Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser,
Chairperson of Qatar Foundation
Our faculty, students and staff are tremendously proud to be playing an important role in the progress of our host nation.
It gives me great pleasure to present this annual report that chronicles the progress of Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q) over the last 12 months.

As always, the last year has been full of progress and ingenuity. The energy and drive of our faculty and staff always fill me with admiration and the innovative programs and projects they initiate never cease to amaze me. Their hard work and commitment to excellence ensures the continued eminence of the college and, of course, its students.

This brings me on to the college’s primary mission; development and training of an outstanding cadre of physician scientists and clinicians who can make a difference in the world.

This year 35 new graduates, comprising 15 men and 20 women, representing 19 different countries, received their Cornell University M.D. degrees. This means that since graduating its first class in 2008, WCMC-Q has now produced a total of 147 outstanding doctors. These talented young physicians are now utilizing the highly specialized skills and knowledge that they have acquired to contribute to the objective of improving human lives in Qatar, this region, and across the globe.

Our center of excellence for biomedical research, with its world-class infrastructure for basic, translational, and clinical research, continues to successfully attract and bring prominent scientists in its fold. Our faculty, academic staff, and students continue to improve our understanding of disease factors specific to the local population, particularly those related to obesity, diabetes, metabolic syndrome and neurogenetic abnormalities. Using collaborations both with local
At a national level, WCMC-Q continues to target the health of the population by enhancing its Sahtak Awalan - Your Health First, campaign. Achievements this year have included a national sports competition for school children and the development and launch of a smartphone calorie-counting app in both Arabic and English. All of this is designed to encourage the school age population to cultivate healthy behaviors and to develop healthy eating habits so they are better able to make a meaningful contribution to the transformative vision of the nation.

WCMC-Q remains committed to improving the health and well-being of Qatar’s population. Through this commitment, and an unrelenting adherence to excellence in all we do, we will help realize the vision of the Qatari leadership, unlocking human potential and creating a knowledge-based economy for the benefit of generations to come.

Javaid Sheikh, M.D.
Dean

stakeholders and with our New York campus and other international research centers, we are determined to usher in the era of precision medicine in Qatar.

The Department of Graduate Medical Education has been working with our affiliate hospitals towards meeting the stringent standards of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education International. I am pleased to say that late last year Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) was accredited, making Qatar only the second country in the world to be awarded the distinction. In close association with the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) and the Supreme Council for Health (SCH), we are also working with representatives of HMC, Sidra Medical and Research Center, the American University of Beirut, the Oman Medical Specialty Board and the Health Authority - Abu Dhabi, to discuss regional certification of physician specialists in internal medicine, pediatrics and emergency medicine.

In a similar vein, the Department of Global and Public Health’s Center for Cultural Competence in Healthcare continues to provide training for volunteer medical translators, ensuring that both doctor and patient understand each other, no matter what their native languages.

The department also continues to provide impressive opportunities for our students to experience healthcare abroad. Two of our second year medical students recently returned from an extended trip to Tanzania where they worked in Weill Bugando Medical Center in Mwanza, a facility affiliated with WCMC-Q. Experiences such as this can only serve to develop the ambitions and knowledge of our students, opening their eyes to the world.
Joint Advisory Board

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 appointed by Qatar Foundation, three additional independent members who are selected jointly by Cornell and Qatar Foundation, and three ex-officio members.

In 2013, H.E. Abdulla A. Al-Thani, Ph.D., Vice President, Education at Qatar Foundation for Education Science & Community Development, and President of Hamad Bin Khalifa University; Mohammed Fathy Saoud, Ph.D., former President of Qatar Foundation for Education Science & Community Development; and Hassan Ali. S. A. Al-Thani, MB.Bch, FRCS(Ire), CABS Head of Vascular Surgery, General and Vascular Surgery and Director of Arab Board Program of Surgery in Qatar, all stood down from the Joint Advisory Board. Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar thanks them for their service.

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
Chair, Sidra Clinical Steering Planning Committee
Chair, Qatar Foundation For Child & Woman Protection
Consultant in Pediatrics, Hamad Medical Corporation

Mr. Faisal Alsuwaidi
President of Research and Development
Qatar Foundation for Education, Science & Community Development

William F. Owen Jr., M.D., FACP
Chief Executive Officer
Sidra Medical and Research Center

Jassim Al Suwaidi, M.B. Ch.B. 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, WCWM-Q Joint Advisory Board
Dean Emeritus and Co-Chairman of the Board of Overseers
Lewis Thomas University Professor
Weill Cornell Medical College
Vice President and Provost for Medical Affairs Emeritus

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

James J. Mingle, Esq.
University Counsel & Secretary for the Corporation
Cornell University

Mr. Tarek Abdel-Meguid
Member, Board of Overseers
Weill Cornell Medical College

Independent Representatives:

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

Sir Christopher Paine, D.M., F.R.C.P.

Ziyad Mousa Hijazi, M.D., M.P.H.
Professor of Pediatrics and Internal Medicine
Director, Rush Center for Congenital and Structural Heart Disease
Section Chief, Pediatric Cardiology
Professor of Pediatrics & Internal Medicine

Ex-Officio Members:

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

David Prior, Ph.D.
Executive Vice-President and Provost
Hamad Bin Khalifa University

Mr. Sanford I. Weill
Chairman, Board of Overseers
Weill Cornell Medical College
In May 2013, WCMC-Q celebrated the largest graduating class in the history of the college.
Medical Education

Class of 2013
WCMC-Q has concluded another successful year in medical education with 35 students attaining the M.D. degree. The graduation ceremony in Doha in May 2013 was attended by Dr. Javaid Sheikh, dean of WCMC-Q, as well as Dr. Laurie Glimcher, dean of Weill Cornell Medical College in New York, Dr. Carol Storey-Johnson, senior associate dean of Weill Cornell Medical College in New York, and other faculty members from New York, as well as family and friends.

In his commencement address, Dr. David Skorton, president of Cornell University, reminded those present that with the founding of WCMC-Q, Cornell University became the first U.S. university to offer its medical degree outside the United States. He praised The Father Emir, His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser for being visionary in their aspirations for the people of Qatar and most generous in their commitment to WCMC-Q. He commented on the contributions of Dr. Anthony M. Gotto, Jr, former dean of WCMC, Dr. Laurie Glimcher and Dr. Javaid Sheikh to WCMC-Q’s achievements. Dr. Skorton pointed out the attributes of our remarkable graduates – which included our youngest ever graduate at just 20 years of age. The 15 men and 20 women came from 19 countries on five continents, and spoke 11 languages in all. As community volunteers they founded the QF Charity Trust, through which they have raised money for orphans, Pakistani flood victims, Syrian refugees, and others.

Student speaker Zaid Tafesh addressed the following comments to his fellow graduates: “A physician is someone who strives to master the art of medicine, and thus a physician must be someone who values a human life on all levels. So to my classmates and dear friends, always maintain your dedication, reliability and companionship that define you so well. For it is these very qualities that will allow you to value the life of your patients and to practice medicine as the great physicians you are all destined to be.”

Students also traveled to New York for the commencement ceremony at Carnegie Hall. As part of the graduation festivities the annual WCMC-Q dinner at the Metropolitan Club provided the opportunity for WCMC-Q students and alumni, as well as faculty from New York and Qatar, to get together in a festive atmosphere to celebrate another year of fruitful association.

This year’s graduates were very successful in the U.S. National Residency Match Program (NRMP) with a match rate close to 91 per cent. Thus, 29 students obtained positions in U.S. programs, with some at prestigious institutions, including eight positions in the departments of internal medicine, pathology, psychiatry and surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, and positions at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio and the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in New Hampshire. Three students secured positions at Hamad Medical Corporation in the departments of surgery and radiology, while one student accepted a residency position in France and two students are undertaking a year of research.
Going forward

The Department of Medical Education at WCMC-Q is dedicated to ensuring the highest level of student success. In addition to the high-quality curriculum being delivered and the very stimulating learning environment provided by the college, a number of specific measures have been put in place. Student counseling begins in the first year when students are assigned a faculty mentor with whom they can meet as they wish for advice on their courses, their progress, their careers or anything else that might be on their mind. This year a new initiative was put in place to prepare students more thoroughly for the U.S. Medical Licensing Exam (USMLE) Step, which is taken at the end of the second year. While continuing their demanding regular coursework, students also participated in regular practice sessions from January to May that allowed them to understand the nature and intent of the exam questions and to refine their clinical reasoning skills in answering them.

The residency-advising program, which begins in the third year, has become very robust and continues to offer valuable assistance to students through the entire residency application process. Students are assigned advisors in their chosen field of specialization, one from WCMC-Q and one from WCMC. These advisors provide valuable guidance to the students in their choice of electives, the selection of residency programs and other specifics related to their application to the NRMP. Faculty members have found this process very rewarding as they become better acquainted with the many strengths students bring to prospective residency programs. Beyond their academic achievements, many students have had meaningful research experiences with some resulting in publications, and a number have participated in service activities such as a breast cancer public awareness campaign and support to migrant workers. The final reward, of course, is the joyful response when students learn of their success in securing a position in a program of their choice.

This year, the first Residency Program Directors Symposium, entitled New Frontiers in Medical Education, was held in October 2012. The event hosted 24 program directors from U.S. programs in emergency medicine, family medicine and internal medicine, neurology, and obstetrics and gynecology, representing institutions from nine different states. Participants visited our campus and Hamad Medical Corporation, had formal and informal meetings with our faculty and students and gained a deep understanding of the quality of WCMC-Q programs and the direct delivery of the WCMC curriculum in Qatar. They also contributed insights on strategies for success in U.S. residency programs, which WCMC-Q students appreciated and took to heart. WCMC-Q faculty provided substantive evidence of the comparable caliber of our graduates to their U.S. peers. Students also impressed the visitors by presenting complex case studies that demonstrated their skills at clinical reasoning and engagement in evidence-based medical practice. In a poster session, students also exhibited their research achievements. Dr. Mohamed ElShazly, Class of 2010, shared his personal experience at WCMC-Q and how it fully prepared him for his residency in internal medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Maryland. A second symposium took place in September 2013, targeting additional specialty programs.
Faculty

The dedicated cadre of faculty members at WCMC-Q forms the backbone of the curriculum and learning resources. To bolster their skills in the area of educational research a follow-up workshop was held in January 2013, with the same visiting faculty from the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER) Institute who held a workshop in June 2012. On this occasion, faculty members were invited to present their own study projects for consultation with the visiting experts. In the months that followed, WCMC-Q faculty maintained these relationships to further their progress with their studies.
Ahmad Al-Shahrani, Abdulaziz Al-Malki, Khalid Alburesshad and Ali Al Jabri wear their white coats for the first time.
WCMC-Q faculty have presented their scholarly works in medical education at a number of local, and diverse regional, national and international conferences, including events in various disciplines at HMC. These presentations took place at the 2012 meetings of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), the Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE), the British Association of Clinical Anatomists, the 2013 meetings of the combined American Pediatric Program Directors and Council on Medical Student Education in Pediatrics, the Middle East Medical Assembly (MEMA), and the World Psychiatric Association. Their topics covered the restructuring of the internal medicine ambulatory curriculum in Qatar, how WCMC-Q students view video lectures to inform effective learning strategies, an appraisal of the dissection experience by first-year medical students at WCMC-Q and workshops on teaching different levels of learners in busy clinical settings, on validating an assessment tool for clinical reasoning, and on undergraduate psychiatry education in Doha.

Dr. Stephen Scott published a number of virtual patient cases for family medicine in the web-based MedU, which is a valuable resource for medical students. Dr. Ziad Kronfol, together with colleagues Dr. Sohaila Ghuloum at HMC and Dr. Alan Weber in the pre-medical department at WCMC-Q published *Country in Focus: Qatar in the Asian Journal of Psychiatry*, in which psychiatric education, training and research and their changes in Qatar are described.

**Leadership Transition**

Dr. Lyuba Konopasek, who was medicine, patients and society course director and pediatric clerkship director at WCMC before she became associate dean for medical education at WCMC-Q in 2010, stepped down from that position in January 2013, having decided to return home to New York. Dr. Konopasek was instrumental in putting in place a number of innovations to the education program at WCMC-Q for the benefit of our students. Dr. Marcellina Mian, who came to WCMC-Q in 2006 from the Hospital for Sick Children and the University of Toronto, Canada, was appointed associate dean for medical education. Since being at WCMC-Q, Dr. Mian has served in various capacities, including pediatric clerkship director, associate dean for clinical curriculum and director for special projects.
Dr. Javaid Sheikh, dean of WCMC-Q, with students at the White Coat Ceremony
New Curriculum

WCVMC has been in the process of reforming its curriculum and faculty members at WCVMC-Q are participating in this activity. Both Dr. Konopasek and Dr. Mian are members of the Curriculum Design Leadership Group and other faculty members are drawn in as appropriate. The new curriculum will provide integration of normal and abnormal biology starting from the first year, with the foundational sciences being taught and learned in the clinical context. There will be new learning formats and assessment methods that will be linked to the learning objectives. The content will be appropriate to the learner's stage of development, clinically relevant and will prepare the learner for the next stage of learning. The curriculum will reward curiosity, critical thinking, and teamwork. Student and faculty time will be optimized and students will have an opportunity to develop areas of concentration. Work is progressing on bringing these ideas into operation so that the new curriculum can be implemented.

Thus, 2012-2013 has been a challenging and rewarding year in medical education at WCVMC-Q and the next year promises to bring new challenges and rewards.

Graduate Medical Education

Over the past several months, the Department of Graduate Medical Education (GME) has made significant progress in collaboration with our affiliate hospitals towards meeting the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education International's (ACGME-I) accreditation standards in our affiliate hospitals. Simultaneously, GME hosted two meetings with representatives of the American Board of Medical Specialties International (ABMS-I) as well as representatives from the region to discuss the provision of international certification of physician specialists in the region.

The report below provides an in depth description of the GME department's activities over the past year.
Her Excellency Dr. Ghalia Al Thani, Co-Chair of the Joint Advisory Board
Progress in accreditation by ACGME-I at HMC and Sidra

On October 14, 2012, HMC underwent an institutional site visit by the ACGME-I site visitor Bryan L. Martin, D.O. (program director for allergy and immunology, The Ohio State University). After which the ACGME-I review committee made the decision to grant institutional accreditation to HMC, thus making Qatar the second country in the world to be accredited by the ACGME-I. The next step will be to review the accreditation of six of the residency programs - emergency room, internal medicine, pediatrics, psychiatry, radiology and urology - by 2013.

Simultaneously, the GME department started working with Sidra to obtain ACGME-I institutional accreditation. The founding Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) members were selected and the first founding GMEC meeting took place in early June 2013.

American Board of Medical Specialties – International (ABMS-I)

On September 23 – 24, 2012, the GME department, in partnership with the Supreme Council of Health, HMC, and Sidra Medical and Research Center, hosted a meeting at WCMC-Q with senior administrators of the ABMS entitled “Evolving Healthcare and Physician Assessment in the Era of Globalization: Exploration of Potential Collaboration”.

Representatives of HMC, Sidra, the American University of Beirut, the Oman Medical Specialty Board and the Health Authority - Abu Dhabi, attended the meeting. Discussions included the current arrangements for certifying physicians, student teaching methods and resident education, before exploring strategies to foster greater collaboration between the parties and advance the implementation of the ABMS-I examinations.

Proceedings of the meeting were taken to the governing body of the ABMS for further discussion and approval of implementation. The ABMS governing board showed interest in continuing the discussion with the regional consortium to develop certification examinations in some specialties based on the principles that were agreed at the meeting.

Following on from the historic meeting held in September 2012, WCMC-Q hosted the second regional meeting with the ABMS-I to discuss regional certification of physician specialists in internal medicine, pediatrics and emergency medicine. This came after a memorandum of agreement (MoA) to move toward the development of a planning grant agreement was signed between ABMS-I and QF.

The planning grant agreement will establish the basis for the development and administration of ABMS-I examinations for internal medicine, pediatrics and emergency medicine with the involvement of three ABMS boards - internal medicine, pediatrics and emergency medicine. This MoA will create a mechanism to better understand the needs of the program and the partners with the ultimate goal of entering into the planning grant agreement and delivering certification examinations to eligible residents completing ACGME-I accredited programs.
This one-day meeting discussed the overview of graduate medical education and certification in the member consortium’s country/institute and the specifics for the development and the administration of the ABMS-I member board examination.

The meeting, held on Monday, 27 May at WCMC-Q, was co-chaired by Dr. Javaid Sheikh, dean of WCMC-Q and Her Excellency Dr. Ghalia Al Thani, a member of the executive committee of the board of governors for the Supreme Council of Health, and was attended by representatives of the following specialty member boards: American Board of Internal Medicine, American Board of Pediatrics and American Board of Emergency Medicine, by HMC, Sidra Medical and Research Center, the American University of Beirut, the Oman Medical Specialty Board and the Health Authority - Abu Dhabi as well as WCMC-Q and HMC faculty.

**Scholarly Activities**

Over the past year, eight pieces of literature contributed by both local and foreign-based academic physicians were published on the GME website.

1. *Resident Teaching: Residents play key roles not only in patient care but also in teaching medical students*, by Dr. Dora Stadler, assistant dean for GME at WCMC-Q.
2. *Health Professionals for a new century: transforming education to strengthen health systems in an interdependent world*, by Deema Al-Sheikhly, manager of GME at WCMC-Q.
3. *Do You Also Have Underperforming Residents?*, by Dr. Thuraya Arayssi, associate dean for GME at WCMC-Q.
4. *Interviewing Skills for Bedside Teachers*, by Dr. Samar Aboulousoud, assistant professor in internal medicine at Cairo University.
6. *On Resident Preparation for On-Call Responsibility*, by Dr. Sophia Archuleta, assistant professor of medicine, National University of Singapore.
7. On Public Health Physician Specialty Training, by Dr. Kristina Sole, director of ob/gyn clerkship at WCMC-Q.
8. On Teaching Medicine to Millennial Learners: What Works?, by Dr. Stephen Scott, assistant dean for clinical curriculum and medical education at WCMC-Q.

Presentations

The following posters were presented by members of the department:


The following oral presentations were delivered by members of the department:

1. Medical Education in the MENA Region: Challenges and Future Prospects, by Arayssi T. at the Harvard Arab Weekend, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts on Nov 8 to 11, 2012.
2. Cultural Awareness and Change, by Arayssi T. at the 46th Middle East Medical Assembly in Beirut on May 9 to 11, 2013.
IFOM CSE Testing Center

The GME department administered two International Foundations of Medicine Clinical Science Examinations (IFOM CSE) in October 2012 and April 2013 for more than 300 candidates. The IFOM CSE is administered in Qatar for applicants intending to apply for residency programs in Qatar and the region. Currently enrolled medical students or medical school graduates from around the world are eligible to take the IFOM CSE in Qatar.

In addition, the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) has developed a new on-line candidate registration system for the IFOM CSE, as well as a system to verify the eligibility of candidates via the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG). Therefore, this year for the first time, candidates will be able to directly log-on to the NBME website from anywhere in the world to register and pay to sit the exam in Qatar, which will make the process simpler and easier.

Educators Across the Healthcare Spectrum Series

The GME department, in collaboration with HMC’s medical education department hosted the second of its series, Educators Across the Health Care Spectrum. The topic Improving Patient Care through Improved Teaching, was delivered by Dr. Scott Richardson, professor of internal medicine and campus associate dean for curriculum at Georgia Regional University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership Campus, Athens, Georgia from January 21 – 23, 2013.

Dr. Richardson gave two lectures: Teaching Evidence-Based Health Care: What, Why and How and Teaching Diagnostic Thinking Using a More Explicit Approach.

He also ran six workshops on the following topics:
- Teaching EBM and clinical reasoning in clinical settings
- Enhancing our learners’ clinical reasoning skills
- Incorporating EBM into our teaching

The interactive series was well attended by faculty, residents and health care professionals in the community. The educational activity was approved for both continuing medical education (CME) and continuing nurse education (CNE) points from HMC.

OSCE Curriculum

The GME department, in collaboration with the WCMC-Q Clinical Skills Center and HMC, has been working on the development of a 12-case two-year standardized patient (SP) objective structured clinical exam (OSCE) curriculum for the internal medicine residents. The current OSCE/SP program’s goal is to serve as a formative assessment tool targeting mainly communication skills, professionalism and integration of communication skills with clinical knowledge based on the six ACGME core competencies.
The curriculum was developed by: Dr. Dora Stadler, Dr. Ibrahim Hassan, Dr. Tasleem Raza, Dr. Hassan Mobayed, Ms. Lan Sawan, Ms. Deema Al-Sheikhly, Dr. Mohsen Eledrisi, Dr. Thurayya Arayssi, Dr. Ahmed Al-Mohammed, and Dr. Dabia Al-Mohanadi.

The OSCE curriculum working group developed a blueprint of OSCE cases and assessment tools. Six cases were developed to assess the competency of internal medicine PGY2 residents and six different cases were developed for PGY3 residents.

Two OSCE encounters were successfully conducted on December 10-11, 2012 and April 29-1 May, 2013. The first encounter was conducted with 32 PGY2 and 34 PGY3 residents while the second encounter was conducted with 35 PGY2 residents and 35 PGY3 residents. The results of the OSCE encounter were analyzed and used as a formative assessment tool to provide feedback to the residents to help them progress by highlighting their strengths and weaknesses.

The ultimate goal of the GME department is to develop an OSCE package with information that is transferrable to other departments and institutes around the world to assist them in setting-up and running their own OSCE encounters.

**Fellows Retreat**

Faculty from the Department of General Internal Medicine at HMC identified a need to advance the teaching skills of the general internal medicine fellows with the goal of actively incorporating them into various teaching activities, both in the undergraduate and the graduate medical education realm. In collaboration with the departments of GME and medical education at WCMC-Q, a two-day workshop was planned with the theme Essential Teaching Skills.

The organizing committee members were: Dr. Abdul-Nasser Elzouki, Dr. Dora Stadler, Dr. Mai Mahmoud, Dr. Mamoon El-Bedawi, Dr. Thurayya Arayssi and Ms. Deema Al-Sheikhly.

The workshops were successfully run on April 2 and June 5, 2013, and were attended by 13 fellows. They addressed some of the most common themes in medical education such as an overview of adult learning theory, creating a successful learning climate, characteristics of effective teaching and effective teachers and multiple sessions on giving feedback.

The ultimate goal is to expand the current workshop into a continuous curriculum and to develop a teaching elective for the general internal medicine fellows during which they have dedicated time to further cement and reflect on their teaching skills in preparation for their future as academic clinicians.
Jo Ann Peters, professor of chemistry, demonstrates an experiment to her pre-medical students.
Foundation Program and Pre-Medical Education

The foundation and pre-medical programs at WCMC-Q prepare students for the medical program through intensive study in basic sciences, mathematics, English literature and composition, and various medically oriented courses. Although shorter in duration than a traditional undergraduate degree, these programs provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the pre-medical requirements of most American medical colleges.

Providing a Foundation for Success

Students in the foundation program undertake rigorous preparatory studies in a small, supportive learning environment. Over the last year, the foundation program has introduced several exciting new initiatives to enhance student success and improve overall experience. A case in point is the foundation extensive reading program, which aims to develop a culture of reading by fostering learner autonomy, language competence, background knowledge and motivation. Students choose a number of books to read and critically engage with in various ways, including discussion, class presentations, weekly reading circles and a class blog. As a capstone project, students wrote reviews of their favorite books to be published on the WCMC-Q Distributed eLibrary website. Another new endeavor is the foundation college readiness program, a four-day program for newly admitted foundation students. Students in the program experience life at WCMC-Q and are introduced to skills that will smooth their transitions from high school to university. Meanwhile, foundation alumni had the opportunity to participate in the post-foundation summer program at Cornell University in Ithaca. This academic enrichment program encourages intercultural communication and the integration of WCMC-Q students into the wider Cornell community.
Developing Literary Lives

The field of medicine is both art and science, and therefore encompasses human life in all its complexity – social, psychological, physical, chemical and biological. While science forms the theoretical basis of medical knowledge, the humanities help to nurture conscientious and compassionate physicians. At WCMC-Q, the core of humanities education is the first year writing seminar, where pre-medical students explore diverse topics, such as the boundaries of the self, storytelling through different media, Islamic perspective on bioethics and the relationship between trauma, empathy, and catharsis. Students discuss, debate, and learn to write with clarity, coherence, intellectual force, and stylistic control. The high quality of student writing at WCMC-Q was on display in the third and most recently published volume of *Qira’at: Readings from the Students of the Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar*, released in March 2013.
As Dr. Alan Weber notes in his introduction, the insightfulness of these essays reveals a deep commitment to training “mindful and reflective physicians”, a key aim of contemporary medical education. Student writing was also featured in the third edition of *Between Seminar Rooms*, a creative student publication released in April 2013. *Between Seminar Rooms* serves as a creative outlet for students, encouraging them to delve into poetry, short fiction, essays, artwork, and photography. While *Qira’at* and *Between Seminar Rooms* showcase student writing, the Debate Club, mentored by Dr. Rodney Sharkey, exhibits their analytical and rhetorical skills. Several public debates were held on campus throughout the year, culminating in the Qatar National Debating Final hosted by WCMC-Q in March 2013. Finally, the annual Literary Lecture Series provided a forum for writing faculty to share their research, writing and love of literature with the community. The five lectures took place over the course of the year and explored topics such as the intersections of image and text in literature, the life of the philosopher and physician Ibn Sina, the cultural significance of female reading in *Jane Eyre*, and an analysis of intra-subjective phenomenology and the “post-human”. Additionally, guest lecturer and local filmmaker Suzannah Mirghani screened two short films, *Eddie* and *Hammour*, shot on location in Doha.
Hamad Al-Naimi works with Abdulrahman Al-Mohamedi in the lab
Innovation and Excellence in Teaching

The foundation and pre-medical faculty employ various innovative teaching techniques to engage students, advance learning, and increase success. Recent innovations include the use of process-oriented guided inquiry learning (POGIL) in foundation chemistry, spearheaded by Dr. Sheila Qureshi. POGIL lets students collaborate to explore data, invent concepts, and apply new theory. Students learn course material while developing skills in critical thinking, problem solving, and communication. Innovative, supportive and conscientious teaching creates the conditions for student learning and success. A case in point is the extraordinary achievement of pre-medical students in the American Chemical Society's General Chemistry Exam. Their median score of 62/70 was in the 95th percentile of students worldwide, and several scored in the 99th percentile. As past achievements provide the foundation for future success, the faculty continuously supports students to reach their educational and career goals. An example of this commitment is the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) Preparatory Course. Held in May 2013, this course aimed to familiarize students with the MCAT’s unique structure and content, and prepare them to meet or exceed the requirements of the medical program. Faculty members specialized in biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, physics and English all contributed.
Mariam Imran, makes a point at the Reading Circle during Orientation.
Fostering a Culture of Inquiry and Collaboration

The foundation and pre-medical faculty engages in research and service activities throughout Qatar and beyond. There are several active National Priorities Research Program (NPRP) grants, and each member maintains an active research agenda. Over the last year, peer-reviewed articles were published in a broad range of fields, reflecting the faculty's diversity and interdisciplinary nature. Recent publications have appeared in *Molecules, Physica A, The Journal of Arid Environments, The Journal of Colloid and Interface Science, The Romanian Journal of English Studies,* and *The Arab World English Journal.* In addition to a strong record of publication, faculty members organized and participated in a number of research forums, such as the Working Lunch Series, a forum dedicated to issues and concerns in writing pedagogy, and the Qatar Faculty Forum, a venue for faculty research in Qatar Foundation. Furthermore, in collaboration with student affairs and library staff, the faculty contributed to a number of educational and training programs, including the Writing and Communication for Research Scientists course, a component of the Biomedical Research Training Program for Qatari nationals, and training workshops in personal statement and letter of recommendation writing for local high school teachers and school counselors. Finally, faculty members provided guidance and technical expertise to students at WCMC-Q and other QF institutions. For instance, Dr. Rodney Sharkey mentored the WCMC-Q Reach Out to Asia Club in implementing a training program for campus assistants and cleaners in English and computer skills, while Dr. JoAnn Peters taught organic chemistry, the use of organic solvents, and the identification and care of plastic materials to students in the graduate program in conservation studies at University College London-Qatar.
Dr. Kristina Sole, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, demonstrates how to deliver a baby.
Clinical Care

A Commitment to Patients

WCMC-Q clinical faculty continue to operate approximately 18 clinics per week and see from two to 15 patients per clinic.

Dr. Kristina Sole, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, has been collaborating with Dr. David Acker and the PartnersHealth (Harvard) group that is conducting a three-year consulting project with HMC Women’s Hospital and has been involved with them in instituting education rounds in labor and delivery, focusing on discussions of patient management and quality assurance.

Dr. Naim Haddad, associate professor of neurology at WCMC-Q, has two clinics per week with slots for seven patients - three new and four follow-ups. The clinic is mainly dedicated to epilepsy. He also has two EEG (electroencephalography) reading sessions per week of one to two hours each and three weeks of inpatient neurology consultation coverage per year. Besides tutoring and teaching WCMC-Q students on neurology clerkships at HMC, Dr. Haddad also teaches fellows and specialists at HMC on a regular basis. Clinical neurophysiology lectures for them are delivered weekly at HMC, mainly by the WCMC-Q neurology team, Dr. Basim Uthman, Dr. Leopold Streletz and Dr. Haddad. Dr. Haddad is also involved in regular meetings held for the planning of a comprehensive epilepsy center at HMC and in research projects on epilepsy at HMC.
Dr. Bakr Nour, associate dean for clinical affairs.
Fatemah Al Ansari, a Qatari patient of Dr. Bakr Nour, associate dean of clinical affairs, is the first multi-visceral transplant recipient in the world to successfully give birth. Dr. Nour diagnosed and referred Mrs Al Ansari to the Miami Transplant Institute in the U.S. to undergo a rare five-organ (liver, pancreas, stomach, small and large intestine) transplant in 2007 at the age of 19, at that time a procedure unavailable in Qatar. Dr. Nour has since been managing her immunosuppression medication in Qatar. He monitors and manages the prevention of the development of rejection, infection, technical complications, and side effects of medication, which is a lifelong process. Mrs Al Ansari successfully delivered a healthy baby girl on February 26, 2013, becoming the first known multi-visceral transplant recipient in the world to do so.
Halema Faiz Al Farsi, an intern from Qatar Science Leadership Program, places some cancer cells in a centrifuge
A year of expansion and growth

Throughout the academic year 2012/2013, the research division of WCMC-Q has continued to grow, develop and work towards its goal of establishing itself as the leading biomedical research program in the region, focused on addressing the most prevalent health challenges in Qatar.

The aim is to help fulfill the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030 through the provision of biomedical research capacity for Qatar. This is being accomplished by building world-class infrastructure, cultivating human capital by investing in talented scientists, and researching the most common and serious health issues of Qatar and the wider region.

The vision for a biomedical research program was announced in 2008 and since then the program has grown into a far greater asset than could have been imagined at the time. There are now 34 active laboratories investigating subjects from basic molecular pathways to clinical areas of interest, including diabetes and obesity. In all 70 per cent of the medical faculty at WCMC-Q are currently involved in research. Among these is the laboratory of Dr. Joel Malek, who focuses on the development, application and data analysis of genomic technologies, with a recent milestone of sequencing the genome of the Arabian oryx in collaboration with colleagues at the Ministry of Environment.
The growth of the research labs was coupled with an exponential increase in the number of faculty and staff at WCMC-Q involved in research. This currently stands at 165, which represents 41 per cent of the college staff. A significant proportion of the WCMC-Q scientists have been hired and trained locally. The department continues to grow with the recruitment of three new clinical research faculty: Dr. Charbel Abi-Khalil, who specializes in diseases of the cardiovascular system; Dr. Shahrad Taheri who is an expert in diabetes and endocrinology; and Dr. Steve Atkin who also specializes in endocrinology and will be joining the faculty in January 2014. The expansion of the clinical and translational research effort at WCMC-Q will strengthen the already strong clinical/translational collaborations with our healthcare partners HMC, Primary Health Care (PHC) and Sidra.

**Qatar’s future scientists**

In order to have a truly sustainable research program capable of performing cutting-edge work for generations to come, Qatar needs to have ‘home-grown’ scientists aware of the needs of the country and the challenges that will have to be faced in the future.

To facilitate this, the research division at WCMC-Q developed the nationals training program. The six-month program offers Qatari nationals the opportunity to gain experience and training in various aspects of research, including laboratory training, biostatistics, clinical research and research administration.
It aims to produce world-class Qatari scientists and administrators to lead the research centers of excellence that are at the heart of Qatar’s vision for its future and in line with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the efforts of Qatar Foundation’s research and development division (QF-R&D).

This year, five young Qatari scientists joined the program and in the first three years 11 have completed the training. In addition to the nationals training program, the research division also hosted four interns from Qatar Science Leadership Program, two of them as PhD students on a two-year assignment completing their lab work at WCMC-Q. The initiative allows Qatari nationals to gain experience in different research settings and reflects the ongoing partnership the research division has with QF in training the scientists of the future.

The division’s training efforts expand to including students and staff in various training programs, including the summer student research training and on the job training for locally recruited research specialists, clinical research coordinators and research administration staff.

To support formal training programs and to facilitate collaborations, the research division hosted several conferences and workshops over the past year, including its annual research retreat, a research methodologies course, a conference on desert toxins, and a workshop aimed at getting informed consent. Furthermore, a multitude of departmental seminars have been hosted over the past four years averaging more than 30 seminars annually.

*Dr. Jingxuan Shan, a postdoctoral research associate and Dr. Lotfi Chouchane, assistant dean for basic science curriculum, conducting research into breast cancer*
PhD student Renuka Ravi Gupta in the laboratory of Dr Arash Rafii, associate professor of genetic medicine and director of the stem cell and microenvironment laboratory.
A commitment to ethics

The first meeting of a joint institutional review board (IRB) between WCMC-Q and HMC took place in June, the culmination of months of work to establish the new initiative.

The IRB reviews protocols to ensure that all proposed and ongoing research is ethically compliant and will ensure high standards through the rigorous examination of studies. The establishment of the IRB is testament to the commitment of both WCMC-Q and HMC to exacting research methodology. Plans to enhance the college’s infrastructure through the creation of a vivarium core are in their final phase and will see the new facility shared with Qatar Biomedical Research Institute (QBRI) so as to promote the exchange of knowledge and make the most efficient use of the space. Basic plans for the WCMC-Q facility are that it will contain up to 6,000 cages, holding animals from rodents to aquatics.

A measure of success

Extramural funding constitutes a good measure of the growth and success of a research program. WCMC-Q faculty have successfully attracted competitively funded extramural funding totaling $80.2 million through various programs administered by QNRF since the inception of the research program. Specifically, funding was secured for research projects through the Undergraduate Research Experience Program (UREP), the National Priorities Research Program (NPRP) and the Junior Scientists Research Experience Program (JSREP). These funding mechanisms offered by QNRF have been the engine that fuelled the growth of WCMC-Q’s research program and built a research culture in Qatar.

The contribution of new knowledge in the form of scientific publication is an excellent measure of the success of our research efforts. In that context WCMC-Q faculty have published more than 200 peer-reviewed publications since inception, including in high-profile journals like the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Journal of Cell Biology, Nature Biotechnology, and PLoS Biology.

Some examples of the exciting new findings by faculty include a study by the WCMC-Q epidemiology team led by Dr. Laith Abu-Raddad, which focuses on infection burden as one driver for the HIV epidemics in sub-Saharan Africa.

A second study conducted by Drs. Benjamin Shykind, Atef Sayed and Ishmail Abdus-Saboor and published in PLoS Biology, provided prima facie evidence for a kinetic model of initiation of odorant receptor gene choice, coupled with repression of non-selected odorant receptor alleles.
Dr. Faleh Mohamed Hussain Ali, Dr. Javaid Sheikh and Dr. Albert Lowenfels all spoke at the Global and Public Health Symposium: Emerging Trends in Health care and Lifestyle Diseases: A Special Focus on Qatar. The Local and Global Health Perspectives Journal was also unveiled at the symposium.
Department of Global and Public Health

Since its inception in January 2011, the Department of Global and Public Health has worked to advance WCMC-Q’s tripartite mission of excellence in education, research and patient care.

Within this framework, the department has persevered with its efforts to strengthen and augment existing educational initiatives and implement new programs, expand and increase collaborative local and global public health research, and continue to support and partake in community related initiatives. The department’s subdivision, the Center for Cultural Competency in Healthcare, has continued its core mission to train healthcare professionals to function effectively in a high-density multicultural setting.

Education Programs and Activities

In March 2013 the department successfully hosted a global and public health symposium, the theme of which was Emerging Trends in Healthcare and Lifestyle Diseases: A Special Focus on Qatar. The keynote speech of the event was delivered by Dr. Faleh Mohamed Hussain Ali, assistant secretary general for policy affairs at the Supreme Council of Health. Dr. Javaid Sheikh, dean of WCMC-Q, spoke about optimizing healthcare through education, research and clinical programs, and Dr. Ravinder Mamtani, associate dean of global and public health at WCMC-Q, shared the recent findings on chronic disease risk factors in Qatar based on the Step Wise Survey conducted by the Supreme Council of Health in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO). Internationally renowned speakers who addressed the audience included Dr. David Katz, director of the Yale University Prevention Research Center; Dr. Stephanie Abbuhl, professor of emergency medicine and executive director of the FOCUS program on health & leadership for women at the University of Pennsylvania; and Dr. Albert Lowenfels, professor of family and community medicine and surgery at New York Medical College. The symposium, which was well attended by healthcare and allied professionals, provided a platform for innovative ideas, invigorating discussion and knowledge sharing of recent healthcare delivery and public health priorities in Qatar.

Population Health and Primary Care Perspectives Elective

The Department of Global and Public Health now offers a four-week global health elective course for senior medical students. In this elective, students are introduced to various global health topics with a special focus on population health and primary healthcare, within the context of global health. The elective provides information and experience related to public health practice and policy, primary care, and public health research. The information taught on the course is complemented by discussion sessions about healthcare delivery systems and specific programs from countries in the Middle East and other countries around the world.
Global and Public Health Internship

To strengthen and augment WCMC-Q’s relationship with the local and international community, the Department of Global and Public Health now offers an internship program for undergraduate students. Talented high school students who have exhibited a strong interest in healthcare are also considered. The program introduces students to the core concepts of global and public health to improve their awareness and knowledge in these areas. The program is open to students from around the world.

Lecture by Aly Verjee

In January 2013, the department organized a talk by Aly Verjee, a senior researcher with the Rift Valley Institute based in Kenya. The focus of the talk was the 2012 outbreak of yellow fever in Sudan, described by the WHO as the worst seen in the last 20 years, and the prospect of the virus taking hold in the Arabian Peninsula. The talk explained how the epidemic was controlled by a sustained immunization campaign carried out by the Sudanese government, the WHO and non-governmental organizations.

Summer Global Health Education and Research Experience in Tanzania

Two of our medical students, Lama Obeid and Ahmed Saleh, were selected for the summer research trip and spent July and August at Weill Bugando, the largest hospital in Mwanza, Tanzania, where they learned how medicine is practiced in a low income country.

Global and Local Community Health Initiatives

Launch of the Local and Global Health Perspectives Journal

Under the auspices of its QScience.com online publishing platform, Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Journals launched the new journal Local and Global Health Perspectives. The journal is a peer-reviewed,
open access international journal, of which Dr. Ravinder Mamtani and Dr. Albert Lowenfels, are the editors-in-chief. Dr. Sohaila Cheema, director of the Department of Global and Public Health, serves as the managing editor for the journal. Dr. Faleh Mohamed Hussain Ali, assistant secretary general for policy affairs at the Supreme Council of Health, inaugurated the journal in March 2013 and welcomed it as a “much needed and timely arrival for researchers, physicians and medical students”. In addition to the traditional areas of global and public health, the journal’s editors endeavor to publish manuscripts that cover new innovative ideas, comparative studies, viewpoints that do not conform to existing paradigms and studies aimed at issues surrounding quality of life, non-communicable diseases, mental health and aging. The journal will also welcome manuscripts related to newer trends on the horizon inclusive of but not limited to electronic medical records, medical tourism, boutique clinics, alternative medicine and telemedicine.

Global Education in Medicine Exchange (GEMx)

WCMI-Q has joined an elite group of prestigious universities that aim to connect educators and students around the world through the Global Education in Medicine Initiative, launched in 2012 by the United States Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates. From Qatar, Dr. Ravinder Mamtani has been selected to serve as a member of the GEMx advisory committee. The advisory committee also has representatives from medical schools in Australia, India, Ireland, Mexico and the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research. Through this established mechanism, students will be able to apply for electives almost anywhere in the world in the schools of their preference. Additionally, this is a great opportunity for students in other accredited medical schools to come to WCMI-Q. The next GEMx advisory committee will be hosted by WCMI-Q in January 2014.

Participation in professional bodies

Dr. Ravinder Mamtani, associate dean of global and public health, and Dr. Sohaila Cheema, director of
Dr. Ravinder Mamtani, associate dean for global and public health at WCMC-Q, co-authored the report Impact of migrant workers on the Human Development Index.
global and public health participate in various committees within the national and Education City arena in relation to a variety of issues, including national preventive health strategy, health screening in primary care, dietary nutrition guidelines, healthcare workforce issues, and Academic Health System matters.

**Sahtak Awalan**

The Department of Global and Public Health continues to support the Sahtak Awalan: Your Health First campaign spearheaded by the Department of Government and Public Affairs. The five-year educational campaign targets every demographic group to encourage them to make healthy lifestyle choices, with a special focus on young people aged between ten and 25 years old.

**Research**

The Department of Global and Public Health’s research program continues to focus on problems of public health importance to the State of Qatar. Some ongoing research initiatives include the use of herbal and nutritional supplements among college students in Qatar, epidemiological study of motor vehicle injuries, and the epidemiological and public health aspects of diabetes and obesity.

The department recently published a short report titled *Impact of migrant workers on the Human Development Index (HDI)* in the journal, *Perspectives in Public Health*. The aim of this report is to determine the impact of guest worker status on the composite HDI ranking score. The study shows that migrant guest worker status in countries with high HDI impacts the overall HDI ranking because it has a measurable negative effect on the educational component of the index. If the data were adjusted for
the educational component, countries with a guest worker population of more than 30 percent of total population would achieve a higher HDI rating. Qatar, for example, would appear near Norway at the top of the UN HDI list. Additionally, the current HDI listing for any country with a high migrant population should be discerned fastidiously.

**Center for Cultural Competence in Health Care (CCCHC)**

**Cultural Competence Training Module**

Maha Elnashar, director, and Huda Abdelrahim, associate specialist at CCCHC continue to provide cultural competence training to WCMC-Q medical students. The training module is a total of 22 hours, built on the five tools for assessing cultural competence training self-assessment domains and the standards of the liaison committee on medical education. Students on the module engage in various activities to build their cultural competence knowledge and skills. Through didactic lectures, group discussions, interactive exercises and videos the students cover many topics related to culture and its impact on healthcare. The module is currently implemented in the first and third years of the medical program.

Each year, the center invites two faculty members to promote interdisciplinary collaboration and enrich the cultural competence module. This year, the module heard a lecture entitled Evidence Based Traditional Healing Practices given by Dr. Mamtani, and a second entitled Herbal Medicine, given by Dr. Sherief Khalifa, associate dean of the faculty of pharmacy at Qatar University.

**Medical Interpretation Training Module**

CCCHC conducts a one-hour orientation training session for each class about how to work with a trained or untrained medical interpreter before they start their clinical training. This takes place during the introduction to clerkship course.

CCCHC continues to provide medical interpretation services to WCMC-Q students during their clinical training in HMC hospitals and Primary Healthcare Corporation (PHC) centers. During 2012/2013 the center expanded its language service by adding more languages. This significant achievement in the medical interpretation program will help WCMC-Q students to communicate effectively via trained medical interpreters and to enhance their cross-cultural communication skills.

**Training for WCMC-Q staff and its affiliates**

CCCHC contributes to WCMC-Q’s new hire orientation sessions to emphasize the importance of diversity in the workplace and introduce the center’s activities and services to the new employees.

Additionally, CCCHC conducted a two-hour orientation session on cultural competence for HMC’s international executive recruitment team in the corporate management department. The center also
participates at least twice a year in the Comskil Training module offered by the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. The module focuses on end of life communication skills and targets HMC residents and specialists. This training is conducted once a month for one full day during the weekend.

The center also conducts two sessions amounting to four hours per year on cultural competence skills and medical interpretation for the faculty of pharmacy at Qatar University.

Research

CCCHC continues its participation in a research project entitled Providing Culturally Appropriate Healthcare Services in Qatar: Development of a Multilingual Patient Cultural Assessment of Quality Instrument. The project, funded by the National Priorities Research Program, is in its the final phase, which includes data analysis and summary of findings based on information collected in the past three years.

Medical Interpreter Training offered to the Public

As part of the center’s effort to promote language access to healthcare in Qatar, the center conducted three successful Bridging the Gap medical interpreter training sessions for members of the public. The aim of the training is to create a group of trained medical interpreters who are able to provide language services in a healthcare setting. A total of 55 participants completed the certificate requirements and passed the final exam. Participants came from a variety of academic and professional backgrounds and included physicians, pharmacists, dentists, healthcare administrators, legal advisers, engineers and IT professionals.

Many healthcare providers and professionals from Sidra Medical and Research Center, HMC, WCMC-Q, QF, primary healthcare centers and various private sector institutions have completed training in spoken languages relating to healthcare in Qatar. A certificate ceremony was held in February to celebrate this remarkable step, to honor the pioneering participants and to raise awareness of the significance of the medical interpretation field.

Strengthening Collaborative Relations

CCCHC maintains collaborative relationships with various social associations, cultural groups and community leaders in Qatar. The Nepalese Cultural Festival was one of the main events that the center took part in this year.

Finally, the department launched its website in March 2013. The website, which can be accessed at the link http://qatar-weill.cornell.edu/gph/index.html or via the WCMC-Q homepage, serves to highlight all the initiatives and activities offered by the department.
Noha Saleh, director of student recruitment, speaks to a prospective student at an outreach event.
Student Life

Admissions, Recruitment and Student Affairs

The Offices of Admissions and Student Affairs (ASA) support the academic, personal and professional growth and development of all WCMC-Q students.

The core services provided by the division are student academic counselling, personal and career counselling; coordination and implementation of special events; alumni support; coordination of admissions and student recruitment; registration and academic record-keeping through the Office of the Registrar; and administrative support to all pre-medical and medical student organizations. In partnership with Qatar Foundation, the division also provides support to students seeking to secure residency permits, housing, local health insurance, international visas and exit permits.

During the year 2012-13 the division has handled more than 400 applications to the college’s pre-medical program, migrated student records to a new Student Information System, and continued its drive to find and recruit the most talented students in the region and beyond, among other highlights.

Student Recruitment

The Office of Student Recruitment continues to implement a focused recruitment strategy based on identifying applicants with the potential to achieve outstanding academic success, with a special emphasis on engaging with Qatari nationals and long-term residents of Qatar. The office continues to offer targeted outreach services and cultivation programs, not only to attract students who possess the academic profile that will enable them to succeed and flourish in our programs, but also to help prepare these students for college and to provide access to our teaching facilities and programs.

At regional level, the student recruitment team reached out to students across the GCC through the Discover Education City Roadshow, jointly organized with other Hamad Bin Khalifa University branch campuses. During the fall semester of 2012 the team visited Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, Sharjah, Amman, Kuwait and Muscat to raise awareness of the programs and opportunities offered by WCMC-Q and attract the best-qualified students in the region.

In addition to implementing a year-long recruitment calendar, the office responded to more than 1,800 online, phone and walk-in inquiries during the year.

Local Recruitment

Summer Enrichment Programs

Two programs, the Qatar Medical Explorer Program and the Pre-college Enrichment Program, were offered to high school students during the summer of 2012. The Office of Student Recruitment received about 250 applications for the two programs, of which a total of 49 students were selected to participate. The programs continue to offer students the opportunity to attend pre-medical and medical classes, get hands-on experience in the labs and prepare for college admissions.
Members of the Office of Admissions also contributed to the Summer Enrichment Programs. The academic counselors helped the recruitment department deliver workshops on topics such as career decision-making, building an excellent resume, and effective college interviewing skills.

**Winter Enrichment Program**

Newly introduced in 2013, the Winter Enrichment Program invited students of independent schools in Qatar to join the Qatar Medical Explorer Program during the school winter break in February. A total of 26 students from nine independent schools attended the program, where they spent two weeks learning what it is like to train to become a medical doctor at WCMC-Q. Both the summer and winter programs are delivered by faculty members, teaching assistants, graduates and staff of WCMC-Q.

**Healing Hands Essay Competition**

Three Qatari high school students who won the Healing Hands essay writing competition received WCMC-Q Doctor of the Future Scholarships as their prizes. The scholarships consist of a fully funded trip to New York, accompanied by a chaperone, to work in the research laboratory of Dr. Ronald Crystal. This year, the students were also offered a local research experience in the WCMC-Q research laboratories of Dr. Christopher Triggle, professor of pharmacology and Dr. Khaled Machaca, associate dean for research. The program continues to yield highly qualified prospective Qatari students.

**School Visits, Open Days and Fairs**

The student recruitment team visited more than 40 schools throughout the year. During the fall, graduating seniors were offered information including admissions requirements and deadlines, along with one-on-one counseling relating to test scores, the application process and funding opportunities.

Sixteen open days were organized for interested students and schools during the year. A typical open day consists of a formal presentation of WCMC-Q’s programs and facilities, a tour of the college and the
Dr. Mohamud Verjee, associate professor of family medicine, uses a high-tech mannequin to demonstrate medical techniques at an open day.

chance to meet and interact with our students and faculty. Application workshops were also offered to prospective students as part of the campus visits program, as well as an interactive session in the Clinical Skills Center.

In addition, this year the recruitment team attended a number of local fairs, the most significant of which were the Hamad Medical Corporation Career Fair in March and the Qatar Career Fair in April, where representatives of WCMC-Q gave public presentations to prospective students and their parents. The recruitment team also participated in a number of school and university fairs at high-profile local institutions including DeBakey High School for Health Professions, Dukhan English Community School, Amna Bint Wahab Independent School for Girls, Doha Montessori British School and Qatar University.

Adopt a School Program

The Adopt a School Program offers a year-long relationship with high schools in Qatar, providing curriculum support, teacher and counselor training, and workshops targeted at students with academic potential, according to the needs of individual schools.

This year the Adopt a School Program provided training workshops to about 35 academic counselors and English teachers. The workshops offered advice on how to write effective reference letters and personal statements and were provided by members of WCMC-Q’s writing faculty, including Dr. Krystyna Golkowska, Dr. Alan Weber, Mr. Adam Larson Dr. Rachid Bendriss and Dr. Rodney Sharkey. Ms. Adrienne Gibbons and Ms. Noha Saleh from the Admissions and Student Recruitment Offices also gave presentations at the workshops.

In total, 61 counselors and teachers from 16 different schools, representing the majority of school systems in Qatar, attended the workshops.

Under the same program, the Office of Student Recruitment and the Admissions Office ran two application workshops for Qatari students with high potential for academic success.
The Offices of Admissions and Student Affairs also run events like ClubFest, which gives students the chance to take up new hobbies and skills.
Hana Purra, Bashayer Al-Mulla and Noora Al-Hail prepare to serve dinner to the college’s catering and cleaning staff.

Counsellors’ Workshops, Parents’ Nights and Principals’ Meetings

In September 2012 the two-day Discover Education City event was organized in partnership with other Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) branch campuses, attracting prospective students, parents and school counselors. The event, held in the HBKU Student Center, is considered the largest HBKU-wide local recruitment fair and this year attracted more than 600 visitors.

In collaboration with branch campuses and HBKU, a series of counsellors’ workshops began with Doha Counsellors’ Day in the early fall. This year, three workshops were offered to about 150 independent and international school counsellors in Qatar. The topics discussed included writing personal statements, testing methods, how to advise Grade 10 students choosing their subjects and how to prepare them for their college of choice.

Two parents’ nights, one in September and the other in March, were organized in partnership with HBKU this year, with both attended by public speakers and representatives of the Supreme Education Council.

A meeting with the principals of independent schools was organized in March to provide a platform for discussions and updates. The majority of the independent feeder schools were represented at the event.

Regional Recruitment

As previously mentioned, the Office of Student Recruitment continues to participate in the Discover Education City Roadshow. During the fall 2012 semester the team visited more than 27 schools in several locations across the region including Muscat, Dubai, Sharja, Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, Kuwait and Amman.

The Office of Student Recruitment also attended regional fairs such as the Getex Fair in Dubai, Al Najah Fair in Abu Dhabi and University Fair in Amman during the fall. In addition, the office participated in the first New York University medical career weekend organized by New York University in Abu Dhabi in
April. WCMC-Q representatives met and offered advice to about 300 prospective students during these regional student recruitment fairs.

Regional Counselors’ Program: This year the program expanded to include a three-day program that hosted 30 school counselors of important feeder schools from across the GCC and wider Middle East. During the program, which took place in January, the counselors attended admissions and students’ panels, and visited WCMC-Q’s Clinical Skills Center and the new Qatar Foundation residence halls. The Regional Counselors Program is a joint HBKU initiative that continues to cement our relationship with our partners in the region.

Information Sharing

This year a number of initiatives were undertaken by the office to bridge the gap with its target audience. For instance, the office launched its own webpage to streamline online inquiries and help develop and maintain a database of students in the region. The office also helped produce three guides prepared and published by the Student Services Department at HBKU, entitled The Regional Counselor’s Guide, Preparing Students For Success, and The HBKU Student Handbook.

Admissions

The WCMC-Q Office of Admissions continues to strive to provide all applicants with effective advice, timely information and efficient application processing in every admissions cycle.

The 2013-2014 pre-medical program yielded an application pool of 438 submitted applications from an inquiry pool of 923. The pre-medical committee on admissions admitted 38 students directly to the pre-medical program, with a further 14 students to join from the foundation program. As of June 30, a further 19 students have been admitted to the new foundation program class.

In total, 309 online medical school admission accounts were opened and 88 students submitted applications. Of the 44 eligible WCMC-Q pre-medical program students (including four Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar graduates who had previously completed the WCMC-Q pre-medical program), 37 gained admission to the Medical Program - a promotion rate of 84 per cent. There are four additional external students, resulting in a class size of 41 students. Nine Qatari students joined the medical program in the fall 2013 semester. The office is very proud that seven of these students began their journey to medical school in the foundation program at WCMC-Q.

The accepted classes follow the WCMC-Q tradition of diversity, with the pre-medical and foundation classes comprising students of 16 different nationalities. A total of 66 per cent of the successful applicants make their home in Qatar.
Student Affairs

In August 2012, the Office of Student Affairs successfully executed the pre-medical orientation program of activities and lectures to introduce the incoming foundation and pre-medical students to the campus, the administration, and to each other. With the collaborative efforts of the orientation student leadership group and Medical Student Executive Committee - Qatar (MSECQ), the participants gave positive feedback as they felt the event was a great way to be welcomed to the college. In a section of the program dedicated to community awareness, the students collected donations from the college and sorted and packed them for donation to Qatar Charity. Afterwards, the hard work of WCMC-Q’s catering and maintenance staff was acknowledged when students hosted a dinner in their honor.

WCMC-Q also joined other branch campuses to participate in a series of HBKU-led sessions and workshops to introduce students to the wider education community at HBKU.

This was followed by the start of the Medical Orientation program in September. Student affairs welcomed the members of the Class of 2016 with a series of programs and activities, in addition to the annual White Coat Ceremony, hosted on September 6, 2012 at the HBKU Student Center. More than 400 people were in attendance as 38 students (36 internal and 2 external) were inducted. Keynote speaker at the ceremony was Dr. William Owen, chief executive officer of Sidra Medical and Research Center. During the following days the orientation included sessions on student professionalism, the teacher-learner environment, team-building activities and lab safety sessions, just to name a few. Orientation also included a visit to Qatar Diabetes Center where the students were able to become more familiar with the condition and the challenges it poses to sufferers, as well as learning how blood sugar is measured.

During this time, the majority of the students of the Class of 2013 were in the United States participating in clinical electives and sub-internships. By September they had begun completing their Electronic Residency Application System applications and were preparing to apply to the National Resident Matching Program.

As students settled into the new school year, student activities began and MSECQ hosted the second annual student town hall meeting with Dr. Javaid Sheikh, dean of WCMC-Q. This event’s purpose is to give students the opportunity to meet with the dean and discuss issues relating to the administration of the college with him. More than 100 students attended and asked questions about the direction of the college, and its connections with Sidra Medical and Research Center and Hamad Medical Corporation. The students also had the opportunity to spend time with the dean at a reception that followed.

As in previous years, MSECQ hosted its annual International Night to celebrate the unique diversity of our college community. This year’s program was attended by more than 250 people and incorporated cultural dancing, music, food and booths providing information about various countries.

In November 2012, student affairs staff travelled to the annual meeting of the Association of American
Medical Colleges (AAMC) and learned the results of the newly administered Supplementary Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP). During the same month, student affairs held the first annual WCMC-Q Wellness Day. Stalls run by student groups, faculty members, local businesses and QF departments offered tips on how to maintain a healthy lifestyle and provided guidance on nutrition, physical exercise, first aid, family health and emotional and mental wellness.

As part of the office’s academic support services, staff successfully registered all 39 students of the Class of 2015 for the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 1 Exam, which they sat in April 2013 after completion of the M2 Basis of Disease Course.

Student affairs hosted a number of preparation sessions for Class of 2014 students due to travel to the United States for their sub-internships and electives. Staff helped students complete their New York health and immunization paperwork and collate supporting documents for the F-1 student visa, as well as reviewing and selecting electives so that New York State eligibility letters could be filed by the office on behalf of the students. The majority of students were registered for the USMLE Step 2CS exam, which can only be taken in the United States, and the first group of students traveled in April 2013.

At the end of December, four students of the WCMC-Q debating team traveled to Berlin, Germany to once again represent the college at the World Universities Debating Championship.

Our student organizations continue to create opportunities for extracurricular engagement for all students. Through the Staff Enrichment Program in cooperation with QF’s Reach Out To Asia (ROTA) organization, the students helped some staff members improve their English with language lessons designed to facilitate their daily work interactions. Students also raised funds to send humanitarian aid to areas in crisis, such as Syria, and supported the fundraising efforts of Qatar Cancer Society.

To maintain constant communication with our 147 WCMC-Q graduates, in April 2013 student affairs dedicated a new tab on its website to alumni. The Alumni Office hosted a dinner for graduates residing in Doha in January and hosted another in New York City in May for graduates pursuing their residencies in the U.S.

In an effort to increase students’ exposure to global health, a group of seven first-year medical students traveled to Costa Rica for one week to conduct medical health check-ups and engage with the children of a government-sponsored day care. The students saw more than 45 patients in three days of medical service and also had the opportunity to visit some of the poorer communities to assess and evaluate the living conditions of the people. This endeavor was fully supported by MSECQ and the students will be hosting another community service trip for pre-medical students in the near future.

The office’s academic counselors continue to support first-year pre-medical students as they prepare for the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) exam. At the same time, student affairs staff facilitated the application process for Class of 2014 students as they sought visas to travel to the United State to begin their clinical electives and sub-internships.
Dr. Javaid Sheikh hosted the second and third Dean’s Honor List Dinners in October 2012 and February 2013 to recognize the accomplishments of our pre-medical students who earned a 3.75 or higher GPA in both the spring and fall 2012 terms.

Also in February, Dr. Javaid Sheikh shared two pieces of important information with students at a mini-town hall meeting. Firstly, Dr. Sheikh revealed that WCMC-Q would appear in the prestigious AVICENNA directory of medical schools. Secondly, Dr. Sheikh explained that New York State officials would visit WCMC-Q in November 2013 to determine whether students at the college could be exempted from the 12-week limitation on clinical clerkships for students of non-U.S. medical schools.

**Office of the Registrar**

The Office of the Registrar successfully implemented its new ‘Jenzabar’ Student Information System, which now holds the records for all of the college’s currently registered students. All of the students’ historic biographical and medical records were successfully migrated to the system, including all pre-medical registration data recorded since 2002.

The office continues to support WCMC-Q graduates by responding to requests for transcripts, graduation documents and required Supreme Council of Health documents.

Subsequent to a new agreement with QF, WCMC-Q students are now eligible to receive QF scholarships.
H.E. Sheikh Saoud Bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, secretary general of Qatar Olympic Committee, and Dr. Javaid Sheikh, dean of WCMC-Q, after it was announced that QOC would become a strategic partner in the Sahtak Awalan campaign.
Outreach

WCMC-Q’s environment, health and safety department has continued to share its knowledge and expertise with the wider community.

The department held a series of training seminars in May, continuing a scheme that has been running for the past three years. The seminars, which dealt with biosafety, were developed for the benefit of both WCMC-Q and its partners. Their aim is to build capacity for WCMC-Q’s research mission, supporting development of QF’s biomedical research program, and to provide outreach to the Qatar community in offering high quality training in support of Qatar’s mission to build a knowledge-based economy.

HMC, QF, Sidra, the Supreme Council of Health, Aspetar and Qatar University all benefited from the training, allowing them to build capacity within their own institutions.

In all 85 participants attended each seminar, the topics of which were Biological Safety: Principles and Practices, Biological Material: Packaging and Shipping, and Recombinant DNA and Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC): Program Implementation.
The Paint Your Healthy Future event delighted thousands of children and their families.

Sahtak Awalan: Your Health First

WCMC-Q’s ambitious, five-year health campaign run by the Department of Government and Public Affairs has continued to grow in terms of success and prestige and received the support of two more high-profile, organizations – QF and the Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC).

With their influence it is expected that the campaign will reach ever more people in its drive to improve the health of the nation.

The Your Health First campaign aims to educate both the Qatari and expatriate communities so that they can make informed, healthy, lifestyle choices. The goal is to change people’s behavior so as to help create a healthy population able to contribute to Qatar’s knowledge-based society in line with the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030.

Paint Your Healthy Future

Sahtak Awalan’s Paint Your Healthy Future initiative was designed to capture the public’s imagination – and especially that of children and young people. The campaign’s organizers placed huge canvasses in malls across Doha, provided paints and then invited shoppers to paint the canvasses. Literature and other information about leading healthy lifestyles were then made available to participants. The canvasses were also placed at eminent events including National Sports Day.

The Challenge

Sahtak Awalan is an inclusive campaign aiming to educate everyone, no matter what their ages, but it does have a thrust towards the youth. With the ongoing support and partnership of the Supreme Education Council, WCMC-Q’s Department of Government and Public Affairs held an educational and physical fitness contest called The Challenge. Around 150 middle school students from 15 independent and private schools designed and created posters around the theme of healthy living, and then took part in a day of activities and races at the Aspire Dome. Inflatables and costumes were all part of the fun and prizes were awarded to the winning boys’ and girls’ teams by H.E Abdullah Bin Khalid Al-Qahtani, minister of public health and secretary general of the Supreme Council of Health. The competition was such a success that plans are in place to make it an annual event.
The Challenge encouraged teamwork as well as physical fitness. The Challenge was a day of fun for all.

Traditional and Social Media

The run up to summer 2013 was a busy time for the department of government and public affairs as staff members prepared the Sahtak Awalan campaigns for Ramadan 2013.

As in summer 2012, a series of television programs were produced which featured a health-related topic each day and were broadcast on Qatar TV. Similarly, QF Radio ran a series of Arabic and English WCMC-Q-created health tips throughout Ramadan and a competition to win an iPad each week was run through the Sahtak Awalan Facebook page, helping the site to achieve more than 12,000 ‘likes’.

Perhaps the most significant development, though, was the creation of a calorie counter app for smartphones. The Your Health First app was developed in partnership with Vodafone and was significant because it was the first of its kind in the world to use both Arabic and English. A vast database of food allows users to calculate how many calories are in their meal and a different feature allows them to monitor how much water they are drinking each day. Finally, there is a section which provides data for how much energy is burnt by different exercises, allowing people to keep an accurate record of their daily calories intake and monitor their weight.

Since its launch the app has been downloaded thousands of times by people across Qatar, the Middle East and the wider world.
Figures for faculty include all those on the WCMC-Q payroll considered active within the 2012-2013 academic year. Figures for staff are as of June, 2013, and include those residing in New York. Academic non-faculty includes postdoctoral positions in the research program.

Figures are as of September 21, and reflect any attrition from incoming classes in subsequent years.
PROFILE OF CLASSES ENTERING THE PRE-MEDICAL PROGRAM, 2002-2012
Total Enrollment and Applicants

Gender Profile
PROFILE OF ENTERING MEDICAL STUDENTS, SEPTEMBER 2012

Enrolled students ................................................................. 38
Male ......................................................................................... 18
Female .................................................................................. 20
Previous education:  WCMC-Q .................................................. 37
                      American University of Cairo ......................... 1
Average College GPA .......................................................... 3.6
Average age (Sept 1st, 2012) ............................................... 20.4

CITIZENSHIP OF STUDENT BODY 2012

Algeria          Jordan          Korea, Republic
Australia        Saudi Arabia
Bahrain          Korea, Democratic Peoples Rep
Bangladesh       Sri Lanka
Canada           Sudan
Egypt            Syrian Arab Republic
France           Tanzania United Republic
Germany          Tunisia
India            United Arab Emirates
Iran             United Kingdom
Iraq             USA
                 Yemen

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Lead/Co-Lead PI</th>
<th>Award (US$)</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>NPRP 6-059-2-023</td>
<td>Microbial stabilization of mobile dunes for infrastructure protection and environmental preservation</td>
<td>Dr. Ali Sultan</td>
<td>1,049,394</td>
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<tr>
<td>NPRP 6-089-3-021</td>
<td>Calcium signaling in neuroblastoma chemotherapy</td>
<td>Dr. Dietrich Büsselberg</td>
<td>1,049,061</td>
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<tr>
<td>NPRP 6-1131-3-268</td>
<td>Tissue specific endothelial cell transplantation platform for organ regeneration</td>
<td>Dr. Arash Rafii Tabrizi</td>
<td>1,048,040</td>
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<td>NPRP 6-1303-4-023</td>
<td>Comparative animal genomics in Qatar</td>
<td>Dr. Benjamin Shykind</td>
<td>1,049,977.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPRP 6-1383-3-335</td>
<td>Medical risk factors for perinatal depression</td>
<td>Dr. Javaid Sheikh</td>
<td>1,048,158.26</td>
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<td>NPRP-6-1242-5-178</td>
<td>The utility and cultural transferability of student inquiry learning approaches in foundation chemistry: improving conceptual understanding, attitude and self-efficacy</td>
<td>Dr. Sheila Qureshi</td>
<td>923,505.20</td>
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<td>NPRP 6-1383-3-113</td>
<td>The protective effects of FGF21 against vascular disease in obesity and diabetes: molecular mechanisms and therapeutic implications</td>
<td>Dr. Hong Ding</td>
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<td>NPRP 6-565-3-141</td>
<td>Auto-regulation and cerebral blood flow in TIA patients attending a stroke/TIA clinic in Qatar: implications for stroke prevention and the development of stroke registry in Qatar</td>
<td>Dr. Leopold Streletz</td>
<td>993,650.80</td>
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<td>NPRP 6-681-3-173</td>
<td>Quantitative mapping of HIV incidence among stable couples and evaluation of the impact of interventions targeting sero-discordant couples</td>
<td>Dr. Laith Abu-Raddad</td>
<td>1,048,478.60</td>
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<td>NPRP 6-736-3-187</td>
<td>Regulation of the Annexin A2 system in models of diabetes</td>
<td>Dr. Nasrin Mesaeli</td>
<td>1,049,830</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td><strong>10,309,997.38</strong></td>
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WCMC-Q Faculty Publications: July 1, 2012-June 30 2013
(The list also includes some items reported too late for inclusion in last year’s list.)

Abu-Raddad, Laith J.


Al Amin, Hassen


Bedri, Shahinaz


Bendriss, Rachid


Büsselberg, Dietrich


Cheema, Sohaila


Chen, Kuei-Chiu


Chen K-C. King Tut’s family secrets [Internet]. Buffalo, NY: University at Buffalo; 2013 [cited 2013 Jun 2].

Chouchane, Lotfi


Golkowska, Krystyna


Golkowska K. Incorporating the humanities into the pre-medical curriculum in the Middle East. Proceedings of the 2013 Hawaii International Conference on Education; 2013 Jan 6-9; Honolulu, HI. p.1469-78.


Graumann, Johannes


Kalogeropoulos, Nikolaos


Khidir, Amal


Koshi, Rachel

Kronfol, Ziad


Ladjimi, Moncef


Lorenzetti, Diego


Machaca, Khaled


Haun S, Sun L, Hubrack S, Yule D, Machaca K. Phosphorylation of the rat Ins(1,4,5)P3 receptor at T930 within the coupling domain decreases its affinity to Ins(1,4,5)P3 Channels (Austin, Tex.) [Internet]. 2012 Sep 1 [cited 2012 Nov 15]; 6(5): 379 - 84. Available from: http://www.landesbioscience.com/journals/channels/article/21170/?nocache=299499993.


Mahfoud, Ziyad


Mahmoud, Mai


Malek, Joel


Mamtani, Ravinder


Miller, Ian P.


Mligiliche, Nurru Lameck


Nady-Mohamed, Nady E.

Nour, Bakr


Pungente, Michael


Rafii Tabrizi, Jeremie Arash


Roach, James, Jr.


Rodriguez Del Pozo, Pablo


Scott, Stephen M.


Sharkey, Rodney


Sheikh, Javaid I.


Shykind, Benjamin


Suhre, Karsten


Uthman, Basim

Verjee, Mohamud


Weber, Alan


Weber AS. Review of sustainable and renewable energy activities in the State of Qatar. The International Renewable and Sustainable Energy Conference(IRSEC’13); 2013 Mar 7-9; Ouarzazate, Morocco. IEEE. p.1-5


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Bakr Nour, M.D.
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Associate Dean for Student Affairs

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