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Each year when I reflect upon the achievements of our dedicated community of faculty, staff and students at Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar (WCM-Q) I am always struck by just how much can be accomplished by a collective working together in pursuit of a commonly cherished set of objectives. Over the past 12 months, I am happy to share, the spirit of teamwork has been alive and well at WCM-Q once again, and this has allowed us to fulfill a number of key strategic objectives designed to strengthen our institution and provide a solid foundation from which we can continue to deliver excellence in medical education, research and clinical care for many years to come.

Perhaps the most important achievement has been the integration of our Pre-medical and Medical Programs into one cohesive six-year Medical education Program, which we announced in November 2014. Students who satisfy the rigorous academic requirements of the pre-medical curriculum will advance automatically to the Medical Program without having to negotiate a second admissions process, allowing them to concentrate their energies on their studies. That we have been able to implement this transition is testament to the consistently outstanding academic results achieved by successive classes of WCM-Q students, guided by our world-class faculty and supported by our diligent staff. I extend my warmest thanks to all of you for making this success possible in 2014-15.

In January we welcomed many of the world’s foremost authorities on medical education and practice to share their knowledge and discuss avenues for positive collaboration at the inaugural conference of WCM-Q’s very own journal, Innovations in Global Health Professions Education. Our efforts to serve as a regional research hub and to be a key player in the regional scientific renaissance were boosted by the success of the 5th Annual Research Retreat, hosted by our Research Division in March. During the last year WCM-Q investigators made new discoveries across a diverse range of research areas, including ovarian cancer, diabetes, prediabetes in children, and hepatitis C, among many other important research findings.

We pride ourselves on being an outward-looking institution that is engaged with the community and committed to improving the health of everyone in Qatar. As such, we were honored in February when WCM-Q’s flagship population health initiative, Your Health First (Sahtak Awalan), was chosen by the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH) as one of 20 outstanding global health initiatives to be showcased to visiting health experts from all over the world. We were further honored by a visit to the Your Health First booth at WISH by Her Highness Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser Chairperson of Qatar Foundation and WISH. I speak for everyone at WCM-Q when I say how grateful we are for the ever-present support and visionary leadership provided to us by Her Highness, without which none of the achievements detailed within this Annual Report would have been possible.

Of course, key among these achievements is the success of our students, and we were delighted to see 42 new doctors receive their M.D. degrees at the graduation ceremony in May, held against the stunning backdrop of our iconic building for the first time in our history. WCM-Q has now sent 223 doctors out into the world since our first class graduated in 2008, which is something we can all be very proud of.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to mention the fact that we have changed our name from Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar to Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar. This is in line with the re-branding of our parent campus in New York and demonstrates that Weill Cornell is not just about education; instead it encompasses the world of medicine, including cutting-edge research and high-level clinical care. It is a name that better reflects our tripartite mission.

I hope you will take great satisfaction in the very many accomplishments listed within these pages, and find inspiration for the challenges and possibilities presented by the year ahead.

Javavid I. Sheikh M.D.

Chairman
WCM-Q JOINT ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

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

Qatar Foundation Representatives:

H.E. Ghalia Bint Mohammed Al-Thani, M.D.
Co-Chair, WCM-Q Joint Advisory Board
Member, Qatar Supreme Council of Health
Chair, Sidra Clinical Steering Planning Committee
Chair, Qatar Foundation For Child & Woman Protection
Consultant in Pediatrics, Hamad Medical Corporation

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

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

Cornell University Representatives:

Antonio M. Gatto, Jr., M.D., D.Phil.
Co-Chair, WCM-Q Joint Advisory Board
Dean Emeritus and Co-Chairman of the Board of Overseers
Lewis Thomas University Professor
Weill Cornell Medicine
Vice President and Provost for Medical Affairs Emeritus

Laurie H. Glimcher, M.D.
Provost for Medical Affairs, Cornell University
Dean, Weill Cornell Medicine

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

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

Independent Representatives:

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President Emeritus
Association of American Medical Colleges

Robin C.N. Williamson, M.D., FRCS
Chairman
The London Clinic

Ziyad Mousa Hijazi, M.D., M.P.H.
Professor of Pediatrics and Internal Medicine
Chief for Pediatrics, Sidra Medical and Research Center

Ex-Officio Members:

Ms. Jessica Bibliowicz
Chairman, Board of Overseers
Weill Cornell Medicine

Javaid I. Sheikh, M.D.
Dean
Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar

Ahmed M. Hasnah, Ph.D.
President of HBKU

Dr. Hanan Al-Kuwari
Managing Director, Hamad Medical Corporation
Medical Education completed another successful year, maintaining a high caliber of education, graduating a new batch of physicians and benefitting from closer collaborations with affiliate faculty.

Class of 2015

This graduating class comprised 42 students of whom 11 graduated with academic distinction, two with honors in research and one with honors in service. One of the students graduated with both academic distinction and honors in research. The graduation ceremony in Doha in May 2015 was attended by Dr. Javid Sheikh, dean of WCM-Q, Dr. Laurie Glimcher, dean of Weill Cornell Medicine, Dr. Antonio Gotto, dean emeritus, and Dr. Barbara Hempstead, senior associate dean, and other faculty members from New York, as well as WCM-Q faculty and staff, family and friends. A large number of the graduates also attended the graduation ceremony at Carnegie Hall in New York together with their WCM-NY classmates.

For the first time in our history, the graduation ceremony was held on the grounds of WCM-Q, at the front entrance of the east plaza. The stage and the lighting, with the backdrop of our distinctive WCM-Q building, made the ceremony particularly intimate and special.

Ahmed Mohsen was chosen by his classmates to give the valedictory speech. He thanked all those who had made his classmates’ academic achievements possible, from the Father Emir, to Her Highness Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser, to Dean Glimcher, Dean Sheikh, and the entire faculty at WCM-Q and its affiliates. He extended the graduates’ utmost gratitude to their families, who had supported and guided them through their studies. He went on to provide some statistics. This was the largest graduating class in WCM-Q’s history with the highest number of graduates choosing a career in internal medicine (17), in surgery (7) and in obstetrics and gynecology (3). It is the second class to achieve a 100 per cent match rate into residency, a feat that is truly remarkable. This class also published a record number of articles and made presentations at a record number of international conferences. Dr. Mohsen emphasized the teamwork and camaraderie in his class that allowed these remarkable achievements.
Noteworthy activities and events

As mentioned by our valedictorian, for the last two years, all of our graduating students who applied to the National Residency Match Program in the U.S. matched. For U.S. graduates the average yearly match rate is around 94 per cent, and was 94.4 per cent in 2014 and 93.9 per cent in 2015. The average for international medical graduates was about 50 per cent for the last two years. Thus, our students’ achievement is truly impressive. Also impressive is the fact that our students are beginning to enter prestigious subspecialties, such as otolaryngology and ophthalmology. It should also be noted that feedback from many residency programs is that our students are doing very well and are being named as chief residents and receiving clinical, research or teaching awards, as well as being accepted into prestigious fellowships for sub-specialization. Some of our graduates have started returning to Qatar after completing their training in the U.S. and now hold positions at Hamad Medical Corporation or Sidra Medical and Research Center.

Besides our excellent curriculum and very bright students, one of the strategies contributing to our success in the match is the yearly Residency Program Directors’ Symposium, which helps spread information about our relatively new college across the U.S. This year we hosted 17 participants: two from emergency medicine, four from internal medicine, two from pediatrics, two from preventive medicine and six from surgery. They represented institutions in 11 states of the U.S. They included four institutions where WCM-Q students had matched in past years and their program directors were very complimentary about the level of expertise and skill shown by these young physicians. These program directors learned first hand about the many strengths of WCM-Q and the excellence of its education. They also offered some hints on how to optimize the chances of our students matching in residency programs of their choice.

Another strategy contributing to our match success is the support we offer our students as they prepare to take their United States Licensing Exams (USMLE) Step 1, Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK) and Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS). An expert in USMLE preparation, Dr. Eugene Toy, program director in obstetrics and gynecology at Houston Methodist Hospital and author of more than 17 medical books of the Case Files series, he has been coming to WCM-Q twice yearly...
since 2013 to encourage our students and provide them with study and exam strategies that help them apply their medical knowledge to best advantage in taking the USMLE. Concurrently, our faculty in the basic science courses has been offering reviews of USMLE-type questions for students to practice integrating and applying their knowledge to answer them effectively. These reviews are embedded in the curriculum throughout the year. It is gratifying to see that the mean USMLE score for our students has been rising year by year and is very close to the mean for U.S. medical students.

WCM-Q hosted two inter-professional education (IPE) events that explored a series of IPE competencies: role introduction, effective communication and teamwork, patient safety and shared decision-making. The first event involved 112 participants from medicine (WCM-Q first year), nursing (University of Calgary), pharmacy (Qatar University College of Pharmacy), trainees in emergency medicine services, and radiography and pharmacy technicians (College of the North Atlantic in Qatar). They worked in mixed groups, with facilitator guidance, to study two real patient cases, where human factor errors had resulted in patient mortality. Participants collectively conducted root cause analyses and discussed the importance of effective communication among all team members as a key element in patient care and safety. All participants were engaged and valued learning together. The second event involved 60 students in medicine (WCM-Q third year) and pharmacy (Qatar University) in examining a standardized patient who portrayed a woman with poorly controlled diabetes, discussing her issues and developing a care plan, to optimize her care. Following the workshop there was a significant improvement in the respondents’ attitude towards IP learning. Medical students’ understanding of their role within the team also improved.

Class of 2018’s Abdulrahman Al-Abdulmalek discusses a patient’s case at an IPE event.
Faculty

The college has welcomed two new full-time faculty members during the year: Douglas Bovell, PhD, professor of physiology and biophysics, who will be succeeding Dr. Dietrich Büsselberg, course director for the Human Structure and Function course in the next academic year, and Liam Fernyhough, MBBS, assistant professor of medicine, who is participating in a number of teaching activities, principally in the Medicine Clerkship and the Clinical Skills Center. Badreeldeen Ahmed, MBBS, clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology and director of the Doha Feto Maternal Center, took on the role of interim clerkship director for obstetrics and gynecology for this academic year.

More active involvement of physicians from both HMC faculty and the Sidra Medical and Research Center in teaching the curriculum at the college was very much appreciated. These clinical teachers participated in small, group problem-based learning (PBL) sessions where they acted as facilitators for students working through case discussions, identifying learning objectives, searching the relevant literature and other resources to find the correct answers to the case at hand. Other faculty participated as preceptors for students learning appropriate techniques in taking a patient’s history and physical examination. Radiologists and surgeons contributed to student learning in the anatomy lab. The radiologists helped students see how the body structures they were studying could be seen and interpreted in diagnostic images, while the surgeons showed how the knowledge of the body’s structures and their relation to each other are critical to successful surgical interventions.

In May, 2015 the HMC Excellence in Medical Education Ceremony took place and Dr. Amal Khidir, assistant professor of pediatrics and Ms. Farzana Khan, director of education administration at WCM-Q, were part of the planning committee. WCM-Q faculty members were recognized at the event for their collaboration with HMC faculty on some educational projects. Dr. Khidir was recognized, together with her colleagues, for the group’s work in developing the Professionalism in Medicine Program, which has been delivering a full-day course for trainees since 2012. Dr. Ziyad Mahfoud, associate professor of healthcare policy and research, and Dr. Stephen Scott, associate professor of family medicine, were also recognized for their active contributions to the Research Methods Program and the Chief Residents Development Program respectively. Ms. Maha El Nashar, director of the Center for Cultural Competence in Healthcare, and Ms. Huda Abdelrahim, cultural competence associate specialist, were recognized for their participation in the Communication Skills Program together with HMC faculty and staff. Of note, Dr. Elizabeth Alger, who was associate professor of medicine at WCM-Q between 2005 and 2009 was remembered and recognized for her participation in the program’s development while at the college.

WCM-Q Medical Education faculty has continued, as in previous years, to be active in research and clinical work beyond their educational responsibilities and have participated in a number of local, regional and international conferences in education and in their fields of expertise, both as presenters and as part of their lifelong learning commitment.

New curriculum

There are two major curricular changes underway at WCM-Q. The first, which was implemented in the fall of 2015, is the introduction of the six-year program, wherein students who matriculate into the college and meet the required promotion standards will seamlessly pass into the medical curriculum proper. The medical curriculum itself is in the process of undergoing transformation. Weill Cornell Medicine in New York launched its new curriculum in fall 2014 and refinements are being made for the 2015–16 academic year. WCM-Q educational leaders are taking advantage of these refinements and are now busy adapting the new curriculum to our context for implementation in the fall of 2016. Some changes made in New York for students in their clinical years have already been adopted and put into effect on the Doha campus.
Continuing Professional Development

The Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Division’s mission aims to promote educational endeavors, which extend beyond the undergraduate program and align with the mission of WCM-Q. The division continues to provide high-quality professional development opportunities for health professionals based on identified needs and the latest scientific and medical developments that will lead to the improved healthcare of patients. Additionally, the division endeavors to develop and disseminate best evidence-based practice and health education research, and to create opportunities for health professionals to develop a community of practice to interact with one another personally and professionally.

In its expanded role, the CPD Division has maintained its graduate medical education (GME) function and has additionally been working with Qatar Council for Healthcare Practitioners (QCHP) and the Continuing Medical Education (CME) Office in New York to develop activities that will provide CPD and CME credits to the faculty and other healthcare professionals in the community and the region. Thereby, the division offers health professionals the opportunity to attain credits toward medical licensing requirements locally and internationally.

In 2014/2015, CPD accredited 15 activities and welcomed more than 1,000 participants, including practitioners from hospitals, educational institutions, private clinics, government, and industry (see Figure 1 on page 19). The division is leading the way in providing a diversity of learning opportunities and providing practitioners with opportunities to network and promote collaboration in multidisciplinary teams.

In 2014/2015, CPD accredited 15 activities and welcomed more than 1,000 participants under the leadership of Dr. Thurayya Arayssi, associate dean for continuing professional development.
ACCREDITATION

Qatar Council for Healthcare Practitioners (QCHP)

On November 4, 2014 WCM-Q was found to be in compliance with the requirements and standards of CME and CPD provider accreditation of the Qatar Council for Healthcare Practitioners Accreditation Department (QCHP-AD) of the Supreme Council of Health. Hence the division was recognized as an accredited CME/CPD provider, making WCM-Q among the first organizations in Qatar to obtain accredited CME/CPD provider status.

Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME)

The CPD Division has also established a process for applying for CME credits via its continued collaboration with the Office of Continuing Medical Education at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York, and AMA PRA Category I credits™ have been obtained for several of its activities (see Table 1 below).

Certificate Program in the Development of an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) with Standardized Patients (SPs)

The CPD Division, in collaboration with the Clinical Skills Center at WCM-Q and Internal Medicine Department at Hamad Medical Corporation (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 three years. This successful endeavor led to the development of a program to provide faculty and other healthcare educators with the skills to design a program of simulated clinical examinations with standardized patients - trained actors who play the role of patients.

The new program launched in April 2015 was entitled Certificate Program in the Development of an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) with Standardized Patients. The first installment of the new course consisted of five half-days of training held at WCM-Q throughout April, May and June. Twelve faculty members from HMC’s Internal Medicine Department and WCM-Q participated.

Dr. Dora Stadler, assistant professor of medicine and assistant dean for continuing professional development at WCM-Q, and Deema Al-Sheikhly, director of continuing professional development, directed the course. Participants learned key skills to develop OSCE programs, such as how to set clear program objectives, write cases, devise appropriate checklists and scoring systems, give effective feedback to learners after assessments and train standardized patients.

The certificate program was approved to be an accredited Category-3 CME/CPD as defined by the Qatar Council for Healthcare Practitioners Accreditation Department. Participants were granted one credit unit for each hour of active participation up to a maximum of 12 credit units.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Activities Accredited 2014/2015</th>
<th>CME NY credits</th>
<th>ACCME credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPD</td>
<td>Educators Across the Health Care Spectrum Series (EAHCS) - Curriculum Development for Healthcare Professionals</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPD</td>
<td>Certificate Program in the Development of an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) with Standardized Patients (SPs)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPD</td>
<td>WCM-Q Grand Rounds</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPD/Dean’s Office</td>
<td>Innovations in Global Medical and Health Education (IGMHE) Forum</td>
<td>4.75</td>
<td>4.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPD/Dean’s Office</td>
<td>Crossroads of Law and Medicine – A Qatar Perspective</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPH</td>
<td>Integrative Medicine: A Refreshing Approach to Optimum Health Symposium</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>4.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Citation Metrics mini lecture and workshop</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: Showing the increase in accredited activities offered as well as an increase in attendance from 2011 to 2015.

Certificate Program in the Development of an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) with Standardized Patients (SPs)

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The certificate program was approved to be an accredited Category-3 CME/CPD as defined by the Qatar Council for Healthcare Practitioners Accreditation Department. Participants were granted one credit unit for each hour of active participation up to a maximum of 12 credit units.
WCM-Q Grand Rounds

The WCM-Q Grand Rounds series is a new initiative of the CPD Division that aims to engage the healthcare professionals in the community, both in Qatar and the region, to enhance their skills and knowledge on the latest in medical developments, technology, and good practices. This activity was developed by an interdisciplinary committee of experts in various areas of healthcare and research. The committee consists of members from multiple divisions within WCM-Q.

The series, which was launched in October 2014, was approved for 1 AMA PRA Category I credit™ per lecture and ran on a monthly basis. The following lectures have been presented (see Table 2 below).

Table 2: WCM-Q Grand Rounds 2014-2015 Presentations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October ’12</td>
<td>Javid I. Sheikh, MD</td>
<td>Developing a Framework for an Effective Population Health Initiative: Evidence from ‘Your Health First’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November ’16</td>
<td>Ron Crystle, MD, Professor and Chairman, Department of Genetic Medicine, WCM</td>
<td>Gene Therapy: Human Genes as Drugs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December ’14</td>
<td>Rayaz A. Abul, MD, PhD</td>
<td>Diabetic Neuropathy: Early Diagnosis and Prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January ’15</td>
<td>Jana Salmen, MD, Professor of Medicine, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, WCM</td>
<td>Misc and Mothers: Progress in Understanding Abnormalities and Antenatal Complications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February ’15</td>
<td>Karen Zuck, PhD, Professor of Physiology and Biophysics, WCM-Q</td>
<td>Human Metabolic Individually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March ’15</td>
<td>Selma Meyer, MBH</td>
<td>Reflection as a Tool in Medical Education and Professional Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April ’16</td>
<td>Ziad N. Hijal, MD, MPH, MSc, FAC</td>
<td>Interventional Therapies for Adults with Congenital Heart Disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May ’16</td>
<td>Reznik Ramazani, MBBS, MD, MSc</td>
<td>The Truth about Nutrition Supplements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June ’16</td>
<td>Laila Abu-Raddad, PhD</td>
<td>Hepatitis C Virus Infection in the Middle East and North Africa: A Public Health Perspective</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Live broadcasts of WCM Grand Rounds from New York

The CPD Division piloted the broadcasting of Surgery Grand Rounds live from New York for WCM-Q faculty and students as well as local healthcare practitioners. The series aims to inform professionals of new content relevant to their practice and ultimately improve clinical care.
INAUGURAL INNOVATIONS IN GLOBAL MEDICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION FORUM (2015)

The forum, coordinated by the CPD Division in collaboration with the Dean’s Office and Division of Communications, was hosted by the Innovations in Global Medical and Health Education journal. It brought together some of the world’s foremost authorities on medical education and medical practice with practicing healthcare professionals and researchers to share their expertise and discuss the opportunities presented by a wide range of innovations related to medical education, assessment, licensing, and program accreditation.

The IGMHE forum held on January 18, 2015 at the Four Seasons Hotel, was aimed at a wide and inclusive audience, drawing together primary care and specialty physicians, as well as nurses, physician assistants, interns and residents, researchers, educators, and other allied health professionals who are interested in innovations and the future development of global medical and health education. The journal has since been renamed Innovations in Global Health Professions Education.

The forum was designated a maximum of 4.75 AMA PRA Category I credits™ from the WCM Office of Continuing Medical Education and granted one Credit Unit per one hour activity attendance (for participants) for a maximum of 4.75 CUs as defined by the Qatar Council for Healthcare Practitioners Accreditation Department.

Educators Across the Healthcare Spectrum Series

The division’s fourth Educators Across the Healthcare Spectrum Series was titled Curriculum Development for Healthcare Professionals. The annual event began with a lecture by Dr. David E. Kern, emeritus professor of medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Kern presented a logical six-step approach that academics can follow to develop professional health education curricula that deliver the best possible learning outcomes.

The lecture was followed by a comprehensive, three-and-a-half hour workshop introducing the theories that underpin systematic approaches to curricula development, from problem identification, needs assessment, and setting of goals and objectives, to implementation and feedback. The second day of the event featured a roundtable discussion of curriculum development among faculty, a lecture on curriculum development as a path to scholarship and publication, and a second workshop. The workshops were facilitated by Dr. Dora Stadler, Dr. Gerardo Guiter and Ms. Deema Al-Sheikhly.

The series was designated a maximum of 5.5 AMA PRA Category I credits™ from the WCM Office of Continuing Medical Education and 5.5 CNE credits from Hamad Medical Corporation’s Continuing Nursing Education Program.

Law and medicine seminar series

The CPD Division and the Office of Faculty Affairs, in collaboration with Qatar University School of Law, launched a new series of interactive seminars entitled Crossroads of Law and Medicine: A Qatar Perspective. The series aimed at providing physicians with greater awareness of law and legal issues which impact medical practitioners in the State of Qatar.
Attendees from both the medical and legal professions participated in the inaugural event, which aimed to establish a dialogue to examine the law as it pertains to physicians, researchers, nurses and other healthcare providers working in Qatar.

The activity was approved to be an accredited Category-1 CME/CPD as defined by the Qatar Council for Healthcare Practitioners Accreditation Department. It was granted one credit unit for each hour of active attendance by participants to a maximum of 2.5 credit units.

**Topic of the month**

Critical reviews of pieces of literature that have been recently published in the area of graduate and continuing medical education are prepared by faculty inside or outside WCM-Q and published on the CPD website (see table 3 below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 2014</td>
<td>Hala Ibrahim, MD, Founding Dir., Twam Hospital, UAE</td>
<td>Fostering Research and Scholarship in International Training Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2014</td>
<td>Robert E. Graves, MD, Senior Advisor to the Sloan on Academic Affairs, WCM-Q</td>
<td>Improving Graduate Medical Education in the United States: Impact of Medical Education in the Gulf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2014</td>
<td>Mary Anna Baker, PhD, Director, Assessment and Academic Achievement, WCM-Q</td>
<td>How Bugs are Impacting Learners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2014</td>
<td>Graham Ibrahim, MD, Section Head, Musculoskeletal Imaging, Sidra Medical and Research Center</td>
<td>Radiology Education for Undergraduate Medical Students: Current Status and Future Opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2015</td>
<td>Kim Hansen, MA, ID and ELT Instructor, Sloan, WCM-Q</td>
<td>Designing a Content Management System to Support the Development of a Multi-Media Curriculum in an All-Digital Facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2015</td>
<td>Badin Utman, MD, Professor and Vice Chair, Clinical Neurology, WCM-Q</td>
<td>The Neurologic Examination in Clinical Practice: Who, Why, and What should Healthcare Providers Embrace?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2015</td>
<td>Asher Tzuki, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh, USA</td>
<td>Assessment in Medical Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2015</td>
<td>Moshe Isaks, MD, Attending Physician in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Sidra Medical and Research Center</td>
<td>Developing a Resident Remediation Curriculum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2015</td>
<td>Amine Rashid, MD, Senior Attending Physician, Division of Acute Care Medicine, Sidra Medical and Research Center</td>
<td>Cultural Competence in Medical Education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Scholarly activities**

**Oral presentations**


**Poster presentations**


**Publications**

Building a foundation for the future

The Foundation Program at WCM-Q is an intensive one-year course that cultivates skills in English, science, and mathematics in order to prepare students for the pre-medical curriculum. This year, prior to entering the program, incoming foundation students participated in the Pre-Foundation College Readiness Program, a summer enrichment program that introduces them to college-level chemistry and biology and develops reading, writing, and laboratory skills. In addition, students learned about the history of medicine, developed effective study strategies, and interacted with current WCM-Q students.

Over the course of the year, foundation students participated in a number of enriching supplementary activities, such as the Career seminar series. Organized by Dr. Rachid Bendriss, assistant dean for student recruitment, outreach, and foundation programs, the Career Seminar Series acquaints foundation students with different career paths in medicine through the lives and experiences of leading practitioners in the field. Medical faculty from both Sidra and WCM-Q presented the unique qualities of their specialties and offered students the opportunity to ask questions. The seminars served to inspire and motivate foundation students to reach their full potential.

At the end of the year, recent foundation alumni participated in the inaugural Foundation to Pre-Medical Summer Transition Program. Designed by Dr. Bendriss, this innovative program helped to facilitate the transition of foundation students into the pre-medical curriculum by offering them an opportunity to build relationships with pre-medical faculty and develop their scientific and critical thinking skills in a supportive environment. Dr. James Roach, associate professor of chemistry, offered a course in Problem-Solving in General Chemistry, while Dr. Ghizlane Bendriss, teaching specialist in biology, offered one entitled Developing Research Skills in Biology. These courses introduced students to the rigors and requirements of the pre-medical curriculum.

Preparing physicians: pre-medical education

The Pre-Medical Program at WCM-Q provides a unique preparatory curriculum in mathematics, basic sciences, and the humanities to equip students with a solid basis for the Medical Program. Early this year, WCM-Q announced the integration of pre-medical and medical education into a comprehensive six-year program utilizing advancement criteria like academic performance, professionalism, and commitment to the profession of medicine. The new integrated program will provide students with more personalized support in their journey to becoming physicians in the 21st century.
Pre-medical faculty develop engaging ways to cultivate the knowledge and skills students need to be successful in medical school. Students participate in hands-on learning experiences that make course content comprehensible and relevant to their future careers in medicine. For instance, Dr. Kuei-Chiu Chen, senior lecturer in biology, uses a case study approach to teach concepts in biology. Students complete a multi-stage project that involves designing and conducting an original experiment. They gather data for statistical testing, create a scientific poster, and present it to the WCM-Q community. In this way, students meet course objectives that include conducting a scientific investigation and communicating findings in written and oral format.

Promoting learning through research
Pre-medical faculty members are actively involved in valuable scientific, social scientific, and humanities research that advances Qatar’s development goals and contributes to student learning. For instance, Dr. Chen mentored three pre-medical students through an Undergraduate Research Experience Project that involved barcoding lizard DNA to understand lizard diversity in Qatar. Students performed tissue digestion, and extracted and analyzed the DNA of several different lizard species native to Qatar. One of these students, Adham Mushtak, was the lead author for a highly rated poster presentation at Qatar Foundation’s Annual Research Conference, while another, Dhabiya Al-Kubaisi, won third place at WCM-Q’s fifth Annual Research Retreat.

Pre-medical faculty members have also contributed to inter-institutional research collaboration within Education City. For example, Dr. Weber helped to facilitate a cross-disciplinary research project and experimental learning laboratory entitled Art and Medicine. This innovative project saw students and faculty from Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar and WCM-Q collaborate to create a light installation called Chromosthesia. The installation measured perceptions and changes in attitude using psychometric tests like the Torrance Test of Creativity. This project highlights the many constructive connections between the fields of art and medicine.

Pre-medical faculty members also develop valuable communication skills in the first-year writing seminars. Writing faculty continue to offer engaging, innovative courses to stimulate students’ creativity and imagination. This year, Dr. Alan Weber, associate professor of English, designed a new course module in graphic narrative that let students experience this fascinating literary genre and create their own graphic texts using cutting-edge technology. Dr. Weber also conducted a service-learning project with 12 WCM-Q students that involved collecting and writing stories from cancer survival patients in Qatar and publishing them as a public health pamphlet for the Qatar Cancer Society.

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Finally, Dr. Krystyna Gókowska, associate professor of English, organized a series of working lunches for writing faculty entitled Teaching Writing: Issues and Concerns. The lunches take place throughout the year at WCM-Q, and offer Qatar’s writing community a collegial forum for discussing current issues in the teaching and learning of writing.
the Pre-Medical Division organizes numerous extra-curricular and community outreach activities that enrich life and student learning at WCM-Q. For instance, Professor Ian Miller, lecturer in writing, organized several well-attended Music of Poetry events. These events let WCM-Q Poetry Club and Music Club members display their creative writing and musical talents in live performances, and offered students a space to relax and reconnect. In addition, Dr. Weber and the writing faculty edited another volume of Qira’at, an anthology that showcases the high quality of student academic writing at WCM-Q.

Dr. Rodney Sharkey, associate professor of English, continued his dedicated mentorship of the Debate Club, guiding the team to another national finals appearance and fostering another number one national university debater in pre-medical student Cleo Reyes. Dr. Sharkey also mentors the ROTA-sponsored Reach Out to Asia Adult English Literacy Training Program (RAEL). As a part of this initiative, WCM-Q students teach English to the Education City security guards, cleaners, and other subcontracted staff. The end-of-semester certificate ceremony involved more than 400 students and teachers.

Dr. Golkowska coordinated the Writing and Communication for Research Scientists program, which involved many pre-medical faculty members. She developed a range of supplemental resources, including a website and collection of electronic and print resources. Dr. Golkowska also coordinated a workshop for high school teachers and counselors on writing personal statements and reference letters. WCM-Q hosted 20 teachers and counselors from 10 independent and private schools, and demonstrated how to write supportive reference letters for students, and also how to guide their students to write effective personal statements. Pre-medical faculty and staff, including Dr. James Roach and Dr. Ghizlane Bendriss, have also played a lead role in outreach programs like the Qatar Medical Explorers Program and Qatar Aspiring Doctors Program.
CLINICAL AND FACULTY AFFAIRS

Medical license and privileges in Qatar

In August 2014, the Supreme Council of Health (SCH) announced the extension of the validity of Qatar Medical Licenses from one to two years. Since that time, the Clinical Affairs Division has supported and successfully renewed the medical licenses of all 24 of WCM-Q’s Qatar Medical License-holders.

Hamad Medical Corporation’s (HMC) Board of Directors approved the applications for credentialing and delineation of privileges for WCM-Q physicians Dr. Stephen Atkin, professor of medicine, Dr. Rayaz Malik, professor of medicine, and Dr. Charbel Abi Khalil, assistant professor of genetic medicine and assistant professor of medicine. The three physicians have now been appointed to the medical staff at HMC.

As of July 2015, WCM-Q’s academic faculty comprises 512 professors.

Faculty affairs

The Office of Faculty Affairs (OFA) supports the recruitment, appointment and promotion processes for all WCM-Q faculty and other academic staff as well as the academic appointment and promotion process for the clinical affiliates. The office also supports the implementation of policies and procedures, oversees the annual performance review process, maintains academic staff records, and is the repository for academic staff data.

During the Academic Year (AY) 2014-2015, the OFA, in collaboration with WCM in New York departments, focused on streamlining the process for completing faculty appointments, making the procedure more time-efficient for the applicants and for both WCM in New York and WCM-Q. The total time to process an academic appointment, from application to approval, was reduced by more than 50 percent compared with previous years.

Affiliated faculty appointments

The OFA received 148 appointment applications from WCM-Q clinical affiliates in Doha during the AY 2014-2015. This represents an increase of 225 percent from the previous year. Owing to the newly streamlined procedure, the OFA was able to complete more than 30 percent of the applications received in addition to 50 applications that were pending from the previous academic year.
WCM-Q welcomed four new full-time faculty members during the AY 2014-2015. The OFA facilitated the appointment of these doctors who have successfully integrated into the WCM-Q community.

Dr. Clare McVeigh joined the Pre-medical Education Division in August 2014 as senior lecturer in biology. She joined WCM-Q from the University of South Wales where she served as a senior lecturer in human biology. Her primary focus is on the development and implementation of successful and innovative teaching methods and practice, an area in which she has received numerous awards on both sides of the Atlantic. Dr. McVeigh’s research interests continue to be diverse and wide ranging, and include peer-reviewed publications in the areas of forensic osteology and odontology, palaeopathology, and palaeodemography.

Dr. Douglas Bovell joined the Medical Education Division in September 2014 as professor of physiology and biophysics. He joined from Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU) where he was professor of physiology and served as associate dean international for the School of Health and Life Sciences, interim director for GCU’s International Office and Student Recruitment Services and head of international development coordination in the School of Life Sciences. He has taught a wide range of courses in physiology, histology, and cellular pathology at undergraduate and graduate levels, has advised and mentored master’s and doctoral students, and has served as an external examiner for both doctoral and master’s theses in the UK and abroad. His research interest is in the field of human physiology with emphasis on epithelial transport, particularly using sweat glands as a model for exocrine gland physiology in health and disease.

Dr. Steven Hunt joined the Research Division in October 2014 as professor of genetic medicine. He joins from the University of Utah where he served as professor of internal medicine. His research is centered around genetic and environmental causes of cardiovascular disease, with a particular focus on hypertension and severe obesity. He has authored 300 original research peer-reviewed publications in leading journals and has presented extensively at national and international conferences. He has been a member of many national and international committees and taskforces, such as a four-year term on the NIH Cardiovascular and Sleep Epidemiology Study Section, the NIH personalized medicine RFA review group, the NHLBI mammalian genotyping (linkage markers) review committee, the NHLBI re-sequencing and genotyping service review panel, and the Eurogear review committee for the European Science Foundation.

Dr. Liam Fernyhough joined the Medical Education Division in March 2015 as assistant professor of medicine. Previously a consultant in clinical and laboratory hematology and a senior lecturer at the University of Otago in Christchurch, New Zealand, Dr. Fernyhough has had several research papers published in international journals and is a strong advocate of both the practice and teaching of evidence-based medicine.
Faculty activities

The OFA has been actively engaged in efforts to enhance the value of being a WCM-Q faculty member by providing educational and informational programs that are relevant to our clinician educators. The OFA organized activities during this academic year to enhance engagement with its clinical affiliates, other local educational institutions, and the wider Cornell community in both Qatar and the US.

Faculty Orientation

In October 2014, WCM-Q hosted the first faculty orientation for affiliated faculty, which attracted more than 75 of WCM-Q’s new appointees. This orientation was focused on fully integrating newly appointed faculty as part of the WCM-Q community.

This successful endeavor served to encourage new faculty to become involved with the academic life of WCM-Q and introduced them to the resources available at the college. Topics discussed included the appointment and promotions processes, access to library resources, and opportunities to contribute to teaching and research at WCM-Q.

Crossroads of Law and Medicine

In March 2015, the OFA collaborated with WCM-Q’s Division of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Qatar University Law School to hold a seminar entitled Crossroads of Law and Medicine. The seminar, which explored the laws governing the practice of medicine in Qatar and aimed to establish a dialogue to examine the law as it pertains to physicians, researchers, nurses and other healthcare providers working in Qatar, attracted more than 100 attendees from both the medical and legal professions.

The seminar discussed issues such as the legal protections that exist for patients, the processes followed in medical malpractice cases, and the difficulty of developing a universal understanding of the law in a highly diverse healthcare workforce and patient base, among other topics.

WCM NY and WCM-Q Faculty Affairs Annual Meeting

The annual meeting in New York took place in March 2015. This meeting aims to provide strategic input to WCM-Q’s relationships with WCM New York departments, and to identify and explore new avenues for collaboration.

A series of closed meetings took place, in which the WCM-Q team had the opportunity to meet with the NY Office of Faculty Affairs and some of the WCM Chairs and department administrators.

During the AY 2014-2015 visit, Dr. Robert Crone, then senior adviser to the dean on academic affairs, and Dr. Alicia Tártalo, director of faculty affairs, hosted the annual closing luncheon, which was attended by 37 WCM New York colleagues. The luncheon was not only an opportunity to thank our peers in NY for the continuous and highly successful collaboration we enjoy with them, but it also gave the OFA in Qatar the chance to present the office’s latest achievements and initiatives.
Dr. Bakr Nour, who provided inspirational leadership for the Clinical Affairs Division for five-and-a-half years, began a new role as senior advisor to the dean of WCM-Q in July 2015. During his incumbency as associate dean for clinical affairs, Dr. Nour oversaw the strengthening of WCM-Q’s ties with the college’s principal clinical affiliate, HMC, and the establishment of formal affiliations with Sidra Medical and Research Center, Aspetar and the Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC). These affiliations have provided WCM-Q students with a wide and varied range of training opportunities. Dr. Nour, an internationally renowned surgeon and a pioneer in the field of organ transplantation, has also been a highly valued and effective mentor to many students, offering guidance and advice that has seen a significant number opt to pursue residency training in surgery. In his new position, Dr. Nour will play a key role in the conceptualization of WCM-Q’s new strategic plan aimed at forging ever-stronger links between the college and the community in Qatar.

Dr. Robert Crone, who joined WCM-Q in May 2014 as professor of clinical pediatrics and senior adviser to the dean on academic affairs, has been appointed to the position of associate dean for clinical and faculty affairs, starting July 2015. In this capacity, Dr. Crone will work closely with the dean and associate deans to continue to pursue recruitment of outstanding faculty and facilitate their development. Dr. Crone will also provide leadership for the clinical mission of the college across a broad spectrum of responsibilities, including managing strategic relationships with our clinical affiliates, facilitating the clinical activities of our faculty and providing mentorship and guidance to our clinical faculty from HMC, Sidra, Aspetar, and PHCC.

Dr. Crone is an internationally recognized senior healthcare executive with a special focus on the development of programs that support the improvement of healthcare provision and education within a global perspective. In Qatar, Dr. Crone has had the privilege to contribute to the development of the rapidly growing healthcare and medical education sector in numerous capacities over the last 12 years. In addition to a highly successful career in international health consultancy, Dr. Crone has built a career as a pediatric intensivist and director of pediatric intensive care at both Boston Children’s Hospital (Harvard Medical School) and Seattle Children’s Hospital (University of Washington School of Medicine). He later moved into international medicine to focus on programs that would improve the quality of healthcare for patients globally. Dr. Crone served as senior vice president for operations at The People to People Health Foundation, Inc., (Project HOPE) prior to becoming the founding president, and chief executive officer for Harvard Medical International, Inc., a not-for-profit subsidiary corporation of Harvard Medical School (HMS). Subsequently, Dr. Crone founded and developed Huron Consulting Group’s Global Healthcare Practice and founded Strategy Implemented, Inc., through which he worked closely with the healthcare regulatory, assessment and accreditation communities, both in the U.S. and internationally, to expand their programs and standards beyond their traditional constituencies.

In his new role, Dr. Crone will also continue to provide strategic input to the dean toward the goal of establishing WCM-Q as a widely recognized leader in medical and health education in the global arena.
In 2014-15, WCM-Q researchers made a series of important scientific discoveries relating to a broad range of serious diseases, many of which have particular relevance to Qatar and the wider Gulf region.

Researchers, supported by the division’s administrative staff, contributed valuable new knowledge to the study of diabetes, obesity, metabolic syndrome, organ transplantation and several forms of cancer, among many other areas of enquiry.

Standout publishing successes of 2014-15 included a study by Dr. Lotfi Chouchane, professor of genetic medicine and immunology, on the mechanisms that cause cancer to recur, and a project by Dr. Karsten Suhr, professor of physiology and biophysics, which discovered an improved kidney transplant rejection test. An epidemiological study of mother-to-child hepatitis C transmission conducted by Dr. Laith Abu-Raddad, associate professor of public health, and Lenka Benova, research fellow at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and WCM-Q, represented a further success for the college, along with many other notable publications.

All three studies were published in leading international journals within their respective fields, reflecting the division’s growing capacity to produce world-class research that advances global understanding of biomedical science across a wide range of research areas.

These successes were made possible by the previous five years of hard work dedicated to building a robust scientific, technical and administrative platform able to support world-class research. This goal was achieved through the efforts of staff and faculty working with the support and leadership provided by Qatar Foundation. The very high quality of the science produced this year also reflects the division’s successful transition from its previous phase of rapid growth and recruitment to a new period of consolidation, faculty retention and, ultimately, the delivery of novel findings in biomedicine that will improve the health of the Qatari population.

In addition to its keen focus on improving scientific understanding of the most pressing health conditions facing the region, 2014-15 also saw the division maintain its strong commitment to enhancing research capacity in Qatar in line with the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030, through multiple training initiatives, including the highly successful Biomedical Research training Program for nationals. This year, six talented Qatari nationals completed the rigorous training program, bringing the total number of Qataris to successfully complete the course over its five-year history to 24.

Through these endeavors, the past year has advanced the research division’s mission to help to build Qatar’s research capacity while working to improve the health of the people of Qatar in the long-term. Support for these efforts has remained strong, with the cumulative amount of extramural funding awarded to WCM-Q researchers over the past seven years through several competitive programs primarily managed by Qatar National Research Fund climbing to $96.5M.
Cultivating success

In its initial phase, the Biomedical Research Program (BMRP) has been remarkably successful at establishing a first-class biomedical research program in Qatar. This initial phase saw five years of steady growth in staffing numbers following the establishment of the Research Division in 2008. The division now has more than 190 employees, including 47 postdoctoral and research associates classed as non-faculty employees. The majority of the division’s employees are hired locally and receive rigorous training in WCM-Q laboratories to ensure their skills and competencies meet the exacting standards demanded of all Cornell staff.

As such, the division has developed a highly trained and effective body of administrative staff, which ensures the smooth operation of the research cores and the division’s 35 active laboratories. Now that the initial growth phase has been completed, the division’s administrative priorities are focused on retention, investment in skills and competencies of current staff and refinement of procedures and protocols in order to support the practice of elite-level research with maximum efficiency.

The administration is also tasked with facilitating the training of volunteers and collaboration among WCM-Q researchers, WCM-Q academic faculty and visiting researchers. During 2014-15, the number of volunteers to receive hands-on, practical training in a real laboratory environment at WCM-Q since 2008 reached 177. Currently, the Research Division accommodates 44 active volunteers and visiting researchers.

Investing in people

The division strengthened its research capacity in December 2014 with the appointment of Dr. Stephen Hunt as professor of genetic medicine. Dr. Hunt, who obtained his B.S. in mathematics and a Ph.D. in genetic epidemiology at the University of Utah, specializes in genetic and environmental causes of cardiovascular disease, with a particular focus on hypertension, lipids, and severe obesity. To date he has authored 300 original research peer-reviewed publications in leading journals.

Existing faculty member Dr. Laith Abu-Raddad, associate professor of healthcare policy and research and director of the biostatistics, epidemiology and biomathematics research core, has been appointed assistant dean for extramural research funding. In this role, Dr. Abu-Raddad will provide leadership and support to the Research Office by managing WCM-Q’s relationship with Qatar National Research Fund, reviewing policy and new programs, and conducting internal implementation and oversight. He will work with other Qatar-based funding entities, and coordinate with the Research Office to identify and manage non-Qatar-based funding opportunities, and will coordinate with the associate dean for research regarding high-level strategic issues.
Nurturing the researchers of tomorrow

The division maintained and expanded its long-standing commitment to the development of talented young researchers through the continuation of the successful Biomedical Research Training Program for Nationals and the reformation of the Student Summer Research Program (SSRP).

The Biomedical Research Training Program for Nationals entered its fifth year in 2014-15 and continues to be a great success. In January 2015, six highly motivated Qatari interns joined the program and spent six months working in WCM-Q labs learning key research skills, in addition to gaining experience of administrative and clinical aspects of research. The interns successfully passed through the program in July 2015, bringing the total number of Qatari graduates to have completed the training to 24 over five years.

The SSRP underwent a significant overhaul in 2014-15 to ensure the program meets the needs of WCM-Q students who have an interest in research. The reformed program has created two new opportunities for students: firstly, the Medical Student Research Award (MSRA) provides an opportunity for first-year medical students to take the lead in securing their summer research experience in any research lab in the world. Secondly, the Supplemental Summer Research Funding for pre-medical students program (SSRF-PM) presents an opportunity for pre-medical students to obtain financial support for summer research projects if they were not successful in their efforts to secure funding from Qatar National Research Fund through the Undergraduate Research Experience Program (UREP). The SSRF-PM also offers supplemental funding for successful UREP projects. The MRSA currently supports 27 students and the SSRF-PM six.

Through these programs, the division continues to foster and encourage a spirit of scientific enquiry among both WCM-Q students and students from outside the college, as well as providing real opportunities for young people in Qatar to gain valuable research experience at a very early stage in their careers.

The division has also established closer ties with Qatar University (QU) by signing a Memorandum of Understanding in 2014 to host QU graduates in WCM-Q laboratories. Three QU graduate students are currently being trained in the laboratories of Dr. Khaled Machaca, professor of physiology and biophysics and associate dean for research, and Dr. Johannes Graumann, assistant professor of biochemistry and director of the proteomics core. The MOU also entails the appointment of training faculty at WCM-Q as adjunct faculty at QU.

This close cooperation among institutions of the higher education sector in Qatar will open new opportunities for fruitful collaboration that will benefit all parties and support the ongoing development of Qatar’s research and development capacity.
Publications

WCM-Q researchers have now published more than 380 papers since 2010, the majority of which have appeared in well-respected journals with high impact factors. Consequently, publications by WCM-Q scientists were cited approximately 1,200 times in 2014.

One of many publishing highlights of 2014-15 include professor of medicine Dr. Rayaz Malik’s co-editorship of the 640-page medical textbook Diabetes and the Nervous System: Handbook of Clinical Neurology, which will serve as a comprehensive guide for clinicians and researchers dealing with complications of the nervous system arising from diabetes.

WCM-Q scored another success with the publication of the first comprehensive analysis of Internet health information in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region. The study, entitled Typology and Credibility of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Internet Health Websites appeared in the World Health Organization (WHO) publication Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal. The research was conducted by students Zahra Rahman, Fathima Ameerudeen and Nadeen Al-Baz, led by faculty members Dr. Alan S. Weber, associate professor of English in the Pre-medical Department, and Dr. Mohamud Verjee, associate professor of family medicine.

News of other research highlights was shared with local, regional and international media through WCM-Q’s Communications Division. Publications and happenings that captured headlines included:

- Research helps to unlock secrets of recurring cancers (Dr. Lotfi Chouchane, October 2014) http://qatar-weill.cornell.edu/media/reports/2014/cancer-research.html
- Student research relationship blossoms with Harvard Medical School (October 2014) http://qatar-weill.cornell.edu/media/reports/2014/Harvard-resident.html
- Researchers find that mother-to-child transmission is responsible annually for up to five thousand new Hepatitis C virus infections among Egyptian children (Dr. Laith Abu-Raddad, January 2015) http://qatar-weill.cornell.edu/media/reports/2015/HEP-C.html
- QSLP student researchers excel on WCM-Q genetic research project (Dr. Karsten Suhre, May 2015) http://qatar-weill.cornell.edu/media/reports/2015/smoking-research.html
- WCM-Q and SomaLogic announce agreement to deploy the automated version of SOMAscan assay (Dr. Johannes Graumann, June 2015) http://qatar-weill.cornell.edu/media/reports/2015/automated-version-of-somascan-assay.html
Globally and locally connected

Part of the Research Division’s mission is to facilitate positive engagement with other research institutions and professionals, and a key way this is achieved is by hosting research events. During the course of the past year, more than 1,250 participants attended events organized by the research division.

The centerpiece of the division’s event calendar is the annual Research Retreat, which provides a forum for WCM-Q researchers to share their investigations with each other and with members of the wider scientific community in Qatar. In February 2015 the division hosted its fifth consecutive Research Retreat and welcomed just over 240 delegates to the college for the one-day event.

Over the past five years, the division has hosted approximately 200 departmental seminars, seven international conferences and multiple local conferences and workshops focused on a wide range of diverse research areas. These events continue to offer a platform for debate, discussion and collaboration among members of Qatar’s swiftly growing research community, creating a vibrant environment in which new ideas can be shared and developed.

Other notable research events hosted by the Research Division in 2014/15:

- Concepts in Biomedical Research Methodologies Course (in partnership with the Academic Health System). October 27–November 11, 2014 (300 participants)
- Advanced Course in Clinical and Translational Research (in collaboration with HMC faculty and in partnership with Academic Health System). February 2015 (24 senior healthcare professionals participated)
- TiDES – Conference on Toxins in Desert Environments, January 12-13, 2015 at La Cigale Hotel (25 participants)
- Workshop sessions on Ethics in Human Subjects Research (in partnership with HMC). March 29–30, 2015 at the Warwick Doha Hotel (100 participants)
- Fourth Annual WCM-Q Biosafety Principles and Practices Course. May 20, 2015 at WCM-Q (85 members of Qatar’s research community participated). This included personnel from many of WCM-Q’s affiliated institutions and governmental agencies including the Ministry of Environment, the Supreme Council of Health, the Anti-Doping Lab, Hamad Medical Corporation, Qatar Foundation and other Hamad Bin Khalifa University branch campuses.
Dr. Ravinder Mamtani, associate dean for global and public health, delivers a lecture in the Ask the Expert series.
In its tradition of pursuing excellence, the Division of Global and Public Health (GPH) endeavors to fulfill WCM-Q’s core mission of education, research, patient-related healthcare and community support. The division continues to deliver programmatic activities of high caliber. The division actively works in partnership with local, regional, and global partners to develop and implement best evidence-based public health programs and activities with a view to promoting the overall wellbeing of the people in the state of Qatar, the Middle East region and beyond.

We believe that effective public health policies, healthy lifestyles, and informed healthcare decisions can improve life expectancy, health outcomes and advance the overall quality of life. Our vision aligns with that of WCM-Q, Qatar National Health Strategy 2011-2016 and Qatar National Vision 2030.

GPH will continue to fulfill its strategic objective 2015-2020 to “Enhance quality of life through population-based health promotion, research and disease prevention initiatives”. Furthermore, GPH will persevere to create and advance educational opportunities in global and public health for medical students from Qatar and around the world.

Educational programs and activities

Global and Public Health and Academic Health System (AHS) Symposium: Integrative Medicine: A Refreshing Approach To Optimum Health

GPH and AHS co-hosted a symposium in March 2015 at WCM-Q. The conference theme of Integrative Medicine emphasizes building therapeutic doctor-patient relationships and the use of evidence-based unconventional modalities, which can be used for healing the patient. The promise of integrative medicine is that it treats the whole person, and not just the disease. At the end of the symposium, participants were able to discuss innovative approaches to building and strengthening the therapeutic bond with patients; review current evidence and proposed mechanisms for the use of complementary therapies in the treatment of chronic problems such as chronic pain; summarize suitable strategies for integrating complementary therapies with conventional healthcare and assess the impact of integrative medicine on human health. The symposium was accredited by the Qatar Council for Healthcare Practitioners for 4.25 CPD/CME credits. The symposium featured eminent speakers from Qatar, the US and Europe. Dr. Javaid Sheikh, Dean of WCM-Q, delivered the keynote remarks and Dr. Ravinder Mamta, associate dean of global and public health, welcomed the attendees by setting the stage at the symposium initiation. Dr. Mamta additionally discussed Integrating Complementary Medicine In Conventional Healthcare. Dr. David Reilly, consultant physician for the National Health Service’s Centre for Integrative Care in Glasgow, and a director of TheWEL Programme and The Healing Shift Enquiry in Glasgow, spoke on Human Healing In An Age Of Science: The Fifth Wave And The Crack In The Biomedical Box. Dr. Benjamin Kligler, vice chair and research director in the Department of Integrative Medicine at the Continuum Center for Health and Healing in New York, presented a talk entitled Evidence Based Approach To Integrative Medicine With A Special Focus On Pain Management. Dr. Albert Lowenfels, professor of surgery and professor of community and preventive medicine at New York Medical College in Valhalla, New York, gave an overview on Assessing The Impact Of Integrative Medicine On Mortality And Morbidity. The symposium was well attended by medical doctors and other healthcare professionals from across Qatar. The symposium was a highly successful event with positive feedback received from the attendees.

Global Health Education and Research Program 2014

The Global Health Education and Research Program (GHEPR) is a collaborative program between WCM-Q, the Global Health Office at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York and the Well Bugando School of Medicine (WBSoM). GHEPR is now in its fifth year and continues to gain in popularity. Three first-year medical students - Abdullah Elzafarany, Amina Bougaila and Muhammad Shakir Abubaker - were selected for the summer 2014 program. The students spent eight weeks at WBSoM in Mwanza, Tanzania, gaining valuable experience in healthcare delivery and public health, research, and introductory aspects of clinical medicine. The program consists of three components: clinical (in-patient and out-patient experience), research (projects based on student interests) and community-related work (medical camps, community education etc.). The program offers participants unique opportunities for experiential learning in a limited resource setting and to enhance their clinical skills with a reduced reliance on imaging and laboratory findings. Describing her experience, Amina Bougaila, of WCM-Q’s Class of 2017
said: “My visit to Tanzania was an eye opening one about global health issues. It was very enlightening and encouraging to see how some people have very little but still work so hard, giving the best they can to provide healthcare to their people. I truly respect the enthusiasm and the hard work of the Tanzanian doctors and medical students. Despite all the difficulties and challenges they face every day while trying to do their job, they never give up on their patients.”

Basic Healthcare Concepts

Drs. Ravinder Mamtani and Sohaila Cheema conducted a course on basic healthcare concepts for junior and middle managerial employees from Sidra Medical and Research Center. The course provided an overview of healthcare, basic concepts of health, disease and prevention, health systems, healthcare delivery challenges, communication in healthcare, problems of public health importance, and relevant medical and health terminology. The course was well received by the attendees.

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 Mamtani and Dr. Albert B. Lowenfels, of New York Medical College in Valhalla, New York. Dr. Sohaila Cheema, director of GPH, serves as managing editor and Dr. Hekmat Alrouh, project specialist in GPH, serves as assistant managing editor.

Health and Disease: A Global Perspective

This 2-credit course provides WCM-Q’s foundation and pre-medical students with basic knowledge and information necessary to understand key concepts related to health and disease. The course builds upon concepts in natural science courses taught during high school education and personal experiences of the students. Additionally, students are exposed to basic principles of writing a report, memo or opinion editorial on topics of public health importance.
Population Health and Primary Care Perspectives Elective

Senior medical students from around the world are eligible to apply for this four-week elective. During the elective students are introduced to various global health topics with a special focus on population health and primary healthcare. Dr. Ravinder Mamtani serves 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.

Participation in WCM-Q Grand Rounds

Dr. Ravinder Mamtani, associate dean for global and public health, was an invited speaker for the May 2015 Grand Rounds organized by the Division of Continuing Professional Development. Dr. Mamtani discussed The Truth About Nutrition Supplements. The Grand Rounds audience consisted of a large number of healthcare professionals including physicians, pharmacists, nurses, medical educators, students and other healthcare providers. The live activity was designated a maximum of 10 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit by Weill Cornell Medicine in New York.

Global and local community initiatives

GPH actively participates in a wide range of educational, health promotion and awareness activities both for healthcare professionals and for the public at large.

Global Education in Medicine Exchange

Global Education in Medicine Exchange (GEMx) is a worldwide partnership of exchange in medical education that connects medical schools, students and faculty worldwide. WCM-Q joined GEMx as a partner school in November 2013 and currently offers two electives via the GEMx portal (http://www.gemxelectives.org): the Population Health and Primary Care Perspectives Elective, and the Sports Medicine in Primary Care Elective. Dr. Ravinder Mamtani serves as the chair of the GEMx Advisory Committee, while Dr. Sohaila Cheema serves as the manager for the GEMx program at WCM-Q. WCM-Q hosted its first GEMx student from Manipal College of Medical Sciences, Nepal, in October 2014 for the Sports Medicine in Primary Care Elective. Sana Khan, then a final year medical student spent two weeks at Aspetar Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Hospital. Describing her experience, Sana said: “It was such a great opportunity for me to take an elective at a world-class institution. I am truly grateful to everyone at WCM-Q, Aspetar and GEMx and my college in Nepal for making this possible. Being placed at Aspetar, which provides healthcare to top-level athletes, has shown me...”

GEMx student Sana Khan (front), with GPH’s Dr Sohaila Cheema, Raji Anand and Dr. Ravinder Mamtani.
a completely different perspective on medicine than I had from working in the hospital in Nepal, where we mainly serve a community of people with modest incomes.”

2nd International Conference of Waterpipe Smoking Research: The Collision of Two Epidemics - Waterpipe and Cigarettes, Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC)

Global and Public Health co-sponsored this conference of public health importance with Hamad Medical Corporation, which was held in October 2014. Dr. Ravinder Mamtani was a co-speaker at the conference and presented on Smoking Control Efforts – A Global View, along with Dr. Albert Lownfels from New York Medical College in the U.S. Dr. Sohaila Cheema presented preliminary findings on an ongoing study titled, Waterpipe Smoking And Diabetes: A Cross Sectional Study of The Diabetic Population in The State Of Qatar, and Dr. Ziyad Mahfoud, director of health quantitative sciences for GPH, presented on Shisha Smoking and Predictors Among College Students Attending Two Private Colleges in Qatar. The conference was attended by approximately 125 healthcare professionals from Qatar, the region and internationally.

Enabling Self Care Workshop

GPH and Hamad Medical Corporation’s Academic Health System co-hosted an Enabling Self Care Workshop on March 16 and 19, 2015. The workshop’s aim was to enable attendees to learn to enhance their own and others health and wellbeing by growing self-sustaining self-care. The workshop was presented by Dr. David Reilly, consultant physician at the National Health Service’s Centre for Integrative Care in Glasgow, and a director of the TheWEL Programme and The Healing Shift Enquiry in Glasgow. Workshop participants included WCM-Q faculty and staff, Sidra and Tadawli medical Center staff. Participants found the workshop beneficial and expressed a desire for similar workshops in the future.

Participation in committees of public health importance

GPH represents WCM-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. National Health Workforce Committee, Qatar: Dr. Ravinder Mamtani and Dr. Sohaila Cheema (member).

5. Step Into Health in Campuses 2014-2015 by Healthy Lifestyle Program, Aspetar: Dr. Ravinder Mamtani (member).
6. WCM-Q – Qatar Council for Healthcare Practitioners (QCHP) Cultural Competency Curriculum Taskforce: Dr. Sohaila Cheema (member), Ms. Maha Elnashar director, Center for Cultural Competence in Healthcare (member) and Ms. Huda Abdelrahim, associate specialist, Center for Cultural Competence in Healthcare (member).

7. Dietary Guidelines Committee, Supreme Council of Health: Dr. Sohaila Cheema (member).

8. Human Nutrition Advisory Board, Qatar University: Dr. Sohaila Cheema (member).

9. Institutional Review Board of the North Atlantic in Qatar: Dr. Sohaila Cheema (member).

10. Health Sciences Department Advisory Committee, Qatar University: Dr. Sohaila Cheema (member).

Partner with Communications Division in Sahtak Awalan’s Ask the Expert

Ask The Expert is a series of interactive health seminars and is part of WCM-Q’s Sahtak Awalan: Your Health First initiative, a five-year campaign to encourage individuals of all ages and backgrounds to adopt healthier lifestyles. For the 2014 fall series, Dr. Mohamud Verjee spoke about physical activity and health awareness. Dr. Ziad Masmol and Ms. Mariana Barrancos, psychologist at Hamad Medical Corporation, discussed stress and ways to manage it. The 2015 series included Plain Talk about Ebola and Health Tips for International Travel by Dr. Ravinder Mamtani, and Nutritional Supplements and Your Health by Dr. Benjamin Kligler. The seminars are hosted at the Diplomatic Club and entry is free for all members of the public.

Road safety promotion at WCM-Q Wellness Day and Medicine Unlimited

GPH organized a road safety booth at the Wellness Day and Medicine Unlimited events at WCM-Q. GPH faculty and staff promoted road safety by encouraging visitors to participate in a computerized driving simulation, a road safety trivia quiz and by encouraging attendees to sign a pledge to become an advocate for road safety. Several hundred students, faculty and staff from Education City and the community attended the events.

Research

GPH continues to promote and advance public health research activities to enhance the overall health and well-being of the population in Qatar. Currently, the division is involved in research projects studying obesity, its epidemiological and genomic aspects, epidemiology of road traffic injuries, herbal and nutritional supplements use in Qatar, the risk of pre-diabetes in the adolescent population in Qatar and investigating the effect of smoking on the progression of diabetes and its complications. Collaborators on these research projects include the Supreme Council of Health, Hamad Medical Corporation, Primary Healthcare Centers, Qatar University, College of the North Atlantic Qatar, Qatar Diabetes Association and the Ministry of Interior’s Traffic Department.

A collaborative study between the Division of GPH, Qatar University and College of the North Atlantic Qatar, entitled Herbal and nutritional supplement use among college students in Qatar, was recently published in the World Health Organization’s Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal. The authors of the study - Dr. Ravinder Mamtani, Dr. Sohaila Cheema, Bruce MacRae, Dr. Helmat Alrouh, Tanya Lopez, Dr. Maguy El Haji and Dr. Ziyad Mahfoud - concluded in their study findings that there is widespread use of herbal and nutritional supplements among young college students in Qatar. Furthermore, the study emphasized the need for the development of national guidelines for herbal and nutritional supplement use within the healthcare delivery systems in Qatar. Additionally, all healthcare professionals should be trained on this topic, so that they can inform patients about all treatment choices available to them, resulting in holistic healing.

The division’s faculty and staff participated in the following poster presentations:

   b. Challenges of reliability testing in Qatar: Patient willingness for participation by mail or in person in a novel research instrument in Doha, Qatar. Authors: Amal Khidir, Maha Elnashar Huda Abdelrahim, Mayu Hammoud, Humna Asaad, Michael Fetters.

2. Innovations in Global Medical and Health Education Forum, Jan 18, 2015, Qatar.
   a. A Global Health Education and Research Program for WCM-Q medical students, at Weil Buguando, Tanzania. Authors: Sohaila Cheema, Robert Peck, Ravinder Mamtani. The poster was awarded third prize at the conference.
   c. A pioneering initiative towards culturally and linguistically appropriate healthcare: The Center for Cultural Competence in Health Care at WCM-Q. Authors: Maha Elnashar, Huda Abdelrahim.

Center for Cultural Competence in Health Care

The Division of Global and Public Health’s Center for Cultural Competence in Health Care (CCCHC) started as a medical interpretation program in 2007 and subsequently expanded to include cultural competence education. CCCHC continues to promote culturally and linguistically appropriate healthcare in Qatar via cultural competence and medical interpretation programs. Under the guidance of Dr. Ravinder Mamtani, associate dean for global and public health, the center is led by Ms. Maha Elnashar, who serves as director, and ably supported by Ms. Huda Abdelrahim, associate specialist of cultural competence. CCCHC provide a wide range of activities in the broad areas of education, community outreach and research.
Education

CCCHC continues to provide cultural competence training to WCM-Q medical students, having started the program in 2008. The 18-hour training module is built on the Association of American Medical College’s Tools for Assessing Cultural Competence Training’s five domains and the Liaison Committee on Medical Education standards. Students are engaged in didactic lectures, group discussions, interactive exercises and videos, and various other activities to build their cultural competence knowledge and skills. Topics include diversity and its impact on healthcare; bias and stereotyping; knowing your community and exploring the patient’s perspective; health disparities; medical interpretation; evidence-based traditional healing practices, and traditional healing systems and practices.

CCCHC conducts a one-hour refresher session with the students on how to work with a medical interpreter before they start their clerkships. Additionally, CCCHC provides medical interpretation services to WCM-Q students during their clinical training in Hamad Medical Corporation hospitals and primary healthcare centers. Trained medical interpreters help WCM-Q students to communicate effectively with patients. Furthermore, this also enhances the students’ cross-cultural communication skills.

CCCHC continues to contribute to WCM-Q New Hire Orientation sessions to validate the importance of diversity in the workplace and introduce the center’s activities and services for new employees. In May 2015, CCCHC participated in organizing workshops with Qatar Institute for Intercultural Communication (QIIC), in collaboration with Education City campuses and the Intercultural Communication Institute, a leading international organization in the field of intercultural communication based in the U.S. This event provided an opportunity for WCM-Q faculty and staff to enhance their intercultural communication knowledge and skills through various seminars and workshops hosted by leading experts in the field.

CCCHC participates in the Cornskil 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. Additionally, the center provided a two-hour cultural competence training workshop to all clinicians of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) of HMC and a four-hour cultural competence training workshop to four groups of the Qatar Ambulance Services Department in HMC.

Medical Interpreters Training offered to the public

In an effort to promote culturally competent patient-centered healthcare in Qatar, the center offers Bridging the Gap medical interpreters training to the community twice a year. The aim is to build a capacity of trained medical interpreters who will provide volunteer language services in any healthcare setting within the State of Qatar. Participants are from different academic and professional backgrounds. They include physicians, pharmacists, dentists, healthcare administrators, legal advisers, engineers and IT professionals. Thus far, 128 individuals, representing 18 languages (Arabic, Bengali, French, German, Hindi, Malayalam, Mandarin, Nepali, Tagalog, Tamil, Sinhalese, Urdu, Korean, Russian, Tigrinya, Romanian, Persian and Indonesian) have been trained. A certificate ceremony is held annually to acknowledge and recognize the medical interpreters for their volunteer services.

Research

The center continues its participation in the NPRP research grant (NPRP08-530-3-116) entitled Providing Culturally Appropriate Healthcare Services in Qatar: Development of a Multilingual Patient Cultural Assessment of Quality Instrument. The project is now in its final phase. A presentation entitled Multicultural Assessment Inventory: Psychometric Testing Demonstrates Internal Consistency, Reliability and Validity of Novel Instrument for Assessing Acculturation was accepted by the North American Primary Care Research Group’s (NAPCRG) annual meeting.

The Division of Global and Public Health will continue to embark on programs of population health importance. GPH is guided by the principles of partnership with local and international associates, and strives to engage in population health research, support student and healthcare professionals’ education in public health and lifestyle medicine, and to be responsive to the needs of the community.
The Office of Student Recruitment and Outreach works throughout the year to provide wider access for students to explore WCM-Q and support them as they prepare for their college applications. This year, the office was successful in offering support to a large, diverse number of students, as well as focusing on offering more pipeline programs that best suit their interests. The main goal is to help prospective students discover various fields of medicine and science. In cooperation with faculty, current students and staff, the office implemented a wide variety of activities and programs such as the Summer and Winter Enrichment Programs, Medicine Unlimited and various schools outreach initiatives. Through these activities, the office continues to provide strong support to prospective students throughout the year, whether locally or regionally.

As a targeted population, Qatari students benefited from a number of programs tailored to address their interest and attract them to our programs. The Healing Hands Scholarships Program, the Qatar Aspiring Doctors Program and the Winter Enrichment Programs are among flagship activities that continue to provide greater support to this targeted population of Qatari students as they apply to WCM-Q.

The office was also successful in participating in some important joint activities with key partners like Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Teach For All-Qatar, Qatar Careers Camp, as well as cementing relationships with the Supreme Council of Health and the Supreme Education Council.

Local Recruitment and Outreach

Qatar Aspiring Doctors Program (QADP)

This pilot program was launched last year to target a selected group of motivated 10th, 11th, and 12th graders, identified jointly by their schools and the Student Recruitment and Outreach Office, to improve their chances of admission to the Pre-medical or the Foundation Programs. The QADP includes face-to-face interactions as well as online modules developed by pre-medical faculty, covering biology, physical sciences, English for academic purposes and introduction to research skills. As part of the program, the office offered a series of orientation and one-on-one advice sessions to the participants. A total of 18 students took part and completed the program successfully. Students, mainly Qatari, came from a variety of schools including DeBakey High School for Health Professions and a number of independent and private schools in Qatar. Twelve out of 15 QADP applicants were offered admission to our Pre-medical or Foundation Program, which demonstrates the successful outcome of the QADP program.

Medicine Unlimited community outreach event

Now in its eighth year, Medicine Unlimited, a WCM-Q flagship recruitment and outreach event, took place on November 22. Students and their families visited the college for the annual fair, which offered the chance to discover the WCM-Q’s state-of-the-art facilities, take part in interactive demonstrations and learn about careers in medicine. This year, there were a total of 19 stalls, with subjects ranging from anatomy, pediatrics and research, to physics, chemistry, biology and pathology. Prospective students could also find information about WCM-Q’s Foundation Program to learn about its content and meet current students. English writing, library and admissions faculty and staff were also represented to showcase their activities. Hamad Medical Corporation, for the eighth year, and
Sidra Medical and Research Center, for the first time, were in attendance to offer demonstrations and free health screenings to parents and adult participants. The event was a major success, being attended by more than 500 participants.

**Summer Enrichment Programs**

Two programs, the Qatar Medical Explorer and the Pre-college Enrichment Programs, were offered to high school students during the summer of 2014. The Office of Student Recruitment and Outreach received about 330 applications for the two programs, making it the most competitive year in their history. A total of 31 students participated in the Pre-college Enrichment Program, and 32 in the Qatar Medical Explorer Program. Both programs continue to offer students the opportunity to attend pre-medical and medical class simulations, tour HMC’s Hamad General Hospital, get hands-on experience in laboratories, participate in students’ research projects, and prepare for college admissions.

**Winter Enrichment Program**

For the third year, the Winter Enrichment Programs invited students following nominations from their independent schools to join the Qatar Medical Explorer Program (QMEP), during the school winter break. This two-week program was conducted with a total of 30 students from 13 schools in Qatar. Students spent two weeks learning what it is like to train to become a medical doctor at WCM-Q. The QMEP was delivered by pre-medical and medical faculty members, teaching assistants, current students, graduates and staff of WCM-Q.

The Admissions Office also contributed to the Summer and Winter Enrichment Programs by delivering admissions presentations and effective interviewing skills workshops. The Student Affairs Division helped 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.

**Doctors of the Future Scholarships: Healing Hands Essay Competition**

Four Qatari high school students, from Nasser Bin Abdullah Al Attiyah Independent School for Boys, Debakey High School for Health Professions, Al Arqam Academy and Al Maha Academy, who won the Healing Hands essay writing competition, received WCM-Q’s Doctor of the Future Scholarships as their prizes. The scholarships consist of a fully funded trip to New York, accompanied by a family member chaperone, to work in the research laboratory of basic science faculty. This is the fourth year that students were also offered a local research orientation in WCM-Q’s research laboratories. The program continues to yield highly qualified, prospective Qatari students who go on to join our foundation and premedical programs. Ten more participants in the essay competition were recognized by receiving honorable mentions from the judging committee.

**Medical Review Schools Conference**

For the second time this year, the office supported the Medical Review Schools 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 and health issues, as well as receive guidance.
from WCM-Q faculty. Dr. Basim Uthman, professor of clinical neurology and clinical neuroscience, participated as a judge for the students’ medical presentations and provided feedback on the work presented. Members of the winning teams were offered tours of WCM-Q and placement in the Summer Enrichment Programs. For the first time this year, students who took part in the Qatar Aspiring Doctors Program presented at the conference and were guided by Dr. Ghizlane Bendriss, biology teaching specialist.

**School visits, open days and fairs**

The student recruitment and outreach team visited more than 35 local schools and about 30 regional 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.

Six open days were organized for interested schools during the year. A typical open day consists of a formal presentation of WCM-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 Careers Fairs as well as a number of school fairs, where representatives of WCM-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 and Qatar University fairs.

**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. A series of meetings with key personnel of major feeder schools were conducted to cement the college’s relationship with these schools. As a result, Dr. Rachid Bendriss was invited to join the advisory board of the DeBakey High School for Health Professions.

This year the Adopt a School Program provided training workshops to about 20 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 WCM-Q’s writing faculty, including Dr. Krystyna Golkowska, Dr. Alan Weber, Mr. Adam Larson, Mr. Ian Miller, Dr. Rachid Bendriss and Dr. Rodney Sharkey.

As a follow-up to the writing workshops, Mr. Ian Miller, writing lecturer, offered an on-site Reference Writing Workshop to the English teachers, academic counselors and administrators of the Doha British School.

The Michael E. DeBakey High School-Qatar, Dukhan English Community School, Amna Bint Wahab Independent School for Girls, Doha Montessori British School and Qatar University fairs.
Counselors’ workshops, parents’ nights and principals’ meetings

In the fall of 2014, three Discover Education City events and two parents’ nights were organized in partnership with Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) and other Education City branch campuses, attracting prospective students, parents and school counselors. The events, held in the HBKU Student Center, are considered the largest local recruitment fairs, and attracted more than 600 visitors in total.

In collaboration with Education City 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.

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 2014, the team visited more than 30 schools in several locations across the region including Muscat, Dubai, Sharjah, Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, Jeddah, Kuwait, Manama and Amman, and was successful in recruiting a number of highly qualified regional candidates.

The office also attended regional events such as the NYUAD health professions weekend organized by New York University in Abu Dhabi in April to recruit for the medical program.

Collaboration with key partners

To help support outreach initiatives with key partners, the office participated in a number of initiatives such as the Qatar Career Fair mini camp for middle schools, the annual Higher Education Institute Universities fair, the Teach for All-Qatar summer camp, and the HMC career fairs.

In addition, the Student Recruitment and Outreach Office continues to represent WCM-Q as a member of the Promotion of Healthcare Careers Committee, an initiative undertaken by the Supreme Council of Health to implement Qatar’s National Health Strategy 2011-2016.
The success and visibility of WCM-Q and its programs continued to go from strength to strength, leading to strong competition from applicants for a place at the college. In November 2014, WCM-Q dean Dr. Javaid Sheikh announced the new six-year medical education program. The new program integrates pre-medical and medical curricula into one cohesive, unified six-year medical education program, successful completion of which will lead to the award of the Cornell University Doctor of Medicine degree.

As a result of this integration, students who joined WCM-Q in August 2015 will no longer have to take part in a separate admissions process upon satisfactory completion of the premedical curriculum. The students will progress through the six-year program according to advancement criteria, which include academic performance, professionalism and commitment to the profession of medicine. The four-year medical curriculum component of the program will remain available to external applicants who have completed a baccalaureate program.

The Office of Admissions continued to support the Committee on Admissions in their use of a holistic review process to be able to select a diverse and academically prepared entering class.

The Office of Admissions staff held several application workshops for applicants and their parents where they informed the community about the application process and the new six-year program.

For the six-year integrated medical education program, there were a total of 589 inquiries and 373 submitted applications. Of the 373 submitted applications, the Committee on Admissions accepted 43 students. In addition, a further 18 students were promoted from the Foundation Program onto the integrated Medical Program.

Eighteen students enrolled on the 2015 Foundation Program. Of these students, 17 were Qatari citizens. The WCM-Q Foundation Program is a one-year program that prepares students for entry to the Medical Program. The comprehensive program of study prepares the students for the rigors of the pre-medical curriculum of the six-year Medical Program by giving them a solid grounding in math, the basic sciences, and English. Students are also helped to develop disciplined study habits and critical thinking skills that are essential for success in the pre-medical curriculum and medical curriculum of the six-year Medical Program. The Foundation Program has been very successful and continues to yield extremely positive results.

Among the new cohort of students entering the six-year integrated Medical Program, 14 different nationalities are represented, with approximately 74 per cent of those students making their home in Qatar. Of the 50 students, 16 (32 per cent) are Qatari nationals.

For the Medical Program, there were 149 inquiries and 98 submitted applications. Of those who submitted their applications, 46 were accepted into program and 46 accepted the offer of admission. Of the 46, 43 recently completed their pre-medical education at WCM-Q. It should be mentioned that three of the 46, who also completed their pre-medical education at WCM-Q, ended up receiving an undergraduate degree from Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar. One additional student, who also completed pre-medical education from WCM-Q, completed a bachelor’s degree from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

It is important to note that of the 46 students, 13 students (28%) are Qatari, 12 of whom began their journey to medical school in WCM-Q’s Foundation Program.

Four external applicants have been accepted onto the Medical Program. These include a holder of a Bachelor’s degree from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, two graduates of New York University in Abu-Dhabi, and the fourth is a graduate of University of California, Berkeley.

The 46 applicants accepted into the medical class are also a diverse group, with 14 different nationalities represented.

The new application software that was launched in September 2013 in collaboration with the Educational Computing Team was utilized effectively this year. The new Student Information System allows the college to store student information from the moment an applicant makes their initial inquiry through to point they become a WCM-Q graduate. The Office of Admissions continues to leverage the new system to improve its efforts in providing appropriate guidance and timely processing of all applications. This in turn will continue to allow and facilitate timely and careful review of applications by the Admissions Committee.
In August 2014, pre-medical and foundation students successfully completed a four-day orientation program filled with activities to welcome them to the campus, the administration, faculty, staff, and to each other. With the collaborative efforts of the student orientation leadership group and Medical Student Executive Council in Qatar (MSEC-Q), the participants engaged in interactive sessions to develop pride in their new WCM-Q community and to understand what is required of them academically. Students also participated in a service activity to heighten awareness of the larger community. For the past three years, the students have collected, sorted, and packed donations from the college for donation to charity. Afterwards, the hard work of our custodial staff and security guards was celebrated by hosting a meal in their honor. In addition, WCM-Q students joined students of other branch campuses in Education City to host and participate in sessions and workshops to prepare them for participation in the greater education community at Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU).

Similarly, incoming medical students completed a separate four-day medical student orientation in August 2014. The members of the Class of 2018 participated in a series of programs and activities to introduce them 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 who were inducted into the class. The keynote speaker at the ceremony was Dr. Ibrahim Janahi, professor of clinical pediatrics and executive director of research at HMC, and senior consultant and division head of pediatric pulmonology at HMC and Sidra Medical and Research Center.

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. This year, students visited the Qatar Foundation for Elderly People Care (Ihsan) where they met some elders of the Qatar community and listened to their experiences with patient care and their thoughts about the doctor-patient relationship.

Through founding, leading, and participating in a wide variety of clubs and organizations, WCM-Q students help to meet the personal and professional interests of our diverse community. Currently, WCM-Q has 26 officially recognized clubs and organizations, including: men’s and women’s basketball teams, cricket team, men’s soccer club, Beyond the White Walls organization, chess club, debate club, film club, global health club, Oraku club, Qatari club, music club, To The Wards club, Emergency Medicine Interest Group, Pediatrics Interest Group, Student Interest Group in Neurology, Reach Out to Asia, Student Research Association, Suture and Staples Society, Cardiology Interest Group, Creative Arts Club, Harry Potter Society, Photography Society, Women’s Health Interest Group, Obstetrics & Gynaecology Interest Group, Students’ Interest Group in Neurology, and the Family Medicine Interest Group.

One of the most active student organizations is the Debate Club. Members of this organization have traveled to Germany, Philippines, Botswana, Austria, Malaysia, and even Cornell in Ithaca and WCM in New York to debate against their colleagues.
They were named as the national champions of the Qatar Debates for four years. But they - and we - are not only proud of their debating accomplishments; members of the club, through the Staff Enrichment Program and in cooperation with Reach Out To Asia, help catering and maintenance personnel working at the college to improve their spoken and written English by teaching classes in workplace communication skills. They also hosted computer classes to help the auxiliary workers 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 the Foundation Program to the fourth year of the Medical Program, they are vital for supporting and advocating for student interests. To foster transparency and communication between students and the administration, MSEC-Q hosted an annual Dean’s Town Hall with Dr. Javadi Sheikh, dean of WCM-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 WCM-Q community. International Night included 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 23, 2014, the Dean proudly announced the names of 24 students who achieved this accomplishment; and on February 19, 2015 he recognized the academic excellence of an additional 29 students. Students and their parents, faculty and staff were invited to celebrate the academic excellence of these students.

Counseling and academic advising

Committed to creating a nurturing environment to optimize student learning, the academic counselors offer students 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. The counselors also assist students with registration 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 coordinate psychological, psychiatric, and other referrals as needed.

Financial aid and scholarship

WCM-Q selects students on merit only, and 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 WCM-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 WCM-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 may offer a number of 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 per cent of the student body receives some form of sponsorship or scholarship.

Graduation and Convocation

The annual senior honors convocation recognizes the academic achievements of graduating students. Awards are given based on outstanding performance in courses and clerkships as well as in research, public health, and community service. At the graduation ceremony in 2015, 42 students took the Hippocratic Oath and received their diplomas. Of the 32 students who sought to pursue U.S. residency training, all 32 matched into a program, leading to a 100 per cent U.S. residency match rate. Six graduates began their residency training at HMC, while the remaining four students decided to pursue research or other educational experiences. Thirty-five members of the Class of 2015 graduated side by side with their peers from the main campus in Carnegie Hall, New York, on May 28. Later that night, a dinner was held at the Metropolitan Club to honor the graduates and their families and to thank New York partners, main campus staff members and faculty for their contributions towards our students’ education.

ClubFest

To encourage and recruit new and current students to engage in extracurricular activities, student organizations held the annual Club Fest in September 2014 to highlight the accomplishments of the previous year and publicize the goals for the coming year. The event was very well attended and resulted in the registration of six new student clubs.

Wellness Day

The Student Affairs Division at WCM-Q hosted the 3rd Annual Wellness Day to educate the public through activities and information about how to lead healthier lives and promote the different aspects of health like physical, emotional, intellectual, spiritual, environmental, occupational and social wellness. Stalls were set up by a variety of organizations, including student clubs, WCM-Q divisions and external bodies such as the Supreme Council of Health, Qatar Red Crescent, Qatar Cancer Society and Qatar Foundation’s nutrition services team, to explain their role in promoting community health and the knowledge and resources they can offer to the public to help them make positive changes to their lifestyles.

LeaderShape

LeaderShape is a week-long program that students participate in to further develop their leadership skills, work in small and large teams, and develop a better understanding of group dynamics. This program is coordinated through Hamad
Bin Khalifa University. During the winter break in the first week of January 2015, nine WCM-Q students (eight pre-medical students and one medical student) participated in LeaderShape in Al-Khor, Qatar with students from other branch campuses (Texas A&M University at Qatar, Northwestern University in Qatar, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, and Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar).

International Service Learning and Community Service

Students at WCM-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.

In August 2014, eight pre-medical students traveled to Tanzania to take part in a service learning trip. They volunteered at an orphanage, visited Weill Bugando to shadow doctors and observe the kinds of healthcare treatment available, and to shadow physicians in local primary health care centers. They were also involved with a World Health Organization project that involved teaching street children, as part of a morning football club in Mwanza, about proper health hygiene, basic first aid practices, and team building.

In April 2015, eleven first-year medical students traveled to Costa Rica during their academic spring break. They participated in home visits to learn about the environmental factors impacting health issues, established temporary clinics and worked under the supervision of a local physician to conduct general medical exams, and participated in community outreach. Through this experience, students became more aware of the challenges faced by these communities and continued to develop their clinical skills.

Alumni development

As of May 2015, WCM-Q has 223 alumni. Alumni regularly engage with the college through visits, speaking with students, participating in formal college events such as residency training symposia, orientation programs and the Dean’s Honor List dinners. To bring the alumni together, we host an annual dinner for alumni residing in Doha as well an annual dinner event in New York for alumni in the USA. In 2014-15, additional regional alumni dinners were held in Buffalo, New York; Boston, Massachusetts; and Richmond, Virginia. Many alumni stay in contact with the college, and to enhance better communication with them, we have developed an alumni directory that aims to provide information about and enhance connections with our alumni. We look forward to more opportunities to develop meaningful connections, engagement and mentoring for current students, and seeing our alumni contribute to caring for the health of Qatar.
HH Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, chairperson of Qatar Foundation, hears more about WCM-Q’s Sahtak Awalan: Your Health First campaign.

Your Health First (YHF) is a national, multi-located health campaign in Qatar designed to change unhealthy behaviors into healthy ones. By educating the population about health, obesity and diabetes, YHF aims to make a significant contribution to the future health and prosperity of Qatar. YHF uses every form of media available along with targeted and high-profile events to educate the population about health. The thrust of the campaign is towards the younger section of society – which is most amenable to change and new ideas – although YHF is inclusive.

A few examples of YHF’s events and initiatives include The Greenhouse Project, where primary schools were given greenhouses to show children how fruit and vegetables are grown, and teach them about sustainability. The Challenge, an inter-school’s sports contest, is a central theme in Qatar, and the complete redesign and refitment of Education City’s school canteens and cafeterias.
Communications Division

Communications Division experienced a busy and fruitful 2014-15, taking on new challenges and responsibilities and continuing to expand upon the success of the Sahtak Awalan: Your Health First campaign with high-profile events designed to improve public health across Qatar. The division has also continued with its core work of promoting WCM-Q through the issue of 68 press releases to the local and international media from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

Ramadan 2014

The health of the nation was the focus of the Sahtak Awalan campaign in Ramadan 2014 as it targeted obesity.

A raft of initiatives including radio and TV programs, a photo competition and mall dietitians encouraged people to embrace a healthy lifestyle for the sake of themselves, their families and their children.

With obesity a growing concern in Qatar, Dr. Abdulwahed Zainel, a Qatari graduate of WCM-Q, joined experts from the college in providing advice to the campaign. Dr. Zainel hosted Your Healthy Choice, a television program that was broadcast on Qatar TV each day from 2.50pm during Ramadan. Dr. Zainel offered advice and information on the best foods to keep your body healthy and the foods that should be avoided.

Complementing the television series was QF Radio’s schedule that once again broadcast daily health tips from the Sahtak Awalan campaign that are designed to help people transform their lives.

Ask the Expert

The interactive lecture series Ask the Expert has proved to be a popular initiative, allowing the public to hear WCM-Q doctors and visiting experts speak about a given subject and then ask questions in an informal atmosphere. They also aim to help the public understand health matters and encourage them to make positive changes to their lives.

Held every two months as part of the Sahtak Awalan campaign, the lecture topics have included subjects as diverse as exercise, ebola and travel health and have reached thousands of people.

School menus and cafeterias revamped

The health of thousands of children across the country is being improved now and into the future thanks to the WCM-Q Sahtak Awalan campaign and QF.

With the support of QF, Sahtak Awalan arranged for the menus to be revised at all of QF’s schools, ensuring the children are served the healthiest, most nutritional meals possible. The menus were devised by AMLAK Services and are being cooked in their state-of-the-art kitchens. AMLAK Services is a subsidiary of AMLAK Holding which itself is a member of Qatar Foundation. Adopting Sahtak
Awalan branding and health messages, children are also being encouraged to take responsibility for the food they eat and are learning about the benefits of certain foods. The aim is to instil healthy eating habits at a young age, potentially improving the health of an entire generation and preventing obesity, diabetes and heart disease in years to come.

The initiative is symbiotic with QF’s mission to develop sustainable human capacity and unlock human potential. The scheme will also set an example for other schools to adopt, bringing healthier lunches to students at schools across the country.

The QF schools’ canteens project was officially launched in September 2014 at the start of the new school year. Along with the new lunches, there are facts about nutrition and interactive displays in each of QF’s school canteens, reinforcing the healthy eating message. In addition, there is information showing students in the senior schools how they can calculate their BMI to motivate them to adopt a healthier lifestyle, and information that emphasizes the health benefits of certain foods. Healthy recipe cards are available for students to cook with their parents and a Top Trumps game based around healthy foods has also been designed for the children to play among themselves.

WCM-Q and Sahtak Awalan a hit at National Day celebrations

Thousands of children learned about the health benefits of fruit and vegetables as they made their own great-tasting smoothies at WCM-Q’s Qatar National Day celebrations.

The college participated in the Qatar Foundation tent at Darb Al Saai and had an area dedicated to the Sahtak Awalan campaign. Among the attractions were a reaction wall and some medical mannequin torsos on which visitors could practice being a doctor – along with the smoothie bikes.

As well as fruit smoothies, children were able to plant their own fruit and vegetable seeds and take the plant pot away, the aim being to promote fresh organic, sustainable food as a means of staying healthy. More than 80,000 people visited the WCM-Q and Sahtak Awalan booths, learning more about the work that the college does but also about good health.

The Color Run

Thousands of people came out in a celebration of exercise and fun to take part in the Doha debut of The Color Run in February 2014.

Brought to Qatar with the help of Your Health First, the five-kilometer run saw participants pelted with colored powder at various intervals. Dubbed “the happiest 5k on the planet” the event was open to everyone – from the youngest to the oldest – and was designed to demonstrate that exercise can be fun.

In all the event attracted more than 6,000 people and after completing the course, which snaked around Qatar National Convention Centre, the Color Runners made their way to the Finish Festival where the celebrations continued with massive color throws, stage performances and live music.
In keeping with the event’s community focus, $1 from every entry at The Color Run was donated to Educate a Child. Launched in November 2012, by Her Highness Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser, Educate A Child (EAC) is a global program of the Education Above All Foundation (EAA) that aims to significantly reduce the number of children worldwide who are denied their right to education.

Sports Day success for WCM-Q and Your Health First

WCM-Q and the Your Health First campaign were at the forefront of National Sports Day celebrations, helping to encourage the public to eat healthily and exercise.

WCM-Q’s Sahtak Awalan team had booths at two high-profile locations in Doha – the first at Qatar Olympic Committee’s Sports Village on the Corniche and the second at WCM-Q itself as part of the wider Qatar Foundation celebrations.

At both venues thousands of people were able to take advantage of the latest technology and accurately measure their weight and how much of their body is muscle, bone and fat. The college’s medical mannequins were available for people to attempt resuscitation and learn more about how the body works, and Dr. Shahrad Taheri, professor of medicine at WCM-Q, gave a talk on obesity. The famous smoothie bikes were also on hand, allowing young and old alike to blend their own smoothies by pedaling a bicycle. Down on the Corniche, a mini football obstacle course let youngsters practice their ball skills.

The Your Health First booths also attracted the attention of VIPs. HE Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, secretary general and CEO of the Qatar Olympic Committee, and HE Sheikha Al Mayassa Bint Hamad Al Thani, chairperson of the Qatar Museums Authority both visited the booth at the Sports Village to find out more about the work of Your Health First. At WCM-Q, QF president Eng Saad Ebrahim Al Muhannadi asked aspiring doctor and Class of 2016 student Bassil Kherallah for details about the medical mannequin.

Dr. Javaid Sheikh, dean of WCM-Q, said National Sports Day had been a great success across the country and that the Your Health First campaign was a perfect fit for it.

Dr. Sheikh said: “As a medical college we have cutting edge equipment at our disposal and it’s very gratifying to be able to share this with the public, allowing them...
to analyze the make-up of their own bodies. This gives them a real insight into how their diets and exercise have a physical effect on themselves.

*On the lighter side we had the smoothie bicycles, which are not only great fun, but hopefully remind people that fruit and vegetables can taste great without adding sugar, ice cream and syrup. Sports Day is a wonderful opportunity for us all to take stock of our health and make changes that will benefit not only ourselves but also our friends and families in future years.

**WISH: Her Highness Sheikha Moza hears about Sahtak Awalan**

WCM-Q’s Sahtak Awalan innovation area was visited by Her Highness Sheikh Moza Bint Nasser at the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH).

The Sahtak Awalan: Your Health First campaign was chosen by WISH as one of 15 global innovations to be showcased to health experts from around the world. In her capacity as Chairperson of WISH, Her Highness officially opened the conference and visited the Sahtak Awalan booth where she was updated on the continuing work of the campaign.

Dr. Javaid Sheikh, dean of WCM-Q, said it was a huge honor for the college. As one of WISH’s chosen innovations, Sahtak Awalan was invited to showcase its work in the innovations hall. Visitors to the booth included delegates from the U.S., South Africa, Tunisia, Austria and Italy. All were impressed by the remarkable progress Sahtak Awalan had made in such a short time and were interested in building relationships so they could learn about how Qatar and WCM-Q are implementing public health campaigns. The delegates were also told about the high-profile work that Your Health First has done in the community.

Sahtak Awalan was also discussed by Dr. Sheikh in a high-level debate about how to communicate complex health messages to the public. He used Your Health First as an example of best practice in running a public campaign against obesity.

**Yalla Natural**

The Yalla Natural campaign, an initiative that aims to reconnect people with nature in order to live healthier lives, was launched by WCM-Q.

Yalla Natural is part of the ongoing Sahtak Awalan: Your Health First campaign, and aims to help all members of the community to boost their health naturally. This could be by cooking with fresh and healthy ingredients, eating lots of fruit and vegetables, exercising outdoors with friends and family, or growing fresh produce at home for the dinner table.

The initiative was launched with a two-day event on Doha’s Corniche in February 2015 that unveiled the Yalla Natural Trailer, a 12-meter custom-built transportable activity and information hub. The trailer travels across Qatar to hold free interactive events, dispense advice from expert nutritionists, WCM-Q physicians and gardeners, and offer free exercise classes for the whole family to take part in, like aerobics and running. Children are able to get hands-on by planting seeds and...
are given grow-kits to take home with them to learn about fresh fruits and vegetables. Healthy cooking lessons and tips are offered from the trailer by French chef Eric Cousin of the Chef’s Garden Restaurant, which is operated by AMLAK Services, a member of Qatar Foundation.

Yalla Natural won high-level endorsement when it was visited by HE Sheikha Al-Mayassa Bint Hamad Al-Thani ahead of Qatar International Food Festival. Her Excellency told WCM-Q staff members involved in the Yalla Natural campaign that because of its goals, Yalla Natural should be a year-round initiative. Her Excellency was also given a plant to take away with her to grow at home.

**Project Greenhouse**

Project Greenhouse - part of Your Health First - has continued to grow and has so far seen 80 elementary schools across Qatar receive free greenhouses, gardening tools, seeds, plant pots, compost and growing instructions. As always, the mission is to teach students how to grow their own food so as to encourage them to eat more fruit and vegetables. Children also learn valuable lessons about sustainability and the environment. The aim is to halt the growth of diabetes and obesity and help create a healthy generation able to meet the needs of Qatar National Vision 2030.

Your Health First also offers a trophy each year for the school judged to have grown the best crop. For 2015 that honor went to Somaiya Primary Independent School.

Project Greenhouse is expanding all the time and eventually it is hoped that every independent school in Qatar will be included in the initiative.

**School students awarded for health research**

Your Health First’s annual Challenge Poster Competition was held in February as a way to encourage young people to think about their health.

The competition is now in its third year and as well as promoting good health, the contest also aims to inspire students to become the doctors and scientists of the future.

Students from 30 middle schools across Qatar were invited to undertake a research project on a health topic and approximately 300 posters were submitted.
in total. The posters were judged by doctors from WCM-Q and the top ten posters – from nine schools – were awarded prizes. The nine schools to win trophies were Audio Education Complex, Qatar Leadership Academy, English Modern School Al Khor, Al Hammad International School, Ossama Bin Zaid Independent School, Qatar Canadian School, Mesaieed Independent School for Girls, Al Ahnaf International School, and Al Hikma International School, which had two separate winners.

Each school was awarded a trophy while every student received an individual prize presented by Dr. Marco Améduri, WCM-Q’s associate dean for pre-medical education. Topics chosen by the students included obesity, car accidents and nutrition.

Health and Safety

WCM-Q’s Division of Environmental Health and Safety held a number of courses throughout the year that were open to research faculty and staff both from WCM-Q and external organizations, the aim being to improve the safety and knowledge of everyone in Qatar’s research community. These included:


2. 1st Annual WCM-Q Lab Safety Refresher training, May 18-19. Refresher training for WCM-Q research faculty, staff, and students. Eighty-nine WCM-Q faculty, staff, and student research personnel attended this refresher training.

3. 4th Annual WCM-Q Biosafety Principles and Practices Course, May 20, 2015. Community outreach training sponsored by WCM-Q. Eighty-five people attended this training from the Qatar research community. Delegates included personnel from many of WCM-Q’s affiliated institutions and governmental agencies including the Ministry of Environment, the Supreme Council of Health, Anti-Doping Lab, Hamad Medical Corporation, Qatar Foundation, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar University, Qatar Biomedical Research Institute, Sidra Medical and Research Centre, Virgin Healthbank, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, and Texas A&M at Qatar.

4. Biological Material Packaging and Shipping Course, May 21, 2015. This was the second time this short course has been offered in conjunction with the Biosafety Principles and Practices Course. Sixty-three people attended this training from the Qatar research community. They included personnel from many of WCM-Q’s affiliated institutions and governmental agencies including the Ministry of Environment, the Supreme Council of Health, Anti-Doping Lab, Hamad Medical Corporation, Qatar Foundation, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar University, Qatar Biomedical Research Institute, Sidra Medical and Research Centre, and Virgin Healthbank.
STATISTICS

Faculty and staff numbers, 2001-2015

Figures for faculty include all those on the WCM-Q payroll considered active within the 2014-2015 academic year. Figures for staff are as of June 9, 2015 and include those residing in New York. Academic non-faculty includes postdoctoral positions in the research program.

Total number of students, 2002-2014

Figures are as of September 2014, and reflect any attrition from incoming classes in subsequent years.

Profile of classes entering the Pre-Medical Program, 2002-2014

Total Enrollment and Applicants

Gender Profile
Profile of entering medical students, September 2014

- Enrolled student: 42
  - Male: 15
  - Female: 27

Previous education:
- WCM-Q: 37
- NYU Abu-Dhabi: 2
- National University of Singapore: 1
- University of Calgary MSc: 1

Average college GPA: 3.5
Average age (September 2014): 21

Citizenship of student body 2014

- Algeria
- Australia
- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
- Canada
- Egypt
- France
- Germany
- India
- Iran
- Iraq
- Jordan
- Korea, Republic
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Malaysia
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Palestine
- Philippines
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- Singapore
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Tunisia
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- USA
- Yemen

Leadership Structure

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Chairman, Board of Trustees

Elizabeth Garrett  
President

**Weill Cornell Medicine**

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Chair, Board of Overseers

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Vice Chair

Jeffrey Feil  
Vice Chair

Barbara B. Friedman  
Vice Chair

Arthur J. Mahon  
Vice Chair

Sanford I. Weill  
Chair Emeritus

Laurie H. Glimcher, M.D.  
Provost for Medical Affairs, Cornell University Dean, Weill Cornell Medicine

**Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar**

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Dean, Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar

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Chief Administrative Officer

Robert Crane, M.D.  
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs and Faculty Affairs

Marco Ameduri, Ph.D.  
Associate Dean for Pre-medical Education

Thurayya Arayssi, M.D.  
Associate Dean for Continuing Professional Development

Khaled Machaca, Ph.D.  
Associate Dean for Research

Ravinder Mamtani, M.B.B.S., M.D., M.Sc.  
Associate Dean for Admissions

Marcellina Mian, M.D.C.M., M.P.H.E.  
Associate Dean for Medical Education

Stephen M. Scott, M.D.  
Associate Dean for Student Affairs

Bakr Nour, M.D.  
Senior Advisor to the Dean

Nesreen Al-Rifai  
Chief Communication Officer

Ellen Sayed  
Director, Distributed eLibrary

Omar Baki  
Director, Human Resources

Shahzad Jafri  
Chief Information Officer

Sameer Kalash  
Director, Procurement & Business Services

Leslie S. Sabin  
Director, Finance

John Doig  
Director, Facilities Management

Thomas Doyle  
Director, Environmental Health & Safety

Sunanda Holmes  
Director, Business Planning and Contracts
Abi Khalil, Charbel


(As of June 27, 2015. The list also includes some items submitted too late for inclusion in the previous year’s list)

Abi Khalil, Charbel


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Graumann, Johannes


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Golkowska, Krystyna


Graumann, Johannes


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Pungente, Michael Jubel I, Raju L, Khalique NA, Bilchuk N, Ziegel C, Chen A, Lou HH, Opstad CL.


Rafii Tabrizi, Jeremie Arash


Roach, James D., Jr

Robay, Amal

Scott, Stephen M.


Sharkey, Rodney


Sultan, Ali A.


Taheri, Shahrad


Triggle, Chris


Uthman, Basim M.


Verjee, Mohamud


Gerber LM, Mamtani R, ChiuYL, Bener A, Murphy M, Cheema S, Verjee MA. Use

Weber, A. S.