math Score
Medical Program, 2004-2009

Gender Profile of Classes Entering Medical Program

Profile of Entering Medical Students, September 2009

Enrolled students .................................................................41
Male ..................................................................................18
Female ..............................................................................23
Previous education: WCMC-Q ........................................37
  Simon Fraser University ................................................1
  University of Minnesota ..............................................1
  American University of Cairo ...................................1
  University of Toronto .................................................1

Average Science GPA ...................................................3.5
Average age (Sept 1st, 2008) ........................................19.8

Citizenship of Student Body

Qatar .................................................. Iraq ......................... Russia
Algeria .............................................. Jordan ........................ Saudi Arabia
Australia .......................................... Kenya ................. South Korea
Bahrain ........................................... Kuwait ......................... Sri Lanka
Bangladesh .................................. Lebanon .................... Sudan
Bosnia ........................................ Mauritania .................. Syria
Canada .......................................... Mauritius ................ Tanzania
Egypt ............................................... Nepal ....................... Tunisia
France ........................................... Oman .......................... UAE
Germany ....................................... Pakistan ......................... USA
India ................................................ Palestine .................. Yemen
Iran .................................................. Philippines ..............
# National Priorities Research Program Grants - 3rd Cycle, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Investigators</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Genetics of Risk for Retinopathy Among Qatars with Type 2 Diabetes</td>
<td>Ronald Crystal, MD, WCMC-NY (PI); Abdulbari Bener, PhD, WCMC-Q (Co-Lead PI); Maha El Shafei, MD, Hamad Medical Corporation (Co-PI); Alvin Mushlin, PhD, WCMC-NY (Co-PI); Donald D’Amico, MD, WCMC-NY (Co-PI); Hassan Ghomrawi, PhD, WCMC-NY (Co-PI); Szilard Kiss, MD, WCMC-NY (Co-PI)</td>
<td>1,047,928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effect of Shisha Smoking on the Biology of the Airway Epithelium in Qatars</td>
<td>Neil Hackett, PhD, WCMC-NY (Lead-PI); Abdulbari Bener, PhD, WCMC-Q (Co-Lead PI)</td>
<td>1,047,939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genetic Vaccine Development for Infectious Disease</td>
<td>Stephen Kaminsky, PhD, WCMC-NY (Lead PI); Ali Sultan, MD, WCMC-Q (Co-PI)</td>
<td>1,047,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrative approach to microenvironment and host-immune response in colon cancer</td>
<td>Jerome Galon, PhD, INSERM (Lead PI); Arash Rafii Tabrizi, MD, PhD, WCMC-Q (Co-Lead PI); David Kerr, MD, PhD, Sidra Medical &amp; Research Center (PI)</td>
<td>958,092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicotine Signaling in Obesity-Induced Diabetic Cardiomyopathies</td>
<td>Zaher Nahle, PhD, WCMC-NY (Lead PI); Khaled Machaca, PhD, WCMC-Q (Co-Lead PI)</td>
<td>1,033,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genetic Variability and Susceptibility to Type 2 Diabetes in the Qatari Population</td>
<td>Ronald Crystal, MD, WCMC-NY (PI); Laith Abu-Raddad, PhD, WCMC-Q (Co-Lead PI); Abdulbari Bener, PhD, WCMC-Q (Co-PI); Marcus Butler, MD, WCMC-NY (Co-PI)</td>
<td>1,046,935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abnormalities in Bone Development Associated with Pre-eclampsia</td>
<td>Fayez Safadi, PhD, WCMC-Q (Lead PI); Robin Davisson, PhD, Cornell University (Co-PI); Arash Rafii Tabrizi, MD, PhD, WCMC-Q (Co-PI); Salma Abdalla, PhD, WCMC-Q (Co-PI)</td>
<td>986,517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creation of an induced pluripotent stem cell core in Doha- Qatar</td>
<td>Arash Rafii Tabrizi, MD, PhD, WCMC-Q (Lead PI); Chad Cowan, PhD, Harvard Stem Cell Institute (CoPI); Laurence Daheron, PhD, Harvard Stem Cell Institute (Co-PI)</td>
<td>979,792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zinc-dependent regulation of the cell cycle regulator Cdc25 as a potential anti-cancer target</td>
<td>Khaled Machaca, PhD, WCMC-Q (Lead PI); Hala Muhtasib, PhD, American University of Beirut (Co-Lead PI)</td>
<td>1,049,885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessing the Genomic Signature of Breast Cancer in Qatar</td>
<td>Nady Nady-Mohamed, MD, WCMC-Q (Lead PI); Yufei Huang, PhD, University of Texas-San Antonio (PI); Yidong Chen, PhD, University of Texas-San Antonio (PI); Erchin Serpedin, PhD, Texas A&amp;M University-Qatar (Co-PI); Lotfi Chouchane, PhD, WCMC-Q (Co-PI)</td>
<td>1,025,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trafficking and Recycling of the store-operated Calcium channel Orai1</td>
<td>Timothy McGraw, PhD, WCMC-NY (Lead PI); Khaled Machaca, PhD, WCMC-Q (Co-Lead PI)</td>
<td>1,042,889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epigenetic control of odorant receptor gene choice</td>
<td>Benjamin Shykind, PhD, WCMC-Q (Lead PI); Tao Sun, PhD, WCMC-NY (Co-PI)</td>
<td>1,020,557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular progenitors derived from Pluripotent Stem Cells</td>
<td>Ed Stanley, PhD, Monash University (Lead PI); Arash Rafii Tabrizi, WCMC-Q (Co-Lead PI)</td>
<td>1,035,712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding the link between moisture dynamics and microbial activity in mobile dunes</td>
<td>Michel Louge, PhD, Cornell University (Lead PI); Christopher Ogden, PhD, WCMC-Q (Co-Lead PI); Anthony Hay, PhD, Cornell University (Co-PI); Renee Richer, PhD, WCMC-Q (Co-PI)</td>
<td>1,027,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Papillomavirus in Arab Women: Molecular, Clinicopathological, Serological, and Vaccine Impact Studies in Select Arab Countries</td>
<td>Ali Sultan, MD, PhD, WCMC-Q (Lead PI); Shahinaz Bedri, MD, Ahrad University for Women (Co-PI); Elham Hassen, PhD, University of Monastir Faculty of Medecine, Monastir, Tunisia (Co-PI); Muntaser Ibrahim, PhD, Institute of Endemic Diseases, University of Khartoum (Co-PI); Asma Althani, PhD, Qatar University (Co-PI); Nahla Alifii, PhD, Qatar University (Co-PI); Gerardo Guiter, PhD, WCMC-Q (Co-PI); Laith Abu-Raddad, PhD, WCMC-Q (Co-PI); Nady Nady-Mohamed, MD, WCMC-Q (Co-PI)</td>
<td>919,757</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Faculty Publications for 2009-2010

Abu-Raddad, Laith J.


Al-Amin, Haasen A.


Arayssi, Thurayya


Bener, Abdulbari


Büsselberg, Dietrich


Chouchane, Lotfi


Ding, Hong


Guiter, Gerardo E.


Konopasek, Lyuba


Machaca, Khaled


Malek, Joel


Roach, James Dwight

Rodriguez Del Pozo, Pablo

Rodriguez del Pozo, Pablo (translator)

Scott, Stephen M.

Sharkey, Rodney
Sharkey R. From hardware to software, or 'rocks, cocks, creation, defecation, and death': reading Joyce and Beckett in the fourth dimension. TSLL. 2009;51(1):28-40.

Sun, Lu

Triggler, Christopher Robert

Uthman, Basim M.

Watts, Autumn

Weber, Alan S.

Yu, Fang
Leadership for Annual Report 2010

Cornell University

Peter C. Meinig  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

David J. Skorton, M.D.  
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,  
Dean of Weill Cornell Medical College

Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar

Javaid I. Sheikh, M.D.  
Dean

Havva S. Idriss  
Vice Dean, Administration

Thurayya Arayssi, M.D.  
Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education (from August 2009)

Michael D. Johnson, Ph.D.  
Associate Dean for Premedical Education

Lyuba Konopasek, M.D.  
Associate Dean for Medical Education (from January 2010)

Khaled Machaca, Ph.D.  
Associate Dean for Research

Ravinder Mamanti, M.B.B.S., M.D., M.Sc.  
Associate Dean for Global and Public Health, Acting Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs (from February 2010)

Bakr Nour, M.D.  
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs (from December 2010)

Marco Ameduri, Ph.D.  
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

Lotfi Chouchane, Ph.D.  
Assistant Dean for Basic Science Curriculum (from January 2010)

Kevin Smith, Ph.D.  
Assistant Dean for Pre-medical Education (from August 2009)

Chris Triggle, Ph.D.  
Assistant Dean for Admissions

Susan E. Lacey  
Assistant Dean for Administration

Susan S. Lukesh Ph.D.  
Assistant Dean, Academic Planning & Development (until March 2010)

Nesreen Al-Refaei  
Director, Public Affairs (from March 2010)

Michel Vertigans  
Director, Public Affairs (through March 2010)

Amanda Brailsford  
Director, Human Resources (from April 2010)

Pim Thukral  
Director, Finance (until June 2010)  
Acting Director of Human Resources (until April 2010)

Sharon Hynes  
Director, WCMC-Q New York Office

Shahzad Jafri  
Chief Information Officer

Farzana Khan  
Director, Education Administration (from July 2009)

Dianna Marsh  
Director, Research Administration (from January 2010)

Eric Fry  
Director, Student Affairs (until March 2010)

Ellen Sayed  
Director, Distributed eLibrary

John Doig  
Director, Facilities Management

Thomas Doyle  
Director, Environmental Health and Safety

Adrienne Gibbons  
Director, Office of Admissions

Badar Khan  
Director, Information Technology Services Operations

Joan Lanning, Ph.D.  
Director, Employee Assistance Program

Farida Lada  
Director, Research Compliance (until June 2010)

Noha Saleh  
Director, Student Recruitment