



## BULLETIN

*February 2009*

### **Events/Happenings**

#### **WCMC-Q among first Middle East universities at World Debates**

The Debating Society from WCMC-Q and teams from four other local colleges competed in the 29th World Universities Debating Championships, marking the first time universities from the Middle East have taken part in the competition.

This year's championships, billed as the largest academic event in the world, took place over the New Year period at University College Cork in Ireland. The teams from Qatar joined those from more than 40 other countries for eight days of rigorous mental sparring over a variety of challenging topics.

Evidence of growing interest in debating abounds in Qatar, from the popularity of Qatar Foundation's Doha Debates to the successful QatarDebate program in schools and universities throughout the country. That program culminated last year in the National Universities' Debating Competition, where WCMC-Q students took top honors.

Now that interest in debate is taking an international turn; in addition to WCMC-Q, Texas A&M at Qatar, Qatar University, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar and College of the North Atlantic – Qatar also sent teams to this year's World Universities Championships.

Mirroring their success in the national competition, the WCMC-Q teams overall fared best of the Qatar contingent with Team A, consisting of Marwa Saleh and Rahima Sanya (class of 2013), ranking highest among the Middle-East debutants. Also competing at the tournament were Anas Abou-Ismael (class of 2010) and Abdullah Firoze (class of 2013).

For the WCMC-Q team, this was also a chance to meet their debating counterparts from the Cornell campus in Ithaca, New York. The teams had time to socialize during tournament social events, and even discussed the possibility of holding an annual debating event between the two campuses.

#### **WCMC-Q campus featured in QFC television advertisement**

The campus of Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar is prominently featured in a new television advertisement by the Qatar Financial Centre Authority. The stylized shots of WCMC-Q labs, public spaces and exteriors were filmed on campus November 20 of last year.

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Featured is the South Hall tower with its spiral ramp and prayer rooms, the student lounge, and a laboratory complete with a robotic arm flown in specifically for the shoot. The WCMC-Q logo and name are clearly visible in one scene.

Views of the Medical College are interspersed between other locations around Education City and Doha, and are overlaid with digital effects to give the impression of people and vehicles moving at great speeds. This sense of rapid motion ties in with the new campaign's theme of "Business Energy", which "underlines the strength and dynamism of Qatar's economy", says Steve Martin, QFC Director of Marketing and Corporate Communications. The ad portrays Doha to the world as a modern, vibrant city, with WCMC-Q being an integral part of that.

The advert will first air on Bloomberg TV, and then on CNBC, BBC World, CNN and Al Jazeera in the weeks following. It can also be viewed as a streaming video on the QFC web site at [www.qfc.com.qa/output/TV\\_advertising.aspx](http://www.qfc.com.qa/output/TV_advertising.aspx).

### **WCMC-Q and other Qatar healthcare institutions have unified presence at Arab Health Exhibition**

WCMC-Q and six other Qatar healthcare institutions joined the Qatar Ministry of Health at the Arab Health Exhibition and Congress taking place in Dubai, UAE from January 26 to 29. The institutions presented a unified vision of the future of healthcare in Qatar by banding together in a single display space of nearly 400 square meters – one of the largest at the event.

Established over three decades ago, the Arab Health Exhibition is the region's largest and most prestigious event for healthcare manufacturers, wholesalers, dealers and distributors in the Middle East, as well as some of the most important and influential decision-makers in the Arab world. In 2008 the event attracted more than 50,000 visitors.

Under the theme "Qatar: Leading the Change", the Ministry led WCMC-Q and fellow exhibitors Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), Aspetar, Qatar University College of Pharmacy, College of the North Atlantic – Qatar, University of Calgary – Qatar, and Qatar Science and Technology Park (QSTP). The intricately designed stand they occupied was modeled on the double-helix shape of a DNA molecule.

In addition to collaborating on exhibit space, this consortium of healthcare entities held a joint press conference to present both Qatar's national vision for healthcare and its solutions to three major health challenges: premature death through injury and infant mortality, preventable conditions aggravated by genetic factors such as diabetes, and "lifestyle diseases" such as obesity and cardiovascular disease.

Arab Health also featured a large and comprehensive conference program – the Arab Health Congress. WCMC affiliate NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital sponsored two conferences at this year's event: *MINT – Minimally Invasive New Technology* on January 26, and *Prenatal Pediatrics, Neonatology and Surgical Advances* on January 27 and 28.

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## Faculty News

**Dr. Thurayya Arayssi has joined WCMC-Q as Visiting Associate Professor of Medicine.** Dr. Arayssi received her M.D. from the American University of Beirut and has been a faculty member at AUB since 1997. She has been an active teacher since joining the American University of Beirut, involved in teaching 2nd, 3rd and 4th year medical students, residents and fellows with extensive efforts in lectures in Biochemistry, Epidemiology, Physical Diagnosis, and Introduction to Medicine.

In 2006 she was appointed as Assistant Dean for Graduate Medical Education specifically to work on the organization of the residency programs at AUB, an effort that led to the development of the Residency Program at AUB that meets the full criteria for accreditation by ACGME. In addition she has served on a number of committees and boards, ranging from the Dean's Medical Affairs Committee to Graduate Medical Education Committee to the Research Committee, Department of Internal Medicine. Dr. Arayssi's current research interests focus on rheumatoid arthritis for which she has received funding as the Principal Investigator. She has also served as external reviewer for half a dozen journals.

**Dr. Hassan Al-Amin has joined WCMC-Q as Visiting Associate Professor of Psychiatry.** Dr. Al-Amin received his MD from the American University of Beirut and has been a faculty member at AUB since 1997. Dr. Al-Amin has been an active teacher since joining the American University of Beirut, involved in teaching Psychopathology, Ethics, and the required psychiatry rotation for the Family Medicine department as well as supervision of pharmacy students from Lebanese American University.

Dr. Al-Amin has served on a number of committees and boards including the Med II and Med III teaching committees, the Pharmacy and Therapeutic Committee, the Ambulatory Services Committee, and the committee to help internally displaced people in Lebanon. His current research interests include neurobiology of pain and schizophrenia and neuropsychopharmacology. He has served as Principal Investigator on a number of funded research projects.

### **Dr. Ziad Kronfol is named Distinguished Fellow of the APA**

Dr. Ziad Kronfol, associate professor of psychiatry, has been elected a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association (APA).

The APA is an organization of over 38,000 member physicians dedicated to ensuring humane care and effective treatment for persons with mental disorders. Dr. Kronfol and other recipients of the title will be honored at the convocation at the APA's annual meeting in May 2009 in San Francisco.

The Distinguished Fellow title, one of the highest honors the society can bestow, recognizes individuals for their outstanding contributions to the field of psychiatry. It is granted to those who have shown a sustained commitment and significant achievement in the field through teaching, volunteering, clinical contributions, scientific and scholarly contributions, and activity in the APA and other organizations.

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APA selection criteria state the hallmark of a Distinguished Fellow is “excellence, not mere competence”. Dr. Kronfol says that he feels honored to be considered in such company, and believes that it is indicative of the caliber of faculty at WCMC-Q.

“I think this is proof that the WCMC-Q faculty can contribute to academic achievements worldwide,” Dr. Kronfol added. “We are part of the ‘global village’, so to speak.”

Dr. Kronfol has been with the Medical College since the fall of 2007. He is the Director of the Psychiatry Clerkship, Co-director of the *Brain and Mind* course, and Consultant at Hamad Medical Corporation.

### **Dr. Michael Johnson publishes 5th edition of biology textbook**

The fifth edition of Dr. Michael Johnson’s popular textbook *Human Biology: Concepts and Current Issues* was released in bookstores and web retailers in January 2009. This is the first edition of *Human Biology* to be released since Dr. Johnson joined WCMC-Q as Associate Dean for Pre-Medical Education in the spring of 2008.

Previous versions of the book have been positively reviewed for its accessibility and for engaging students with a narrative style, interactive format, and tie-ins to current topics in medicine and public health. This latest edition features updated content and an expanded selection of teaching tools.

Among those is a new web blog ([www.humanbiologyblog.blogspot.com](http://www.humanbiologyblog.blogspot.com)) that highlights recent items in the news or medical journals that teachers can use for classroom discussions or springboards for student projects. The blog is updated frequently, and past entries are categorized for quick searches on specific topics.

The book design has also been enhanced to include a sleeker layout, attention-grabbing headline fonts, and rich graphics layered to add depth to the pages.

In the competitive field of student textbooks, *Human Biology* has consistently been among the best selling, and is widely used in classrooms. It is just one example of the broad range of research and scholarship conducted by WCMC-Q faculty who, in the last year, collectively published nearly 100 articles and book chapters. A comprehensive list of faculty publications is currently being compiled for posting on the WCMC-Q website in the very near future.

### **Forthcoming events**

#### **The Al Amal Hospital First Cancer Conference**

WCMC-Q will be exhibiting at the Al Amal Hospital First Cancer Conference taking place February 5-7 at the Doha Sheraton Hotel and at Hamad Medical Corporation Hajar Auditorium. Al Amal Hospital is a tertiary hospital treating hematology and oncology patients, and is the only cancer center in the state of Qatar.

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This conference provides a forum to discuss current information and trends in the field of cancer diagnosis and treatment, with particular focus on breast cancer, gastro-intestinal cancers including liver cancer, lymphomas and leukemia. More information, including a conference program can be found at [www.hmc.org.qa/aahfcc/programs.htm](http://www.hmc.org.qa/aahfcc/programs.htm).

### **The 7th Arabian/4th GCC Pan Arab Blood Transfusion Conference**

WCMC-Q will also be exhibiting at the 7th Arabian/4th GCC Pan Arab Blood Transfusion Conference from February 16-19 at the Doha Sheraton Hotel. The event is organized each year by the Arab Association of Blood Transfusion Services, a part of the Arab League. This is the first time Doha is hosting the event.

Scientists and specialists in the field of blood transfusion from the Arab world will meet experts from around the world to discuss topical issues of global and regional interest, review the latest cutting edge technical and scientific developments, and explore opportunities for creative future developments that will help improve performance in the field. Presentations will have a special emphasis on the organization of modern blood transfusion services, assuring the quality of blood products, and ensuring the safety of transfusion of blood and blood products.

Additional information about the conference can be found at [www.hmc.org.qa/qbtc/sp.htm](http://www.hmc.org.qa/qbtc/sp.htm).

### **Nobel Laureate to lecture at WCMC-Q campus**

WCMC-Q will host the next session of the Qatar Foundation Distinguished Lecture Series on March 17, 2009. The event will feature a lecture and dialogue session with Dr. Gunter Blobel, winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his discovery of protein targeting in living cells. Admission is free to the public with advance reservation. More information can be found on the Qatar Foundation website at [www.qf.org.qa](http://www.qf.org.qa).

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