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.
Leadership Report

Our community here at Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q) has once again enjoyed a busy and fruitful year of education, research and providing clinical care, so it is with great pride that I share the achievements of the past 12 months with you in this Annual Report.

The hard work and dedication of our students, faculty and staff never ceases to impress me, and their efforts have returned excellent results this year. In May, we saw 34 young women and men graduate from our medical program, bringing the total number of doctors produced by WCMC-Q since our inaugural graduation in 2008 to 181.

This year’s graduation ceremony was a particularly happy occasion because every single student who sought to join a U.S. residency program managed to secure a place on one. This 100 per cent U.S. match rate was a singular achievement that is testament to both the talent of our graduates and the diligence of our faculty, who go far beyond the call of duty as educators to provide invaluable guidance and support to our students as they take the next important step in their careers.

2013-14 was also a standout year for research at the college as a number of important studies were published in high-profile international journals. Exciting discoveries were made in a wide variety of fields, leading to new knowledge of diabetes, calcium signaling and the genome of the date palm, to name just a few. These successes, along with the recruitment of several highly respected scientists to our growing research faculty, demonstrate WCMC-Q’s ongoing commitment to our goal of becoming the foremost center of biomedical research in the region.

As we work within the college to constantly improve and modernize the quality of our research and teaching, we also continue to look outwards and actively engage with the community and the world of medicine at local, regional and international level. In January, the Division of Global and Public Health hosted a meeting of the Global Education in Medicine Exchange (GEMx), a program that allows students to apply for electives at medical colleges all over the world, safe in the knowledge that the host school meets the standards and learning outcomes set out by the United States Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates. This initiative will help our students join the global community of doctors able to spread the benefits of high quality healthcare to the parts of the world where it is needed most.

At local level, our Division of Graduate Medical Education was renamed the Division of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in recognition of its expanded role working with Qatar Council for Healthcare Practitioners and the Continuing Medical Education (CME) office in New York to coordinate activities that will allow WCMC-Q faculty and other healthcare practitioners working in the local community to earn CME credits.

Indeed, playing an active role in our community is a key element of our mission and the past year has seen our population health initiative, Sahtak Awalan - Your Health First, expand our ability to engage with local people and spread knowledge about healthy lifestyles. This year the initiative installed greenhouses at 16 primary schools across Qatar to teach children to value and enjoy the health benefits of fresh fruit and vegetables, while The Challenge brought secondary school students from 15 middle schools together for a day of physical activities.

These population health initiatives, along with our research program and the highly skilled young doctors we are producing, together form a comprehensive approach to healthcare that will allow us to confront the most pressing health concerns facing the region and enhance Qatar’s capacity to prevent and treat conditions such as type 2 diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular disease and cancer.

As we reflect upon the achievements of the past year, we also look forward to continuing our progress towards the goals set out by the Qatari leadership, building human capacity and helping to lay the foundation for the thriving, knowledge-based economy of Qatar’s future in collaboration with our strategic partners.

Javaid Sheikh, M.D.
Dean
WCMC-Q Joint Advisory Board Members

The Joint Advisory Board provides advice and assistance to the dean and the governing parties of WCMC-Q.

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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

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Consultant Cardiologist
Hamad Medical Corporation

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Weill Cornell Medical College

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

Mr. Tarek Abdel-Meguid
Member, Board of Overseers
Weill Cornell Medical College
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Class of 2014 graduate Dr. Farhat Abdelaziz.
The 34 new doctors of the Class of 2014 donned their ceremonial robes in May to celebrate completion of the Medical Program.
Medical Education

The 2013-14 academic year has been a busy one for Medical Education. In addition to delivery of our high caliber curriculum, the following activities and accomplishments are notable.

Class of 2014

This year’s graduating class represented another 34 freshly qualified physicians. Of these, 10 graduated with academic distinction, two with honors in research and two with honors in service. Among them, two students graduated with both distinction and honors. The graduation ceremony in Doha in May 2014 was attended by Dr. Javaid Sheikh, dean of WCMC-Q, Dr. Laurie Glimcher, dean of Weill Cornell Medical College in New York, Dr. Antonio Gotto, dean emeritus, and Dr. Carol Storey-Johnson, senior associate dean, and other faculty members from New York, as well as family and friends.

Mouhamed Yazan Abou-Ismail gave the valedictory speech. Interestingly, his older brother, Anas, had also been the student speaker at his graduation in 2010. Yazan’s message to his classmates was one of hope. He pointed out that graduation was the “culmination of the joint efforts of multiple prestigious academic and healthcare institutions, 34 aspiring doctors, and their loved ones” and that they now found themselves at the beginning of a “lifetime of commitment to excellence, perseverance and service”. He commented on the excellent match rate for those who participated in the U.S. National Resident Matching Program: 100%. This compared to a match rate for seniors graduating from U.S. medical schools of 94.4% and a rate of about 50% for international medical graduates. Additional good news was the match of two of our graduates in very competitive surgical specialties, one in ophthalmology at Hamad Medical Corporation and the other in ear, nose and throat surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia and Cornell.
Going Forward

This year a number of enhancements have been instituted to maximize the opportunity for students to succeed in our demanding curriculum. In addition to our peer tutoring system, in which more senior students assist their younger colleagues in mastering the material in their courses, we have had the good fortune to have one of our alumni return and contribute significantly to supporting our students. Dr. Anas Abou-Ismail, of the Class of 2010, completed his residency in internal medicine at Vanderbilt University last December and will be starting a fellowship in nephrology in July 2014. In the interval he offered to come and teach at WCMC-Q and his contribution was greatly valued. He provided an intensive, individualized course to help a student consolidate his knowledge in the basic sciences, he tutored a number of other students and he participated as a facilitator for seminars and problem-based learning (PBL) sessions, as well as offering students his perspective on what is needed to succeed beyond medical school.

In addition to the specific U.S. Medical Licensing Exam (USMLE) preparation course that was initiated in the last academic year, our USMLE preparation this year included a number of optional sessions added to each course in which the course material is presented in USMLE-style questions. This allows students to use their critical reasoning skills in applying their basic science knowledge to analyze and answer questions that are presented as clinical vignettes. These measures have resulted in ever increasing rates of success for our students in these exams, which form a critical part of their credentials when applying for residency.
Class of 2014 graduate Dr. Abdulwahed Abdulhamid Zainel.
Almost all of our NBME (National Board of Medical Examiners) exams are now offered online, which allows for greater flexibility in scheduling, quicker receipt of results and lower overall cost. This does not include the USMLE exams, which are offered only at designated examination centers. Fortunately this year, such a center has opened in Doha so that a number of our students were spared the time and expense of travel to Dubai or elsewhere.

In the last academic year, two symposia for residency program directors were held. The first, in September 2013 had as its theme, Current Landscape in Graduate Medical Education and included participants in anesthesia, internal medicine, pediatrics, psychiatry and surgery from across the United States. The theme of the March 2014 symposium was Entrustable Professional Activities: A Global Concern. The disciplines represented by the participants at that event were family medicine, internal medicine, neurology, obstetrics and gynecology, radiology and surgery. At both symposia, Qatari alumni spoke about their experience as students at WCMC-Q and how that prepared them for the rigors of residency. At the September meeting it was Dr. Mohammed Al Hijji, who is training in internal medicine at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, while the alumna who spoke at the March meeting was Dr. Aisha Yousuf, who completed her obstetrics and gynecology residency at the University of Michigan and is now a member of faculty at the Sidra Medical and Research Center. Both these individuals made us very proud because of their achievements and professional development.
Class of 2013 graduate Dr. Haya Ahram received the Arnold P. Gold Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award in 2014 during the second year of her family medicine residency at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, University of Connecticut.
Besides research and publications WCMC-Q faculty members remained very active in other scholarly activities, such as poster and oral presentations, as well as workshops, related to their particular discipline or medical education. In addition, some contributed to organizing regional and international conferences in various capacities, such as developing the program or serving on scientific committees to vet the abstracts. Among these were the Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE) held in Prague, Czech Republic, in August 2013; Diálogos Bioéticos 2013 held in Santiago, Chile; the Child Abuse Training workshop provided by the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) in Doha in November 2013; the Excellence in Pediatrics Conference held in Doha in December 2013; The World Psychiatric Association International Congress held in Vienna, Austria, in October 2013; the 9th Qatar Neurology Symposium in Doha in February 2014; and the 1st Academic Health System Continuing Education Symposium for Healthcare Educators in Qatar, in March 2014.

As evidence of their lifelong learning commitment, our faculty regularly attend conferences in their field or in medical education. In addition, some faculty members are currently enrolled in master’s programs in education or in public health.

New Curriculum

Weill Cornell Medical College in New York has been working on a new curriculum for some time and faculty members from our campus have participated in the process. The new curriculum, which will provide greater integration of basic and clinical science teaching, as well as changes in the teaching methods being employed, marks a distinct change from how the curriculum is currently being delivered. The underlying reasons for these changes are several. The Carnegie report on Educating Physicians: ‘A Call for Reform of Medical School and Residency’ a called for individualization of the curriculum for students, integration of basic, clinical and social sciences, measures to build habits of inquiry and improvement in the students, and formation of their professional identity. In addition, new teaching methods have been developed to enhance the learning process for students. Faculty and students have developed different expectations and want to optimize their time and maximize active learning, while accreditation standards have evolved and assessments have changed to encompass competency and milestones. In summary, 21st century students need to prepare for the healthcare environment of the future, and the new curriculum is intended to do just that.

Development and implementation of the new curriculum in Doha must take into account the fact that our context and health care environment differs from New York in a number of ways. In addition, the new curriculum will require some refinement after its initial implementation. Therefore, while New York will launch the new curriculum with the incoming Class of 2018, it was decided to delay implementation in Qatar. WCMC-Q faculty will be working on the logistics of local implementation over the coming year through a series of committees that will have faculty and student representation and will maintain close communication with their New York counterparts.

1Summary available at: http://www.carnegiefoundation.org/elibrary/summary-educating-physicians
In May 2014, the division of Graduate Medical Education (GME) changed its name to Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to align with its expanded role and mission.

In this new role, the division will be maintaining its GME function and will additionally be working with Qatar Council for Healthcare Practitioners (QCHP) and the Continuing Medical Education (CME) office in New York to develop activities that will provide CME credits to the WCMC-Q faculty and other healthcare professionals in the community and the region.

Accreditation and Certification

The Continuing Professional Development Division aims to enhance the healthcare of the community by improving the postgraduate medical training system. In this capacity, it has continued to strengthen and expand its partnership with Sidra Medical and Research Center towards meeting the accreditation requirements of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education International (ACGME-I). Simultaneously, the division is strengthening and augmenting its local, regional and international collaborations in the area of certification and has continued to work with ABMS International, LLC (ABMS-I), a subsidiary of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), and Qatar Foundation, for the purpose of developing a certification exam and eventually a Qatar Medical Specialty Board.

Faculty Development Projects

The Continuing Professional Development Division, in collaboration with the Clinical Skills Center and Internal Medicine Department at HMC, has successfully developed an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) program for the formative assessment of Internal Medicine residents’ communication skills, which has been running for the past two years. This successful endeavor lead to the development of a program to train faculty and other healthcare educators on developing cases, assessment tools and running an OSCE encounter in their area of discipline.
Class of 2014 graduate Dr. Maen Abou Ziki.
Continuing Medical Education and Continuing Professional Development

A key responsibility of the division is to enhance the healthcare of the community by supporting and creating opportunities for continued professional development for health professionals across the spectrum. Therefore, the division has been working to establish a service to provide Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits in Qatar and has recruited a specialist to set up the infrastructure. This is not only important for WCMC-Q faculty but is also applicable to others in the community and the region.

Collaborations have already taken place with the Office of Continuing Medical Education at WCMC in New York to identify opportunities for cooperation with regards to CME activities and CME credits for activities at WCMC-Q. Locally, the division is also seeking accreditation as a CME/CPD provider by the Qatar Council for Healthcare Practitioners (QCHP).

Educators Across the Healthcare Spectrum Series

The potential uses of computer-generated virtual worlds for educational purposes were explored in the CPD division’s Educators Across the Healthcare Spectrum Series.

The annual event brought two experts, Dr. Rachel A. Umoren, assistant clinical professor of pediatrics at Indiana University School of Medicine, and Carolyn Lowe, PhD, associate professor at North Michigan University, to WCMC-Q to deliver a series of workshops that explained how to use virtual platforms to facilitate learning.

The two-day event, titled Virtual World Simulation for Health Care Education, was coordinated by WCMC-Q’s Continuing Professional Development division and the Information Technology Services division, and drew approximately 50 attendees on May 25-26, 2014. Dr. Umoren and Dr. Lowe gave a presentation titled Virtual Worlds: About the Learning and conducted workshops on Learning About Virtual World Applications, Basic Use of the Virtual Platform, Basics of Project Design and Building 101. The interactive series was well attended by faculty, staff and healthcare professionals in the community.
Dr. Basim Uthman, professor of clinical neuroscience and clinical neurology, at the Virtual World Simulation for Health Care Education event.
Scholarly Activities

Topic of the Month, Oral Presentations, and Poster Presentations

This is a review of pieces of literature that have been published on the CPD website.

(1) On Role Models – Elements in Medical Education by Dr. Joachim Dudenhausen, deputy chief medical officer, Sidra.
(2) On Professionalism – Do you know it when you see it? by Dr. Jonathan Jones, associate professor in emergency medicine, University of Mississippi Medical Center.
(3) On the Introduction of Competency Based Graduate Medical Education (CBGME) in Qatar by Dr. Ismail Helmi, deputy director, Department of Medical Education, HMC.
(4) On Milestones by Dr. Sawsan Abdel-Razig, adjunct assistant professor of medicine, Abu-Dhabi, United Arab Emirates University and Dr. Hatem Al Ameri, associate professor of medicine, United Arab Emirates University.
(5) On Gender Differences in Academic Promotions: Plus Ca Change Plus C’est La Meme Chose by Dr. Thurayya Arayssi, associate dean for CPD, WCMC-Q.
(6) On Learning Communities (LCs): Does Every Medical School Need One? By Dr. Kamal Badr, associate dean for medical education, AUB, Lebanon, and Dr. Ramzi Sabra, assistant dean for undergraduate medical
education, AUB, Lebanon.

(7) On Effective Teaching in the Operating Room by Dr. Nigel Pereira, WCMC-Q alumus, Resident Department of Ob/Gyn, Drexel University College of Medicine, U.S.

(8) On E-Learning and Smartphone Applications Use in Medical Education by Dr. Aisha Yousuf, WCMC-Q alumna, Obstetrics and Gynecology Department, Sidra.

(9) On Self-Directed Learning (SDL): A Brief Comprehensive Analysis by Dr. Gerardo E. Guiter, assistant professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, WCMC-Q.

(10) On Extending the Use of Simulation: Simulation-Based Curriculum for Healthcare Professionals to Support Family Centered Care by Elaine Sigalet, PhD, director, development and continuing education, Sidra, and Joanne Davies, MSc/Edu, director simulation center and service, Sidra.

Oral Presentations


(2) Arayssi T., Update of Behçet Disease, 5th Specialized Medical Center Hospital International Symposium on Autoimmune related Diseases, Riyadh, KSA, April 2014.


Poster Presentations

Foundation and Pre-Medical Education

The Foundation Program

The Foundation Program at WCMC-Q is an intensive one-year course that develops skills in English, math, and science to prepare students for the Pre-Medical Program. In 2013-2014, Foundation welcomed 20 new students.

This year's class had a chance to experience WCMC-Q before classes even began. The Pre-Foundation College Readiness Program provides a glimpse of college life and offers useful strategies for successfully transitioning from high school. Students in the program meet and socialize with faculty, and participate in dynamic, stimulating workshops and labs. Dr. Rachid Bendriss, assistant dean for student recruitment, outreach, and foundation programs, developed the program to give students a running start to their academic careers.

Foundation students face a challenging set of courses taught in English, which is often their second language. Therefore, language development is vital to student success in the program. To this aim, students participated in the Extensive Reading Program, which gives them time to read deeply and share their learning with others. Students participate in group discussions, oral presentations, and blogging to reinforce their language skills and achieve personal autonomy. Students also took part in a new module entitled Critical Thinking and Analysis. Designed by Adam Larson, lecturer in English as a second language, this module shows students how to critically examine phenomena to discover patterns and analyze arguments in a systematic way. These programs combined with the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) preparation course helped the Foundation students attain a mean score of 95 on the TOEFL in 2014, a tremendous achievement.

At the end of the year, a group of Foundation students spent a summer at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. The Post-Foundation Summer Program lets students take courses at Cornell while experiencing the beauty of central New York. Dr. Krystyna Golkowska, associate professor of English, coordinates the program and uses her insight as a long-time Ithaca resident to ensure students have the best experience possible.
Pre-Medical Education

The Pre-Medical Education Division offers an exciting curriculum specifically designed to prepare the students for the medical program of Weill Cornell Medical College. Students immerse themselves in the humanities, math, and science for two years, and receive transferable credit from Cornell University. The division was proud to see 35 students complete the Pre-Medical Program in 2014.

Pre-medical faculty design engaging courses that develop the knowledge, skills, and dispositions students need to succeed in medical school. Teachers involve students in hands-on learning experiences that make course content accessible and relevant to their future careers as physicians. For example, Dr. Kuei-Chiu Chen, senior lecturer in biology, introduced genetics through the story of King Tutankhamun’s kinship. Playing the role of detectives, students apply their knowledge of population genetics and probability to solve the mystery of King Tut’s family tree, and in the process learn about molecular evolution. Dr. Chen also has students extract their own DNA to analyze their unique genetic profile.

Pre-medical faculty also use technology to support and enhance student learning. For instance, Dr. James Roach, associate professor of chemistry, designed a series of web-based modules with instructional videos, practice problems, and online quizzes for potential pre-medical applicants. These resources encourage Qatar’s future doctors to learn chemistry before entering medical school.

The Pre-Medical Program supports students in meeting the requirements for medical school. One of the most important steps is the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT), which assesses knowledge of physical and biological sciences, and verbal reasoning. As in previous years, pre-medical faculty organized and conducted extra sessions in math, biology, chemistry, and physics. Additionally, the Writing Center coordinated weekly workshops in verbal reasoning during the spring semester.
Pre-medical students have numerous opportunities to experience research. One of the most common at WCMC-Q is the Undergraduate Research Experience Program (UREP), made possible by the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF). For example, students are involved in researching lizards in Qatar with Dr. Kuei-Chiu Chen. Student researchers perform tissue digestion, and extract and analyze the DNA of several different lizard species native to Qatar. Under Dr. Chen’s guidance, students will discover the sequence of a particular barcode gene called CO1 and publish their findings in Canada’s Barcode of Life Database. Every year, UREP hosts a competition for students around Qatar. This year, WCMC-Q students won first prize in the oral presentation category for their project “GCC Online Health Information Survey: Typology and Credibility,” mentored by Dr. Alan Weber, associate professor of English, and Dr. Mohamud Verjee, professor of family medicine.

Pre-medical faculty pursue a wide range of research interests in the humanities, biology, chemistry, physics, and education. For instance, Dr. Sheila Qureshi, senior lecturer in chemistry, explores the application of inquiry-based teaching approaches in different cultural contexts. Dr. Qureshi has used an instructional technique known as Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning (POGIL) in her chemistry classes for several years, but in 2013, she received a National Priorities Research Program (NPRP) grant to explore the method’s utility in Qatar. As part of this project, Dr. Qureshi and her colleagues from Curtin University in Perth, Australia arranged workshops for science teachers in Qatar’s independent schools and faculty across Education City. She is also piloting POGIL activities for the Supreme Education Council’s science curriculum.

WCMC-Q has become an important center for research in Qatar due in part to the efforts of pre-medical faculty. For instance, last November Dr. Michael Pungente, associate professor of organic chemistry, hosted a symposium in Non-viral Delivery of Biotherapeutics where the keynote speakers were international experts Dr. Daniel Scherman, of CNRS in Paris and Dr. Mimoun Azzouz, of the University of Sheffield in the UK. Delegates
came to attend from as far afield as Norway and Australia. The symposium was just one outcome of Dr. Pungente’s research into the synthesis, characterization, and in vitro investigations of novel lipids. Over the last several years, Dr. Pungente has received seven UREP and two NPRP grants, co-authored ten peer-reviewed publications (including six WCMC-Q student authors), and submitted a patent application.

In addition, Dr. Krystyna Golkowska organized a series of working lunches for writing teachers entitled Teaching Writing: Issues and Concerns. The lunches take place throughout the year at WCMC-Q, and faculty from across Qatar are represented. These events provide Qatar’s writing community with a forum to learn and discuss the teaching of writing in a friendly, collegial environment. Dr. Golkowska also coordinated the Writing and Communication for Research Scientists course, which involved many pre-medical faculty, and collaborated with the Division of Student Affairs on a series of workshops for local high school teachers and counselors in the writing of personal statements and letters of recommendation.

**Extra-Curricular and Community Involvement**

Beyond academics, students participated in a variety of extra-curricular and community activities that displayed their well-roundedness and commitment to service. For example, Ian Miller, lecturer in writing, organized with students several well-attended Music of Poetry events. These were joint events between the WCMC-Q Poetry Club and Music Club that showcased student poetry and music through live performances. Furthermore, Dr. Rodney Sharkey, associate professor of English, continued his dedicated mentorship of the Debate Club, guiding members through another successful year. The Debate Club participated in numerous local and international competitions, such as the Qatar Nationals and Austro-Hungarian Championship. Members performed well in the Qatar Nationals, where WCMC-Q student Ahmad Al-Meer won the award of Best Debater in Qatar. Dr. Sharkey also mentors the ROTA-sponsored Reach Out to Asia Adult English Literacy Training Program (RAEL). As a part of this initiative, WCMC-Q students teach English to the college’s cleaners and other subcontracted staff. Their efforts were acknowledged at an end of semester banquet hosted by Reach Out To Asia.
During the past 12 months, five new physicians, Dr. Shahrad Taheri, Dr. Stella Major, Dr. Stephen Atkin, Dr. Robert Crone and Dr. Rayaz Malik, joined the WCMC-Q clinical faculty team, now growing at a steady pace.

Drs. Taheri, Major and Atkin have all been approved for Qatar medical licensure. In addition, Dr. Taheri has received his credentialling for HMC.

Dr. Taheri, professor of medicine, joined WCMC-Q in August 2013. A medical consultant from St. Bartholomew’s Hospital Medical College, University of London, he has sub-specialties of diabetes and endocrinology. He hopes to start an endocrine/diabetes clinic on a weekly basis at HMC, and weight management clinics bi-weekly.

Dr. Major, associate professor of clinical medicine, joined WCMC-Q in September 2013. She brought with her almost twenty years of family medicine experience from the United Kingdom, Lebanon and most recently at Al Ain University in the UAE.

Dr. Atkin, professor of medicine, has a specific interest in diabetes and insulin resistant states such as polycystic ovary syndrome. He has developed collaborations within WCMC-Q to look at genetic subtypes of the Qatari population, and the exposure to endocrine disrupting compounds that may contribute to increased insulin resistance. Wider collaborations with HMC in diabetes and obstetrics have been developed and with the Anti-doping Laboratory, Qatar.

Dr. Crone joined WCMC-Q in May 2014 as professor of clinical pediatrics and senior adviser to the dean, Dr Javaid Sheikh, on academic affairs. He is responsible for achieving specific milestones in WCMC-Q’s academic affairs, with particular emphasis on implementation of the strategic plan, and facilitating recruitment of outstanding faculty, faculty development, and planning for appropriate promotions.
Dr. Malik, professor of medicine, joined WCMC-Q in June 2014. Dr. Malik’s specialty areas are diabetes/endocrinology and general internal medicine. He deals with patients with type 1 and type 2 diabetes, particularly those with long-term complications such as painful diabetic neuropathy and foot ulcers. His research focuses on diabetic neuropathy and cardiomyopathy in both animal models and in patients, and the link with vitamin D deficiency. He is an expert in the pathogenesis, assessment and treatment of diabetic neuropathy.

The past year has also seen a consolidation of primary care and family medicine in the community with the accreditation of the Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) following its devolution from HMC. The PHCC and WCMC-Q, with WCMC-New York, have also signed a Memorandum of Understanding, ratifying clinical teaching for WCMC-Q’s students. Formerly, the family physician preceptors were under the auspices of HMC but are now under the independently autonomous PHCC. Clinical tutors in the community have been granted a new category of clinical appointments at WCMC-Q to reflect the change, and the number seeking clinical appointments is expected to rise in the years ahead.

The number of teaching health centers in which students pursue clerkships has also increased to six with Al Rayyan Health Center joining WCMC-Q’s teaching circle in March 2014. Al Rayyan joins West Bay, Airport, Umm Ghwalina, Gharrafa, and Mesaimeer in providing teaching time for both family physician residents and WCMC-Q medical students. Coupled to this, Dr. Mohamud Verjee, associate professor of family medicine, continues to practice at Gharrafa Health Center, and is an active physician and a mentor for family medicine in the community.

Apart from the PHCC health centers, other primary care clerkship clinical teaching venues include Al Khor Hospital’s emergency department and Aspetar Orthopedic Hospital. Four primary care electives are available for WCMC-Q students each year, in conjunction with Global and Public Health.

All the health centers are incorporating the CERNA electronic medical record system. Plans to collate embedded data and look for further research opportunities in disease patterns in the arena of primary care are under consideration.

Changes are also coming with regard to Qatar Medical Licensing. As of 2016, healthcare practitioners will be required to submit proof that they have acquired 40 continuous medical education (CME) points on a yearly basis if they wish to be re-licensed. Dr. Samar Abouloud, accreditation manager at the Supreme Council of Health visited WCMC-Q in May to speak to clinical faculty about the new requirement and to address any challenges they may face in implementing this new rule.
Our mission statement highlights our commitment to contribute to the regional scientific renaissance led by Qatar: “Create a center of excellence in basic, translational and clinical biomedical research with a world-class infrastructure and outstanding scientists to target the most pressing health needs in Qatar and the region.”
A year of progress and achievement

The steady growth and productivity of WCMC-Q’s research division continued during the academic year 2013/14 as new senior faculty members were recruited to the program and a series of studies were published in high-profile international journals.

Highlights included a paper on calcium signaling by Dr. Raphael Courjaret, research associate in physiology and biophysics, and Dr. Khaled Machaca, associate dean for research, which was published in Nature Communications in May 2014, and a study led by Dr. Karsten Suhre, professor of physiology and biophysics, which discovered new metabolic biomarkers for type 2 diabetes and was published in Diabetes in December 2013. A study by Dr. Joel Malik, assistant professor of genetic medicine, which mapped the genome of the date palm, was published in BMC Genomics in April 2014. The growing strength of the program was reflected in the increase in the amount of cumulative extra-mural funding awarded to WCMC-Q researchers through various competitive programs administered by QNRF, which rose to $89.5M over the past 6 years.

The division also increased its number of active research labs from 34 to 36, while the number of employees involved in research grew to more than 200, the majority of whom were hired locally and trained in WCMC-Q’s laboratories.

The WCMC-Q research program was favorably reviewed by an external panel of scientific experts in October 2013, and received praise from the college’s Joint Advisory Board (JAB) for infrastructural and scientific achievements to date. As a result, plans for the formal continuation of the program with QF are now underway.

Work to build research capacity in the country in line with Qatar National Vision 2030 progressed with the ongoing success of the division’s outreach efforts, both in terms of providing training for Qatari scientists and through the recruitment of highly qualified researchers. Dr. Shahrad Taheri, an expert in the fields of diabetes and endocrinology, joined the division in August 2013, and Dr. Stephen Atkin, who also specializes in endocrinology, arrived in January 2014. Dr. Rayaz Malik, whose area of study focuses on the microvascular complications of diabetes, joined in June this year, and Dr. Steve Hunt, who specializes in genetic epidemiology with a particular focus on diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular disease, will join the college in October. These new faculty members represent an expansion of WCMC-Q’s translational and clinical research program and have strengthened the college’s already fruitful collaborative relationships with Sidra, Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) and Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC).

The rapid growth of the division since it was established in 2008 is now expected to give way to a period of consolidation, with a shift in focus from recruitment of new team members toward development and retention of existing faculty. The aim of this new approach is to ensure continuity in the direction of research conducted at WCMC-Q, and to provide stability that will allow the high standards that have been established by the division to be sustained in the long term. Research during this new phase will continue to pay particular attention to the most pressing health issues facing Qatar and the wider region, such as diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular disease, neurogenetics and various forms of cancer.
Dr. Khaled Machaca, associate dean for research, oversaw a year of steady expansion of WCMC-Q’s Research Division during 2013/14.
Research Administration and Research Core Labs

The support infrastructure for the research program was restructured over the past year to incorporate a team-based approach to better support WCMC-Q researchers. Research administration is divided into five broad functionalities, including an office that supports business needs, a grants and contracts office, a research integrity office, a lab operations team and a training and outreach team. Combined, these functionalities are able to fully and efficiently provide infrastructural and operational support for the research efforts at WCMC-Q.

Centralized core labs are a critical component of the WCMC-Q research program and currently the following cores are fully operational and have contributed significantly to the individual labs’ research efforts and publications: Genomics; Proteomics; Bioinformatics and Metabolomics; Biostatistics; Imaging (microscopy, histology and flow cytometry); and Clinical Research Support (CRS). The CRS core has experienced the most significant growth over the past year, given the aggressive recruiting and expansion of the clinical research effort. Meanwhile, plans to enhance the infrastructure of the research cores at the college took a decisive step forward as building work began on a state-of-the-art QF vivarium that will serve the needs of both WCMC-Q and the Qatar Biomedical Research Institute (QBRI), with completion expected in 2015.
A new generation of researchers

In order to establish a sustainable, vibrant research community in Qatar, WCMC-Q launched the Biomedical Training Program for Nationals in 2011. The six-month program invites Qatari nationals with a demonstrated interest and talent for research or research administration to undertake rigorous, hands-on training with WCMC-Q’s highly qualified faculty members.

Interns who participate in the program learn key expertise such as practical lab skills, research administration, biostatistics and project design and management. This year, seven interns successfully completed the course, bringing the total number of Qatari nationals to have benefited from the program’s comprehensive research training since 2011 to 18.

The skills taught on the program will enable these young Qatari scientists to make positive contributions to Qatar’s mission to achieve a diversified economy with a thriving research and development sector. The success of the program has led to the creation of a new initiative, the Summer Research Administration Program, which is aimed at high school students who have just completed grade 10 or 11. The program, which will start in 2015, will allow students with an aptitude for research to spend ten weeks at WCMC-Q over the summer learning about basic, translational and clinical biomedical research, and will serve as an introduction to a wide range of research-related careers.

Medical students and second-year pre-medical students are able to spend their summer break discovering biomedical research through summer research support programs, which allow them to spend 8-10 weeks in a laboratory at WCMC-Q, WCMC-NY or at Cornell’s home campus at Ithaca. A total of 21 students participated in the summer 2014 program, with eight students conducting research at Ithaca, eight in New York, and five in Doha. Student research programs were redesigned in 2014, with the new programs in place for the 2015 academic year.
At the heart of the research community

The division has hosted several notable research events during 2013/14, which brought together experts in a variety of fields from institutions all over the world to share their knowledge with one another.

In September 2013, WCMC-Q hosted the three-day International Conference on Spina Bifida that drew 200 participants, including many senior WCMC-Q faculty members and senior consultants from HMC. In January 2014, 230 participants attended the Annual Research Retreat hosted by the college under the direction of Dr. Khaled Machaca, while 90 researchers attended a three-day workshop coordinated by Dr. Karsten Suhre in April titled From Bioinformatics to Therapeutics.

Under the auspices of the Academic Health System (AHS) led by HMC, a yearlong training program for clinical researchers was established and was well attended by several institutions within the AHS. The program was aimed primarily at HMC physicians and staff and was attended by more than 450 participants.

In May 2014, 160 participants attended a workshop titled Endemic and Emerging Viral Diseases of Priority in the MENA Region, which discussed the threats posed to populations in the region by diseases such as HIV/AIDS, MERS and hepatitis C.

A national collaborative approach

As with other aspects of the WCMC-Q mission, the research division has taken a national collaborative approach with local stakeholders to build biomedical research capacity and infrastructure. Our partnerships are broad and include robust collaborative efforts with our clinical partners Hamad Medical Corporation, Sidra Medical and Research Center, and the Primary Health Care Corporation, in addition to strong research collaborations with Qatar Biomedical Research Institute, Qatar Biobank, Qatar Diabetes Association, the Supreme Council of Health, Qatar Science and Technology Park, Qatar Computing Research Institute, and Hamad Bin Khalifa University branch campuses. Highlights of such partnerships include the recently established Joint IRB between WCMC-Q and HMC, a body that reviews human subject research protocols at both institutions; the clinical research training modules developed in collaboration with the Academic Healthcare System; and the Joint QF vivarium that will support both QBRI and WCMC-Q, to name a few.

Graduate Biomedical Education - Split Ph.D. Program

WCMC-Q initiated a split Ph.D. program that allows graduate students to obtain a Weill Cornell Ph.D. while performing their thesis research at WCMC-Q research labs. Briefly, the program would allow students admitted to the Weill Cornell Graduate School to complete their course work in Manhattan and then join a research lab at WCMC-Q to complete their research project.
Dr. Ravinder Mamtani, associate dean for global and public health, and associate dean for admissions.
Global and Public Health

The Division of Global and Public Health’s (GPH) goals are consistent with WCMC-Q’s core mission of education, research, patient-related healthcare and community support. GPH endeavors to strengthen and augment ongoing educational activities and programs and develop and implement new initiatives. GPH continues to persevere in research activities important to the State of Qatar in alignment with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the National Health Strategy 2011-2016. Furthermore, the department is actively engaged in community health awareness, health promotion and education programs.

Currently, GPH is actively participating in formulating WCMC-Q’s Strategic Plan 2015-2020. Dr. Ravinder Mamtani, associate dean of global and public health, chairs the Strategic Objective Task Force 6. The stated objective of the task force is “to build population-based health promotion, disease prevention and quality of life improvement initiatives in Qatar, and continue to strengthen national and global collaborations in population health.”

Educational Programs and Activities

Global and Public Health Symposium: Culturally Competent Patient Centered Healthcare-A Special Focus on Qatar

GPH hosted Qatar’s first cultural competence in healthcare symposium, entitled Culturally Competent Patient-Centered Healthcare: A Special Focus on Qatar in March 2014 at WCMC-Q. The symposium was very well attended by faculty, researchers and staff from educational and healthcare institutions across Qatar. The symposium’s keynote speaker was Dr. Jamal Rashid Al-Khanji, director of healthcare quality and patient safety, acting CEO Qatar Council for Healthcare Practitioners, Supreme Council of Health, Qatar. Presentations were made by eminent international speakers, Dr. Robert Like, professor and director at the Center for Healthy Families and Cultural Diversity, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School; and Dr. Jeffrey Ring, director of behavioral sciences and cultural medicine on the Family Medicine Residency Program, White Memorial Medical Center, and clinical professor of family medicine at Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California. They spoke about Healthcare Priorities: Culturally Competent Patient-Centered Care, and Cultural Competence Education and Research respectively. Dr. Khalid A. Alyafei, program director at the Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellowship at HMC and assistant professor of clinical pediatrics at WCMC-Q, shared his thoughts on The Role of Health Education in Patient Safety Competencies.

Global Health Education and Research Program

GPH selected three WCMC-Q first year medical students to help them gain educational and research experience for 6-8 weeks in the summer of 2014 at Weill Bugando Medical Center in Mwanza, Tanzania. Global Health Education and Research Program (GHERP) consists of three components namely clinical, research and community-related work. Clinical experience includes clinical rounds and in-patient experience at WCMC-
Bugando Hospital. This enables students to understand and learn prevalent disease trends in that community, and the management of patients in difficult and low-income resource settings. Additionally, students get involved in a variety of research and community projects based on their interests. GHERP offers the students a unique initial clinical exposure in a low-income healthcare system and the experience of working within communities with different cultural settings.

Workshops

GPH and the Pre-medical Program’s Writing Center collaborated with QScience.com to host a series of workshops related to the publication of research. The first workshop on Organizing a Scientific Research Paper for Publication, took place in November 2013. The workshop was delivered by Dr. Alwaleed Alkhaja, commissioning editor at QScience.com. He presented a step-by-step guide to writing each of the key elements of a research paper, from choosing the most suitable format for a title through to the best way to present results. Following the success of this workshop, a second workshop was hosted on Plagiarism in Academic Writing, What is It and How to Avoid It, in April 2014. Panelists included Dr. Ravinder Mamanti, professor of public health and associate dean for global and public health at WCMC-Q and editor-in-chief of the Journal of Local and Global Health Perspectives; Dr. Christopher Leonard, editorial director at QScience.com; Dr. Dietrich Busselberg, professor of physiology and biophysics and assistant dean for student affairs at WCMC-Q and editor-in-chief of the Journal of Local and Global Health Science; and Dr. Alan Weber, associate professor of English at WCMC-Q. Dr. Alwaleed Alkhaja moderated the session.

Journal of Local and Global Health Perspectives

The Journal of Local and Global Health Perspectives (ISSN: 2225-9228) is a peer-reviewed, international journal, which publishes research on all aspects of global health practices in specific local environments as well as the implications of local health issues in a global perspective. The journal is committed to advancing and sharing creative, innovative and emerging evidence-based approaches that are likely to influence public health policy and improve public health of various communities around the world. Editors-in-chief are Dr. Ravinder Mamanti and Dr. Albert B. Lowenfels, of New York Medical College, Valhalla, New York. Dr. Sohaila Cheema, director of GPH serves as managing editor.

Health and Disease: A Global Perspective

This one-credit course, offered in the fall semester since 2011, provides WCMC-Q’s foundation and pre-medical students with basic knowledge and information necessary to understand concepts related to health and disease. The course builds upon concepts and issues in natural science courses taught during high school education and personal experiences of the students.

Population Health and Primary Care Perspectives Elective

This four-week global health elective course is open to senior medical students from around the world wherein
students are introduced to various global health topics with a special focus on population health and primary health care. Dr. Ravinder Mamtani and Dr. Mohamud Verjee, associate professor of family medicine and director, primary care clerkship serve as sponsoring faculty for the elective.

Global and Public Health Internship

This innovative internship program is open to undergraduate students from around the world. Talented high school students who have exhibited a strong interest in healthcare are also considered. The program introduces students to the basic core concepts of global and public health with a view to optimizing their awareness and knowledge in these areas. Dr. Ravinder Mamtani directs the program and Dr. Sohaila Cheema serves as its co-director.

Global and Local Community Initiatives

Global Education in Medicine Exchange (GEMx)

GPH hosted the GEMx Advisory Committee meeting in January 2014 at WCMC-Q. Dr. Ravinder Mamtani was appointed as the first chairman of the International Advisory Committee of the GEMx program, administered by the Education Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG), based in Philadelphia. U.S. GEMx aims to facilitate and promote international exchange in medical education in order to improve healthcare around the world. Dr. Mamtani’s new appointment recognizes his accomplishments in providing leadership in student affairs, public health education programs, curriculum development, international lectures, and research contributions on medical education and global health. Dr. Sohaila Cheema is the GEMx elective coordinator for WCMC-Q.

WCMC-Q and Academic Health System collaborate for a Diabetes Education Awareness Program in Qatar Schools

The Diabetes Education Awareness Program in Qatar Schools, designed and directed by Dr. Ravinder Mamtani and Dr. Sohaila Cheema was implemented in local schools targeting high school students between the ages of 15 and 18 in Feb 2014. The Academic Health System funded the project. Dr. Ravinder Mamtani led the campaign with the GPH team, comprising Dr. Sohaila Cheema, projects specialist Dr. Hekmat Alrouh, project coordinators Sura Al Samraye and Nneka Onwuachu and administration manager Raji Anand. At each school, a presentation was given to the students by Dr. Hekmat Alrouh, alumnus of WCMC-Q, highlighting type 2 diabetes; prevalence, causes, risks, signs and symptoms and a special focus on diabetes prevention. Additionally, key messages on nutrition, physical activity, and healthy lifestyles and stress reduction were reinforced. An interactive question and answer session was an integral part of the program. The program reached nearly 1,000 students. The participating schools in the program were, Al Bayan Secondary Independent School for Girls, Amina Bint Wahab Secondary Independent School for Girls, Michael DeBakey High School for Health Professions, Qatar Academy, International School of Choueifat, Al Wakra Independent School for Boys, Omar Bin Khattab Independent Secondary School for Boys and Al Arqam Academy for Girls.
Participation in committees of public / population health importance

Dr. Ravinder Mamtani and Dr. Sohaila Cheema represent WCMC-Q on the following local and national committees.

1. National Preventive Healthcare Committee, Supreme Council of Health: Dr. Ravinder Mamtani (member) and Dr. Sohaila Cheema (designee).
2. Academic Health System Community Engagement Subcommittee: Dr. Ravinder Mamtani (co-chair) and Dr. Sohaila Cheema (member).
4. WCMC-Q – Qatar Council for Healthcare Practitioners (QCHP) Cultural Competency Curriculum Taskforce: Dr. Sohaila Cheema (member), Ms. Maha Einashar director, Center for Cultural Competence in Healthcare (member) and Ms. Huda Abdelrahim, associate specialist, Center for Cultural Competence in Healthcare (member).
5. Dietary Guidelines Committee, Supreme Council of Health: Dr. Sohaila Cheema (member).
6. Human Nutrition Advisory Board, Qatar University: Dr. Sohaila Cheema (member).

The GPH Division is also a partner with the Communications Division on the Sahtak Awalan - Your Health First initiative, Ask the Expert.

Ask The Expert is a new series consisting of interactive health seminars and is part of WCMC-Q’s Sahtak Awalan - Your Health First initiative, a five-year campaign to encourage individuals of all ages and backgrounds to adopt healthier lifestyles. Dr. Ravinder Mamtani gave the inaugural lecture, entitled Lose Weight and Keep it Off, in January 2014. Building on the first seminar was the second lecture of the series on adopting healthy lifestyle behaviors entitled How to Break Unhealthy Habits by Dr. Robert Like, of Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Jersey, U.S., and Dr. Jeffrey Ring, of the University of Southern California. In May 2014, Dr. Marcellina Mian, professor of pediatrics and associate dean for medical education, presented How to Encourage your Child to Behave. The series will run through the year addressing common health issues facing families, from the youngest member to the oldest. Each session presents a specific topic with a WCMC-Q doctor on hand to address the problem, answer questions and offer solutions. Entry is free for all members of the public and no invitation is required. The seminars are hosted at the Diplomatic Club.
Global Health Photo Competition

Under the direction of Dr. Sohaila Cheema, the Division of Global and Public Health hosted the first Global Health Photo Competition in the Fall of 2013. The competition invited students, staff and faculty from accredited colleges, universities and healthcare institutions across Qatar to submit a photograph with a caption along with a narrative on What does global health mean to you? Two winners were announced in January 2014, with first place taken by second-year WCMC-Q pre-medical student Nahel Tunio for her photograph entitled Holding Hands. Luay Hussein, a mechanical engineering instructor from the College of the North Atlantic – Qatar, for his photograph entitled Global Micro Decisions, won second place. By hosting such contests GPH hopes to increase awareness of global and public health issues, which are currently prevalent in Qatar and worldwide.

Seminar and Presentations

GPH has actively participated in many seminars and presentations both at the local and global community levels. Dr. Ravinder Mamtnani gave a talk during Qatar Foundation’s Nutrition Awareness Month event in March 2014. His talk was entitled Healthy Nutrition: A Special Focus on Salt and Health. Furthermore, Dr. Mamtnani was invited as a keynote speaker to the Annual Convocation for Global Education in Medicine Exchange Partner School, Kasturba Medical College, India in March 2014. During his visit to India, he also addressed several hundred medical students sharing his thoughts on Establishing a Therapeutic Alliance with your Patients. He also gave a seminar about the Emerging Face of Healthcare at the School of Public Health, Manipal University, India.

Research

GPH continues to promote and advance public health research activities, which will contribute to the well-being and health of the people of the State of Qatar. Currently the division is involved in collaborative research projects exploring obesity, its epidemiological and genomic aspects, epidemiology of road traffic injuries, the use of herbal and nutritional supplements by college students in Qatar, the risk of pre-diabetes in the Qatari adolescent population and looking at the effect of smoking on the progression of diabetes and its complications. GPH’s collaborators on these projects include the Supreme Council of Health, HMC, Qatar Diabetes Association and the Ministry of Interior’s Traffic Department.

The paper, entitled Adolescent Prediabetes in a High Risk Middle East Country: A Cross Sectional Study authored by Dr. Mamtnani, Dr. Albert B. Lowenfels, Dr. Javaid Sheikh, Dr. Sohaila Cheema, Dr. Abdulla Al-Hamaq, Sharoud A. Matthis, Katie G. El-Nahas, Patrick Maisonneuve has been accepted for publication in the UK’s Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine Short Reports. Additionally, Dr. Mamtnani and Dr. Cheema collaborated with colleagues, Dr. Linda Gerber, of WCMC-NY, and Dr. Mohamud Verjee, assistant professor of family medicine at WCMC-Q, on the QNRF study entitled Use of Complementary and Alternative Medicine Among Midlife Arab Women Living in Qatar. The paper has been accepted for publication in the World Health Organization’s Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal.
The division’s faculty and staff participated in the following poster presentations:


Center for Cultural Competence in Healthcare

Under the direction of Ms. Maha Elnashar, director of the Center for Cultural Competence in Healthcare (CCCHC), coupled with the unwavering support of Ms. Huda Abdelrahim, associate specialist, CCCHC continues to promote the concept of culturally and linguistically appropriate healthcare in Qatar through its educational, research and community activities in the broad areas of cultural competence and medical interpretation.

Education:

WCMC-Q Medical Students:

Cultural Competence Training Module:

Since 2008, CCCHC has provided cultural competence training to WCMC-Q medical students. The 22-hour training module is built on the Association of American Medical College’s five Tools for Assessing Cultural Competence Training and the Liaison Committee on Medical Education’s standards. Students are engaged 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 medical years.

Medical Interpretation Training Module:

Orientation session:

CCCHC conducts a one-hour refresher session with the medical students on how to work with a (trained or untrained) medical interpreter before they begin their clerkships.
Language service:

CCCHC continues to provide medical interpretation service to WCMC-Q students during their clinical training in HMC hospitals and primary healthcare centers. Many CCCHC trained interpreters have signed an agreement to volunteer to help WCMC-Q students during their practical training in HMC. This significant initiative will help WCMC-Q students to communicate effectively with patients via trained medical interpreters and to enhance their cross-cultural communication skills.

WCMC-Q staff:

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

WCMC-Q’s affiliates:

Hamad Medical Corporation:
- CCCHC participates in the Comskil training module prepared by Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. The module mainly focuses on End of Life communication skills and targets HMC residents and specialists.
- CCCHC arranged a guest lecture entitled Fostering Health Equity Through Syndemics Prevention: The Role of Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Service Delivery, at HMC. The lecture was given by Dr. Robert C. Like, of Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, U.S.
- CCCHC provided two cultural competence training workshops of two hours each to the Filipino Nurses Association in Qatar who work in HMC.
• CCCHC provided a four-hour cultural competence training workshop to Qatar’s new paramedic team from the Qatar Ambulance Services Department in HMC.

Qatar University

CCCHC conducts two sessions (three hours a year) on cultural competence skills and medical interpretation in the Faculty of Pharmacy. These sessions are integrated in the professional skills course of the first-year curriculum.

Community Outreach

Medical Interpreters Training offered to the Community
As part of the center’s effort to promote language access in Qatar’s growing healthcare sector, the center has completed five medical interpreter sessions to the Qatar community under the Bridging the Gap program. The training is offered on a biannual basis. The aim of the training is to build a capacity of trained medical interpreters that will provide language services in all healthcare settings. The number of the trained interpreters has now reached 70, representing 12 languages; Arabic-44, Bengali-1, French-3, German-1, Hindi-6, Malayalam-3, Mandarin-2, Nepali-1, Tagalog-4, Tamil-2, Urdu-5, Korean-3.


The center, led by director Maha Elnashar and associate specialist Huda Abdelrahim, serves as an integral part of the taskforce initiated by the Qatar Council for Healthcare Practitioners (QHCP), under the leadership of Dr. Jamal Al-Khanji, A/CEO of QHCP. This project’s main objective is to develop, mandate and nationalize cultural competence training and assessment to all healthcare professionals practicing in the State of Qatar as part of the licensing process.

Seminar presentation

Ms. Elnashar presented a seminar on culturally competent care to the members of the Indian Medical Association. During the presentation, she highlighted the value of culturally competent and patient-centered care in office-based medical practice. The meeting, attended by more than 100 medical doctors, led to a stimulating discussion from which all the attendees benefitted.

Research

The center continues its participation in the NPRP research grant (NPRP:08-530-3-116) entitled Providing Culturally Appropriate Healthcare Services in Qatar: Development of a Multilingual Patient Cultural Assessment of Quality Instrument. The project is in its the final phase. Two papers have already been published and another four articles are in preparation.
Student Recruitment and Outreach

With the aim of implementing a more integrated student recruitment vision, earlier this year, Dr. Rachid Bendriss was appointed as assistant dean for student recruitment, outreach and foundation programs. To better accomplish this integrated approach, the Office of Student Recruitment was moved under the Pre-medical Division and given the additional mandate of outreach.

Locally, this year the office implemented a new initiative that aims at proactively reaching out to college-bound students in their final school years. The new pilot Qatar Aspiring Doctors Program was launched to establish a consistent year-long rapport with the same select group of highly motivated Qatari students, aiming to enrich their learning experience and improve their academic outcomes through a series of modular online courses.

Regionally, the office participated for the first time in the 7th Annual Career Fair for Qatari Students in the UK, seeking qualified undergraduate Qatari students working towards their degrees. This interaction allowed the recruitment and outreach office to gauge their interest in pursuing a career in medicine, and share with them the opportunities of applying to the Medical Program at WCMC-Q.

In addition to implementing a year-long recruitment calendar, the student recruitment and outreach team continued to reach out to students across the GCC through the Discover Education City Roadshow. Jointly organized with other university branch campuses and Hamad Bin Khalifa University, the roadshow kick-started in Doha with a large two-day recruitment fair.
Local Recruitment and Outreach

Qatar Aspiring Doctors Program (QADP)

This pilot program was launched this year to target a selected group of motivated 10th, 11th, and 12th graders, identified jointly by their schools and the Office of Student Recruitment and Outreach, to improve their chances of direct admission to the Pre-medical and the Foundation Programs. The QADP includes online modules developed by Pre-medical faculty, covering biology, physical sciences, including chemistry and physics, English for academic purposes, and introduction to research skills. Currently, there are 26 students enrolled in the program. As part of the QADP, the office offered a series of orientation and one-on-one advice sessions to the participants. Students, mainly Qatari, attend a variety of schools including The Michael E. DeBakey High School – Qatar, Al-Bayan, Omar Bin Khattab, and a number of independent and private schools in Qatar.
Medicine Unlimited Community Outreach Event

In its 7th version this year, WCMC-Q’s flagship recruitment and outreach event Medicine Unlimited was held on 30 November 2013. Prospective students and their families visited the college for the annual fair, which offered the chance to discover the college’s state-of-the-art facilities, take part in interactive demonstrations and learn about careers in medicine. There were a total of 20 stalls, with subjects ranging from anatomy, neurology, pediatrics and research, to physics, chemistry, biology and pathology. For the first time the event also featured a stall where prospective students could find information about WCMC-Q’s Foundation Program to learn about its curriculum and meet current students. English writing, library and admissions faculty and staff were also represented to showcase their activities. As in previous years, Hamad Medical Corporation and Qatar Diabetes Association were in attendance to offer free health screenings to parents and adult participants. The event was a major success and was attended by more than 600 visitors.
Summer Enrichment Programs

Two programs, the Qatar Medical Explorer Program (QMEP) and the Pre-college Enrichment Program (PCEP), were offered to high school students during the summer of 2013. The Office of Student Recruitment and Outreach received about 300 applications for the two programs, of which a total of 69 students were selected to participate. The programs continue to offer students the opportunity to attend pre-medical and medical class simulations, get hands-on experience in the labs and prepare for college admissions.

Winter Enrichment Program

For the second year, the Winter Enrichment Program invited students of independent schools in Qatar to join the Qatar Medical Explorer Program (QMEP) during the school winter break. This two-week program was conducted from January 26 to February 6 2014 with a total of 29 students from nine schools in Qatar. Students spent two weeks learning what it is like to train to become a medical doctor at WCMC-Q. The QMEP was delivered by pre-medical and medical faculty members, teaching assistants, current students, graduates and staff of WCMC-Q.

Admissions staff also contributed to the Summer and Winter Enrichment Programs by delivering admissions presentations and effective interviewing skills workshops. The academic counselors helped the recruitment department deliver workshops on topics such as career decision-making, study skills and building an excellent resume. Medical faculty talks were also the highlight of the programs.
Healing Hands Essay Competition

Three Qatari high school students, from The Micheal E. DeBakey High School- Qatar, Al Bayan Educational Complex for Girls and Qatar Academy, 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 benefit from a research training experience in the laboratory of Dr. Ronald Crystal. This is the second year that 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 who eventually matriculate in the pre-medical and foundation programs.

Medical Review School Conference

For the first time this year, the office supported the first Medical Review School Conference organized by Doha College. The conference offered a platform for high school students from across schools in Doha to share their research presentations on various diseases, as well as receive guidance from WCMC-Q faculty. Dr. Mohamud Verjee, associate professor of family medicine in clinical medicine and Dr. Bassim Uthman, professor of clinical neurology and clinical neuroscience participated as judges for the students’ medical presentations and provided feedback on the work presented. Members of the winning teams were offered tours of WCMC-Q and placement on the Summer Enrichment Programs.

School Visits, Open Days and Fairs

The student recruitment and outreach team visited more than 50 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, subject selection, the application process and funding opportunities.

Ten open days were organized for interested schools during the year. A typical open day consists of a formal presentation of WCMC-Q’s programs and admissions requirements, a tour of the college and an interactive activity in the clinical skills center. Additionally, the office responded to an increasing number of online, phone and walk-in inquiries throughout the year.

This year the recruitment and outreach team attended a number of local fairs, the most significant of which were the Hamad Medical Corporation Career Fair as well as a number of school fairs, where representatives of WCMC-Q gave public presentations to prospective students and their parents. The team also participated in a number of school and university fairs at local institutions including The Michael E. DeBakey High School-Qatar, Dukhan English Community School, Amna Bint Wahab Independent School for Girls, Doha Montessori British School, Qatar University, Qatar Community College, as well as the USEG-American Universities-Doha fair.
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 academic counselors and school teachers.

This year the Adopt a School Program provided training workshops to 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, Mr. Ian Miller, Dr. Rachid Bendriss and Dr. Rodney Sharkey.

About 50 counselors and teachers from 16 different schools, representing the majority of school systems in Qatar, attended the workshops.

As a follow-up to the writing workshops, Mr. Ian Miller, assistant professor of English, offered an on-site Reference Writing Workshop to the English teachers, academic counselors and administrators of Al Ieman Independent School for Girls.

Under the same program and organized jointly with Qatar University, a chemistry workshop was offered by Dr. James Roach, associate professor of chemistry, which was held at WCMC-Q and attended by 25 teachers affiliated with the Energy City project.

Counselors’ Workshops, Parents’ Nights and Principals’ Meetings

In September 2013 the two-day Discover Education City event was organized in partnership with Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) and other 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 500 visitors.

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

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

The Office of Student Recruitment and Outreach continues to participate in the Discover Education City Roadshow jointly organized with Education City branch campuses. During the fall of 2013 the team visited more than 30 schools in several locations across the region including Muscat, Dubai, Sharja, Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, Kuwait and Amman and was successful in recruiting a number of highly qualified regional candidates.

The office also attended regional fairs such as the Getex Fair in Dubai and Al Najah Fair in Abu Dhabi during the fall and participated in the second NYUAD health professions weekend organized by New York University in Abu Dhabi in April to recruit for the medical program. The NYUAD visit yielded strong applications which translated into two offers to the medical program.

WCMC-Q representatives met and offered advice to about 500 prospective students during these regional student recruitment fairs.

Collaboration With Key Partners

With the appointment of the new assistant dean, the office reached out to foster stronger community relations with key stakeholders. Throughout the year, the assistant dean and director conducted a series of visits to the main feeder schools, Qatar University and the Qatar Community College to meet with administrations and explain the opportunities that WCMC-Q has to offer students in Qatar.

Also this year, the Office of Student Recruitment and Outreach Office is representing WCMC-Q as a member of the Promotion of Healthcare Careers Committee, which is an initiative undertaken by the Supreme Council of Health to implement the National Health Strategy 2011-2016.

Online Presence

Earlier this year the office launched the WCMC-Q Prospective Student Outreach Facebook and Twitter fan pages. Throughout the year, quizzes are organized through the pages, asking simple science questions. The students with the most correct answers receive WCMC-Q mementos and an invitation for a guided tour of the WCMC-Q campus.

Also, this year featured an enhanced website page for the office to streamline communication with prospective students, parents and school counselors.
Admissions

The success and visibility of WCMC-Q and its programs continues to go from strength to strength, leading to strong competition from applicants for a place at the college.

There were 444 submitted applications for the 2013-2014 Pre-medical Program and a total of 907 inquiries. Of the submitted applications, the Pre-medical Program Committee on Admissions accepted 51 students directly into the program. A further 14 were promoted from the Foundation Program. As of July 2014, 23 students were accepted into the new foundation class, which will begin in August 2014.

As always, WCMC-Q’s programs attracted a diverse range of students. In the entering foundation and pre-medical classes 19 different nationalities were represented, with approximately 60 per cent of those students making their home in Qatar.

As of July 2014, 41 students accepted their offer of admission to the Medical Program. Of these, 33 completed their pre-medical education at WCMC-Q and four are external applicants. The remaining four received undergraduate degrees (two from Cornell in Ithaca and two from Carnegie Mellon in Qatar), after enrolling in the WCMC-Q Pre-medical Program. It is important to note that of the 41, 11 students are Qataris, seven of whom began their journey to medical school on WCMC-Q’s Foundation Program.

The medical class is also diverse, representing 21 nationalities. The accepted external applicants include three holders of a Bachelor’s degree: one from the National University of Singapore and two graduates of the inaugural graduating class of New York University-Abu Dhabi. A further student has a Master’s of Science degree in Biomedical Technology.

Finally, in September 2013 a new application software was launched in collaboration with the Educational Computing Team. The new Student Information System will allow student information to be shared from the moment when an applicant makes their initial inquiry through to when they are a WCMC-Q graduate.

The Office of Admissions will continue to leverage the new system to improve its efforts in providing appropriate advice and timely processing of all student applications. This in turn will allow and facilitate timely reviews of applications by the Admissions Committee.
In August 2013, the Division of Student Affairs once again successfully executed the one-week pre-medical student orientation program, which is filled with activities and lectures to welcome the incoming foundation and pre-medical students to the campus, the administration, faculty, and staff, and to each other. With the collaborative efforts of the orientation student leadership group and the Medical Student Executive Council in Qatar (MSECQ), the participants engage in interactive sessions to develop pride in their new WCMC-Q community as well as understand their academic requirements. Students also participate in a service activity to heighten awareness of the larger community. For the past two years, the students have collected, sorted, and packed donations from the college for donation to Qatar Charity. Afterward, the hard work of our custodial staff and security guards is celebrated by hosting a meal in their honor. In addition, as part of helping students understand their role in a larger collegiate community, WCMC-Q and other branch campuses at Education City participate in and help host sessions and workshops to prepare students for participation in the greater community at Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU).

Similarly, a separate, one-week medical student orientation was held in September 2013. This past year, we welcomed the members of Class 2017 with a series of programs and activities to introduce new students to the medical curriculum, medical training, professionalism, the teacher-learner environment and other topics. The week culminated with the annual White Coat Ceremony, where more than 400 people witnessed and celebrated the 41 students (37 internal and 4 external) who were inducted into the class. The keynote speaker at the ceremony was Dr. Abdullah Mohd Al Kaabi, executive vice chief medical officer of Sidra Medical and Research Center, and deputy chairman of pediatrics and head of the pediatric nephrology department at Hamad Medical Corporation.

One of the most popular aspects of the medical student orientation is the community service activity, which helps
students begin to connect with their chosen profession and develop a deeper understanding of their role in treating patients, and not just their diseases. In the past, students have visited Qatar Diabetes Center to learn how blood sugar is measured as well as the challenges patients face in managing their illness. In the fall of 2013, students traveled to Qatar Cancer Society where they learned about the organization’s work with cancer patients and their families; met and spoke with a cancer survivor; and discussed how to raise awareness of cancer prevention as well as support cancer patients and their families.

Student Clubs and Activities

Through founding, leading, and participating in a wide variety of clubs and organizations, WCMC-Q students have helped to meet the personal and professional interests of our diverse community. Currently, WCMC-Q has 20 officially recognized clubs and organizations, including: men’s and women’s basketball teams, cricket team, running club, men’s soccer club, the volleyball team, the Beyond White Walls organization, chess club, Cornell Association for Rehabilitation and Education (CARE), debate club, drama club, global health club, Korean club, Qatari club, MSEC-Q, music club, Emergency Medicine Interest Group (EMIG), Pediatrics Interest Group, Student Interest Group in Neurology (SIGN), Reach Out to Asia Adult English Literacy Training Program, and the Student Research Association.

One of the most active student organizations is the Debate Club. Members of this organization have traveled to Germany, Philippines, Botswana, and even Cornell and WCMC in New York to debate against their colleagues. They have been the national champions of the Qatar Debates for the past four years. But they - and we - are not only proud of their debating accomplishments: members of the club, through the Staff Enrichment Program and with Reach Out To Asia (ROTA), help WCMC-Q staff members improve their spoken and written English by teaching classes in workplace communication skills. They have also hosted computer classes to help staff better communicate and enhance their technology skills.
The Medical Student Executive Council (MSEC-Q) is the student governing body of the college. Consisting of four representatives from each of the seven classes, from Foundation to Year 4 Med, they are vital for supporting and advocating for student interests. To foster transparency and communication between students and the administration, MSEC-Q hosts an annual Dean's Town Hall with Dr. Javaid Sheikh, dean of WCMC-Q. Students look forward to the annual event, where they voice concerns, ask questions, and learn more about the college's strategic long-term plans.

MSEC-Q also hosts a number of annual events to celebrate the culture and diversity of the WCMC-Q community. International Night includes a "tour around the world" through food, music, clothes, and information about different nations that make up the student community. Another major event hosted by MSEC-Q is the annual and hugely popular Coffee House. This talent show is one of the largest cross-university events and brings in 600-800 spectators to the campus, celebrating the immense and diverse talents of students, faculty, and staff.

Recognition of Academic Achievement

Each semester, Dr. Sheikh invites full-time undergraduate students who earn a 3.75 or higher grade point average to a dinner in honor of their accomplishments. On September 29, 2013 the Dean proudly announced the names of 27 students who achieved this accomplishment; and on February 18, 2014 he recognized the academic excellence of an additional 30 students. Students and their parents, faculty and staff were invited to celebrate the academic excellence of these students.
Counseling and Academic Advice

Committed to creating a nurturing environment to optimize student learning, the academic counselors offer student academic, personal, and career support. They coordinate and provide vital workshops, seminars, and individual counseling with students to foster the development of study skills and effective time-management. They also assist in preparing student to register for standardized exams (MCAT and USMLE), develop their medical school interviewing skills, and prepare personal statements and resumes. They also administer the peer-tutoring program, conduct structured academic advising committee meetings, and coordinated psychological, psychiatric, and other referrals as needed.

Financial Aid and Scholarship

WCMC-Q selects students on merit only, according to the principle of ‘need-blind admissions’. The Committee on Admission screens, evaluates, and accepts students without knowledge of their ability to pay. Students who require financial assistance apply directly to HBKU’s financial aid program. Depending upon their citizenship, several avenues of financial assistance are available to WCMC-Q students. Qatari students may be sponsored by Sidra, or by the Qatari government through the Higher Education Institute. Sponsored students are usually provided tuition assistance as well as a stipend to cover their books, supplies, and other costs. Hamad Medical Corporation has also recently developed a sponsorship program specifically for Qatari nationals who are studying at WCMC-Q. Non-Qatari students can also apply for Sidra sponsorship, but most are self-funded or apply to Qatar Foundation for financial assistance through an interest-free loan program established by the foundation. In addition, Qatar Foundation offers 12 merit scholarships per year for medical students. The Division of Student Affairs helps in selecting the nominees, who can then apply for scholarship consideration. Currently just over 50% of the student body receives some form of sponsorship or scholarship.
Graduation & Convocation

The annual senior honors convocation recognizes the academic achievements of graduating students. Awards were given based on outstanding performance in courses and clerkships as well as in research, public health, and community service. At the graduation ceremony in 2014, 34 students took the Hippocratic Oath and received their diplomas. Of the 26 students who sought to pursue U.S. residency training, all 26 matched into a program, leading to our first 100% U.S. residency match rate. Two of the other graduates began their residency training at HMC, while the remaining six decided to pursue research or other educational experiences.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ClubFest

To encourage and recruit new and current students to engage in extracurricular activities, student organizations held the annual ClubFest to highlight the accomplishments of the previous year and publicize the goals for the coming year.

Wellness Day

WCMC-Q hosted the 2nd Annual Wellness Day to promote, celebrate, and educate the community on mental, social, spiritual, and physical health. This past year a total of 13 organizations from both within and outside WCMC-Q set up displays at the college and gave out useful tips on a wide range of health issues including family wellness, financial wellness, nutrition, traditional Middle Eastern medicine, music for health, children’s health and mental health.
LeaderShape

One of the core student leadership development programs hosted by HBKU is the annual LeaderShape program, which is hosted each January. LeaderShape’s mission is: “To expand the community of people who lead with integrity and have a healthy disregard for the impossible.” Over the course of the six-day program, selected WCMC-Q students engaged in a variety of community-building, leadership, and visualization topics with their peers at other Education City institutions.

HBKU Cultivating Leadership

Students also had the opportunity to develop their leadership skills through the CULTIVATE Leadership Program. This new HBKU program is divided into six different workshops over the course of the fall semester. The workshops focus on personal leadership development with students participating in personality self-assessment, learning about identities, and developing strong ties to other participants. The program challenges students to improve their leadership skills.

International Service Learning and Community Service

Students at WCMC-Q are passionate about giving back to the community. With so many of the countries in the region experiencing the effects of war, natural disaster and other hardships, students actively pursued opportunities to develop awareness and provide assistance. They raised funds for building water wells for communities, provided relief to displaced Syrians, and assisted with relief efforts in the Philippines and India.

Two first-year medical students are sponsored each year to engage in a global health research experience at Weill Bugando Medical Center in Mwanza, Tanzania. This rewarding and eye-opening experience has fueled advocacy for other service learning experiences. This past year, five first-year medical students traveled to Costa Rica to assist with medical health check-ups and engage with the children of a local government-sponsored kindergarten. Through this experience, students became more aware of the challenges faced by these communities and began to develop skills in medical assessment and evaluation. This in turn led to a similar opportunity for nine undergraduate students to travel to Tanzania last summer to participate in community service activities. The students painted community centers, organized activities for local youth, and learned about local tribes and cultures.

ALUMNI DEVELOPMENT

As of May 2014, we have 181 WCMC-Q alumni. Alumni regularly engage with the college through visits, speaking with students, participating in formal college events (such as residency training symposia), and participating in an annual dinner for alumni residing in Doha as well as another annual dinner event hosted in New York for alumni in the U.S. Most alumni stay in contact with the college, and recently, Dr. Sheikh included special coverage on alumni achievements in his quarterly newsletter. We also recently added a new dedicated tab for alumni to the WCMC-Q Student Affairs website, and we look forward to opportunities to further develop programs to support alumni engagement.
Dr. Richard Gilpin, member of the American Biological Safety Association, visited WCMC-Q in May 2014 to give expert advice on laboratory safety.
OUTREACH

Sharing knowledge

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

The college sponsored four days of biological safety training for researchers, educators, healthcare professionals, and clinical laboratory personnel working in Qatar.

The fourth annual installment of the WCMC-Q Research Safety Training Seminars provided three sessions on biological safety principles and practices and a fourth session on recombinant DNA and Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) program implementation. Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) hosted one of the seminars, and WCMC-Q hosted Supreme Council of Health (SCH) Medical Commission staff for a Saturday training seminar. The seminars, delivered by visiting biosafety professional Dr. Richard W. Gilpin, a 25-year member of the American Biological Safety Association, shared practical advice about minimizing risks while working in the laboratory.

Attendees learned how to safely handle blood-borne pathogens in the laboratory, how to carry out risk assessments, which personal protective equipment to use for particular research procedures, and how to manage vaccination plans for researchers who work with infectious biological materials, among many other topics.

The seminars also explained the procedures and protocols researchers must follow in order to comply with a variety of regulatory bodies, such as the U.S. National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The seminar program was coordinated by WCMC-Q director of environmental health and safety Tom Doyle, in collaboration with Dr. Ahmed Ismail, chief of laboratory services at the Supreme Council of Health, and Dr. Ramzi Mohammad, interim director of the Translational Research Institute, head of research-medicine, and head of HMC’s Biosafety Committee.

More than 350 professionals engaged in research, science education, and healthcare at all levels attended the four training sessions.
Students from high schools across Qatar competed in The Challenge in March 2014 as part of WCMC-Q’s five-year Sahtak Awalan - Your Health First campaign.
Sahtak Awalan

WCMC-Q’s Communications Division has continued to promote the Sahtak Awalan – Your Health First campaign, introducing new initiatives to keep the campaign fresh and increase participation.

The most high-profile new scheme was the Greenhouse Project. Launched in November 2013, the initiative saw 15 schools receive a greenhouse each, along with plant pots, compost, fruit and vegetable seeds and growing instructions. The aim was to inspire primary school children to take an interest in where their food originates from and to encourage them to eat more fruit and vegetables.

The project was very successful, so much so that it will continue to be rolled out to more and more schools across Qatar as it was found to have a treble impact.

Firstly, the children were invested in growing their own food and so were more likely to try the produce. They also now learned why they should eat certain foods. With these experiences and knowledge, it makes it more likely they will adopt healthier eating habits as they grow older, eventually passing on these habits to their own children.

Secondly, the Greenhouse Project actually taught the children skills that they can use for the rest of their lives. They were shown that food can be grown anywhere – from the smallest window box to the largest garden – and experienced the satisfaction that comes from successfully growing your own fruit and vegetables.

Thirdly, it taught the children about the concept of sustainability, both in the production of food but also the concept of environmentalism and ensuring that our world is protected and remains productive for future generations.

The Challenge

The Challenge is now in its second year but has grown in size, with 22 middle schools participating in the sports event and the associated poster competition, the latter judging entrants’ research skills.

The Challenge promotes the importance of exercise and fitness and aims to encourage young people to take up sport or a physical activity. It also endeavors to engage with young people and their families to inspire them to adopt healthy lifestyle habits, which will help build a strong and healthy future generation. This is in line with the broader aim of the Sahtak Awalan campaign, which is to help create a healthy nation, able to contribute to the knowledge-based economy in line with the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030 and the National Health Strategy 2011-2016.

Given the continued success of the event, the Communications Division will continue to host the competition for the foreseeable future.
Launched in November 2013, The Greenhouse Project equipped 15 primary schools with the tools to grow fresh fruit and vegetables.
National Sports Day

National Sports Day was an ideal time to promote the Sahtak Awalan campaign to a wider audience. The campaign had partnered with Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) and had a stand featuring the latest in medical and health technology at the QOC’s Sport Zone off the Corniche.

From Thursday 6 February through to National Sports Day, visitors to the Sport Zone queued up to use the cutting-edge equipment to assess their health.

This included the AGE reader, which is able to provide a prediction of the risk of major chronic diseases like cardiovascular disease, and a body analyzer machine that calculates muscle mass, metabolic age and bone mineral mass among many other measurements. In addition, visitors were able to get metabolic and sleep assessments, and take cognitive tests.

Along with the high-tech equipment, the Sahtak Awalan team brought a host of information about a person’s ideal weight, healthy recipes along with practical fitness aids like pedometers that encourage people to walk further and skipping ropes with integrated calorie-counters. There was also a huge canvas for people to paint and literature available about the little things that we can all do to improve our well-being.

Traditional and Social Media

Once again, the lead up to Ramadan 2014 was a busy one as the Communications Division prepared its media campaign. As in 2013, a television series was produced for Qatar TV providing health advice, but this year the episodes were presented by WCMC-Q graduate, Dr. Abdulwahed Zainel.

Dr. Zainel hosted Your Healthy Choice, a television program that was broadcast each day. Dr. Zainel offered advice and information on the best foods to keep your body healthy and the foods that should be avoided.

Dr. Zainel said: “We all know that poor lifestyles and obesity are serious problems in our society and that we all need to do more to live healthier lives. Small steps can lead to great strides and what better time to make those small changes in your life than the Holy Month. This year we will focus on healthy eating and the benefits of six major food groups.

“The Your Healthy Choice program will help you take the right decisions, improving your lifestyle for Ramadan and for the future.”

Health tips were also created for QF Radio while a competition was run through Instagram and Facebook asking people to take a photo of a healthy meal they had prepared for themselves. Prizes were then offered to the photos that garnered the most votes.

Finally, the Sahtak Awalan team met people face to face during Ramadan, offering advice and encouragement to people wanting to improve their lifestyles. Booths were set up in malls across Doha, with nutritionists and other experts on hand to provide information. WCMC-Q trainee doctors Khalid Al-Marri and Ahmed Al Qahtani also offered their services to the campaign, helping to improve public health in Qatar.
A common complaint is that people don’t always know how to eat healthily and that fast food is convenient and tasty. To help combat this, Sahtak Awalan brought in a U.S. chef renowned for revolutionizing school meals across a large swathe of America. Chef Ann Cooper demonstrated a selection of recipes to parents and children, encouraging the youngsters to join in. The Communications Division produced a file of healthy recipes to accompany the initiative.
Statistics

FACULTY AND STAFF NUMBERS, 2001-2014

Figures for faculty include all those on the WCMC-Q payroll considered active within the 2013-2014 academic year. Figures for staff are as of June 17, 2014, and include those residing in New York. Academic non-faculty includes postdoctoral positions in the research program.

TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS, 2002-2013

Figures are as of September 2013, and reflect any attrition from incoming classes in subsequent years.
PROFILE OF CLASSES ENTERING THE PRE-MEDICAL PROGRAM, 2002-2013

Total Enrollment and Applicants

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<th>Female</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
<th>Applicants</th>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>39</td>
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Gender Profile

- Male
- Female
PROFILE OF ENTERING MEDICAL STUDENTS, SEPTEMBER 2013

Enrolled students .................................................................................................. 41
Male ..................................................................................................................... 22
Female .................................................................................................................. 19
Previous education:  WCMC-Q ......................................................................... 37
                      American University of Beirut ..................................................1
                      National University of Singapore .............................................1
                      University of Toledo .................................................................1
                      University of Western Ontario .................................................1
Average College GPA............................................................................................ 3.5
Average age (September 2013) ............................................................................... 21

CITIZENSHIP OF STUDENT BODY 2013

Algeria                        Jordan                        Singapore
Australia                     Korea, Republic                  Sri Lanka
Bahrain                        Kuwait                         Sudan
Bangladesh                    Lebanon                        Syrian Arab Republic
Canada                        Malaysia                       Tunisia
Egypt                         Oman                          United Arab Emirates
France                        Pakistan                      United Kingdom
Germany                       Palestine                      USA
India                         Philippines                    Yemen
Iraq                          Qatar                         Saudi Arabia
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Number</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>BUDGET (USD)</th>
<th>WCMC-Q LPI/PI</th>
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<td>NPRP 7 - 627 - 3 - 167</td>
<td>Tuberculosis and Diabetes: Quantifying the adverse impact of rising diabetes prevalence on tuberculosis global burden and estimating the impact of targeted interventions on tuberculosis transmission</td>
<td>848,545.00</td>
<td>Dr. Laith Abu Raddad</td>
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<tr>
<td>NPRP 7 - 709 - 3 - 195</td>
<td>G-protein coupled receptors in the regulation of oocyte meiotic arrest</td>
<td>899,992.87</td>
<td>Dr. Khaled Machaca</td>
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<td>NPRP 7 - 1174 - 3 - 302</td>
<td>Schizophrenia Genetics in Qatari Families and the Arab population in Qatar</td>
<td>899,280</td>
<td>Dr. Hassen Al Amin</td>
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<td>NPRP 7 - 380 - 5 - 051</td>
<td>The impact of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the internal legislation of Qatar: Analysis and proposals</td>
<td>499,192.61</td>
<td>Dr. Pablo Rodriguez Del Pozo</td>
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<td>NPRP 7 - 136 - 3 - 031</td>
<td>Aggressive Breast Cancers in Arab Populations: CCL5 Implications as a Potential Target for Breast Cancer Therapy</td>
<td>899,960</td>
<td>Dr. Lotfi Chouchane</td>
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<td>NPRP 7 - 1300 - 1 - 241</td>
<td>IRE1α and XBP1 dependent miRNAs and their role in hepatic lipid metabolism</td>
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<td>Dr. Hani Najafi-Shoushtari</td>
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<td>NPRP 7 - 959 - 3 - 246</td>
<td>Polyomics in the assessment of chronic inflammatory disease</td>
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<td>Dr. Thurayya Arayssi</td>
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<td>NPRP 7 - 701 - 3 - 192</td>
<td>DNA Methylation and Gene Expression in Qatariis with Type 2 Diabetes</td>
<td>862,406</td>
<td>Dr. Charbel Abi Khalil</td>
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<td>NPRP 7 - 208 - 3 - 046</td>
<td>Role of endothelial dysfunction in the etiology of Diabetes and Metabolic Syndrome</td>
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<td>Dr. Nasrin Mesaeli</td>
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<td>NPRP 7 - 082 - 1 - 014</td>
<td>Molecular identification of cytoplasmic sterol carriers using activity correlation profiling</td>
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<td>Dr. Johannes Graumann</td>
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<td>NPRP 7 - 209 - 3 - 047</td>
<td>Depression, Obesity, and Inflammatory Markers</td>
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<td>Dr. Ziad Kronfol</td>
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WCMC-Q Publications
July 2013-June 2014

(As of 30 June 2014. The list may include some items submitted too late for inclusion in the previous year’s list.)

Abdel Aleem, Alice

Abi Khalil, Charbel

Abu-Raddad, Laith J.
Chemaitelly H, Abu-Raddad LJ, Miller FD. An apparent lack of epidemiologic association between hepatitis C virus knowledge and the prevalence of hepatitis C infection in a national survey in Egypt. PloS one


Arayssi, Thurayya


Atkin, Stephen L.


Bedri, Shahinaz


Bendriss, Rachid


editlib.org/p/112172.


Büsselberg, Dietrich

Cheema, Sohaila

Chen, Kuei-Chiu

Chouchane, Lotfi


Ding, Hong


Golkowska, Krystyna


Golkowska K. Bahraini women at the crossroads: Muslim women and Islamic resurgence: religion, education and identity politics in Bahrain [book review]. Gender and education [Internet]. 2014 Oct 10 [cited 2014 Jun

Graumann, Johannes

Haddad, Naim

Kalogeropoulos, Nikolaos

Khidir, Amal

Kronfol, Ziad

Ladjimi, Moncef
Lorenzetti, Diego

Machaca, Khaled

Mafoud, Ziyad
Mahmoud, Mai

Malek, Joel


Mamtani, Ravinder
Mian, Marcellina

Miller, Ian

Najafi-Shoushtari, S. Hani

Nour, Bakr M.

Pungente, Michael

Rafii Tabrizi, Jeremie Arash


Richer, Renee


Sayed, Ellen

Sheikh, Javaid I.


Stadler, Dora Judit

Streletz, Leopold J.

Suhre, Karsten


Taheri, Shahrad


Triggle, Chris


Verjee, Mohamud


Weber, Alan


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John Doig
Director, Facilities Management

Thomas Doyle
Director, Environmental Health & Safety

Sunanda Holmes
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