



Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar

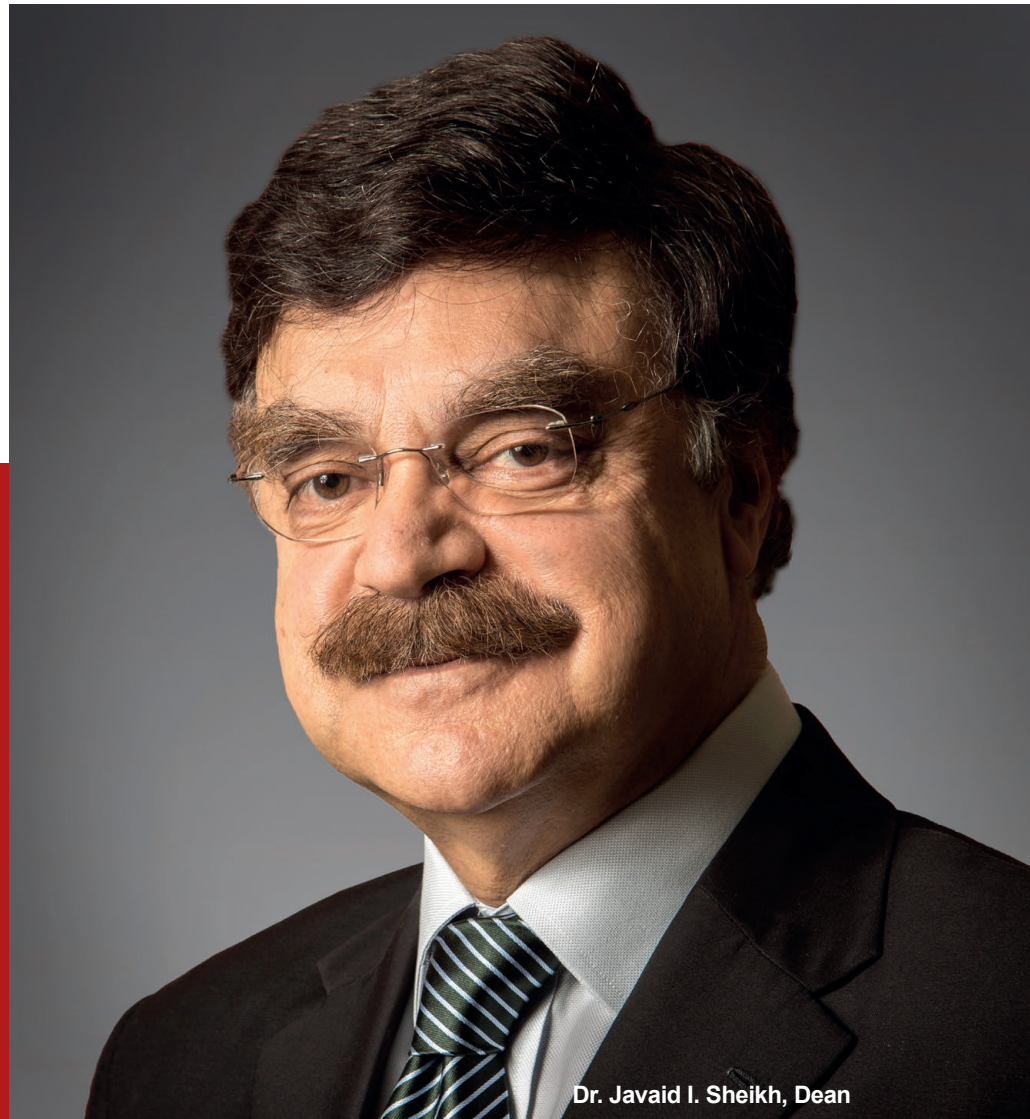


**ANNUAL REPORT
2024**



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Dr. Javaid I. Sheikh, Dean

Leadership Report

The challenge of achieving excellence in any sphere necessarily involves commitment to the principle of continued improvement, exploration and innovation. This principle, which underpins everything we do at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar, has been more relevant than at any point in our institution's history in the past year, as the implications of the twin revolutions in artificial intelligence and precision medicine have become increasingly apparent. I am gratified to say that our WCM-Q family made great strides in this respect over the past year, with our students, faculty, researchers and staff integrating new technologies in highly creative and imaginative ways to advance our shared mission to be a truly iconic institution with a global impact.

In this spirit of discovery and exploration, a key development this year was the launch of our new Precision Health Innovations and Education (PHIE) platform, which is working to facilitate collaboration among local and global experts on projects which translate the potential of new technologies into real advances in healthcare and medical education. Our first PHIE global congress was staged in São Paulo during the summer, which brought together leading researchers, educators and technologists from all over the world to discuss topics such as how Extended Reality (XR) is transforming classrooms and emergency rooms; how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing learning, disease diagnostics and treatments; and how wearable technologies are revealing the impact of climate change and global heating on health, to name just a few. Through the PHIE, we at WCM-Q can play a pivotal role in driving advances in healthcare and education, help bring some of the world's most inventive and creative minds together, and support the work of like-minded organizations, such as the newly launched Qatar Precision Health Institute.

You can read more about our growing role in this exciting new era of rapid evolution of the healthcare education ecosystem in the pages of this Annual Report.

Thank you all.

WCM-Q Joint Advisory Board Members

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

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President of Higher Education,
Qatar Foundation



Foundation and Pre-Medical Education



Foundation Program: Achieving the Dream

The Foundation Program at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) fosters the knowledge and skills of academically talented Qatari students and prepares them for success in the Six-Year Medical Program.

Through the implementation of individualized learning modalities, the Foundation Program enables students to broaden their knowledge while developing the requisite skills for achieving their full potential as independent lifelong learners. Foundation students earn college credit through courses in basic sciences and English and take select pre-medical courses, such as the global health and disease seminar and special studies in biology, an introductory statistics course. Students who successfully complete their courses earn a Certificate of Completion and, upon meeting the necessary criteria, promotion to WCM-Q's Six-Year Medical Program. This year, 20 students completed the Foundation Program.

Foundation students continued to pursue academic excellence throughout the 2023-2024 academic year, and seven foundation students were recognized for their achievements with inclusion on the Dean's Honor List.

The Foundation Program continues to improve by delivering engaging in-class projects and activities that encourage professional identity formation and student reflection. Throughout September 2023, students participated in simulation exercises coordinated with the Clinical Skills and Simulation Lab. Through participating in these simulations, students were able to put into practice lessons they had learned on the importance of communication skills and professionalism in medicine. In the Spring Semester, students took part in experiential learning at Sidra Medicine. Students shadowed doctors in various specializations and on inpatient hospital rounds. Throughout the course of the Sidra Medicine module, students further developed their understanding of physician professional identity, professionalism, and leadership in medicine.

During the Fall Semester, foundation students also engaged in a field visit to the "Kick-off a Healthier Lifestyle" event, coordinated by the Institute for Population Health (IPH) of WCM-Q. In addition to teaching students strategies for self-care as medical students and future physicians, the event also enabled them to better understand the role of lifestyle and preventive medicine in public health.

To further student understanding of professional identity and the importance of problem solving in medicine, students participated in a Design Thinking project in the Spring Semester, which gave them a valuable opportunity to apply their creative thinking skills to solve real-world problems, explore critical issues early in their medical education, and enhance their awareness of the daily challenges facing physicians. Many interesting concepts were presented by the students in this year's iteration of the Design Thinking project—for instance, a phone app that helps users to limit time spent on social media and better focus on studying, a suite of solutions to help individuals with neurodivergence to better communicate with their families, an approach for improving public knowledge of first-aid techniques, a method for preventing medical student burn out, and an app that could help international students at Education City to better navigate Qatar and the Education City community while at the same time connecting them to cultural activities that may interest them (including those of their home country). The app designed for international students was submitted to HBKU's Education City Innovative Entrepreneurship Program.

As part of the biological sciences curriculum, foundation students also explored the effects of pasteurization and fermentation on the probiotic characteristics of camel milk. Currently, under the mentorship of Dr. Ghizlane Bendriss, assistant professor of biology, foundation student Dounia El Baroudi, and Christina Esteban, laboratory coordinator, are involved in processing, analyzing, and writing an original article presenting the findings from this study. The study is a continuation of the work that was done in the foundation biology lab classes with Dr. Bendriss. Through initiatives within the Foundation Program, students engage with the medical community in Qatar through enriching learning





experiences that expose them to various medical perspectives and the multitude of career paths that are open to them. As in past years, the students attended the Medical Career Seminar Series, which hosts distinguished speakers from the local healthcare community. These seminars introduce students to WCM-Q alumni and healthcare professionals from WCM-Q, Hamad Medical Corporation, and Sidra Medicine, enabling students to benefit from the knowledge and experience of highly qualified individuals.

Among other participants, this year the Medical Career Seminar Series featured the participation of several distinguished alumni, including Dr. Tariq Chukir, endocrinology consultant and assistant professor of medicine at WCM-Q; Dr. Salah Mahmoud, first-year resident in otolaryngology at HMC and Sidra; Dr. Rana Emam, older adult psychiatry specialist at HMC; Dr. Mashael Khelaifi, senior pediatric anesthesiologist at HMC and assistant professor of clinical anesthesiology at WCM-Q; Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Abdumalek, internal medicine resident at McGill University, Montreal; and Dr. Ameen Al Aghil, ICU hospitalist at Brown Medicine and assistant professor of medicine at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. In addition, two former foundation students, Wadha Al Nabti, now a fourth-year medical student, and Maryam Al-Quradaghi, internal medicine resident at HMC, kindly took the time to speak with foundation students to give them a more comprehensive understanding of the journey through medical school and beyond.

In addition to the contributions of these inspiring alumni and medical students, WCM-Q faculty presenters also contributed to the Medical Career Seminar Series. Faculty presenters included Dr. Javaid Sheikh, dean; Dr. Ravinder Mamtani, vice dean for population health and lifestyle medicine; and Dr. Mohamud A. Verjee, the then assistant dean, medical student affairs and special projects. During the Medical Career Seminars, Dr. Verjee presented the class with a certificate symbolizing a donation to Operation Eyesight, supporting surgical sight restoration for an individual on behalf of the 2023-2024 Foundation Class.

In addition to initiatives that take place on campus, a significant portion of the foundation class and pre-medical students participated in the Pre-Medical Observership Program during the winter break at WCM-Q's affiliate hospitals, HMC and Sidra Medicine. This program exposes

students early in their educational journey to the healthcare system in Qatar and familiarizes them with the daily practices of medical professionals in various specialties. The program also aims to promote early career exploration and increase students' awareness of the challenges physicians face daily. Upon completing an observership, students submit a reflective essay and receive a certificate of participation. Forty-two pre-medical and foundation students (including 19 Qatari participants) experienced the life of a working doctor when they had the opportunity to shadow physicians at HMC and Sidra Medicine as part of the Pre-Medical Observership Program 2023-2024. Participating students gained valuable insights into various medical specialties and the unique rewards and challenges that come with each specialty.

In addition to the winter program, in the summer of 2023 and the summer of 2024 students took part in the Professional Identity Formation through Physician Shadowing Experience, also at HMC and Sidra Medicine. The Physician Shadowing Experience is designed to expose students to the medical profession in clinical settings. This experience aims to provide future medical students with knowledge, skills, and behaviors that foster professionalism in medical school and beyond. Furthermore, students gain an understanding and appreciation of healthcare professions in Qatar and begin constructing a professional identity early in their pre-medical education. Over the summer, students visited an affiliate hospital regularly and observed physician-patient interactions focusing on professionalism and communication dynamics. Students gained real-life insight into the everyday challenges of being a healthcare practitioner and developed a humanistic approach towards establishing a compassionate and caring relationship with their community. In the summer of 2023, 14 students participated. In the summer of 2024, 18 students participated, with 12 of the total number being Qatari nationals.

This year, students also participated in the Pre-medical-Foundation and Alumni Mentorship Program. One important goal of this program is to provide an opportunity to encourage the development of positive mentor-mentee relationships between foundation and pre-medical students and WCM-Q alumni. Mentees expanded their academic and medical knowledge, gained valuable advice from their mentors, and improved their professional communication skills, while participating in early career exploration. The program took place from January 11, 2023 to April 24, 2024, with 12 students being mentored by five WCM-Q alumni.

After completing their first academic year at WCM-Q, 13 foundation students also took part in the Post-Foundation Summer Program. This is a six-week summer session that takes place at the Ithaca campus of Cornell University in Upstate New York. It is an invaluable cultural experience that enriches students' personal growth, enhances their intercultural development, and increases their motivation to achieve their education and career goals.

The Foundation Program provides a unique experience for our students to grow academically and personally. It lays a solid foundation for students to be successful in the Six-Year Medical Program and contributes to building a cadre of future Qatari physicians and leaders.



The Pre-Medical Curriculum

The pre-medical component of Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar's Six-Year Medical Program continues to prepare students for the medical curriculum through engaging courses that encompass the natural and social sciences and humanities.

Through a variety of carefully conceived academic experiences, pre-medical program students develop the knowledge and skills that will be critical to their success in the medical program. Students advance through the pre-medical curriculum based on their academic performance, professionalism, and their commitment to the medical profession.

Students in the pre-medical curriculum continued to excel academically. In the Fall 2023 Semester, 46 pre-medical students (26 first-year students and 20 second-year students) were recognized for their academic achievements at WCM-Q with their inclusion in the Dean's Honor List. Additionally in the Spring 2024 Semester, 48 students (19 first-year students and 29 second-year students) were included in the Dean's Honor List.

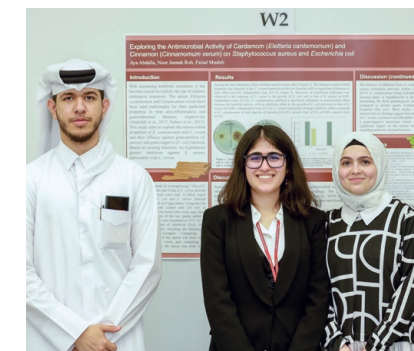
Pre-medical students pursued their academic passions this year through presenting research projects at a poster session as part of their Introduction to Biology II coursework, led by Dr. Kuei-Chiu Chen, Dr. Diego Lorenzetti, and Dr. Dalia Zakaria. Working in groups of two to three students, a total of 56 pre-med students presented 19 poster presentations on the anti-microbial effects of various natural substances. The research groups conducted literature reviews of existing research, produced research proposals with guidance from teaching faculty, conducted experiments in the lab, and then presented and discussed their findings with peers and faculty members at a poster session. Studies explored the anti-microbial effects of Nigella sativa oil, lemon juice, thyme oil, olive oil, cajuput oil, fennel oil, neem oil, the traditional Sudanese fermented drink abreh, cardamom, cinnamon, turmeric, ivy extract, saffron, clove oil, shilajit (a mineral found in the Himalayan region), sumac, wax apple peel extract, onion, rose extract, Japanese matcha, black tea, and propolis oil, a resin-like material made by bees from the buds of cone-bearing trees. Students commented that they enjoyed the research projects because, in addition to learning how to conduct research, they were also given the opportunity to contribute something new to the scientific literature.

In April 2024, more than 50 pre-medical students visited Aspetar to learn more about the applications of biomechanics and physics in sports medicine. Dr. Mohammad Yousef led the one-day visit, during which students toured various departments within the hospital, including the movement and assessment analysis laboratory and hydrotherapy tools, the altitude dormitory and climate chamber, the podiatry and virtual reality departments, the motion capture lab, and the medical imaging department. In each department, students were introduced to the specific tools and technologies used to diagnose and treat athletes. Furthermore, students had the privilege of meeting prominent physicians at Aspetar, including chief executive officer Dr. Abdulaziz Jaham Al Kuwari. Many students commented that the trip gave them invaluable insights as to how physics plays a role in patient care and rehabilitation.

Students also furthered their learning by engaging with physicians in the community. During the winter break, 42 pre-medical and foundation students had the opportunity to shadow physicians at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) and Sidra Medicine as part of the Pre-Medical Observership Program 2023-2024. The program promotes early career exploration and increases students' awareness of the challenges physicians face daily.

Furthermore, pre-medical students also took the opportunity to further develop their professional identities during the summer by participating in the Physician Shadowing Experience, which took place from May 19, 2024 to May 30, 2024 at a number of WCM-Q's affiliate hospitals. These included Sidra Medicine and the HMC hospitals Hamad General Hospital, Aisha Bint Hamad Al Attiyah Hospital, Al Khor Hospital, and Al Wakra Hospital. A total of 18 pre-medical and foundation students, including 12 Qatari students, participated in the program, which aims to provide future medical students with the knowledge, skills, and behaviors that foster professionalism in medical school and beyond.

In addition to the Observership Program and the Physician Shadowing Experience, pre-medical students also took the opportunity to engage with WCM-Q alumni through the Pre-medical and Foundation Alumni Mentorship Program. The program connects students with alumni physicians who are practicing in a specialty the student has an interest



in pursuing after graduation. A total of 18 pre-medical and foundation students, including nine Qatari students, participated in this program. Faculty have also contributed to initiatives that encourage promising high school students to develop their academic talents. In December 2023, Dr. Mohammed Yousef, Ms. Hana Saba, and Dr. Branislav Alaksic conducted ten training workshops for local high school students who went on to represent Qatar in the International Juniors Science Olympiad (IJSO) held at Srinakharinwirot University in Bangkok. The IJSO is a science competition for students aged 15 and under which promotes interest in science, fosters key skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking and experimentation, and encourages friendship among young people of diverse backgrounds and nationalities. After performing exceptionally well, the team from Qatar finished in third place in the team contest out of a field of more than 50 countries. Two members of Qatar's team also took third place in the individual contest. This faculty-led outreach activity was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and the Office of Student Outreach and Educational Development at WCM-Q. Such collaboration exemplifies the commitment of WCM-Q towards teaching and empowering the younger generation in Qatar, and the support for national efforts that aim to enhance local capacity-building in the fields of science.

Pre-medical faculty also mentored WCM-Q students on extensive research projects. Dr. Ali Chaari, assistant professor of biology, mentored medical students over the course of two years in their comprehensive research into microbiome-based diabetes therapies. From 2021-2023 medical and pre-medical students at WCM-Q screened more than 10,000 scientific publications to collect, summarize and present results from randomized control trials. The resulting papers were published in world-renowned, peer-reviewed scientific journals in the fields of metabolism, nutrition and pharmacology, and have already amassed a total of 37 citations in a very short space of time. The studies were prompted by research in recent years which has shown that some microbiome-modulating therapies, such as supplements of probiotics (helpful gut bacteria) and prebiotics (non-digestible fibers that help probiotics to grow), can help with management of type 2 diabetes by improving glycemic control and lipid profile, and reducing inflammation. Students involved in the research include Pradipta Paul, Ridhima Kaul, Basma Abdellatif, Maryam Al-Arabi, Yousef Al-Najjar, Aparajita Sarkar, Anfal Khan, Surin Lee, and Ibtihal Kamal. Other WCM-Q authors of these projects include



Dr. Majda Sebah, assistant professor of chemistry at WCM-Q, Ms. Manale Harfouche of the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Group at WCM-Q, and Dr. Reya Saliba, formerly of the Health Sciences Library at WCM-Q. In addition to publishing the research in scientific journals, the students also presented their findings at national conferences in Doha, with support from Qatar National Library, the WCM-Q Health Sciences Library, and the WCM-Q Pre-medical Division.

In addition to mentoring current WCM-Q students, pre-medical faculty also contributed the continuing education of healthcare practitioners in the State of Qatar. Throughout the 2023-2024 academic year, Dr. Chaari directed a webinar series in coordination with WCM-Q's Division of Continuing Professional Development titled, "Protein Misfolding Diseases and Neurodegeneration: From Experimental Approach to Clinical Therapy." Sessions were aimed at physicians, dentists, allied health practitioners, nurses, pharmacists, students, researchers, and educators. The series was designed to help participants identify the risk factors and patterns of neurodegenerative diseases, the mechanisms for developing common neurodegenerative diseases, the latest developments in diagnosis and treatment, the importance of artificial intelligence in disease diagnosis, and the associations between physical activity, sleep, and cognitive function in older adults.

The pre-medical division also hosted a visiting scholar in medical humanities during the 2023-2024 academic year. Dr. Fella Benabed visited WCM-Q from November 1-9, 2023 for a fully-funded research visit sponsored by Badji Mokhtar-Annaba University in Algeria. Her reason for the visit was WCM-Q's leadership role in the medical and health humanities in the MENA region, as evidenced by publications emanating from the Divisions of Pre-medical and Medical Education, and our sponsorship of the first and second Medical Humanities in the Middle East Conferences (2018 and 2020).

Throughout the 2023-2024 academic year, pre-medical faculty, staff, and students again demonstrated their commitment to their academic endeavors and continued community engagement. Furthermore, students specifically demonstrated their commitment to becoming knowledgeable and empathetic physicians. Activities within the pre-medical curriculum continue to provide opportunities for students to grow as medical professionals.



Medical Education

Division of Medical Education

The Six-Year Medical Program at WCM-Q integrates scientific study with patient care. As such, research and the advancement of medical knowledge are not seen as ends in themselves, but as essential components of a thorough medical education that promotes lifelong learning. This accords with the vision and commitment of WCM-Q towards becoming an iconic organization with global impact in education, research, and population health.

Medical Education Mission

In alignment with the tripartite mission of Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar, the Division of Medical Education aims to promote excellence in education, patient care and research. To this end, the mission is to:

1. Inspire and graduate a diverse, inclusive and socially competent community of outstanding physicians dedicated to lifelong learning and leadership in caring for patients and alleviating suffering.
2. Provide a robust foundation for our graduates that equips them with the knowledge and skills to enter graduate medical education and allows them to succeed in any branch of medicine.
3. Contribute to biomedical and population-based research that addresses the needs of the local community and the region and aligns with developments in global health.
4. Contribute to the advancement of the healthcare sector and the development of healthcare policies.

Key Achievements and Milestones

2004

Medical training commences: The first ever White Coat Ceremony at WCM-Q marks the transition of the inaugural class from pre-medical students to doctors-in-training.

2008

WCM-Q's first physicians: The inaugural class graduates and the first WCM-Q alumni join residency programs at Hamad Medical Corporation and at elite hospitals in North America.

2016

The virtuous circle: The first WCM-Q alumnus to return as a faculty member is welcomed back to the college.

2016

Embracing the future: The launch of the innovative new WCM-Q medical curriculum brings increased focus on the development of Patient Care and Physicianship (PCP) skills to meet the demands of 21st century healthcare. The two-year pre-medical curriculum and the four-year medical curriculum are integrated to form the Six-Year Medical Program.

2018

Building local capacity: The college's tenth graduating class contains the greatest number of Qatari nationals in WCM-Q's history up to that point.

2022

Global recognition: The medical curriculum at WCM-Q gains international accreditation.

Graduation of the Class of 2024

The graduation ceremony of the Class of 2024 saw 50 newly qualified physician-scientists presented with their Cornell MD degrees before an audience of family, friends, WCM-Q faculty, and faculty visiting from Weill Cornell Medicine in New York.

The Class of 2024 is WCM-Q's largest graduating cohort to date. In attendance to witness the special occasion were H.E. Dr. Hamad bin Abdulaziz Al-Kuwari, minister of state and president of Qatar National Library; Dr. Hareb Mohammed Said El Gaberi, assistant undersecretary for higher education affairs, representing H.E. Buthaina Bint Ali Al Jabr Al Nuaimi, minister of education and higher education; H.E. Mr. Timmy Davis, the United States ambassador to Qatar; H.E. Mr. Khaled Badr Al-Mutairi, ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Qatar; and Mrs. Abeer Al-Khalifah, president of pre-university education at Qatar Foundation.

Dr. Robert A. Harrington, dean of Weill Cornell Medicine in New York, was in attendance to confer the medical degrees upon the graduating students. Also in attendance from the US were Dr. Mary Loeffelholz,

The graduates of WCM-Q's Class of 2024 take the Hippocratic Oath.



dean of Cornell University's School of Continuing Education; and Dr. Rainu Kaushal, senior associate dean of clinical research, chair of the Department of Population Health Sciences, the Nanette Laitman Distinguished Professor of Population Health Sciences at Weill Cornell Medicine, and physician-in-chief of population health sciences at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center.

The Class of 2024 comprises 26 women and 24 men, hailing from 13 different countries: Qatar, Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Egypt, India, Jordan, Kuwait, Pakistan, Sweden, Syria, Taiwan, and the US. WCM-Q has now produced 596 medical doctors serving patients and pursuing research in leading healthcare institutions in Qatar, the US and all over the world since the college's inaugural graduation ceremony in 2008. Eighteen of this year's new doctors are Qatari nationals.

Dr. Javaid Sheikh, dean of WCM-Q, warmly congratulated the new doctors, and implored them to seek support from the 'WCM-Q family' as they embark on their new careers.

The WCM-Q Class of 2024



Match Day Post-Graduate Training Placement Success

The students of the Class of 2024 celebrated a highly successful Match Day, gaining places on residency training programs at some of the world's best healthcare institutions, including Hamad Medical Corporation, Sidra Medicine, NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, Yale New Haven Hospital, Cleveland Clinic, Case Western University Hospital, Virginia Commonwealth University Health System, the University of Michigan, and many others.

The medical specialties the new doctors of the Class of 2024 are pursuing are anatomical pathology, anesthesiology, dermatology, emergency medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, neurology, ophthalmology, orthopedic surgery, otolaryngology, pediatrics, psychiatry, and diagnostic radiology.

Final-year medical students celebrated a highly successful Match Day.





Dr. Javaid Sheikh addresses the Opening Exercises ceremony.

White Coat Ceremony

The new class of trainee physicians at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) donned the white coats of their future profession for the first time at the Opening Exercises ceremony, which took place in August 2023.

There were 44 medical students in this year's intake, of whom 22 are Qatari nationals. In total, 41 members of the class were promoted after completing the two-year WCM-Q pre-medical curriculum, while three joined from other universities.

WCM-Q's new cohort of first-year medical students received their white coats at the college's Opening Exercises ceremony.



Cornell Stars 2024



Medical students had the opportunity to develop their core physicianship skills of communication, interaction, and performing basic clinical examinations for children during the annual Cornell Stars event that took place in March 2024.

The medical students performed basic clinical skills, including physical examinations of the youngsters at WCM-Q's state-of-the-art Clinical Skills & Simulation Lab (CSSL), which features several practical examination rooms that mimic a clinic.

The Cornell Stars event brings together faculty, students, staff, and their children.

Medical Student Career and Academic Advising Program

The academic advising program forms part of the regular career advice program led by Dr. Mai Mahmoud, director of student academic advising. The program supports students by facilitating their engagement with advisors during the four years of the medical curriculum.

The broad objectives of the academic advising program are to help students make informed career decisions, provide support for students preparing residency program applications, and to help students achieve their full potential in their residency of choice. Additionally, as part of the program, career seminars were held twice in the academic year for first- and second-year students, where faculty were invited to share their career perspectives in roundtable discussions, addressed any questions related to their day-to-day jobs, and explored the attributes and experiences required to pursue their particular specialty.

Student Research Forum

The appetite for innovation and scientific discovery of students was demonstrated during the inaugural annual Student Research Forum.

Students, faculty, staff and visitors thronged the halls of WCM-Q, viewing an impressive display of 78 scientific posters, discussing the research projects with the authors, watching oral presentations, and finally witnessing the announcement of the winners of the awards competition.

The event also featured a presentation by Prof. George P. Chrousos, a highly distinguished pediatrician, endocrinologist, and neurobiologist. There then followed a series of messages about the impact of research on clinical practice by four returning WCM-Q alumni who now work at leading healthcare institutions in Qatar and the US.

Six oral research presentations were then given by students before the one-day event concluded with the announcement of the winning students in the research contest.



Left to right: Dr. Nayef Mazloum, Dr. George P. Chrousos, Dr. Khaled Machaca, and Dr. Thurayya Arayssi

Visiting Professorship Program

Residency program directors from elite US academic health centers visited to learn about the college's education programs and offer career development advice to students during the college's annual Visiting Professorship Program (VPP).

The Visiting Professorship Program (VPP) began in 2013 and is held annually to help establish strong collaborative links between WCM-Q and other elite medical institutions around the world.

This year, the VPP welcomed 16 residency program directors from 15 leading US medical schools, including the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine & Science, Duke University School of Medicine, the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Case Western University School of Medicine, and McGovern Medical School at the University of Texas, among many others. The visiting professors are directors of residency programs specialized in internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, physical medicine and rehabilitation, psychiatry, pediatrics, emergency medicine, surgery, family medicine, and anesthesiology.



WCM-Q students complete summer research projects

In the summer of 2023, 34 first-year medical students from WCM-Q completed summer research projects in Qatar, the US, and the UK.

The projects are part of the advanced biomedical sciences research (ABSR) elective course, which offers students the opportunity to pursue a personal scholarly experience in biomedical sciences and develop a fundamental understanding of new areas of biomedical science relevant to clinical medicine.

Of the 34 students who participated, 20 of this year's participants successfully applied for the Medical Student Research Award (MSRA). Established in 2015, the MSRA is designed to increase student involvement in research, encourage students to take the lead in seeking out research opportunities, train students to secure labs and write research proposals, and centralize available research funding opportunities for students. Through the MSRA, WCM-Q offers funding to medical students to conduct research anywhere in the world for eight continuous weeks during the summer between the first and second years of the medical curriculum.

The students spent the summer working on research projects in the areas of cardiology, neurology, oncology, genetics, and endocrinology, among other topics, with placements at Weill Cornell Medicine's specialized centers in New York, with hospital partner NewYork-Presbyterian, at Houston Methodist Hospital, Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School, Purdue University, Columbia University, Imperial College London, and WCM-Q.

Medical Education Research Grant Program

The Medical Education Research Grant Program (MERGP) was launched in July 2017 to promote scholarship in medical education. To date, six cycles have been completed, 16 projects have received funding and 12 projects have been completed.

MERGP 2024 Awardees:

- Dr. Anna Halama: Gaming to Facilitate Learning – A Pilot Project: Cancer Genomics and Tumor Evolution as a Test Case.
- Dr. Liam Fernyhough: Enhancing Ophthalmoscopy Skills in Medical Education.

Honoring Faculty and Recognizing Teaching Excellence

The WCM-Q Excellence in Teaching Awards 2023 recognized the contributions of outstanding educators over the past year.

The annual awards ceremony celebrates the work of all WCM-Q medical program teaching faculty while also recognizing outstanding contributions made by individual faculty members to the education of students at WCM-Q. This year saw 12 awards presented in eight categories for contributions to medical education, plus 11 winners in four categories of the 2023 Convocation Awards, which similarly recognize excellence in teaching and commitment to the academic performance and personal development of students.

The Excellence in Teaching Awards recognize the outstanding contributions made by faculty and teaching specialists at WCM-Q.



Winners of the Excellence in Teaching Awards 2023

Medical Education Awards

Excellence in Teaching in the Foundational Sciences Curriculum:

Dr. Mange Manyama

Excellence in Teaching in the Clinical Curriculum:

Dr. Salman Al Jerdi, Dr. Mahrukh Rizvi

Excellence in Leadership in the Foundational Sciences Curriculum:

Dr. Sean Holroyd

Excellence in Leadership in the Clinical Curriculum:

Dr. Salman Al Jerdi

Visiting Faculty Excellence in Teaching – Foundational Sciences Curriculum:

Dr. Meredith Turetz, Dr. Amir Soumekh

Visiting Faculty Excellence in Teaching – Clinical Curriculum:

Dr. Joseph Safdieh

Excellence in Mentoring in the Area of Concentration:

Dr. Charbel Abi Khalil, Dr. Mange Manyama

Excellence in Educational Innovation:

Dr. Moune Jabre, Dr. Sahar Mohamed

Convocation Awards 2023

The Senior List (WCM-Q Faculty): Dr. Salman Al Jerdi, Dr. Tariq Chukir, Dr. Mange Manyama, Dr. Ali Ibrahim Rahil (HMC), Dr. Ameer Raoof, Dr. Mahrukh Rizvi, Dr. Ali Sultan

The Senior List (WCM-NY Visiting Faculty): Dr. Mark Pecker

Humanism in Medicine Award: Dr. Salman Al Jerdi

House Staff Teaching Award: Dr. Sherif Ashraf, Dr. Thanu Shree

Faculty Achievements

This year the faculty in the Division of Medical Education disseminated 11 medical educational and research presentations at local and international conferences and published 51 articles on a wide variety of topics in highly reputable journals.

Notably, several of our faculty received scholarly prizes and grant awards for research in medical education, appointments to various editorial boards and professional societies and external collaborations:

- Dr. Mohamud Verjee was appointed a Fellow and Life Member of the Royal Society of Medicine, Wimpole Street, London, England, UK.
- Dr. Mange Manyama was appointed a Member of the Education Committee of the Academy for Professionalism in Health Care (APHC), United States.
- Dr. Moune Jabre was appointed a Member of the Mentorship Committee of the Academy for Professionalism in Health Care, United States.
- Dr. Ameer Raoof, formerly associate professor of anatomy in radiology, was nominated and chosen as the recipient of the prestigious 2024 American Association of Clinical Anatomists (AACA) R. Benton Adkins, Jr. Distinguished Service Award.

The Office of Alumni Affairs: Engaging with Graduates

The vision of the Office of Alumni Affairs office is to create a community of alumni that contributes to the health and wellbeing of people locally, regionally, and globally through care, teaching, discovery, and policy development with the mission of developing the next generation of leaders in healthcare for the State of Qatar.

To this end, representatives from Alumni Affairs engaged with the graduates during the rehearsals for the commencement ceremony that took place on May 8, 2024, at the Sheraton Hotel. The team welcomed the graduates to the alumni community and shared relevant resources.





Alumni Affairs Activities

This year the Office of Alumni Affairs organized several social events giving the opportunity to alumni from different classes to come together, reunite, connect with each other, and catch up with their colleagues. A family social event took place in December 2023 at Heenat Salma Farm where alumni and their families had the engaging activities. Alumni Affairs also organized a Suhoor for WCM-Q alumni, which took place in March 2024.

The Office of Alumni Affairs has also been supporting the WCM-Q alumni community with training opportunities. Consequently, seven alumni earned the ILM5 Diploma Certificate in Leadership and Management, a qualification designed to develop the managerial skills of practicing middle managers and prepare them for senior roles.



Seven alumni completed the ILM5 Diploma Certificate in Leadership and Management.

Alumni CPD Conference

Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) hosted a conference for primary care physicians organized entirely by graduates of the college—the first time such a conference has been held.

The two-day conference, titled Updates in Primary Care: Specialist-Led Case-Based Discussions Highlighting the Latest Evidence and Best Clinical Practices, saw WCM-Q-trained physicians deliver in-depth lectures, engaging roundtable discussions, and debates to share the latest updates in clinical best practice with local family physicians, general practitioners, and primary care doctors.

The inaugural WCM-Q alumni-led conference shared the latest updates in primary care best practice with more than 80 local physicians.



Debate Club's 15th Anniversary

The cut and thrust of academic debate took on a new twist when graduates of the college returned to take on a team of current students. The special Past vs Present Students debate was held to mark the WCM-Q Debate Club's 15th anniversary, or quinquennial, and featured a team of four alumni debating against four current students on the motion, 'This House Regrets the Rise of TikTok Videos that Promote Self-Diagnosis of Mental Health Conditions.'

The alumni team (right) faced off against current students in a lively contest held to mark five years of academic debate at WCM-Q.



Alumni Achievements



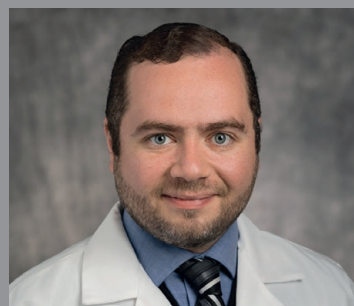
Dr. Nour Abuhadra



Dr. Emad Mansoor



Dr. Navid Iqbal



Dr. Sadeer Al-Kindi



Dr. Ghaith Abu-Zeinah

Two WCM-Q alumni who now work at elite healthcare institutions in the US won prestigious awards for their work in research and mentorship.

Breast cancer specialist Dr. Nour Abuhadra, who graduated with distinction from WCM-Q in 2015, won the 2023 Conquer Cancer Career Development Award presented by the American Society of Clinical Oncology. Dr. Abuhadra is now at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, renowned as one of the world's leading cancer treatment centers, where she is co-director of the Rare Breast Cancer Program, which she established. She is also assistant attending physician in the center's Breast Medicine Service, and co-section head of the Triple Negative Breast Cancer Clinical Research Program. Dr. Abuhadra has a special interest in rare breast cancer subtypes, with a particular focus on metaplastic breast cancers - a rare and aggressive form which is very difficult to treat.

In addition, Dr. Emad Mansoor of the Class of 2014 was awarded the Peter Agre Award for the Best House Staff Research Mentor of the Year, as voted for by the graduating class of the Internal Medicine Residency Program at Case Western Reserve University/University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio, of which he is the associate program director. Dr. Mansoor also holds the positions of assistant professor of medicine, and assistant program director of the gastroenterology fellowship at the same institution.

Three alumni from WCM-Q were among the inaugural cohort of 36 physicians to receive the prestigious Qatar Medical Specialization Certificate from the Qatar Board of Medical Specialties (QBMS). The certification marks a significant milestone in enhancing medical proficiency in Qatar.

Dr. Navid Iqbal (Class of 2016), an emergency medicine resident at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), and two graduates from the Class of 2019—Dr. Angela Dandan, a fellow psychiatrist at HMC, and Dr. Sahar Mahadik, a resident anesthesiologist at HMC—were among those who received the certificates.

Dr. Sadeer Al-Kindi (Class of 2013), an attending physician, assistant professor of medicine and radiology, co-director of the Center for Vascular Metabolic Disease, and medical director of the Cardiovascular Phenomics Core at University Hospitals/Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, had his work featured in prestigious journals such as *JAMA Cardiology*, *Nature*, and *Current Problems in Cardiology*. His research explores satellite imagery and advanced analytical tools for health assessments and resource allocation, AI-enabled calcium-omics for cardiovascular risk prediction, and racial and urban/rural disparities involving geographical proximity to cardiovascular clinical trial sites.

Recognition also goes to another Class of 2013 graduate, Dr. Ghaith Abu-Zeinah, a hematologist-oncologist at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital and an instructor at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York, who received the American Society of Hematology (ASH) Scholar Award in the category of Clinical Research Junior Faculty Scholars for his research in machine learning for blood diseases.

Dr. Vignesh Shanmugam (Class of 2016), a pathologist and postdoctoral research fellow at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard in Boston, Massachusetts, was honored with the 2024 Damon Runyon Physician-Scientist Training Award for demonstrating exceptional promise and novel approaches to fighting cancer.

Dr. Shidin Balakrishnan (Class of 2012), a clinical research scientist at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), led a high-impact research project funded by the Qatar National Research Fund's (QNRF) National Priorities Research Program (NPRP). His work on developing pre-operative CT and intra-operative ultrasound fusion for hepatobiliary procedures earned him the "Rising Star" award at HMC's 11th Stars of Excellence awards (SOE2024). Additionally, his project on AI-driven surgical care improvements was awarded a three-year grant from the Qatar Research Development and Innovation (QRDI) Council. For his innovative research work, Dr. Balakrishnan also received the "Best Paper" award at the IEEE 36th International Symposium on Computer Based Medical Systems (IEEE CBMS2023).

In recognition of his dedication to education and mentorship, Dr. Shehryar Khan (Class of 2015), WCM-Q alum and psychiatrist at Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services-Grand Rapids, Michigan, was honored with the Excellence in Teaching Award by the 2023 graduating class at Pine Rest/Michigan State University Residency and Fellowship Programs.

Dr. Dana Al Ali (Class of 2022), a second-year resident at Sidra Medicine, won the best resident award at the institution's second Medical Education Day, designed to honor its 2023-2024 graduate residents, fellows, and medical students.

The contributions of WCM-Q alums extend beyond research and clinical practice to admirable community service initiatives. Dr. Mahruk Rizvi (Class of 2011), a critical and intensive care consultant at HMC, and her all-female team provided vital medical care to the people of Swat Valley in Pakistan during a mission with the Islamic Medical Association of North America (IMANA). The team successfully delivered medical care to women who often feel uncomfortable seeking medical attention due to a lack of female physicians.

WCM-Q alums have also been sharing their expertise with the next generation of doctors and the community. Among them, Dr. Sulaiman Alshakhs (Class of 2021), a psychiatry resident at HMC, joined hundreds of fellow QF alums at the 2024 Qatar Foundation Annual Alumni Forum. He was selected to lead a workshop exploring the use of mental health to promote social change and advocacy, aligning with the forum's theme of social responsibility and moral commitment.



Dr. Vignesh Shanmugam



Dr. Shidin Balakrishnan



Dr. Shehryar Khan



Dr. Dana Al Ali



Dr. Mahruk Rizvi



Well Cornell
Medicine-Qatar
Continuing Professional
Development

Symposium

Tackling Obesity:
Multidisciplinary Approaches
for Comprehensive Care

Date: September 2, 2023 | Time: 7:45 am – 6:15 pm
Venue: Well Cornell Medicine-Qatar



SCAN ME TO REGISTER

Continuing Professional
Development

Continuing Professional Development

The Division of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) has been committed to supporting the healthcare community for more than a decade by providing high-quality professional development opportunities based on identified needs and the latest scientific and medical developments that continue to increase competence, enhance performance in practice and lead to improved healthcare for patients.

Our guiding principle, “embracing lifelong learning,” underscores our commitment to the continuous improvement of patient care and healthcare outcomes. Additionally, we align with the college’s vision to solidify its status as an iconic institution with global impact in education, research and population health.

To achieve this, we have ensured that WCM-Q remains compliant with the standards of the local accrediting body, the Department of Healthcare Professions-Accreditation Section (DHP-AS) of the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), and the international accrediting body the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME).

CPD Team Enabling Lifelong Learning

The division is led by Dr. Thurayya Arayssi, professor of medicine and vice dean of academic and curricular affairs, who is supported by Ms. Deema Al-Sheikhly, director of medical education and continuing professional development, Dr. Phyllis Navti, assistant director, Ms. Laudy Mattar, manager, and Ms. Zara Lamri, marketing manager. The remainder of the team includes the CPD coordinators Ms. Ameenah Abdul Rahim, Ms. Safia Rabia, Ms. Asha Fernandes, marketing assistant Ms. Yousra Selatnia, and CPD analyst Dr. Saima Ali.

Student Contributions to CPD Excellence

In the past two years our medical students have demonstrated great dedication and adaptability, significantly contributing to the seamless execution of remote CPD activities. Their contribution includes proficiently guiding panelists on the Zoom platform and managing chats, Q&A, audio, video, breakout rooms, polling features and moderating discussions. This collaboration contributed to our mission and vision by enhancing our CPD activities’ quality, accessibility, and interactivity, and enriching the WCM-Q CPD program. Their contributions remain invaluable and continue to set a commendable standard for the roles they undertake. The division extends its thanks to: Kareem Aly, Shaunak Sarker and Sumaya Hussein Ali (all Class of 2026).

Medical Student Support: Enhancing CPD Outreach and Operations

Monthly social media health awareness posts

For more than three years, our collaboration with medical students has continued to enhance the mission of our CPD program. Our student colleagues provide input in social media support roles, conducting research and producing content on specific monthly health awareness topics, which are subsequently reviewed and edited by the CPD team. The finalized material is then posted by the students on five social media platforms: X, LinkedIn, Instagram, Threads and Facebook.

Live social media posts during CPD activities

Students also play an important role in covering events in real-time on X and Instagram Threads, as well as providing updates on other social media platforms. This strategy brings fresh perspectives, engages a broader audience through the students’ relatable voices, and expands our educational reach beyond traditional limits to diverse healthcare professional communities.

These collaborations have also been beneficial to the students as they have gained exposure to diverse clinical topics, enabling them to learn simultaneously and inspiring them to become lifelong learners. The division extends its thanks to Ahamed A.R. Lebb (Class of 2025), Zoya Salahuddin (Class of 2027), Pradipta Paul (Class of 2025), and Kuan-Han Chen (Class of 2024).



Ahamed A.R. Lebbe



Kuan-Han Chen



Pradipta Paul



Zoya Salahuddin

Key Achievements

Major Growth in Credit Hours: Significant increase in credit hours awarded. DHP credits increased by **76%** (17,731 to 31,200) and AMA credits by **46%** (3,842 to 5,604).

Expanded Reach: Participant numbers increased by **67%**, rising from 11,774 to 19,666, including a **93%** increase for Grand Rounds and a **193%** increase for the Biostatistics for Healthcare Practitioners Live Webinar Series.

High Satisfaction Rates: Participant feedback surveys consistently indicated high satisfaction rates, with **90%** of respondents reporting that the CPD programs met or exceeded their expectations.

Public Awareness and Community Engagement: Awareness and engagement increased significantly via CPD newsletters, press releases, magazine editorials, and social media campaigns on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, X, YouTube, and Threads, reaching **53,651** social media followers, connecting with **12,117** recipients via mass emails and expansion with **2,000** additional SMS and WhatsApp recipients.

CPD Research: New initiatives resulted in impactful publications and international presentations and workshops, advancing healthcare practices, keeping professionals up to date, and improving patient care outcomes.

Achieving Our Mission and Vision

Participants, accredited activities and credit hours awarded in 2023/2024



Target Audience

The target audience includes faculty, staff, alumni of WCM-Q, and physicians and other healthcare professionals both locally in the State of Qatar and globally. From July 2023 to June 2024, more than 19,000 healthcare practitioners and educators participated in activities that were DHP and ACCME accredited (Figure 1).

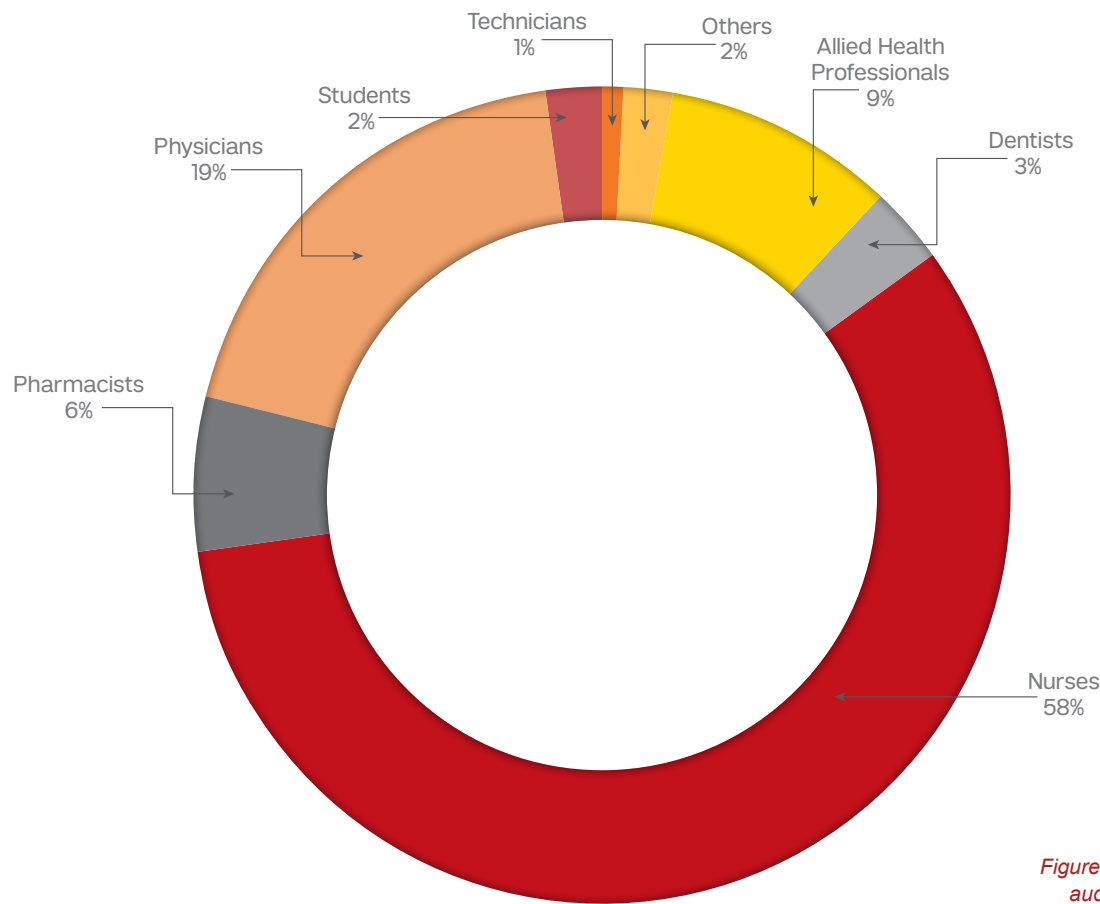


Figure 2: Showing target audience breakdown.

Desirable Practitioner Attributes

CPD activities are developed in the context of desirable physician/ healthcare practitioner attributes that focus on elements of the Institute of Medicine (IOM), the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) and/or the Inter-Professional Education Collaborative competencies (Figure 3).

All CPD presentations must be based on evidence that is accepted within the profession of medicine, be scientifically sound and free of commercial bias.

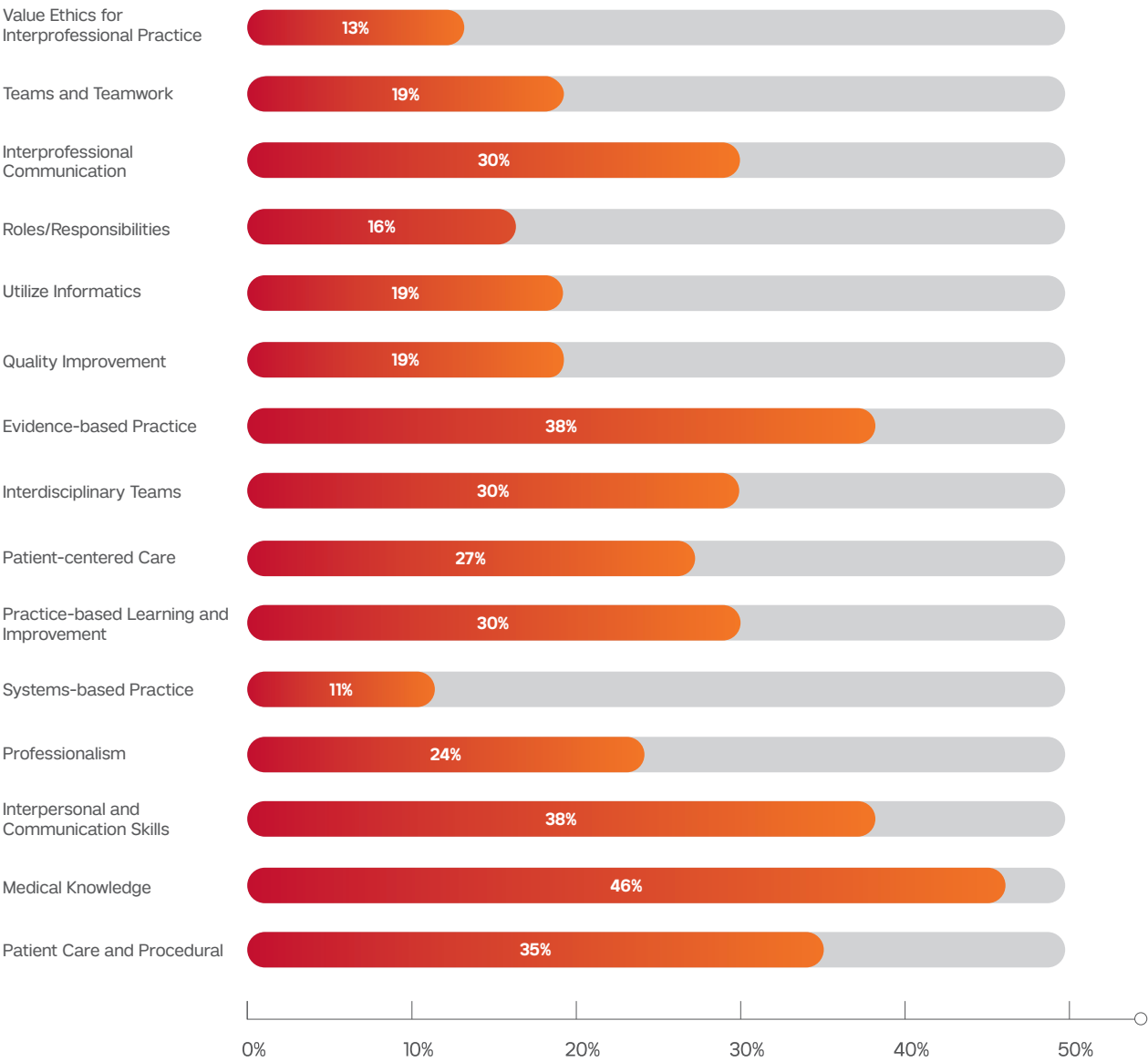


Figure 3: Showing desirable practitioner attributes.

CPD Product Portfolio 2023-2024

Key features of CPD at WCM-Q

- Wide variety of CPD activities
- A mix of online, blended and/or self-directed learning modalities
- Activities by world-class healthcare professionals
- Accredited locally and internationally
- Promotes latest evidence-based best practices
- Global network of healthcare experts
- Committed to “Embracing Lifelong Learning”



LIVE
ACTIVITIES

23



SERIES

7



CERTIFICATES

2



ENDURING
MATERIALS

8

Figure 4: Showing product portfolio breakdown.

Activities Accredited in 2023-2024

Live activities

- Applied Biostatistics using STATA (online)
- Adventures in Adolescent and Pediatric Gynecology: A Workshop with Practical Tips and Strategies for Effective Care (in-person)
- Bridging the Gap Medical Interpreters Training (in-person)
- Fostering Professionalism in Medical Education: Exploring Effective Approaches for Diverse Learners (in-person)
- Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare (in-person)
- Introduction to Systematic Review and Meta-analysis: Principles and Practice (in-person)
- Introduction to Team-Based Learning (in-person)
- Learning and Applying Essentials of Mixed Methods Research (MMR) (online)
- Mastering Emotional Intelligence – Level 1 & 2 (in-person)
- Sample Size Determination for Clinical Research (online)
- Simulation Educator Course: Designing and Debriefing Effective Simulations (in-person)
- Systematic Review: An Introductory Workshop (in-person)
- Fundamentals of Quantitative and Qualitative Research (online)
- Play and Learn: Gamification for Enhanced Healthcare Learning and Engagement (online)
- Tackling Obesity: Multidisciplinary Approaches for Comprehensive Care (in-person)
- The Future of Radiation Physics in Medicine (online)
- The Impact of Visual Design in Healthcare Settings: Understanding the Unlikely Connection Between Design and Patient Outcomes (online)
- Understanding Basics of Health Research (in-person)
- Updates in Primary Care: Specialist-Led Case-Based Discussions Highlighting the Latest Evidence and Best Clinical Practices (in-person)

Series

- Biostatistics for Healthcare Practitioners Live Webinar Series (online)
- WCM-Q Grands Rounds Series (online)
- Medical Education Journal Club (online & in person)
- Optimizing Medication Safety in Primary Care & Outpatient Settings: An Interactive Series (online)
- Population Health & Well-being Series (online)
- Protein Misfolding Diseases and Neurodegeneration: From Experimental Approach to Clinical Therapy (online)
- Exploring Professionalism in Diverse Learning Environments (online)

Certificates

- Certificate in the Analysis of Medical Data: Applied Biostatistics for Healthcare Professionals (hybrid activity)
- Certificate in Lifestyle Medicine (online)

Enduring material

- Training in Music-based Therapeutic Interventions: From the Fundamentals to the Multidisciplinary Implementation
- Safe Use of Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy: Best Practice Recommendations
- Approach to Medical Management of Obesity
- Ovarian Reserve Testing and Elective Egg Freezing
- The Dying Child: Special Considerations in Working with Terminal Ill Pediatric Patients and Their Families

Educational Activities to Meet the Needs of the Healthcare Communities

Series

WCM-Q Grand Rounds Series

10,238 healthcare professionals completed this series of 12 Grand Rounds.

Accreditation: 9,514.25 DHP hours and 854.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ issued.

Protein Misfolding Diseases and Neurodegeneration: From Experimental Approach to Clinical Therapy

31 healthcare professionals completed this series of 8 sessions out of 10.

Accreditation: 33.25 DHP hours and 3.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ issued.

Biostatistics for Healthcare Practitioners Live Webinar Series

126 healthcare professionals completed this course.

Accreditation: 263 DHP hours and 88.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ issued.

Optimizing Medication Safety in Primary Care & Outpatient Settings: An Interactive Series:

427 healthcare professionals completed the first three webinars of the series.

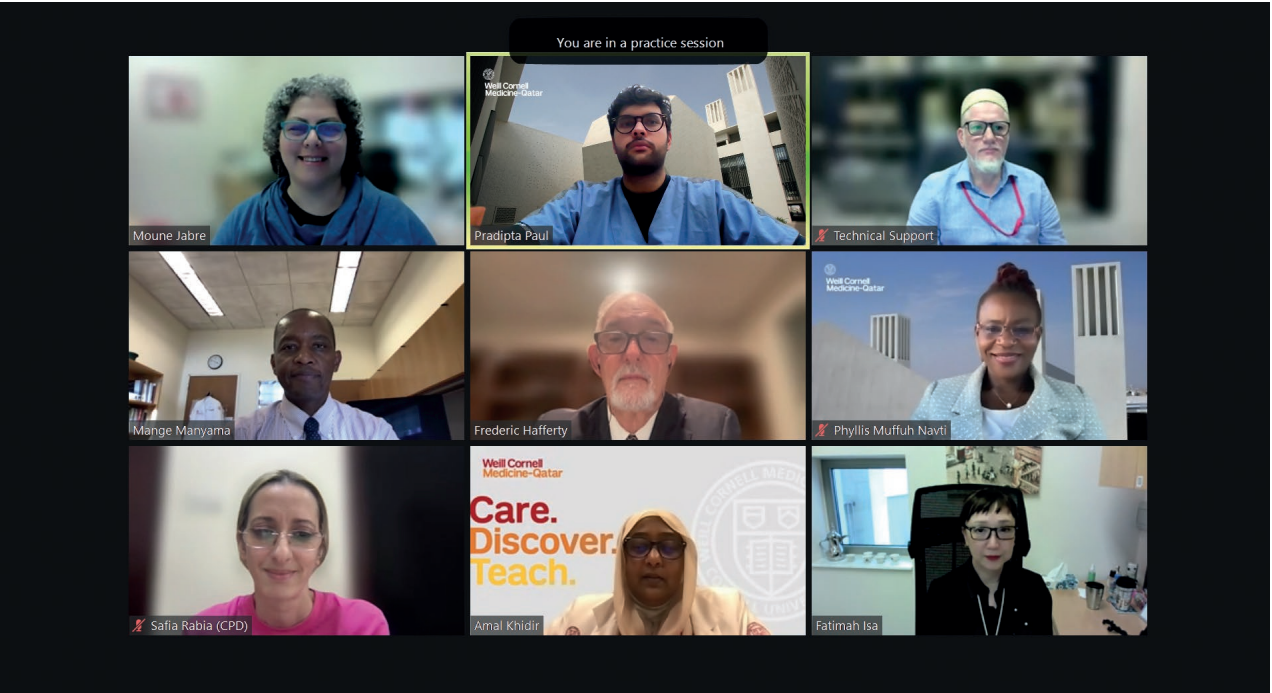
Accreditation: 610.75 DHP hours and 66.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ issued.

Exploring Professionalism in Diverse Learning Environment

1,143 healthcare professionals completed this course.

Accreditation: 1,570.25 DHP hours and 176.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ issued.

Exploring Professionalism in Diverse Learning Environments Series



This series was launched in 2023 and directed by Dr. Moune Jabre, assistant professor of clinical obstetrics and gynecology, Dr. Amal Khidir, associate professor of pediatrics, Dr Mange Manyama, assistant professor of anatomy in radiology and Dr. Fatimah Isa, director of clinical & faculty affairs and assistant professor of psychology teaching in medicine.

The series aimed to enable healthcare professionals to explore how to foster professionalism in diverse learning environments and encouraged participants to use coaching skills to promote professionalism and remediate professionalism lapses in a multicultural context.

1,143 healthcare professionals completed this series. Accreditation: 1,570.25 DHP hours and 176.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ issued.

Research Methods

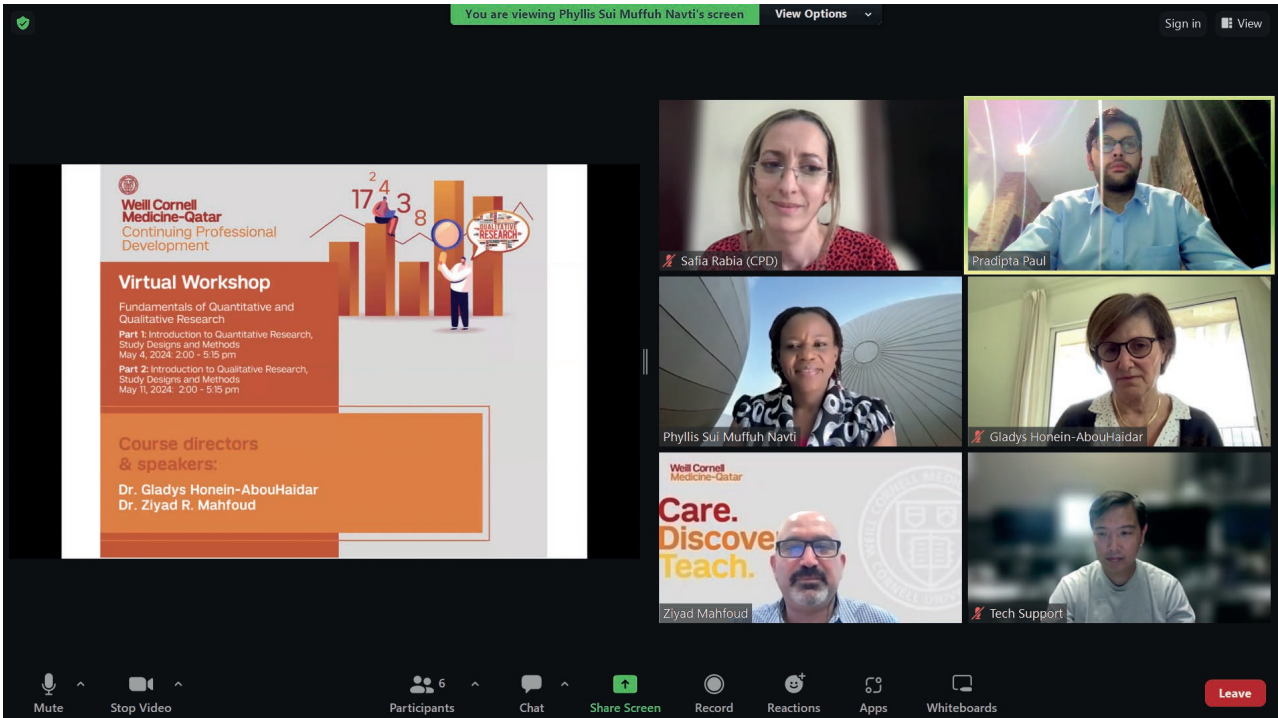
The division partnered with Dr. Ziyad Mahfoud, professor of research in population health sciences at WCM-Q, who delivered training in key biostatistical research skills for physicians, nurses, other healthcare professionals and academicians working locally and internationally.

This year, the division re-offered several courses, including the Biostatistics for Healthcare Practitioners Live Webinar series, the Certificate in the Analysis of Medical Data, Sample Size Determination for Clinical Research virtual workshop, the Applied Biostatistics Using STATA virtual workshop and the two-part Fundamentals of Quantitative and Qualitative Research workshop, due to the growing need.

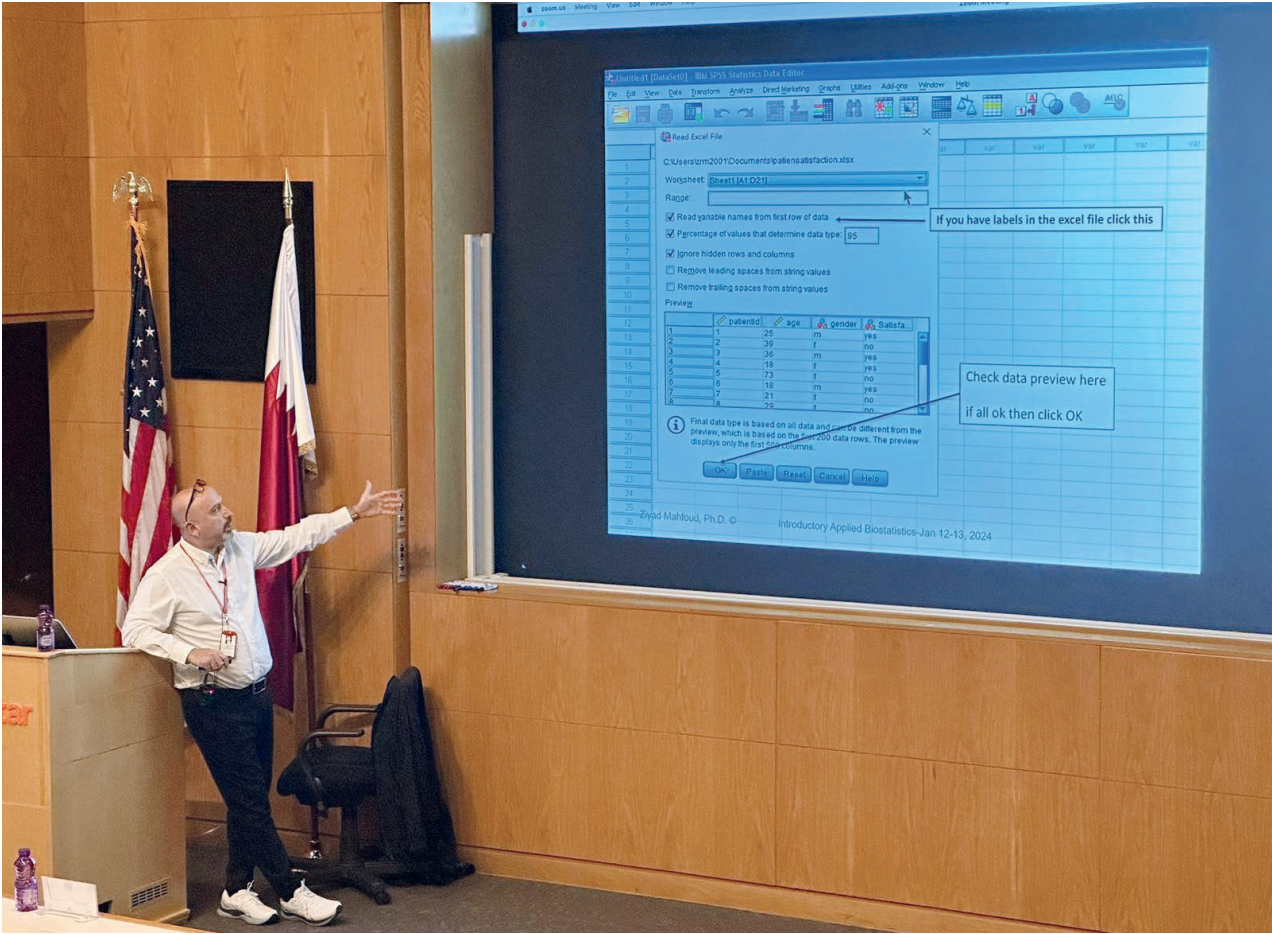
Fundamentals of Quantitative and Qualitative Research

The second iteration of the virtual workshop, Fundamentals of Quantitative and Qualitative Research, was led by course directors and speakers Dr. Gladys Honein-AbouHaidar, assistant professor in the Hariri School of Nursing at the American University of Beirut, and Dr. Ziyad Mahfoud. This comprehensive CPD activity provided participants with a solid foundation in research methodologies. The workshops covered key aspects of the research process, highlighting the strengths of both quantitative and qualitative approaches.

42 healthcare professionals completed this course. Accreditation: **215.5** DHP hours and **36.25** AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ issued.



Certificate in the Analysis of Medical Data - Applied Biostatistics for Healthcare Professional

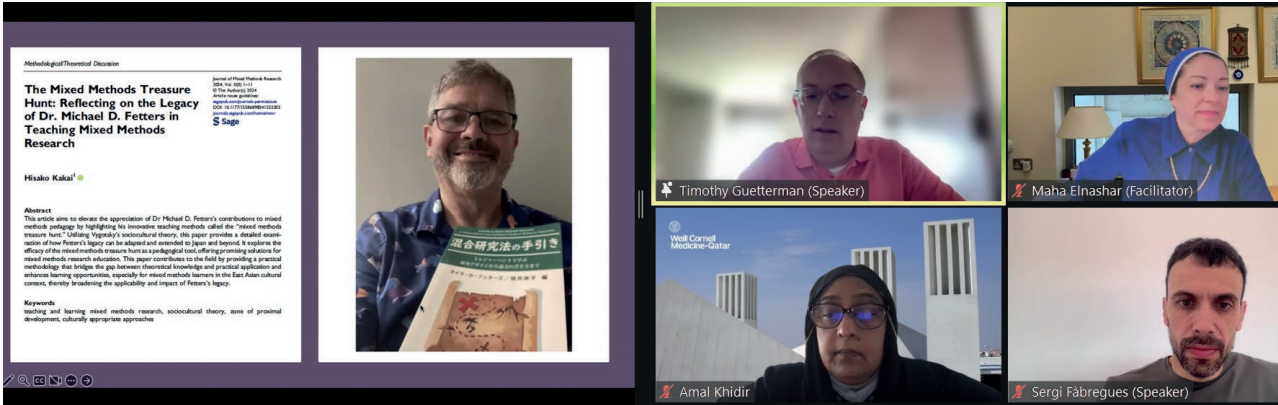


Dr. Ziyad Mahfoud

The Certificate in the Analysis of Medical Data: Applied Biostatistics for Healthcare Professionals program was also led by Dr. Mahfoud. This certificate program comprises three workshops covering introductory to advanced biostatistical concepts. The participants guided participants through data management, analysis, and interpretation using IBM-SPSS software. The program progressed from basic data entry and coding to complex techniques like multiple regression and survival analysis. Using an applied approach with case studies, Dr. Mahfoud equipped healthcare professionals with practical skills in data analysis, from bivariate to multivariate methods, tailored to healthcare research contexts.

128 healthcare professionals completed this course. Accreditation: **1,022** DHP hours and **400.75** AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ issued.

Learning and Applying Essentials of Mixed Methods Research (MMR)



The three-day virtual workshop, held for the third session, included various assigned exercises. Activities were designed for practical application, catering to both novice and advanced researchers.

Initially designed by the late Prof. Michael Fetters of the University of Michigan, the workshops helped participants review and critique MMR articles. Prof. Fetters was known for advancing integration in mixed methods research and evaluation globally.

This year's workshop was co-directed by Dr. Timothy Guetterman, assistant professor and associate director of the mixed methods program at the University of Michigan, and Dr. Amal Khidir, associate professor of pediatrics at WCM-Q.

The presenters and facilitators were Dr. Timothy Guetterman, Dr. Sergi Fàbregues from the Department of Psychology and Education at Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Dr. Meshari F. Alwashmi, associate member at the University of Michigan Mixed Methods Programs and Dr. Amal Khidir, Ms. Huda Abdelrahim, Dr. Maha Elnashar and Dr Phyllis Navti from WCM-Q.

30 healthcare professionals completed this course. Accreditation: 308.5 DHP hours and 50.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ issued.

Activities 2023-2024

Certificate in the Analysis of Medical Data
Applied Biostatistics for Health Care Practitioners

Introductory level
62 healthcare professionals
Accreditation: 587 DHP hours and 229.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ issued.

Intermediate level
31 healthcare professionals
Accreditation: 200.5 DHP hours and 76.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ issued.

Advanced level
35 healthcare professionals
Accreditation: 234.5 DHP hours and 94.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ issued.

Biostatistics for Healthcare Practitioners Live Webinar Series

Understanding Biostatistics in the Medical Literature
42 healthcare professionals
Accreditation: 117 DHP hours and 48.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ issued.

Critical Appraisal of Randomized Clinical Trials
43 healthcare professionals
Accreditation: 97 DHP hours and 30.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ issued.

Understanding Survival Analysis
41 healthcare professionals
Accreditation: 49 DHP hours and 9.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ issued.

Sample Size Determination for Clinical Research

55 healthcare professionals completed this course.
Accreditation: 285.75 DHP hours and 78 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ issued.

Applied Biostatistics using STATA

22 healthcare professionals completed this course.
Accreditation: 147.75 DHP hours and 43.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ issued.

Fundamentals of Quantitative and Qualitative Research

42 healthcare professionals completed this course.
Accreditation: 215.5 DHP hours and 36.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ issued.

Learning and Applying Essentials of Mixed Methods Research (MMR)

30 healthcare professionals completed this course.
Accreditation: 308.5 DHP hours and 50.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ issued.

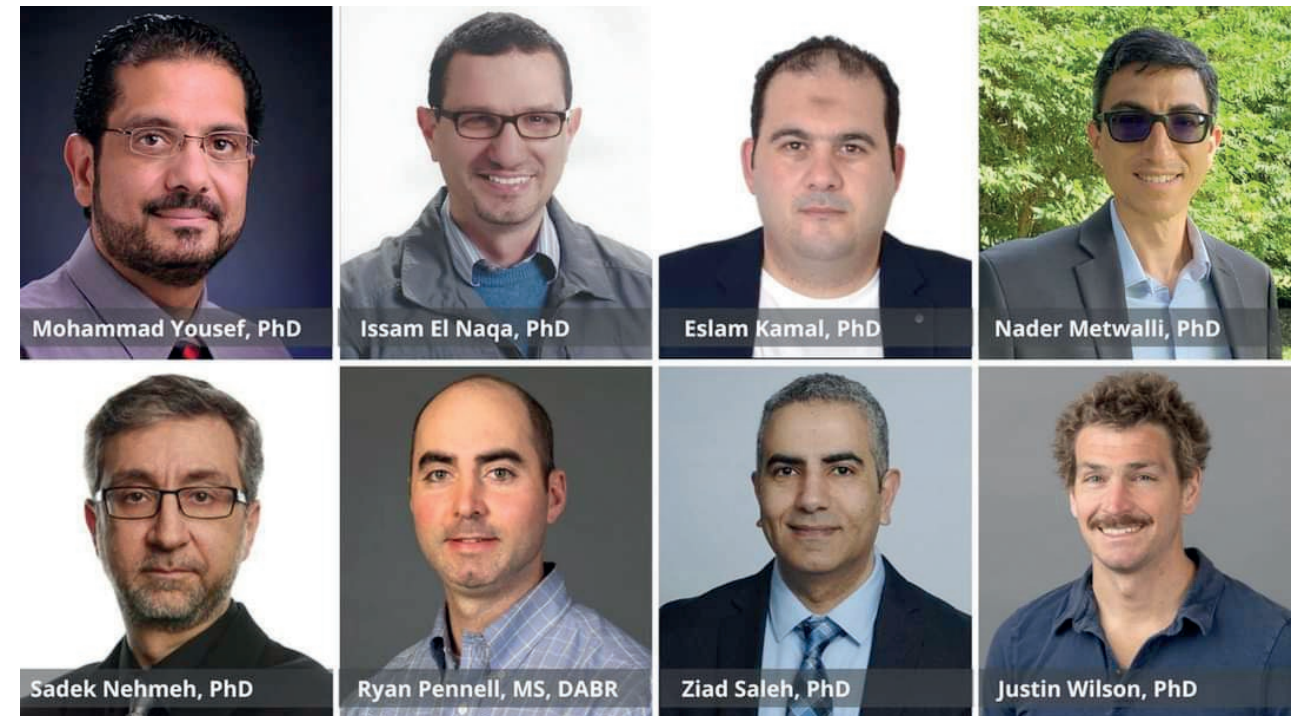
Live Activities

Introduction to Team-Based Learning

Team-Based Learning (TBL) is an evidence-based collaborative learning strategy that offers small group learning within large classes. For the second consecutive year, this workshop was delivered in person, co-directed by Dr. Dean Parmelee, director of educational scholarship and program development at Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine, and Dr. Diego Lorenzetti, associate professor of biology at WCM-Q. The workshop covered the essential elements, benefits, and limitations of TBL, along with how to plan, test, and facilitate an effective TBL module.

16 healthcare professionals completed this course, Accreditation: **86.75** DHP hours and **16.5** AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ issued

Dr. Diego Lorenzetti



The Future of Radiation Physics in Medicine

Expert speakers discussed emerging trends in medical physics during a two-day live webinar.

The Future of Radiation Physics in Medicine live webinar was a two-day event that brought together leading global practitioners to discuss the latest advancements and future directions in the field. Developed and directed by Dr. Mohammad Yousef, professor of physics at WCM-Q, the event featured keynote talks, panel discussions, and interactive sessions, offering a comprehensive look at the current state and future of medical physics.

Participants explored the development and implementation of new medical technologies, the impact of emerging technologies like AI and machine learning, and the challenges of ensuring patient safety in a rapidly evolving healthcare landscape. The webinar was delivered by a distinguished panel of speakers from leading international healthcare and institutions.

376 healthcare professionals completed this course, Accreditation: **3768.5** DHP hours and **352.25** AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ issued.

Tackling Obesity: Multidisciplinary Approaches for Comprehensive Care



The one-day symposium, Tackling Obesity: Multidisciplinary Approaches for Comprehensive Care, provided healthcare professionals with up-to-date weight management strategies, ranging from lifestyle interventions to advanced therapies. Developed and led by course director Dr. Tariq Chukir, assistant professor of medicine at WCM-Q, this comprehensive activity featured lectures and interactive sessions, such as panel discussions, delivered in collaboration with speakers from local, regional, and international institutions. The objectives were to recognize misconceptions about obesity management, describe evidence-based strategies for managing obesity through lifestyle interventions and advanced therapies, and formulate individualized, patient-centered plans for managing patients before, during, and after weight loss.

The distinguished panel of speakers included leading practitioners from elite healthcare and educational institutions, including Qatar University, the World Health Organization, Hamad Medical Corporation, Cleveland Clinic, Aman Hospital, and Qatar Metabolic Institute.

77 healthcare professionals completed this course. Accreditation: **651.75** DHP hours and **216.5** AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ issued.

Updates in Primary Care: Specialist-Led Case-Based Discussions Highlighting the Latest Evidence and Best Clinical Practices



The Updates in Primary Care: Specialist-Led Case-Based Discussions Highlighting the Latest Evidence and Best Clinical Practices conference, developed and presented by WCM-Q alumni, provided family and primary care physicians with opportunities for interactive learning, idea exchange, and enhanced professional connections. Participants reviewed the clinical presentation, diagnosis, and updated evidence-based management of common adult conditions in primary care.

The conference was led by WCM-Q alumni, including course directors Dr. Mahrukh Rizvi, assistant professor of medicine at WCM-Q, Dr. Tariq Chukir, assistant professor of medicine at WCM-Q, and Dr. Reshma Bholah, assistant professor of pediatrics at WCM-Q.

114 healthcare professionals completed this course. Accreditation: **984.5** DHP hours and **913.25** AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ issued.

Adventures in Adolescent and Pediatric Gynecology: A Workshop with Practical Tips and Strategies for Effective Care



Dr. Caitlin Huckell

A workshop, Adventures in Adolescent and Pediatric Gynecology: A Workshop with Practical Tips and Strategies for Effective Care, addressed the unique and atypical gynecologic concerns and medical presentations that arise during adolescence. The workshop was developed and led by Dr. Caitlin Huckell, co-director of the obstetrics and gynecology clerkship and instructor in clinical obstetrics and gynecology at WCM-Q.

24 healthcare professionals completed this course. Accreditation: **60** DHP hours and **45** AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ issued.

Fostering Professionalism in Medical Education: Exploring Effective Approaches for Diverse Learners



This symposium was created to expand on content delivered in a successful webinar series, titled Exploring Professionalism in Diverse Learning Environments. The symposium reflected on and discussed how to foster professionalism in diverse learning environments. Activities and discussions explored the use of coaching skills to promote and remediate professionalism lapses in a multicultural context.

This hybrid CPD activity, which won the 2023 CPD grant, was co-directed by Dr. Moune Jabre, assistant professor of clinical obstetrics and gynecology, Dr. Amal Khidir, associate professor of pediatrics, Dr. Mange Manyama, assistant professor of anatomy in radiology and Dr. Fatimah Isa, director of clinical & faculty affairs and assistant professor of psychology teaching in medicine.

41 healthcare professionals completed this course. Accreditation: **281.5** DHP hours and **15** AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ issued.

Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare



The Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare workshop was an initiative aimed at addressing the knowledge gap among healthcare professionals in Qatar regarding the integration of AI in the healthcare sector. This one-day interactive, in-person introductory course, held at WCM-Q, was open to up to 60 participants, including physicians, nurses, dentists, and pharmacists. The course covered fundamental AI aspects, ethical issues, and challenges, and included group discussions in a journal club format.

Co-directed and led by Dr. Arfan Ahmed and Dr. Alaa Abd-alrazaq, assistant professors of research in population health sciences at WCM-Q, the workshop comprehensively covered essential elements, benefits, and limitations of AI integration in healthcare. The learning objectives enabled participants to recognize the history and basic definitions of AI, outline fundamental concepts of AI, machine learning, and deep learning, evaluate the performance of AI algorithms and their applications in healthcare, analyze potential challenges and ethical issues associated with building an AI system, and engage in guided discussions related to group papers in a mini-journal club style.

41 healthcare professionals completed this course. Accreditation: **255.25** DHP hours and **87.25** AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ issued.

Simulation Educator Course: Designing and Debriefing Effective Simulations



The Simulation Educator Course: Designing and Debriefing Effective Simulations workshop was held for the third consecutive year, focusing on establishing an effective learning environment in simulation. This immersive workshop aimed to provide participants with an understanding of the theoretical foundations of simulation and designing scenarios grounded in the International Healthcare Simulation Standards of Best Practice.

The workshop was developed and led by co-course directors Dr. Stella Major, associate professor of family medicine in clinical medicine and director, Clinical Skills and Simulation Lab at WCM-Q and Dr. Michelle Brown, associate professor, Department of Health Services Administration at The University of Alabama at Birmingham. The workshop was delivered by speakers Ms. Arlene Masaba, lecturer in nursing/midwifery at College of Health Sciences, University of Doha for Science and Technology, and Mr. Rudy Bahri, manager, Clinical Skills and Simulation Lab at WCM-Q.

31 healthcare professionals completed this course. Accreditation: **296.75** DHP hours and **32.25** AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ issued.

Enduring Materials

This year, as part of our commitment to offering enduring materials, we presented Training in Music-based Therapeutic Interventions: From Fundamentals to Multidisciplinary Implementation, amongst other courses, showcasing our dedication to advancing healthcare practices.

345 healthcare professionals completed the enduring material activities.

Approach to Medical Management of Obesity

Credits: AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ (1.00 hour),
Non-Physician Attendance (1.00 hour)

Safe Use of Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy: Best Practice Recommendations

Credits: AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ (1.00 hour),
Non-Physician Attendance (1.00 hour)

Training in Music-Based Therapeutic Interventions: from the Fundamentals to the Multidisciplinary Implementation

Credits: AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ (13.25 hours),
Non-Physician Attendance (13.25 hours)

Ovarian Reserve Testing and Elective Egg Freezing

Credits: AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ (1.00 hour),
Non-Physician Attendance (1.00 hour)

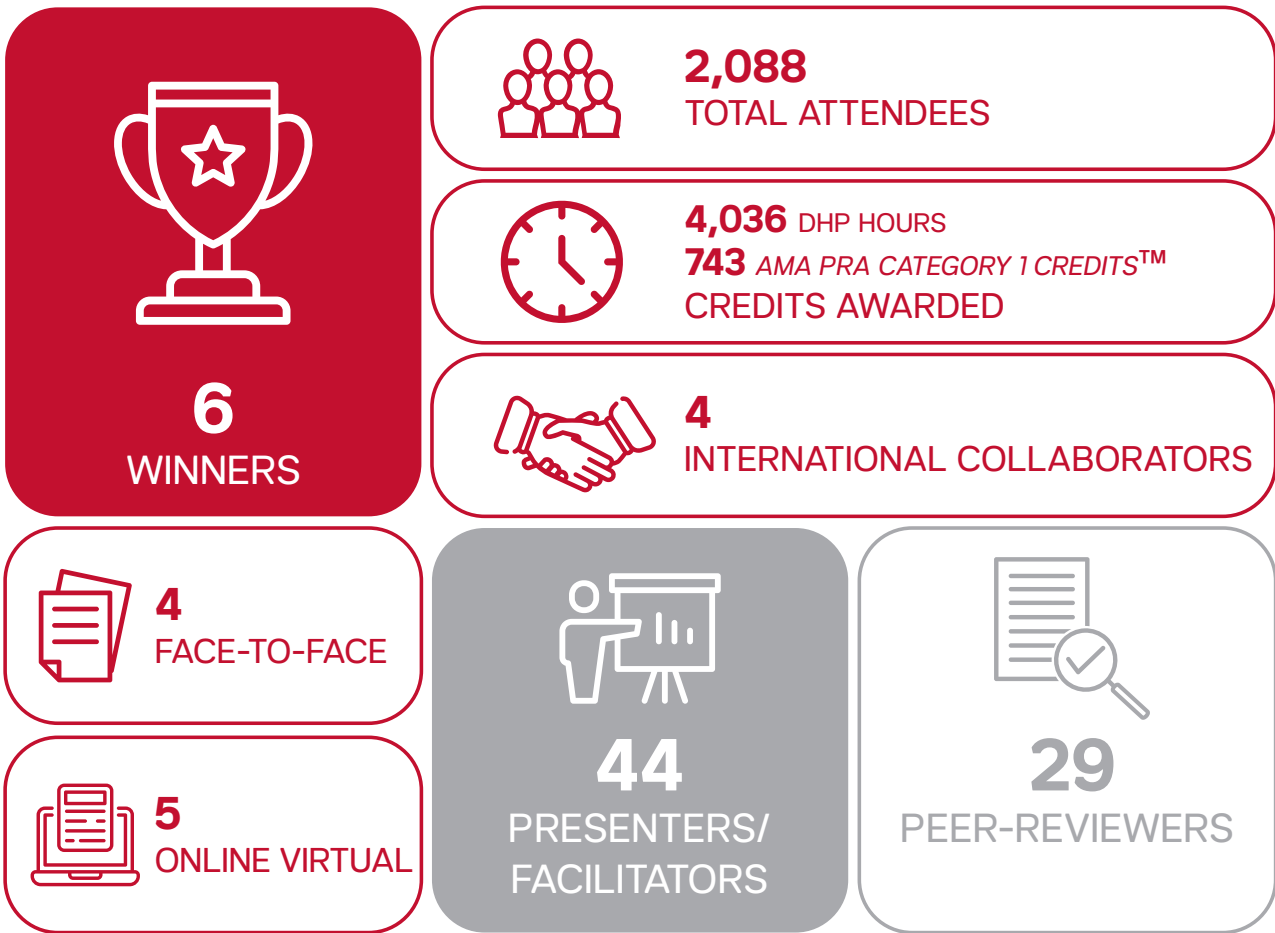
The Dying Child: Special Considerations in Working With Terminal Ill Pediatric Patients and Their Families

Credits: AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ (1.00 hour),
Non-Physician Attendance (1.00 hour)

The Continuing Medical education (CME) Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Grant Program

The Continuing Education (CE)/Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Grant Program was launched in 2018 to give the opportunity to WCM-Q faculty and staff to develop and deliver an activity, preferably with an international collaborator who is well published in their area of expertise. The ultimate purpose of this program is to improve patient outcomes as measured by changes in competence, performance and/or patient outcomes, as well as to enhance the career path and opportunities for career growth of WCM-Q faculty. Dr. Arfan Ahmed, assistant professor of research in population health sciences, is the recipient of the CE/CPD Grant this year for the activity entitled Artificial Intelligence for Healthcare, which he developed in collaboration with Dr. Alaa Abd-Alrazaq, Ms. Sarah Aziz of WCM-Q and Dr. Faisal Farooq of Microsoft.

Figure 5: Showing awards granted since 2018



CPD Awareness Campaigns: Reaching out to the Healthcare Community

In alignment with our commitment to fostering a vibrant community of practice and engagement, we enhanced our innovative editorial strategy centered around health awareness topics, with a particular emphasis on key aspects of these topics. Through our social media platforms, we continued to disseminate relevant and valuable information to our community of healthcare professionals.

Additionally, to further our goal of creating a more informed and engaged healthcare community in collaboration with the Employee Connect colleagues Lara Dearden, senior coordinator for HR engagement, and Sinéad M. O'Rourke, engagement manager, we organized key interactive wellness campaigns and events during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Movember Awareness Month, and International Women's Day.

The Breast Cancer Awareness campaign was titled Keeping Her in the Picture, and presentations were delivered by Dr. Moune Jabre, assistant professor of clinical obstetrics and gynecology, and Dr. Caitlin Huckell, instructor in clinical obstetrics and gynecology.



Breast Cancer Awareness Day 2023.

The Men's Health Awareness campaign was titled Igniting Awareness, Igniting Change, Empowering Men & Transforming Lives, and included:

1. A steps competition using a step-counting app
2. Weekly men's health awareness updates
3. A WCM-Q staff get-together over refreshments and two presentations on men's mental health and prostate cancer.



November 2023.

The weekly health messages were authored by Ms. Deema Al-Sheikhly, director of medical education and continuing professional development (CPD), and Dr. Phyllis Navti, assistant director of CPD. The presentations were delivered by Dr. Aicha Hind Rifai, assistant professor of clinical psychiatry, and Dr. Ahmad Majzoub, assistant professor of clinical urology.

The International Women's Day event was themed Inspire Inclusion, and celebrated the significant contributions of women from diverse backgrounds. The event was a wonderful celebration of inspiring togetherness and a brighter, more inclusive future.



International Women's Day 2024.

Empowering Knowledge Dissemination through CPD Presentations, Events, and Publications

We demonstrate our steadfast dedication to promoting knowledge dissemination through CPD presentations, events, and publications. We emphasize the significant initiatives that have cultivated ongoing learning and professional growth within our organization and beyond.

1. Al-Sheikhly D, Ali S, Navti P, Mahfoud Z, Mattar L, Samar Aboulsoud, Mohannad Khandakji, Lara Al Hakim and Arayssi T. (2023) Self-reported preferences and barriers to continued professional development in primary care physicians: a cross-sectional web-based survey in Qatar.

2. Al-Sheikhly, D, Navti P, Mahfoud Z, Mattar L. (2024) Designing and Executing Surveys for Measuring the Success & Effectiveness of CE Workshops & Courses. ACCME conference 2024 – Learn to Thrive.

3. Al-Sheikhly, D, Navti P, Mattar L. (2024) Fostering Greater Engagement in CE Research Working Group. ACCME conference 2024 – Learn to Thrive.



Clinical and Faculty Affairs

Clinical and Faculty Affairs

The Office of Clinical and Faculty Affairs (QOFA) plays a crucial role in providing comprehensive support for academic appointments and promotions at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q), as well as its affiliated institutions. The office serves as a central hub for implementing academic policies, guiding faculty members on their promotion journey, overseeing the annual performance review process, maintaining accurate academic staff records, and facilitating the medical license and hospital privileges of WCM-Q-based faculty members.

Faculty Count for the Academic Year 2023-2024

EMPLOYED FACULTY	APPOINTED
Medical Education	48
Pre-medical Education	19
Research	22
Total	89

AFFILIATED FACULTY	APPOINTED
Hamad Medical Corporation	459
Aspetar	12
Primary Health Care Corporation	33
Sidra Medicine	150
Other institutions	15
Total	669

Appointments and Promotions

WCM-Q Employed Faculty

During the academic year 2023-2024, WCM-Q welcomed nine new full-time faculty members and promoted one faculty member, signifying the continued growth and commitment to excellence of WCM-Q.

New appointments

Dr. Simeon Scott Andrews was appointed lecturer in chemistry in the Pre-medical Education Program on September 1, 2023. He joined WCM-Q in 2013 as a postdoctoral associate and transitioned to the Medical Education Division as a teaching specialist in 2017. In 2020, he moved to the Pre-medical Education Division, focusing on biochemistry for pre-medical students while continuing to work with medical students in the Essential Principles of Medicine (EPOM) course. Dr. Andrews holds a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Washington in the US.

Dr. Branislav Aleksić was appointed lecturer in physics in the Pre-medical Education Program on April 1, 2024. Since joining WCM-Q in 2015 as a teaching specialist in the Pre-medical Education Division, he has contributed to the physics courses development in the pre-medical education curriculum, including the Introduction to Physics: Classical Mechanics, the Fundamentals of Physics for Premed, and the Physiology and Physics. Dr. Aleksić holds a Ph.D. in physics and mathematics from Moscow State University of Technology in Russia.

Dr. Sonia Chaabane was appointed instructor in population health sciences on January 15, 2024. She initially joined WCM-Q in 2016 as a research specialist in the Epidemiology and Biomathematics Research Core and became a projects specialist in the Institute for Population Health (IPH) in 2018. After working with the World Health Organization’s Access to Medicines and Health Products as a technical officer in 2021, she rejoined WCM-Q in 2022 as a projects specialist in IPH, contributing to several research and educational programs. Dr. Chaabane holds a Ph.D. in pharmaceutical sciences, specializing in medication and population.

Dr. Arfan Ahmed was appointed assistant professor of research in population health sciences on July 1, 2023. With a background in computer science, he has worked at institutions such as Imperial College London, the University of Aberdeen, and the University of Birmingham, focusing on decision support systems development. In 2020, he managed the AI-driven Health Chatbot project at Hamad Bin Khalifa University, and in 2021, he joined WCM-Q as a research associate in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Center for Precision Health. Dr. Ahmed holds a Ph.D. in medicine-radiology from the University of Hull in the UK.

Dr. Ahmed Serag joined WCM-Q as an assistant professor of research in physiology and biophysics on July 7, 2023. Over the past decade, he has developed expertise in artificial intelligence and machine learning, serving as the global director of data science and ai innovation at Novartis and the head of AI research and innovation at Phillips Digital Computational Pathology, where he led the creation of the first commercial deep learning algorithms for tumor identification and quantification in molecular pathology. Dr. Serag holds an MSc in biomedical engineering from the University of Lübeck in Germany and a Ph.D. in computing from Imperial College London in the UK.



Dr. Simeon Scott Andrews



Dr. Branislav Aleksić



Dr. Sonia Chaabane



Dr. Arfan Ahmed



Dr. Ahmed Serag



Dr. Rajat Mani Thomas

Dr. Rajat Mani Thomas joined WCM-Q as an assistant professor of research in physiology and biophysics on August 25, 2023. Before joining WCM-Q, he served as the AI lead at Serket-Tech and was an assistant professor of artificial intelligence in medicine at the University of Amsterdam, where he focused on neuroimaging biomarkers for psychiatric disorders. He chairs the Amsterdam Robotics group and reviews several scientific journals. Dr. Thomas holds an MS in radio-astronomy and space sciences from Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden and a Ph.D. in physics from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands.



Dr. Abdelaziz Belkadi

Dr. Abdelaziz Belkadi was appointed assistant professor of research in physiology and biophysics on February 1, 2024. He joined WCM-Q as a Research Associate in 2016, specializing in genomics data analysis, including single-cell RNA-sequence, DNA sequence, methylation, proteomics, metabolomics, and other omics. He serves as an editorial board member of the Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence and the PLOS One and a reviewer for several scientific journals. Dr. Belkadi holds a Ph.D. in bioinformatics from the University of Angers and completed postdoctoral training at the Laboratory of Human Genetics of Infectious Diseases in the Imagine Institute of Genetic Diseases in France.



Dr. Shaza Basyouni Zaghlool

Dr. Shaza Basyouni Zaghlool was appointed assistant professor of research in physiology and biophysics on February 1, 2024. She joined WCM-Q as a senior bioinformatics data analyst in 2014 and became bioinformatics research manager in 2017. Subsequently, she was appointed as a research associate in the Bioinformatics Core in 2020, where she contributed to identifying proteomic and metabolic markers associated with pre-diabetes and type 2 diabetes, determining blood markers for diabetes, and identifying molecular signatures for specific subtypes of type 2 diabetes. Dr. Zaghlool holds a Ph.D. in electrical and computer engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in the US.



Dr. Alaa Ali Eid Abd-Alrazaq

Dr. Alaa Ali Eid Abd-Alrazaq was appointed assistant professor of research in population health sciences on May 1, 2024. He joined WCM-Q as a research associate in the AI Center for Precision Health, focusing on applying AI in precision health, with projects in mental health, diabetes, and women's health. Before joining WCM-Q, he was a systematic reviewer at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and an honorary research assistant at University College London. Dr. Abd-Alrazaq holds a Ph.D. in health informatics from the University of Leeds and completed postdoctoral training in digital health and AI at Hamad Bin Khalifa University in Qatar.

Promotion

Dr. Diego Lorenzetti was promoted to associate professor of biology on April 1, 2024 in recognition of his significant contributions over the years to the Pre-medical Education Program at WCM-Q and to the community in Education City. Notably, he played a key role in restructuring the human genetics course in our pre-medical curriculum. He currently serves as a course co-director of introductory biology, an academic advisor to Year-1 students in the Pre-medical Education Program, and a member of several institutional committees. Dr. Lorenzetti holds a Ph.D. in molecular and human genetics from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Baylor College of Medicine in the US.



Dr. Diego Lorenzetti

Affiliated Faculty

Faculty members from affiliated institutions play a valued role in supporting the college's mission in Qatar by overseeing the clinical education of WCM-Q students and contributing to our research programs. During the academic year 2023-2024, 13 colleagues from affiliated institutions received academic appointments at Weill Cornell Medical College, including the following three alumni:

- **Dr. Abdulwahed Abdulhamid Zainel** (Sidra Medicine), assistant professor of clinical pediatrics
- **Dr. Rana Mohamed Mamdouh Amin Emam** (HMC), assistant professor of clinical psychiatry
- **Dr. Sarah Saleh Al-Khawaga** (HMC), assistant professor of clinical dermatology

Additionally, six faculty members have been promoted during this academic year in recognition of their outstanding achievements and contributions:

To Assistant Professor:

- **Dr. Ammar Abduljabbar Ali Al-Ani** (HMC), assistant professor of clinical urology
- **Dr. Liaquat Ali** (HMC), assistant professor of clinical neurology
- **Dr. Muthana Ghazi Abdulrahman Al-Salihi** (Sidra Medicine), assistant professor of clinical surgery
- **Dr. Sathyanarayanan Doraiswamy**, assistant professor of population health sciences (courtesy)

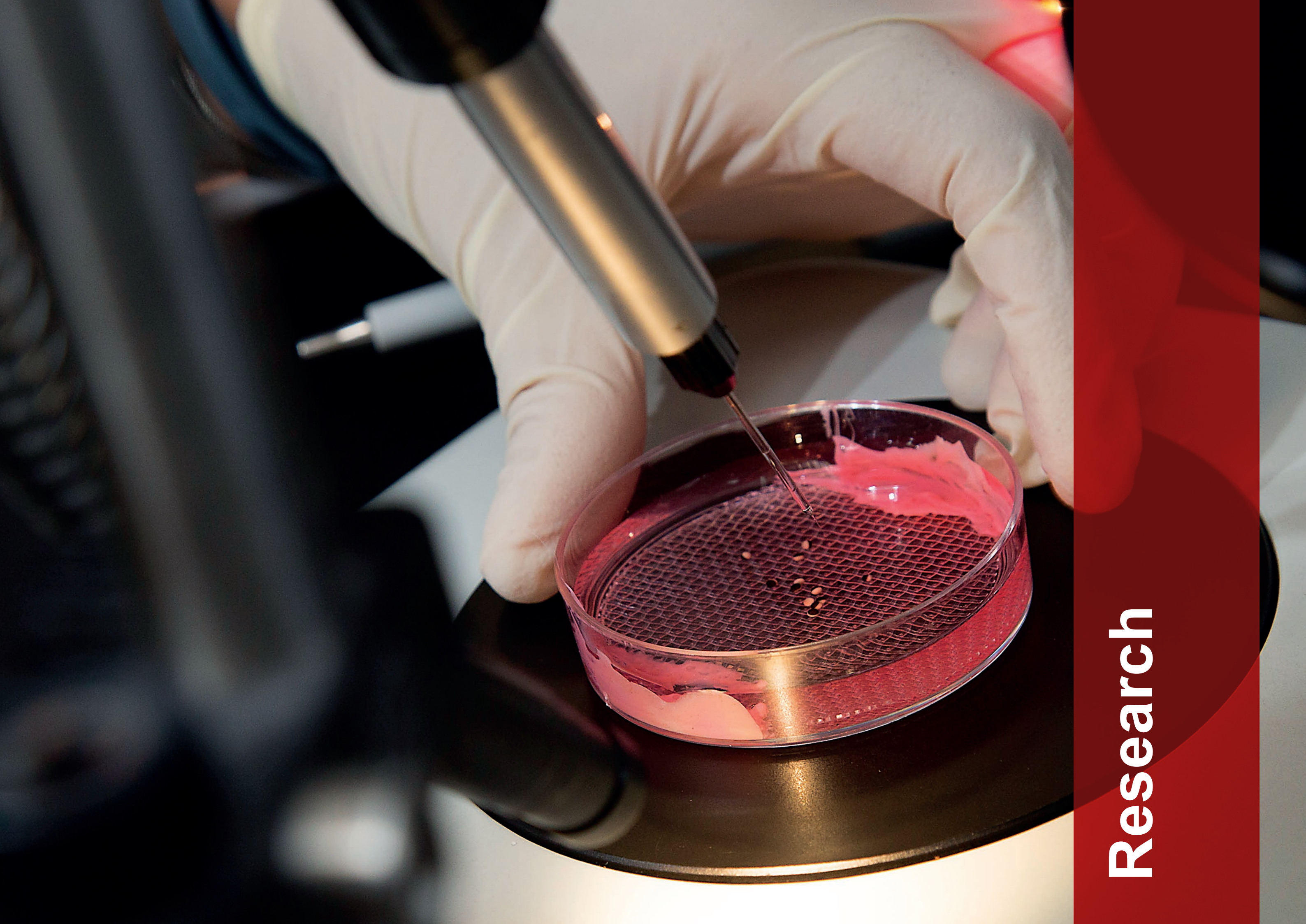
To Associate Professor:

- **Dr. Pieter Paul R. D'Hooghe** (Aspetar), associate professor of orthopaedic surgery
- **Dr. Samar Abdulrazaq M.S. Al-Emadi** (HMC), associate professor of clinical medicine

Activities and Events

Faculty Working Sessions

In 2023, QOFA continued its commitment to support faculty members by initiating a series of working sessions. These sessions helped faculty dedicate their time to work on their promotion dossiers and receive guidance from the QOFA team on how to enhance them.



Research

Research

Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar's research efforts continue to set milestones in line with the mission and vision of Qatar Foundation, the State of Qatar, and Cornell University. Our focus remains on producing new knowledge to address the most critical health issues in Qatar and the region, and to impact disease understanding at the most basic levels globally.

WCM-Q faculty have historically taken a broad, complementary approach to tackle these challenges. We have recruited leading scientists over the past decade and established state-of-the-art core facilities that serve as national research hubs for stakeholders in Qatar. This infrastructure supports scientific human capacity building in Qatar through the recruitment and training of nationals and long-term residents. These scientists and administrators, who have supported WCM-Q's research efforts, have in addition promoted research on a national basis as they are regularly recruited by sister organizations. This has enriched human research capital and enhanced local scientific knowhow to support and advance biomedical research in Qatar.

The robust research and technical infrastructure of WCM-Q, coupled to the scientific human capital recruited and trained in Qatar, has led to exceptional scientific productivity, at a level competitive with top tier research-intensive universities globally. Since the inception of the Research Program, WCM-Q faculty have published more than 2,030 papers, garnering more than 121,000 citations. The cumulative impact of these scholarly contributions will be felt for decades to come and continues to grow.

The focus of our research effort is to advance personalized medicine in Qatar as the new standard of care, with clinical, lifestyle, and financial benefits not only to the patients but also to the entire healthcare system in Qatar. We have investigated diseases at the cellular, molecular, and organismal levels and applied deep-omic phenotyping approaches to reach a better understanding of their pathologies. This has also established a basis for personalized treatments founded not only on multi-omic phenotyping but also on patient-specific cellular models to functionally characterize the pathology.

Our infrastructure, talented researchers, and discoveries have placed us in a unique position to advance personalized medicine nationally in Qatar. We have recently recruited two faculty members with leading expertise in artificial intelligence to further advance our personalized medicine efforts. The impact of our research has also expanded at the population level, as work by our Infectious Disease Epidemiology Group had far-reaching implications during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Innovations and Commercialization

Our academic impact is fully realized when biomedical research and scholarship lead to better patient outcomes with benefits to Qatar and the world. With the development of a robust intellectual property portfolio, WCM-Q continues to share in the national vision of translating academic research into medically viable solutions. Our intellectual property portfolio now comprises therapeutic and diagnostic breakthroughs from more than 61 WCM-Q inventions, positioned to address critical unmet patient needs in cardio-metabolic therapeutics, imaging-based diagnostics, non-communicable diseases, genomics, and proteomics.

Consistent with the "One Cornell" vision, the Research Division recently partnered with Weill Cornell Medicine (WCM) Enterprise Innovation and its Center for Technology Licensing (CTL) at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York to operationalize its global outreach to industry. This initiative expands our physical and operational footprint and has already had noteworthy outcomes:

- WCM-Q partnered with IPGaia, a Tokyo-based investment and research development firm, to evaluate and fund early stage WCM-Q discoveries up to \$300M. WCM is one of two US-based universities to engage with IPGaia and this partnership will provide the foundation for future commercial and external collaboration opportunities.
- WCM-Q has also advanced its mission to bring new therapeutics to patients by initiating an investigational new drug (IND)-enabling non-human primate (NHP) study with Wake Forest University in North Carolina. In parallel, WCM-Q has also developed an external partnership with CatSci, a UK-based drug development firm, to finalize designs for an siRNA drug product that will be administered in the NHPs. The combination of these developments will support large mammal safety and efficacy data that will be presented to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for IND approval of first-in-human injection to possibly treat obesity and liver disease.
- WCM-Q was invited to participate in and moderate on a keynote panel at the RNA Leaders Europe Congress in Basel, Switzerland. The panel demonstrated WCM-Q's engagement with industry and best partnership practices in the pharma and biomedical space.
- WCM-Q has initiated toxicity studies in mice in partnership with a stringent regulatory authority (SRA) to assess the safety of the progestin analogue for the treatment of diabetes.

Funding

Our faculty have been remarkably successful at garnering extramural support for their research efforts. Over the past 14 years, we have obtained close to \$128M of competitively funded extramural funding through Qatar Research Development and Innovation Council (QRDI)/ Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF) and other international agencies.

Research Labs

WCM-Q currently has 22 active research laboratories investigating areas ranging from basic molecular and cellular pathways to translational, clinical, and epidemiological projects, including research into some of the most pressing health issues facing Qatar and the wider region, such as COVID-19, implementation of personalized medicine approaches, diabetes, obesity and cancer.

FY24 closed with more than 135 employees, including 18 non-faculty personnel (postdoctoral and research associates). The majority of employees in the Research Division are hired locally and trained in our labs. In line with WCM-Q's commitment to supporting human capital development in Qatar, 242 research specialists and clinical research



coordinators have been trained since 2009. Additionally, more than 415 volunteers and visiting researchers have gained experience in our laboratories up to the close of Fiscal Year 2024.

Scientific efforts are supported by an experienced research administration team that facilitates grants administration, transactional and contractual commitments, and financial and regulatory oversight of lab operations. Our research administration has undergone a complete revamp over the past few years through a process mapping approach aimed at minimizing duplications and automating administrative processes as much as possible.

Core Services

To support local research and promote scientific collaborations, our state-of-the-art core laboratories function as national cores available to Qatar Foundation (QF) and all other national stakeholders.

Eight central core laboratories support the research effort, providing a range of cutting-edge expertise and platforms, including deep phenotyping of clinical cohorts. The main cores comprise: Genomics; Imaging; Proteomics; Bioinformatics & Metabolomics; miRNA; Biostatistics; Clinical Research Support; and a Vivarium.



Dr. Khaled Machaca, senior associate dean for research, innovations, and commercialization

Collaborations

Our innovative research model has proven effective and is based on a collaborative effort with national stakeholders to advance the agenda of Qatar on the healthcare, research, and economic fronts. With the principle of national collaboration in mind, we continue to have extensive scientific associations with all biomedical stakeholders in Qatar. Furthermore, our research core labs are set up as national cores and support interested stakeholders nationally. We also support graduate training at Qatar Foundation in alignment with the multiversity vision, by hosting graduate students from the College of Health and Life Science at Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) in WCM-Q labs for their research projects. Finally, we have close scientific collaboration with our main campus in New York.

COVID-19 Efforts

WCM-Q continued for the fourth year in row to collaborate with national stakeholders, including Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) and the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) to successfully tackle the COVID-19 pandemic and its repercussions. The Infectious Disease Epidemiology Group (IDEG) led by Dr. Laith Abu-Raddad, professor of population health sciences and associate dean for extramural research funding, provided essential and effective epidemiology support and expertise to the national response. IDEG continues to play a pivotal role in shaping policies, programs, and resource allocation by providing data analytics and scientific expertise. The rigorous epidemiological analyses contributed valuable insights to understanding transmission patterns, intervention impacts, and future trends. By utilizing sophisticated data analysis techniques, the team delivered timely and accurate information to support evidence-based decision making. The work garnered international recognition, highlighting the effectiveness of collaborative efforts nationally in addressing a global crisis.

This collaboration with national stakeholders continues to make significant contributions to the field, having published over 110 COVID-19 studies since the onset of the pandemic, including more than 20 frontline discoveries. These discoveries represent major breakthroughs in COVID-19 epidemiology, with IDEG being the first worldwide to provide these important novel findings. The impact of these studies has been far-reaching; the findings have been published in leading scientific journals and have garnered substantial attention, receiving thousands of citations in a short period. The findings have influenced global COVID-19 response efforts and informed international and national guidelines, including those issued by the World Health Organization.

This level of accomplishment in biomedical research is unique in the context of the modern history of medical scholarship in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. The remarkable visibility and impact of the research publications highlight the significance of the contributions made by this research to the field of global public health. IDEG is also working to extend this productive experience to other infectious diseases, collaborating closely with national stakeholders such as the MoPH and HMC.



Dr. Laith Abu-Raddad, professor of population health sciences

Publications

The scholarly productivity of WCM-Q faculty has been exceptional considering the size and short history of our research efforts, with more than 2,030 papers published since 2010 and garnering more than 121,000 citations.



From left: Hina Sarwath, senior research specialist; Dr Frank Schmidt, associate professor of biochemistry and director of the proteomics core; and Muna Al Noubi, laboratory supervisor.

Qatar ranked second in the world for research on diabetic neuropathy per capita

An independent analysis of research output on diabetes-related nerve damage identified Qatar as the world's second-most productive country, relative to population size.

The study, published in the journal *Frontiers in Endocrinology*, showed that scientists in Qatar produced 18.1 articles on diabetic neuropathy per million inhabitants (51 articles; 2.83 million inhabitants), just behind Denmark in first place, which produced 20.27 articles per million people (117 articles; 5.77 million inhabitants). Dr. Rayaz Malik, professor of medicine and assistant dean for clinical investigations at WCM-Q was involved in most of the published studies that led to Qatar's elevated ranking.

The study, titled *The landscape of global research on diabetic neuropathy*, was published by researchers from the University of Exeter in the UK and Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany.

The research paper also showed that Qatar was the third most productive country for research in diabetic neuropathy relative to gross domestic product (GDP), behind Denmark (1st) and the United Kingdom (2nd), and above scientific heavyweights like the United States (14th place). The study also revealed the strong international collaboration established by Dr Malik between Qatar and the United Kingdom, one of the world's leading countries in diabetes research.



Dr. Rayaz Malik

WCM-Q researchers earn full membership at Sigma Xi Honor Society

Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar's (WCM-Q) Dr. Isra Marei, postdoctoral associate in pharmacology, and Dr. Samson Mathews Samuel, research associate in physiology and biophysics, earned full membership at Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society.

Founded at Cornell University in 1886, Sigma Xi is considered one of the world's oldest and largest scientific organizations. This prestigious scientific research society aims to reward excellence in scientific research and to encourage a sense of companionship and cooperation among scientists in all fields. Membership in Sigma Xi is by nomination and invitation only and full membership is conferred upon those who have demonstrated noteworthy research achievements or potential. Dr. Marei and Dr. Samuel were nominated for full membership at the society in recognition of their scholarly achievements and contributions to the advancement of knowledge in their fields.

Dr. Isra Marei and
Dr. Samson Mathews Samuel



WCM-Q researchers publish landmark study into proteins

Researchers at WCM-Q published a study that marks the introduction to Qatar of some of the world's most advanced analytical tools for discovering the links between genetic variations, proteins and a wide range of diseases. Using a new tool to measure proteins, WCM-Q researchers Dr. Karsten Suhre, professor of physiology and biophysics, and Dr. Frank Schmidt, associate professor of biochemistry and director of the proteomics core, analyzed the blood samples of more than 320 individuals from a multi-ethnic cohort in Qatar. The tool, called the Proteograph Product Suite, allowed the WCM-Q researchers to quantify more than 18,000 different peptides (molecular structures formed of amino acids) from more than 3,000 proteins.

Bringing this new tool, provided by the US-based biotechnology company Seer, to WCM-Q further enhances Qatar's emerging status as a leader in the field of proteomics, which is the large-scale study of proteins, their structures, interactions, functions, and their impact on health.

The study, titled Nanoparticle Enrichment Mass-Spectrometry Proteomics Identifies Protein Altering Variants for Precise pQTL Mapping, was published in *Nature Communications*.

Dr. Karsten Suhre, left,
and Dr. Frank Schmidt



New WCM-Q research probes molecular processes that cause diabetes

Researchers at WCM-Q made new discoveries about the complex metabolic and genetic processes which drive the formation of new fat cells, shedding light on the possible causes of obesity and its complications, such as inflammation and metabolic diseases like type 2 diabetes.

Using CRISPR gene editing technology, the researchers demonstrated that a protein called UHRF1 plays a key role in the regulation of the formation of new fat cells, known as adipogenesis. They also showed that the UHRF1 protein suppresses fibrosis, which is the hardening or scarring of bodily tissues and is a characteristic of many inflammatory illnesses. Increased fibrosis in the adipose tissue is a hallmark of insulin resistance and adipose tissue dysfunction.

The study, titled The E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase UHRF1 promotes adipogenesis and limits fibrosis by suppressing GPNMB-mediated TGF- β signaling, was published in *Scientific Reports*, a Nature group publication.

Training and Outreach

WCM-Q remains committed to training nationals and long-term residents in all aspects of biomedical research, from its conduct at the bench and in the clinic, to its administration and regulation. This is accomplished primarily through multiple training program designed to build capacity within Qatar, which are aimed at Qatari nationals and long-term residents.

The Biomedical Research Training Program for Nationals continues to train recent national graduates from local universities, with more than four dozen graduates trained to date. Nearly 100 percent continue their graduate studies after our program and/or obtain positions at biomedical institutions in Qatar. This year, eight trainees completed the program.

A new initiative, named the Specialized Research Training Program, was introduced this year. This program offers specialized hands-on training in WCM-Q laboratories. It aims to build and retain unique talents in the biomedical field for graduates who are Qatari nationals or residents of Qatar. The program accepted two trainees in its first cycle.

As research is an integral part of the training of future physicians at WCM-Q, the institution offers several programs for medical students, including the Student Research Mentorship Program (SRMP), which trains students in proposal writing and how to approach and resolve research questions with appropriate rigor. The SRMP provides funding for yearlong research projects in WCM-Q laboratories. In addition, the Medical Student Research Award (MSRA) provides a competitive eight-week research experience for first-year medical students. Finally, through the Presentation Award (PA) program, students whose research has been accepted at international conferences can have their travel funded. To date, more than 55 WCM-Q students have benefited from the PA program.

WCM-Q also participates in grants administered by QRDI/QNRF that focus on providing training and enhancement to the research culture in Qatar. WCM-Q students have been trained over the years on 132 of our awarded Undergraduate Research Experience Program (UREP).

The research efforts of WCM-Q students are also supported by the Student Research Association (SRA), a student-led body that supports student research at all levels through a variety of means, including by hosting journal clubs and organizing informational meetings.



Events

To date, WCM-Q has hosted more than 248 departmental seminars, 17 international conferences and multiple local conferences and workshops focusing on diverse areas.

Notable Events

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) organized the three-day National Health Research Ethics Workshop 2023 in cooperation with the Ministry of Municipality, Qatar University and Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar. The annual workshop focuses on various key aspects of research and hosts a variety of experts in biomedical and health research.

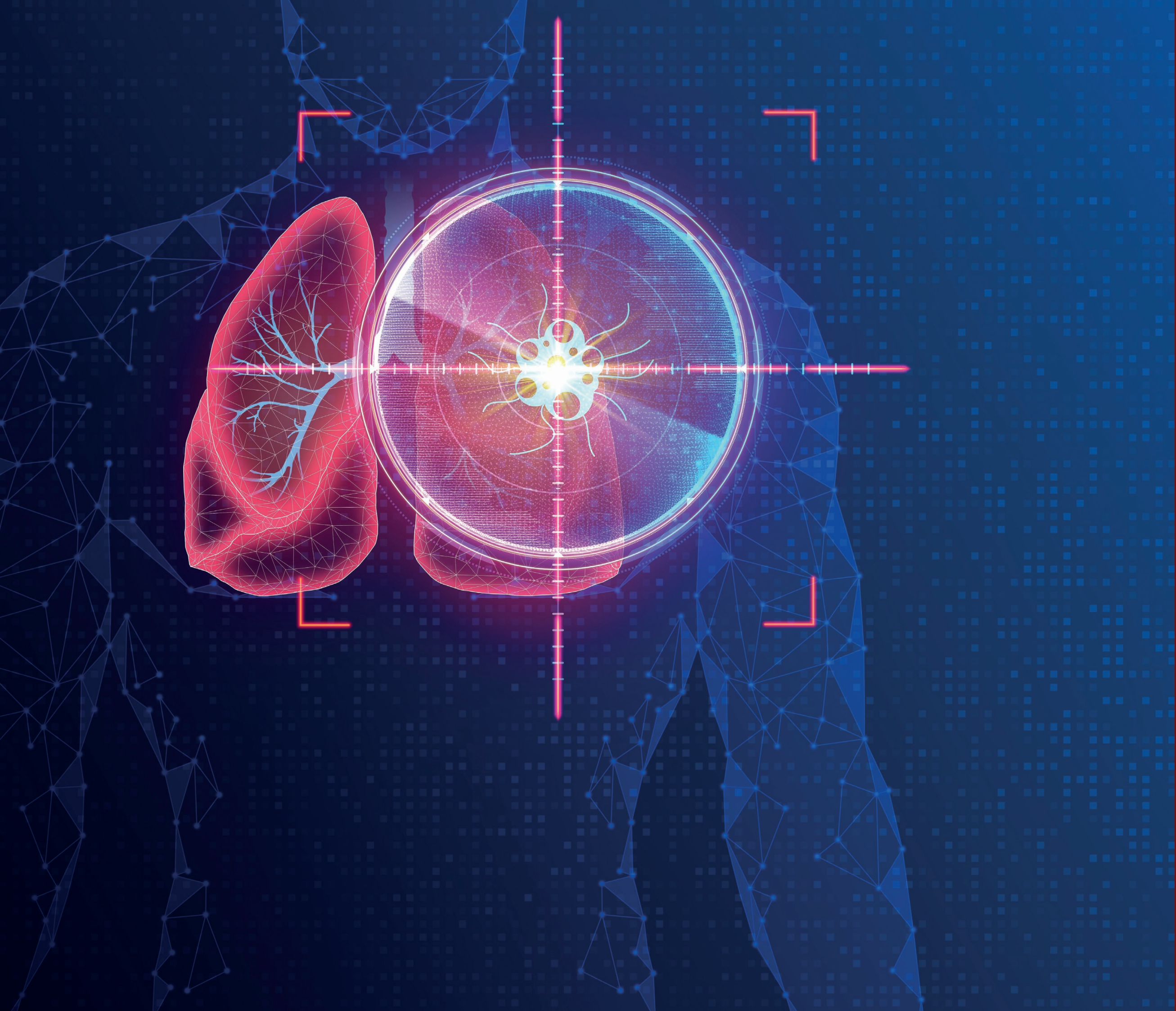
WCM-Q Student Research Forum

The Research Division, in collaboration with the Division of Medical Education, hosted the the first WCM-Q Student Research Forum (SRF) on April 27, 2024, to provide a platform for WCM-Q students to showcase their research. This event works to foster intellectual growth, encourage collaboration, and promote knowledge dissemination within our academic community.



Weekly Research Seminars Delivered in FY '23-'24

DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
Aug. 27, 23	Dr. Shamshad Cockcroft	Maintaining Phosphatidylinositol Levels during Phospholipase C Signalling by PI Transfer Proteins
Sept. 24, 23	Dr. Joel Malek	Introduction to Night Science: Where do innovative ideas come from?
Oct. 1, 23	Dr. Ahmed Serag	Towards Artificial General Intelligence
Oct. 8, 23	Dr. Laith Abu Raddad	The silently unfolding revolution in epidemiology research: Discovery in the era of advanced digital platforms
Oct. 15, 23	Dr. Rajat Mani Thomas	The A.I. pyramid: From book-keeping to scientific discovery
Oct. 22, 23	Nayra Al-Thani	Wnt-pathway (novel nuclear transcription factors interactions)
Oct. 29, 23	Dr. Abulaish Ansari	MicroRNA-541-3p modulates lipid metabolism by regulating ZNF101 and CASZ1 transcription factors
Nov. 5, 23	Dr. Nayef Mazloun	Mechanisms of Adipose Tissue Dysfunction and Inflammation in Metabolic and Age-related Diseases
Nov. 22, 23	Dr. Vladimir Parpura	Astrocytes release glutamate by regulated exocytosis in health and disease
Nov. 26, 23	Dr. Abdelaziz Belkadi	Identification of PCSK9-like human gene knockouts using metabolomics, proteomics, and whole-genome sequencing in a consanguineous population
Dec. 3, 23	Dr. Lotfi Chouchane	Precision Oncology in Arab Populations: Opportunities and Challenges
Dec. 10, 23	Dr. Peter Thomas	Structural characteristics, signaling, and functions of membrane progesterone receptor alpha (mPR α , PAQR7)
Jan. 14, 24	Dr. Arash Rafii Tabrizi	How DeSci can change the research landscape from postulating an hypothesis to publishing
Jan. 21, 24	Dr Eleni Fthenou & Ms. Elizabeth Jose	Qatar Biobank: An Opportunity for Scientists to Derive Knowledge from Big Data & Thousands of Samples
Jan. 28, 24	Dr. Joel Malek	Night Science and Gene Mapping: Holding a Hypothesis Lightly
Feb. 11, 24	Drs. Charbel Abi Khalil & Nady El Hajj	Epigenetics of COVID20
Feb. 18, 24	Dr. Stephanie Ramadan	Comparative interactome of wildtype TP53 and cancer relevant variants: a WCM-Q Multiomics Voucher project update
Feb. 25, 24	Dr. Mayyasa Rammah	Genetic modification for therapy and screening
Mar. 3, 24	Dr. Hani Najafi	Engineering mRNA Therapeutics for Cell Specific Expression
Apr. 21, 24	Dr. Nabila Khwaja	Research Ethics technology and Regulation
May 5, 24	Dr. Rayaz Malik	Corneal confocal microscopy: Challenging the dogma, again and again
May 12, 24	Dr. Souhaila Al-Khodor	Leveraging on multiomics and AI for a better understanding of pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease
May 19, 24	Nayra Al-Thani	Precision Diabetology of Type 2 Diabetes in Qatar
May 20, 24	Dr. Lisa Placanica and Dr. Mina Zion	The Road to Commercialization: Why it Matters, Where to Get Started, and How WCM Enterprise Innovation Can Help
May 26, 24	Dr. Hadeel Zaghlool	Digital Health in Medicine: Where do we stand in the Arab world
June 2, 24	Dr. Karsten Suhre	Mine is Bigger than Yours - Lessons from Large Scale Omics Studies
June 9, 24	Dr. Shaza Zaghlool	Omics of Complex Diseases in Qatar



Precision Health Innovations & Education

Precision Health Innovations & Education

Precision Health Innovations & Education (PHIE) was launched to catalyze the emerging revolution in precision health, in which advanced technologies and personalized data are combined to provide radically enhanced understanding of the individual biological, environmental and lifestyle factors which determine health.

PHIE provides a vehicle through which these innovative approaches can leverage existing healthcare and health education systems to improve patient outcomes, make earlier and more accurate diagnoses, enhance longevity, and transition to a future in which healthcare is not just reactive but proactive, where healthcare providers target health determinants to enhance healthspans. This is a vision of healthcare in which individualized data combines with the best evidence-based medical science and innovations (such as AI and wearables) to optimize lifestyle, health and wellbeing, and to prevent disease by identifying personal health risk factors at an early stage. It is a model of healthcare which is personalized, precise, and optimized by technology and data. PHIE was established to position Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) at the forefront of this fundamental change in the way healthcare and healthcare education will be conceptualized and delivered in the future.

PHIE strategic goals

- To be an innovation hub for precision health technologies and collaborations.
- To be a knowledge hub for next-generation approaches in education, research and care.
- To be a community hub for inspiring lifelong scientific wellness.

Precision health in context

While the traditional healthcare model has proven to be extremely effective at treating infectious disease, acute trauma and many serious illnesses, including cancer (once diagnosed), the evidence shows that it is not well-adapted to address the major public health challenge of our time, this being the global epidemic in non-communicable, lifestyle-related diseases like type 2 diabetes and metabolic syndrome, cardiovascular diseases (including heart disease and stroke), chronic respiratory diseases, and dementia.

The evidence demonstrates clear associations between these non-communicable diseases and a collection of interrelated health factors, which include obesity and being overweight, physical inactivity, poor diet, tobacco use, poor sleep, chronic stress, anxiety disorders, depression and social isolation. Additionally, while traditional healthcare approaches have been successful in treating many forms of cancer, its approach is reactive, meaning there are gains to be made in cancer prevention and early diagnosis by adopting innovative precision health approaches.

Precision health approaches, when combined with innovations in wearable technologies that can gather individualized health data, plus AI-augmented diagnostic tools, offer enhanced understanding of health at the level of the individual, providing guidance for early health and lifestyle interventions that could prevent non-communicable diseases from occurring. Precision health, wearables, AI and personalized data also present great opportunities for managing (and in some cases reversing) certain non-communicable diseases, both through lifestyle changes and health interventions via the traditional healthcare system.

Distinct from precision medicine, which provides highly targeted and individualized treatments, precision health leverages genetic, phenomic, behavioral, social and environmental determinants of health longitudinally to predict, prevent and mitigate the risk of illness and enhance healthspan.

Using this technologically advanced and individualized approach, PHIE exists to lead, coordinate, facilitate and propagate WCM-Q's work to integrate precision health and innovations in technology into education, research, and clinical care. At the same time, the vision of PHIE is to establish WCM-Q as a regional and global leader in precision health, and to work for innovative precision health approaches to extend healthcare equitably and sustainably across diverse communities.

An integrated approach

PHIE is positioned at the nexus between several WCM-Q entities and initiatives, bringing together expertise from the realms of precision medicine, lifestyle medicine, population health, health professions education, biomedical research, and the WCM-Q AI Center for Precision Health.

PHIE is also positioned within the wider healthcare ecosystem in Qatar, which comprises the Ministry of Public Health, the newly established Qatar Precision Health Institute, and the plethora of health system and industry stakeholders. Drawing on the open and collaborative nature of this healthcare ecosystem will enable PHIE to engage in many joint endeavors with the growing cohort of highly qualified healthcare practitioners, educators, researchers and leaders present in Qatar. Moreover, WCM-Q's existing institutional orientation towards both national and global stakeholders will allow PHIE to foster international collaborations that advance the implementation of precision health.

A global outlook: PHIE-CIIPES Conference in São Paulo



In June 2024, Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q), in collaboration with the Center for the Development of Medical Education at the Faculty of Medicine, University of São Paulo (CEDEM-FMUSP), hosted a global congress on precision health innovations and education in São Paulo, Brazil.

Titled Transforming Health Professional Education, Research and Care (PHIE-CIIPES), the international congress brought together leading local and international experts to explore how the latest innovations, approaches, and technologies are reshaping medical education, translational research and precision care. Highlights

included discussions on how extended reality is transforming classrooms and emergency rooms; how artificial intelligence is revolutionizing learning, disease diagnostics, and treatments; and how wearable technologies are uncovering the impact of climate change on health. Reflecting the innovation theme of the congress, Brazilian education-tech and health-tech startups also pitched their groundbreaking ideas.

WCM-Q experts participated in a variety of workshops and panel discussions, addressing important topics such as leadership in the workplace; breaking gender barriers in science; the ethics and macroeconomic implications of big data/AI; the future of medical education; patient advocacy; and innovation in health education and precision health.

The event was an important gathering of the global healthcare community, attracting approximately 700 attendees, including medical educators, students, health practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and innovators. This diverse range of participants underscored the global interest and commitment to precision health.



AI Center for Precision Health

Established in 2021, the AI Center for Precision Health is active in the spheres of research (with particular emphasis on field studies), education, continuing professional development, engagement with the wider scientific community, and engagement with government ministries to provide expertise on AI in healthcare. The center has produced more than 35 publications since 2021, covering AI applications in mental health, education, and women's health.

Research

The center currently has three ongoing field studies gathering data through wearable technologies, traditional questionnaires, and sharing of clinical data. These are:

- A large-scale study to monitor the activity levels of schoolchildren using wearable Fitbit devices.
- Collaborative diabetes monitoring with local hospitals.
- Examining stress levels in university students.

The current domains of interest for the center focus on the application of AI across four broad themes:

Continuous monitoring:

- Activity; Sleep; Heart rate; Heart rate variability (HRV).

Diabetes:

- Non-invasive glucose estimation using AI; Impact of exercise on glycemic control.

Mental health and neurological disorders:

- Stress; Anxiety; Depression; Epilepsy.

Women's Health:

- Reproductive medicine (IVF); Maternal medicine; Women's mental health; Menopause.

Field work: Diabetes and AI

The center's current field work in diabetes has the primary objective of assessing the difference in percentage of time above versus below various glucose levels during Ramadan fasting and in the month immediately after fasting. The subjects, who are monitored while they are exercising, are adults with type 1 diabetes who use an insulin pump.

The project aims to use machine learning and artificial intelligence techniques to predict outcomes related to glycemic control, using data collected from wearable devices, clinical data, and insulin pumps, including continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) data.

The project investigates the use of predictive modelling for accurately estimating glucose levels by non-invasive means. The model utilizes metrics like steps, distance, calories, heart rate, and sleep patterns to predict blood glucose levels. This predictive model can help individuals anticipate how their activities and sleep quality impact their glucose levels.

The center is also utilizing these metrics to predict hypo-hyper glycemic events in people with diabetes. This predictive model can help individuals anticipate how their activities and sleep quality impact the occurrence of hypo-hyper events and how many might occur in a day (if using intraday data - this involves cross-checking the correlation with insulin pump readings).

Field work: Investigating student stress



The center produced a protocol for using minimal-burden wearables to assess student stress levels, based on the assumption that levels of stress would fluctuate in the period leading up to and during academic examinations and assessments. The primary objectives are to assess the impact of personality traits on stress among university students, and to validate the most important digital biomarkers of stress in order to develop a machine learning model to detect and monitor stress using non-invasive wearable devices.

The study involves longitudinally tracking a group of university students (aged 18 and over) from two universities in Qatar to document daily rhythm in sleep-wake cycles, heart rate variability, stress scores and physical activity.

Review study (women's health 1): AI for Prediction of IVF Ovarian Stimulation Outcomes

Title: Artificial Intelligence Models for Ovarian Stimulation Prediction and Monitoring in Human IVF: A Scoping Review.

Objective: To explore the characteristics of AI models used for predicting ovarian stimulation outcomes in the context of IVF.

Outcome: 1,348 articles screened, 30 met inclusion criteria.

Review study (women's health 2): AI Models for IVF Embryology

Title: A Scoping Review of Deep Learning and Time-Lapse Imaging in Human Embryo Analysis.

Objective: To review the use of deep learning models for embryo evaluation and selection using time-lapse imaging in the IVF laboratory

Outcome: 773 articles screened, 80 met inclusion criteria.

Study (women's health 3): AI Models for Prediction of IVF Outcomes

The study draws upon the HFEA dataset (Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority, UK). This is the longest-running database register of fertility treatments worldwide and includes 1.8 million IVF treatment cycles undertaken in the UK.

The study is analyzing the data and using AI to develop models that can accurately predict (a) the number of embryos that will be produced and (b) early pregnancy outcomes.

Precision medicine

Collaborations using sophisticated AI algorithms

The AI Center for Precision Health seeks out opportunities for collaborative research projects in the field of precision medicine with WCM-Q's strategic partners to discover how AI can be used in clinical settings to achieve enhanced efficiencies in assessments, diagnostics, and treatment, leading to improved patient outcomes.

Collaboration with Sidra Medicine: Histopathology & AI in pediatric cancers

In an innovative application of AI, researcher Dr. Rajat Thomas, assistant professor of research in physiology and biophysics, seeks to implement the PATCHGD AI technique on Sidra's pediatric cancer datasets to enhance tumor classification and detection. This is complemented by an AI-driven chatbot that assists pathologists in interacting with data and analyzing outcomes. The research also investigates spatial transcriptomics and AI, which could enable increased levels of personalized treatment in pediatric brain cancer patients.

Other expected findings/outcomes include:

Enhanced workflow for histopathologists: A large language model-powered interaction tool could provide for faster assessment.

Improved treatment outcomes: It will potentially be possible to predict if a patient with a brain tumor will respond favorably to targeted radiotherapy or immunotherapy.

Collaboration with Hamad Medical Corporation: AI-powered electronic medical records (EMR) analytics for patient care—a new era in cardiology

Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), the main provider of secondary and tertiary care in Qatar, is uniquely placed to leverage advanced AI analytics because of its comprehensive and harmonized patient-centered EMR system. In a project led by Dr. Thomas, the AI Center for Precision Health theorized that advanced large language models (similar to ChatGPT) could revolutionize the ability to utilize unstructured information to enhance patient care. This is an area of expertise at WCM-Q. Areas for potential advances include prediction models for sepsis risk, length of stay estimation, re-admission risk, and mortality risk, to mention a few. Work is also underway to potentially incorporate data from electrocardiogram (ECG) tests for predictive purposes.

The expected outcomes for this project include improved personalized care for patients, optimized hospital resource management leading to significant cost savings, improved prognosis of patients and the possibility of adopting protocols of behavioral change to

Collaboration with Aspetar: How can looking at elite athlete injuries help the Qatari population?

Aspetar is a world-class facility for sports medicine and rehabilitation. State-of-the-art monitoring and rehabilitation equipment make it an ideal location to capture high-quality data on injuries that affect elite athletes. WCM-Q's expertise in multimodal data analysis can leverage this data to optimize healthcare outcomes for athletes and the general population in relation to recovery from knee injuries.

The expected outcomes for the project, led by Dr. Thomas, are improved understanding of the genetic basis for knee injury in athletes of Arabic descent, augmented treatment and rehabilitation protocols for knee injuries at Aspetar, and the ability to leverage the study's findings to better understand the local population's vulnerabilities to knee injury and, by extension, osteoarthritis—a major concern for healthcare in Qatar.

The next generation of healthcare innovators: Student engagement

A fundamental characteristic of the Six-Year Medical Program at WCM-Q is a focus on innovation, technology and discovery, which are considered to be key attributes for physician-scientists able to contribute to continual improvements in healthcare. As such, the PHIE program plays an important role in providing opportunities for students to engage with endeavors focused on innovation and entrepreneurship.

Consequently, in November 2023 PHIE supported the inaugural event of the Innovations & Technologies for Precision Health student club at WCM-Q. The event, titled Innovation Unboxed: From Idea to Reality, kicked off with an introduction from WCM-Q student and innovations club president Kareem Essam Aly and WCM-Q dean Dr. Javaid Sheikh, and featured insights from trailblazing minds, sparking creativity among the approximately 40 students and faculty in attendance. The event also drew upon the expertise of Ms. Milena Kraeva, a long-term mentor in Qatar and European accelerator and founder/CEO of Nexus Impact Ventures, Mohammad Zebian, program manager – acceleration, from Qatar Science & Technology Park, and Dr. Max Renault, WCM-Q's director of innovations in global precision health.

A second event was held in April 2024 in collaboration with the Itqan Clinical Simulation and Innovation Center at HMC. Titled Minds in the Machine: A Journey into AI Innovation in Precision Health, the event featured three speakers: Amr Metwally talked about Itqan's activities and how it supports the local ecosystem; Dr Luis R. Saraiva talked about a mouse study example (on sense of smell) and how machine

learning helped make sense of complex data; and Dr Rajat Thomas talked about the various ways in which AI is being used in healthcare and hospitals to impact patient care or operations. A highly productive panel discussion ensued to explore challenges and ways to bridge the gap between research and care, with special insights from Kareem Aly. Finally, WCM-Q medical students got the opportunity to practice on Itqan's surgery simulators, including the DaVinci robot.

Award winners

On May 5, 2024, five WCM-Q students won first prize at the competitive 2024 AI-Fikra National Entrepreneurship Competition organized by the Center for Entrepreneurship and Organizational Excellence at Qatar University in collaboration with Qatar Development Bank. Inspired by problems observed firsthand during their clinical rotations, the 'ScopeClear' team of Kareem Aly, Shouq Al-Thani, Ahmad Al-Ansari, Aisha Al-Heidous and Lujain Al-Emadi triumphed in the student category of the competition with their innovative design for a sheath device that cleans the endoscopic surgical camera in the body during surgery.

A team of innovators

Dr. Javaid Sheikh
Dean, professor of psychiatry, professor of population health sciences

Dr. Arfan Ahmed
Assistant professor of research in population health sciences and center coordinator, AI Center for Precision Health

Dr. Rajat Thomas
Assistant professor of research in physiology and biophysics

Dr. Max Renault
Director, innovations in global precision health

Dr. Alaa Ali Abd-Alrazaq
Assistant professor of research in population health science

Dr. Rawan AlSaad
Postdoctoral associate

Sarah Aziz
Research specialist

Hania Aslam
Research coordinator



Dr. Javaid Sheikh



Dr. Arfan Ahmed



Dr. Rajat Thomas



Dr. Max Renault



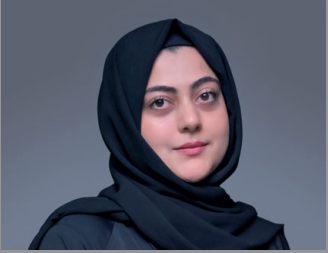
Dr. Alaa Ali Abd-Alrazaq



Dr. Rawan AlSaad



Sarah Aziz



Hania Aslam



Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar
Institute for Population Health

Symposium
Doha, Qatar



Lifestyle Medicine Redefining Healthcare to Promote Wellbeing

Questions?
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Institute for
Population Health

Institute for Population Health

Envision a future where communities thrive, living healthy with increasing lifespans, empowered to enable healthy lifestyle choices – a future free from the burden of non-communicable diseases. For over twelve years, the Institute for Population Health (IPH) at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) has and continues to strive to make this a futuristic reality. IPH initiatives span education, research, and community engagement to actively reduce premature death, increase life expectancy, prevent disease, promote holistic health, and enhance quality of life.

In the sphere of education, IPH works to develop, support and implement educational capacity-building programs for healthcare professionals and students. In the area of research, IPH designs and conducts high-quality population health research. In the realm of community development, IPH works to create health awareness to empower healthier communities.



Educational Programs and Activities

IPH's Continuing Medical Education (CME)/Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programs and activities are curated and implemented to address the specific needs of healthcare professionals. Each activity is learner-centric, employing innovative pedagogical approaches to foster proactive learning among a diverse set of participants, thereby supporting capacity building efforts in Qatar, the region and beyond. These activities are accredited by both the Qatar Ministry of Public Health's Department of Healthcare Professions-Accreditation Section (DHP-AS) and the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), USA. In the year 2023-2024, a total of 6,101 healthcare professionals attended IPH's CME/CPD programs, reflecting the broad reach and impact of these educational initiatives (Figure 1).

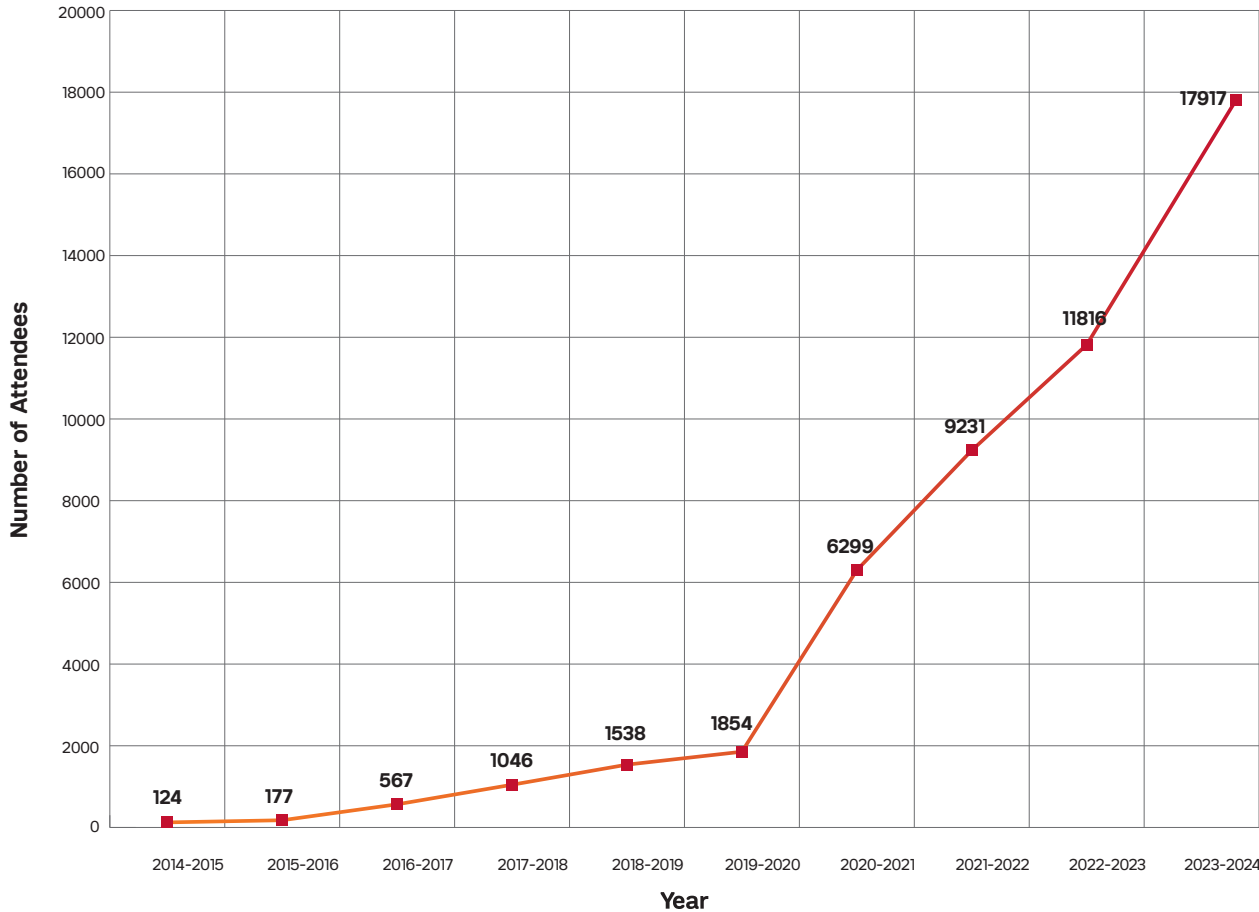


Figure 1: IPH CME/CPD activities | 2014-2024 | 17,917 attendees

Lifestyle Medicine Symposium 2024: Redefining Healthcare to Promote Well-being

This symposium, held in February 2024, brought together multiple experts and focused on current and progressive advances in lifestyle medicine education, medical practice, and research. It also provided insights on how the burden of chronic disease can be prevented, managed, and reversed by using evidence based intensive lifestyle-related therapeutic interventions. The symposium drew an enthusiastic response, with 327 healthcare professionals participating, both online and in person.

Population Health & Well-being Series

This regularly scheduled series builds capacity, facilitates lifelong learning and fosters intersectoral exchange of ideas across various disciplines to promote health and improve population health outcomes. IPH hosted eight one-hour live webinars this year with 4,568 attendees.

Certificate in Lifestyle Medicine

This 60-hour certificate course directed by Dr. Ravinder Mamtani, vice dean for population health and lifestyle medicine, and Dr. Sohaila Cheema, assistant dean, IPH, provides knowledge and skills to healthcare professionals on how to design effective lifestyle-based interventions to prevent, treat and even reverse chronic diseases like diabetes, obesity, and heart disease. This year, 53 healthcare professionals attended the course. To date, 266 healthcare professionals from Qatar and the wider region have received training in lifestyle medicine.



International Board of Lifestyle Medicine (IBLM) Exam

Becoming board certified in Lifestyle Medicine (LM) signifies specialized knowledge in the practice of evidence-based LM and distinguishes a healthcare professional as having achieved competency in LM. Successfully completing the IPH certificate course fulfills the education eligibility requirement for the IBLM examination. With backing from the IPH, the IBLM administered the examination on Nov 11, 2023 in Doha, Qatar. In 2023, 15 physicians obtained certification, bringing the total certifications completed through the WCM-Q exam hub since 2020 to 77.

Lifestyle Medicine Interest Group - Qatar (LMIG-Q)

In 2018, Dr. Ravinder Mamtani and Dr. Sohaila Cheema co-founded the Lifestyle Medicine Interest Group - Qatar (LMIG-Q) to cultivate a community of dedicated healthcare professionals working to promote healthy behaviors and lifestyles. Currently, the LMIG-Q has more than 800 members.

Global Alliance Lifestyle Medicine Leadership Forum 2024

The IPH hosted the Global Alliance Lifestyle Medicine Leadership Forum in 2024. The event culminated in the signing of the historic Doha Declaration by 19 lifestyle medicine associations from around the world. This marks a pivotal moment for the Lifestyle Medicine Global Alliance and the field of lifestyle medicine to help address the burgeoning burden of non-communicable diseases worldwide. The Declaration emphasizes the necessity of a foundational understanding of lifestyle medicine for all health professionals to achieve the promise of whole health. It also serves as a significant step towards bringing lifestyle medicine to mainstream healthcare, recognizing its vital role in disease prevention, highlighting the spectrum of therapeutic lifestyle health interventions it offers and its potential to transform healthcare outcomes globally.



Understanding Basics of Health Research

This 14-hour workshop equips healthcare professionals to become familiar with basic epidemiological and biostatistical concepts and research methodology. The workshop in May 2024 was fully subscribed, with 49 healthcare professionals in attendance. Since its initiation in 2019, 256 healthcare professionals have completed the workshop. Dr. Sohaila Cheema serves as the course director.



Introduction to Systematic Review and Meta-analysis: Principles and Practice

The workshop introduces participants to the process of conducting a rigorous systematic review and explores the interpretation of meta-analysis. The course directors are Dr. Karima Chaabna, manager of population health research in the IPH, and Dr. Amit Abraham, assistant director of the IPH. This year, 60 healthcare professionals attended the workshop. Since 2022, 88 healthcare professionals have attended this workshop.

IPH Contribution to WCM-Q Pre-Medical and Medical Education

IPH faculty and staff contribute across the continuum of the premedical and medical required curriculum at WCM-Q. Key contributions are highlighted in Figure 2 .

<p>Health and Disease: A Global Perspective (Foundation/Premedical)</p> <p>Course Director/Faculty: Dr. Ravinder Mamtani and Dr. Sohaila Cheema</p> <p>Faculty: Dr. Amit Abraham & Dr. Maha Elnashar/Ms. Huda Abdelrahim</p>	<p>Area of Concentration - Global Health (Medical)</p> <p>Sponsors and mentors: Dr. Ravinder Mamtani and Dr. Sohaila Cheema</p> <p>Co-mentor: Dr. Karima Chaabna</p>	<p>Essential Principles of Medicine and Health Illness & Disease II (Medical)</p> <p>(Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Health Systems and Global Health, Epidemics and Physician Response)</p> <p>Faculty: Dr. Ravinder Mamtani</p>	<p>Cultural Competence Module - bias and stereotyping, exploring patient perspectives and community health, and illness beliefs and traditional healing practices (Medical)</p> <p>Faculty: Dr. Maha Elnashar & Ms. Huda Abdelrahim</p>
<p>Health Care and Public Health Clerkship (Medical)</p> <p>Clerkship Director & Associate Clerkship Director/Faculty: Dr. Ravinder Mamtani & Dr. Sohaila Cheema</p> <p>Faculty: Dr. Amit Abraham & Dr. Maha Elnashar / Ms. Huda Abdelrahim</p>	<p>Foundation of Ethics Course (Premedical)</p> <p>Problem Based Learning - The Case of Ivan Ilych</p> <p>Facilitator: Dr. Amit Abraham</p>	<p>Session on personal competencies of emotional intelligence (Foundation class)</p> <p>Faculty: Dr. Maha Elnashar / Ms. Huda Abdelrahim</p>	<p>Cross-Cultural Communication Styles (Premedical orientation)</p> <p>Faculty: Dr. Maha Elnashar / Ms. Huda Abdelrahim</p>

- IPH provides elective education opportunities to WCM-Q students. The electives available to the students include:
1. Evidence-Based Approach to Complementary and Alternative Medicine
 2. Infectious Disease Outbreak: A Public Health Response

Figure 2: IPH contributions to pre-medical and medical education.

Invited Presentations by IPH faculty/staff

In the past academic year, IPH faculty have appeared as speakers and facilitators at a wide variety of workshops, training sessions, talks, podcasts, conferences and forums to share information about a range of population health issues with audiences including students, healthcare professionals, educators, faculty and staff at Education City institutions, and physicians and Primary Health Care Center physicians, among others. IPH faculty delivered these sessions both virtually and in-person at venues all over the world, including Qatar, India, Saudi Arabia, and the United Kingdom.

Research

The research program at the IPH adheres to and advocates for a robust evidence-based approach to population and public health in the State of Qatar and the wider region.

The population health research of the IPH:

- Fosters evidence-based approaches to population health;
- Bridges the gaps relevant to public health and epidemiological data;
- Addresses and discusses public health challenges and opportunities;
- Provides up-to-date, evidence-based recommendations to inform policymakers, clinicians, educators, and researchers.

The overarching themes of research conducted by IPH comprise non-communicable diseases and injuries; cultural competence and communication skills; research assessment and challenges; migrant health; communicable diseases including COVID-19 and HCV; complementary medicine and public health policy and capacity building. Utilizing various methodologies and diverse analytical tools, we conduct rigorous population-based health-related research with the aim of producing reliable data which is beneficial to policymakers, clinicians, educators and researchers. Thus far, IPH faculty/staff have contributed to 91 publications including book chapters and 72 poster/oral presentations at international and local conferences.

Recent publications

Our recent meta-analysis titled, Sleep disorders and associated factors among medical students in the Middle East and North Africa: a systematic review and meta-analysis investigated the prevalence of self-reported sleep disorders among medical students in the MENA region. The *Nature Middle East* magazine featured this research study in an article titled, Eyes that do not Sleep.

Another analysis, titled Burnout increased among university students during the COVID-19 pandemic: a systematic review and meta-analysis, investigated the prevalence of burnout among university students during the COVID-19 pandemic. The study highlights burnout as a major public health concern and calls for the development and implementation of evidence-based localized interventions at organizational and individual levels to mitigate burnout among university students.

The systematic review, Western Medical Acupuncture Perception and Use for Pain Management Among Athletes, uncovered a significant research gap in assessing the practice and perception of “Western” medical acupuncture among healthcare professionals and athletes. The findings indicate that “Western” medical acupuncture is not only prescribed by sports medicine professionals and utilized by athletes for various musculoskeletal pains but is also generally perceived to be effective for alleviation of pain.

All recent publications, oral presentations and poster presentations are listed below.

Publications

Chaabane S, Chaabna K, Khawaja S, Aboughanem J, Mamtani R, Cheema S. Sleep disorders and associated factors among medical students in the Middle East and North Africa: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Scientific Reports. 2024 February 26; 4656. doi.org/10.1038/s41598-024-53818-2	Abraham A, Chaabna K, Sheikh JI, Mamtani R, Jithesh A, Khawaja S, Cheema S. Burnout increased among university students during the COVID-19 pandemic: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Scientific Reports. 2024 January 31;14(1):2569. doi: 10.1038/s41598-024-52923-6.
Chaabna K, Jithesh A, Cheema J, Aboughanem J, Mamtani R. Western Medical Acupuncture Perception and Use for Pain Management Among Athletes: A Systematic Review. Journal of Pain Research. 2024 January 26;17:357-366. doi. org/10.2147/JPR.S441869	Anand R and Cheema S. Nurturing online communities in healthcare professions using a multichannel technology framework [version 1; not peer reviewed]. MedEdPublish 2023, 13:140 (slides) (doi: 10.21955/mep.1115317.1)
Farhat H, Alinier G, Chaabna K, Aifa, Abougalala W, Laughton J, Dhiab M. Preparedness and emergency response strategies for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear emergencies in disaster management: A qualitative systematic review. Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management. First published: 26 June 2024.	Peige Song, Davies Adeloye,... Sohaila Cheema, et. al. Setting research priorities for global pandemic preparedness: An international consensus and comparison with ChatGPT’s output. J Glob Health. 2024 Feb 16; 14:04054

Oral presentations

Abraham A, Chaabna K, Sheikh JI, Mamtani R, Jithesh A, Khawaja S, Cheema S. Burnout increased among university students during the COVID-19 pandemic: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Qatar Health Congress 2023 & 3rd Public Health Conference, 23-25 November 2023, Doha, Qatar. Speaker: Dr. Amit Abraham	Chaabane S, Chaabna K, Khawaja S, Aboughanem J, Mittal D, Mamtani R, Cheema S. Sleep disorders among medical students in the middle east and north africa: a Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. 5th European Lifestyle Medicine 2023, 10-12 November 2023, Budapest, Hungary. Speaker: Dr. Sonia Chaabane
Chaabna K, Chaabane S, Jithesh A, Doraiswamy S, Mamtani R and Cheema S. Effect of the covid-19 pandemic on the proportion of physically active children and adults worldwide. 5th European Lifestyle Medicine 2023, 10-12 November 2023, Budapest, Hungary. Speaker: Dr. Sonia Chaabane	Chaabna K, Jithesh A, Khawaja S, Aboughanem J, Mamtani R, Cheema S. Falls Among Elderly in the Middle East and North Africa Region: a Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. 3rd Qatar International Geriatrics and Dementia Conference (QIGDC), 26-28 October 2023, Doha, Qatar. Speaker: Dr. Karima Chaabna
Abraham A, Chaabna K, Sheikh JI, Mamtani R, Jithesh A, Khawaja S, Cheema S. Burnout increased among university students during the COVID-19 pandemic: a systematic review and meta-analysis. The 11th European Conference on Mental Health, 13-15 September 2023, Ljubljana, Slovenia. Speaker: Dr. Amit Abraham	

Poster presentations

Chaabane S, Chaabna K, Khawaja S, Aboughanem J, Mittal D, Mamtani R, Cheema S. Sleep disorders among medical students in the middle east and north africa: a Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. Qatar Health Congress 2023 & 3rd Public Health Conference, 23-25th November 2023, Doha, Qatar Speaker: Dr. Sonia Chaabane	Chaabna K, Doraiswamy S, Mamtani R, Cheema S. An ecological study of the burden of road traffic crashes in the Middle East and North Africa. Qatar Health Congress 2023 & 3rd Public Health Conference, 23-25 November 2023, Doha, Qatar. Speaker: Dr. Karima Chaabna
Chaabna K, Jithesh A, Khawaja S, Aboughanem J, Mamtani R, Cheema S. Falls Among Elderly in the Middle East and North Africa Region: a Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. Qatar Health Congress 2023 & 3rd Public Health Conference, 23- 25 November 2023, Doha, Qatar. Speaker: Dr. Karima Chaabna	Chaabna K, Chaabane S, Jithesh A, Doraiswamy S, Mamtani R and Cheema S. Effect of the covid-19 pandemic on the proportion of physically active children and adults worldwide. Qatar Health Congress 2023 & 3rd Public Health Conference, 23-25 November 2023, Doha, Qatar. Speaker: Ms. Anupama Jithesh
Anand R and Cheema S. Nurturing online communities in healthcare professions using a multichannel technology framework. AMEE Conference 2023, Glasgow, UK, 26-30 August 2023. Speakers: Ms. Raji Anand	

Community Initiatives

IPH recognizes that health and well-being are of paramount importance to all individuals and require a collaborative effort, shaping the foundation of every society. IPH actively engages with the community in Qatar, aiming to build a healthier population. Our community outreach programs focus on raising health awareness, promoting health and wellness, highlighting lifestyle health, and preventing diseases and injuries. Since 2013, these programs have benefited 13,885 attendees from diverse segments of the population, including school and university students, migrant workers, homemakers, societies, office staff, corporate employees, and the larger local and regional community.

Health and YOU Community Wellness Series

The aim of the series is to enhance self-care, reduce suffering, improve the quality of life, and increase longevity. This free monthly webinar series is open to the public. In 2023-2024 we hosted 10 sessions with 969 attendees. Since the inception of the series in February 2021, 37 sessions have been hosted, benefitting 3,570 attendees. Topics covered include self-care, dental health, elderly health, common eye complaints, physical activity and well-being, menopause, children’s nutrition, mind wellness and memory preservation, and digestive health and heartburn.



Lifestyle Medicine Week

Lifestyle Medicine (LM) Week is a week-long activity, which was hosted by the IPH from September 17 – 21, 2023 to promote healthy lifestyle behaviors. More than 500 people attended/participated in sessions related to LM encompassing healthy nutrition, physical activity, stress management, social connectedness, restorative sleep and the cessation of smoking and other risky substances.



Nutrition Awareness

Interactive sessions on healthy eating and nutrition were conducted at the Lycée Franco - Qatarien Voltaire school in January 2024. Dr. Sonia Chaabane, Instructor, Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar discussed healthy foods, nutritious snacks, and positive health habits with students during a healthy nutrition awareness session. More than 100 students aged 5-6 years benefited from two sessions.

Drs. Sohaila Cheema, Amit Abraham, Karima Chaabna, Sonia Chaabane and Ms. Raji Anand participated in the Medicine Unlimited 2024 event in February 2024, organized by the Office of Outreach and Educational Development, WCM-Q. IPH organized a booth to promote nutrition and physical activity awareness for high school students and their families. Around 350 students attended this activity. Dr. Sohaila Cheema and Dr. Amit Abraham conducted a basic nutrition and healthy lifestyle awareness session for Ashghal - Public Works Authority staff members at IPH on November 2, 2023.

IPH Digital Outreach

The IPH Digital Outreach initiative aims to promote and enhance health awareness and boost engagement with the audience in Qatar and internationally. IPH uses a multi-channel approach - website, email campaigns, and social media platforms - for outreach to local, regional, and global communities across various demographics for health promotion. IPH social platforms (Facebook, X, LinkedIn & Instagram) have seen a steady growth in audience/following, reach/ impressions, and engagement.

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy Newsletters

IPH uses email campaigns to disseminate information about health awareness and promotion, wellness, lifestyle health, disease, and injury prevention for the community at large on a wide range of health-related topics. This year we published 11 newsletters on topics which included travel health, breast cancer awareness, migraine, high blood pressure, oral health, sodium intake, and promoting health and well-being on National Sport Day.

IPH Representation on Local, National, and International Committees

Public Health Committee,
Ministry of Public Health, Qatar:
Dr. Ravinder Mamtani
(Member)

Advisory Board of the Lifestyle
Medicine Global Alliance:
Dr. Ravinder Mamtani
(Vice Chair)

New York State Board
for Professional Medical Conduct:
Dr. Ravinder Mamtani
(Board Member)

Global Lifestyle Medicine Leadership
Forum, 2024 Planning Committee:
Dr. Ravinder Mamtani and
Dr. Sohaila Cheema (Member)

Hamad Bin Khalifa University
(HBKU) Global Health Policy
Advisory Committee:
Dr. Amit Abraham (Member)

Lifestyle Medicine Global Alliance
(LMGA) - Lifestyle Medicine
Competency Update Project
Dr. Sohaila Cheema (Member)

Center for Cultural Competence in Health Care

The Center for Cultural Competence in Health Care (CCCHC) provides cultural competence, emotional intelligence, medical interpreter training, and other professional soft-skills development training for healthcare providers and educators. These training programs reflect IPH’s primary mission of reaching out to communities and building capacity. The CCCHC is an integral part of the IPH, led by Dr. Maha Elnashar and Ms. Huda Abdelrahim.

‘Bridging the Gap’ (BTG) Medical Interpreters Training

This five-day course is offered to the diverse community of healthcare professionals in Qatar since 2012. The program has trained 420 medical interpreters representing 24 languages (See Figure 3). The BTG training program aims to prepare a pool of trained medical interpreters for Qatar healthcare institutions to facilitate language barriers in their medical encounters. The activity is accredited by the DHP-AS and the ACCME and is approved for 33.5 hours.

Figure 3: ‘Bridging the Gap’ Medical Interpreters Training
Number of trained interpreters: 420 | Languages: 24

Amharic	3	Arabic	277	Bengali	2	Bosnian	1
Farsi	2	French	13	German	2	Hindi	21
Indonesian	4	Italian	1	Japanese	1	Korean	4
Malayalam	21	Mandarin	3	Nepali	2	Punjabi	2
Romanian	1	Russian	1	Sinhalese	1	Somali	1
Tagalog	12	Tamil	6	Tigrinya	1	Urdu	11

Mastering Emotional Intelligence (MEI) - Level 1

MEI-Level 1 is a two-day 10-hour course accredited by the DHP-AS & ACCME. The course is designed to enhance healthcare and educational professionals skills in managing their emotions and behaviors, handling emotional triggers, reflecting on their social awareness, and establishing healthy social relationships. This year, MEI was conducted on April 27 and May 4, 2024. Thus far, 174 healthcare professionals have been trained since the inception of the course in 2018.

Intercultural Communication and Collaboration Forum (ICCF)

The CCCHC is a key member of the founding and organizing committee of the Intercultural Communication and Collaboration Forum (ICCF) initiative with five other Education City campuses. ICCF’s main goal is to provide cultural competence workshops to enhance the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of faculty and staff working in multicultural and global environments. The ICCF 2023 was attended by 100 faculty and staff from the Education City community and included topics such as facilitating intercultural discovery, reducing cross-cultural tensions in groups, understanding learning and teaching beliefs, and cultural adaptive coaching and mentoring for effective leadership.



Student Outreach & Educational Development



Office of Student Outreach & Educational Development

The Office of Student Outreach and Educational Development continues to expand its programs and activities to reach a growing number of prospective students, aiming to further develop their skills and enhance their college readiness. Schools and other strategic partners are provided with ample opportunities to engage in capacity building programs especially crafted to cater for community needs. This year saw the renaming of the “High School Medical Conference” to the “Doctors of the Future Conference” to better reflect newly added components, such as pre-medical and medical students research poster presentations and alumni talks and more.

Community Outreach/ Educational Development Programs

Summer Enrichment Programs: Two Summer Enrichment Programs were offered this year. Firstly, the Pre-college Enrichment Program ran from July 9 to July 20, 2023, with the participation of 45 high school students. The Qatar Medical Explorer Program was also conducted during the same period, with the participation of 44 students. Participating students from Qatar, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, and Saudi Arabia enjoyed a two-week program packed with activities such as laboratory work, mock interviews, hospital tours and group presentations.

Doctors of the Future Conference: A total of 54 teams submitted abstracts, out of which 43 teams from different schools in Qatar and the region participated in this year's competition, hosted on December 2, 2023. The poster presentations were judged by WCM-Q research and pre-medical faculty as well as teaching staff. The top 18 teams were selected to present at the conference that took place on February 22 and 23, 2024. The winning presentation was entitled “Optimizing water consumption with the usage of automated planting system” and was presented by a team from the ACS International School Doha, who won the Doctor of The Future Scholarships. The conference, held in February, also featured three panel discussions offered by our faculty, WCM-Q graduates and staff, as well as our flagship global community event, the famous Medicine Unlimited fair, hosting more than 16 interactive activities. The conference, hosted at WCM-Q, attracted more than 300 participants.



Qatar Medical Explorer Program (QMEP) - Winter Session: Held during the period February 11 – February 15, 2024 this program provided a glimpse of academic and student life at WCM-Q, as well as admission and career orientation workshops and hands-on labs. A total of 30 students from 11 schools in Qatar participated and received their completion certificates.

Qatar Aspiring Doctors Program: This program, starting in October 2023 and ending in March 2024, offered academic support through online and face-to-face academic modules and career orientation sessions to 58 students, out of whom 39 received completion certificates. The closing event was hosted on-campus on April 25, 2024. Year on year, the QADP continues to welcome many academically gifted students who aspire to become scientists. Since its inception in 2015, the program has attracted a record number of high school students who have successfully gone on to join WCM-Q's Foundation and Pre-medical Programs.



Healing Hands Essay Competition: Fifty-three essays on the subject of 'Regenerative Medicine' were submitted for the Healing Hands contest, competing for the coveted Doctor of the Future Scholarship. The four winners received their completion certificates from Dr. Javaid Sheikh, dean of WCM-Q, after their return from the US, where they spent two weeks, one in Ithaca and one in New York City in Dr. Randy Silver's lab. In Ithaca, the students completed academic sessions on research skills, medical ethics, and medical humanities with Dr. Krystyna Golkowska, professor of English, director of ESL and coordinator of writing seminars, and visited the Cornell Biotechnology Research Center, the College of Veterinary Medicine's Department of Biomedical Sciences, and the Paleontological Institute, among many other activities. They also toured the Ithaca campus, which is famed for its idyllic forests, waterfalls, parks and architecture.

In New York City, the students completed sessions in the laboratory of Dr. Randi Silver, associate dean of Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences, learning general lab skills such as pipetting and using a digital imaging microscope, and preparing cultures of lung fibroblasts (fibrous cellular material) and of airway epithelial cells. Throughout the week the students worked on research projects, which they presented on the final day of the program. Other highlights of the week in NYC included a tour of Weill Cornell Medical Center/NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital and sightseeing excursions to famous landmarks.



Local Recruitment

School Visits: During the period July 2023 – June 2024, the Student Outreach and Educational Development (SOED) team engaged 73 local schools and presented to more than 3,000 students, informing them about our educational programs, application requirements and timelines, and outreach programs, as well as answering their questions.

Open Houses: During the same period, the office hosted 24 Thursday-Open-House events, accommodating around 160 participants including students, teachers and parents. Through these onsite and virtual meetings, the open houses served as a direct link between prospective students and WCM-Q and provided timely information and guidance to the community.

Doha Counselors Day: Co-organized in collaboration with Qatar Foundation, EC branch campuses and the Academic Bridge Program, this one-day program was conducted on September 28, 2023. A total of 130 school counselors and academic guidance professionals from across Qatar attended the program, which included various sessions providing updates about our admission procedures and deadlines, an Education City (EC) tour as well as financial aid information. This year, the one-day event was part of a one-week program organized by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education under the theme "Education Hub", which provides a one-week training and capacity building program for local counselors.

The SEOD participated as an exhibitor at the Al Najah Expo Qatar, which was hosted November 2-3, 2023 at Qatar National Convention Center. About 1,000 students from government, private and international schools attended the event.

Regional and International Outreach

Regional school visits and fairs were conducted throughout the year in UAE, Jordan, Bahrain, Oman, and Saudi Arabia in collaboration with Education City branch campuses, allowing us to reach out to more 47 regional schools and about 1,300 students in the region.

The 33rd Annual European Association for International Education (EAIE) Conference and Exhibition: During the period 26-29 September, 2023, Dr. Rachid Bendriss, associate dean, foundation, outreach and educational development programs, represented WCM-Q as part of the Qatar Foundation initiative "Study in Qatar". A joint Education City booth was set up during the conference, to showcase Qatar as a desirable study destination.





The International Association for College Admission Counseling (IACAC) MENA Regional Institute was hosted by Georgetown University in Qatar during the period October 6-8, 2023. The Office of Student Outreach and Educational Development organized WCM-Q's presence at the Institute and presented to about 80 regional counselors who flew in for this training event. This major international conference boasts participation from more than 100 universities, along with school counselors and community-based organizations hailing from diverse nations including Canada, China, Egypt, France, China, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Qatar, Spain, United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Education City International Counselors Program (ECICP): Organized in collaboration with Education City branch campuses and Qatar foundation during the period January 27-29, 2024, this program aims to showcase Education City universities and Qatar as a desirable study destination. A total of 33 high school counselors were invited from 13 different countries.

At the **NAFSA 75th Annual Conference & Expo**, held during the period May 30 to June 2, 2024, Noha Saleh, director of the Student Outreach and Educational Development Office along with Dr. Rachid Bendriss, represented WCM-Q as part of the Qatar Foundation (QF) initiative "Study in Qatar". A joint booth including representatives from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Qatar University, QF educational and social development funding agencies, the tourism authority, Education City branch campuses, and Hamad Bin Khalifa University, was set up at the NAFSA exhibit throughout the conference days, presenting Qatar as a thriving study destination that offers a wide array of innovative study programs.

Faculty Outreach and Multiversity Initiatives:

At the request of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, professors and academic staff at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) provided teaching support as follows:

- A team of 15 high school students representing Qatar secured third place and two bronze medals at the International Juniors Science Olympiad (IJSO) held in Thailand. Dr. Mohammad Yousef, professor of physics, offered 10 coaching sessions in the essential principles of physics. Eight student finalists participated in a rigorous lab training to help them prepare to take on teams from all over the world at the 20th IJSO, which was held at Srinakharinwirot University in Bangkok from December 1-10, 2023.
- On April 24 and 28, 2024, Dr. Ihor Kulai, teaching specialist in organic chemistry, mentored student participants to help prepare them for the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO2024). The

International Chemistry Olympiad is an annual competition for secondary school students. Approximately 80 countries took part in the contest, hosted in Saudi Arabia, during the summer of 2024.

- In collaboration with Texas A&M University at Qatar (TAMUQ), and pre-medical faculty and students, the SOED organized the **Physics for Future Doctors Summer Program** during the period July 16-20, 2023 at WCM-Q. The program, which is led by WCM-Q's Dr. Mohammad Yousef and Dr. Sami Borgi, professor of mechanical engineering at TAMUQ, is designed to provide motivated high school students with an opportunity to hone their physics problem-solving skills, emphasizing medically relevant examples. Nineteen high school students from 15 schools successfully completed the program.
- QF Math Cycle:** On March 25 and April 1, 2024, in collaboration with Qatar Foundation's Math Circle, Dr. Daniel Renzi, assistant professor of mathematics, hosted 39 high school students, all from Qatar Foundation schools, to tackle a series of challenging yet fun math problems. The math circle is a yearly campus wide activity where selected students rotate between EC campuses to hone their math skills.





Admissions

Office of Admissions

The success, reputation, and visibility of Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) and its programs continue to grow, leading to more competition from applicants for a place at the college.

The Office of Admissions report for 2023-2024 summarizes the admissions process, the number of expected incoming students and their demographics for Fall 2024 entry, admission workshops, and the student information system utilized by the Office of Admissions.



The Office of Admissions team.

Background

The Six-Year Medical Program integrates the two-year pre-medical and four-year medical curricula. The successful completion of this Program leads to the Cornell University Doctor of Medicine degree.

The Six-Year Medical Program's tenth class joined WCM-Q in August 2024. Students will progress through the Six-Year Medical 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 Medical Program remains available to external applicants who have completed a baccalaureate program at other colleges or universities worldwide. The WCM-Q Foundation Program, a one-year program available to academically talented Qatari students and long-term residents, allows

them to study the relevant subjects in addition to helping them further develop their study skills and critical thinking abilities. After completing the Foundation Program, students are promoted to the Six-Year Medical Program. The Foundation Program has been very successful and continues to yield positive results.

Admissions Process

WCM-Q seeks applicants who uphold the highest academic and personal standards. The Committee on Admissions at WCM-Q identifies the best-qualified applicants from diverse academic and personal backgrounds. Appointed by the Dean of WCM-Q, the Committee on Admissions is comprised of faculty members. The Dean also appoints student representatives and ex-officio members to the Committee, as appropriate. The Committee makes final decisions on the suitability of applicants for the respective programs. The Office of Admissions continues to support the Committee on Admissions in its holistic and balanced approach to selecting a diverse and academically well-prepared entering class.

Incoming Students

During the 2023-2024 academic year, 779 applications for the Six-Year Medical Program were submitted for Fall 2024 admission. Of the 779 applications, the Committee on Admissions accepted 47 candidates directly into the Program. A total of 19 students were promoted from the Foundation Program into the Six-Year Medical Program.

As of September 10, 2024, 55 students are enrolled in the first year of the Six-Year Medical Program.

Claudia Mihaescu, assistant director of admissions, Dr. Dietrich Büsselberg, associate dean for admissions, and Farhan Aziz, director of admissions.



* These figures are based on data available as of September 10, 2024

In this class of 55 students, 13 nationalities are represented, with approximately 78 percent making their home in Qatar.

Of the 55 students, 20 are citizens of Qatar, approximately 36 percent.

Admission was offered to 21 candidates for the Foundation Program for Fall 2024 entry. As of September 10, 2024, 19 students are enrolled in the program of the 19 students, 17 are citizens of Qatar, approximately 90 percent.

Direct admission to the Four-Year Medical Curriculum was very competitive for Fall 2024. Fifty-five candidates submitted applications for admission to this component of the Medical Program. Of these, six were offered admission. As of September 10 2024, four students enrolled. These four students are graduates of Lafayette College, McMaster University, New York University Abu Dhabi, and the University of Toronto.

Of the 78 new students who will join WCM-Q's Foundation Program, Six-Year Medical Program, and Four-Year Medical Curriculum, 37 students (47 percent) are citizens of Qatar. The remaining students with diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds come from other nations. The data indicates a substantial interest among citizens of Qatar to pursue medical education at WCM-Q.

Total number of students who joined WCM-Q programs in 2024		
	Total	Qatari citizens (%)
Foundation Program	19	17 (90%)
Six-Year Medical Program	55	20 (36%)
Four-Year Medical Curriculum	4	0
Total Number	78	37 (47%)

* These figures are based on data available as of September 10, 2024

Admissions Workshops

During the 2023-2024 Academic Year, the Office of Admissions hosted seven workshops for applicants applying for Fall 2024 to provide further additional guidance in the admissions process to the Six-Year Medical Program. In addition, one workshop was held for applicants applying to the Four-Year Medical Curriculum component of the Six-Year Medical Program.

The workshops, titled 'Steps Towards a Complete Application' were held on October 2, 2023; October 30, 2023; November 13, 2023; November 26, 2023; November 27, 2023, December 5, 2023; January 3, 2024; and January 8, 2024, which covered the online application process. The total attendance for all eight workshops was 429 applicants.

The Office of Admissions will continue to enhance the scope and quality of these workshops in the upcoming admissions cycles and provide a comprehensive understanding of the overall admissions process at WCM-Q.

Student Information System

The application software, Jenzabar-EX, in strong collaboration with the Business and Education Solutions Team at WCM-Q, was utilized effectively in the 2023-2024 admissions cycle.





Student Affairs

Division of Student Affairs

The Division of Student Affairs ensures WCM-Q students are provided with all the services and support needed to enhance their academic success, growth and professional development.

The division's services include academic support, health and wellness, student life, management of academic records, financial aid, insurance, travel support, and more.

During the academic year 2023-2024, the division delivered many projects, events and activities, and expanded on more projects that aim to support WCM-Q students and their holistic growth.

Academic Activities

Academic Counseling Workshops

Throughout the year, the academic counselors organized workshops to support students as they progress through their curriculum. Some sessions were general in nature to provide students with tips about study skills during lectures and exams, time management, exam preparations, professionalism and learning environment, while other sessions focused on specific programs such as the tutoring program, the summer course in Ithaca, writing CVs and personal statements, Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) applications, curriculum overview and travel logistics.

Registrar

The Registrar's Office plays a major role in student registration, record management and keeping, immigration processes, financial aid, scholarships/sponsorship, and the student employment program. The team held multiple information sessions to ensure students are kept updated on the latest requirements and updates at all times.

New International Students Orientation

Student Affairs held a one-day orientation for international students on August 14, 2023. The orientation program included information about Qatar, its culture, language and costume, Education City, the facilities available on campus and through Qatar Foundation, services provided by WCM-Q, immigration, shopping, restaurants, student life, and more. The orientation was facilitated by our student orientation leaders, staff and faculty, who interacted with our students during sessions and the lunch hosted by Student Affairs.

Before their arrival, all students received a detailed booklet, titled *the Freshmen Guide*, to provide them with all the information they needed before their arrival in Qatar.

On July 21, the orientation program ended with a big celebration for the newly admitted students joining the medical program. During the ceremony, students joining the Six-Year Medical Program received their Ibn Sina pins, while students joining the four-year medical curriculum received their stethoscopes and white coats. More than 500 guests attended the event.

Orientation CANVAS Courses

To introduce the new students to the WCM-Q New Student Orientation, the orientation team prepared and launched two CANVAS Courses for the foundation, pre-medical and medical students. Students were granted access during the summer to enable them to submit required documents, read background information and get ready for the orientation. The courses were very detailed and included orientation and class schedules, briefs about staff and faculty, ITS requirements, library information, maps of the WCM-Q building, and safety and security advice.

Orientation Programs

The Student Affairs events team participated in the Qatar Foundation Marhaba orientation for new students and hosted a booth at the student center to welcome new students.

The Student Affairs team collaborated with the Foundation, Pre-medical and Medical Programs and held its new student orientation between August 15-17, 2023, for all the new incoming students.

The hybrid program included welcoming sessions, introductions to staff, faculty and the curriculum, tours of the building, icebreakers, social gatherings and meals. Students were also briefed about expectations and responsibilities as students, campus rules, regulations and policies, and they attended other sessions that are customized according to their educational program.

Through the orientation program, Student Affairs aims to create a campus life that is fun and welcoming to new students. This was achieved through icebreakers and fun activities that focused on teamwork, cooperation, cultural awareness and communication skills. Students attended the Arabian Night and celebrated the local culture through Arabic music, food, costumes and traditional games. Around 80 students attended the event. Students also participated in interactive discussions with their faculty and peer students from other classes to share experiences, tips and advice across the board.

Opening Exercises, held on the August 17, is considered the final activity of the orientation program and the official welcoming ceremony for all new students. The event was attended by more than 500 guests including students, their families, faculty and staff. The new students joining the Six-Year Medical Program received their Ibn Sina pin as a welcoming token to the program, while the students joining the four-year medical curriculum received their stethoscope and white coats for the first time. The keynote speech was given by Dr. Essa Abuhelaiqa, a WCM-Q alumnus from the Class of 2011.

Dean’s Honor List Dinner

In collaboration with the Pre-medical Program, Student Affairs celebrated the achievements of 48 pre-medical students and seven foundation students who achieved a GPA of 3.75 and above. The event was held on October 19, 2023 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel and was attended by faculty, staff, students, their families and friends. The dean welcomed the guests, congratulated all of the students, and presented them with a plaque as a token of appreciation. Dr. Sumeja Zahirovic, assistant professor in medicine, and a WCM-Q alumnus of the Class of 2011, concluded the event with an inspirational speech offering congratulations and advice for the years of study ahead.



Graduation

On May 8, 2024, WCM-Q celebrated 50 graduates from the Class of 2024, which is the largest class since the inception of the college. The traditional WCM-Q commencement started with the national anthems of Qatar and the United States, followed by a recitation of the Holy Quran, Dr. Sheikh’s address, and a keynote speech by Dr. Jehan Al-Rayahi, an alumnus of the inaugural Class of 2008. Dr. Sheikh recited the Hippocratic Oath with students and presented them to Dr. Robert Harrington, dean of Weill Cornell Medicine, who conferred the MD degree upon each of them. Students then received their diplomas. The event was concluded with a farewell speech by Dr. Harrington and the Cornell Alma Mater.

Community Outreach Activities

Service-Learning Trip to Tanzania

Student Affairs held its annual service-learning trip for pre-medical students in July 2023. A group of ten students and two faculty chaperones travelled and spent two weeks in Tanzania. The trip gave the students an opportunity to learn about global health issues, provide acute care to populations with little or no access to resources, and experience the rich culture of Tanzania.



The team conducted house-to-house visits in the local communities, participated in free medical screening camps, and visited local hospitals, children’s homes, and schools.

In addition, students were introduced to Tanzania’s rich wildlife and cultural offerings by visiting national parks, cultural centres and markets.





World Gratitude Day

On September 21, 2023, for the second time, the Student Affairs team collaborated with the Dean's Office and Human Resources to celebrate World Gratitude Day. The dean attended the event and welcomed all staff and students. The event gathered the WCM-Q community in a fun and relaxed event where they had chats, snacks, fun photos and exchanged notes of gratitude and appreciation.

International Exchange Trip to Jordan

In January 2024, Student Affairs coordinated a seven-day trip for the first-year medical students to Jordan. The team was comprised of 12 students and two chaperones.

During the trip, the team participated in customized activities that focused on culture, leadership, and community service. The team visited historical places and touristic sites in Amman, Petra and the Dead Sea. The team experienced life in Jordan by visiting the famous downtown souqs in Amman and enjoyed Jordanian meals. In addition, the team visited and volunteered at Darat Samir Shamma for the Elderly and Dar Al Ihsan orphanage. They talked to staff who briefed them about the nature of their work and services they provide on a daily basis. In both locations, the team had the opportunity to mingle, chat and play games with the residents and employees.

First-year medical students and members of the Student Affairs team in Petra.



Student Affairs Open House

The Student Affairs team merged this year's Open House with the Health and Wellness team's Wear Red Day annual event. Students enjoyed the different activities and games put together by the team. Through the interactive program, students mingled with the team members and learned more about the services that each area provides. Staff and students competed against each other, wore red for the day and enjoyed the red snacks and desserts together.

Student Life

Events and Admin Support Team

The team plays a strategic role in supporting our students as they gain their academic knowledge and grow as well-rounded individuals through extra-curricular activities. The team organized several information sessions to guide students through logistics for travel, reimbursement, the processes for forming clubs and organizing activities, budgeting, Medical Student Executive Council - Qatar (MSEC-Q) elections and WCM-Q representation.

The below provides information about the successful and busy semester our students organized throughout the year:

Clubs and Organizations

The number of clubs and organizations grew to 51 clubs in the year 2023-2024. Student Affairs helped students to organize more than 100 events.

The year's record for our sports teams was great as they participated in Education City (EC) competition tournaments and national competitions in Qatar and placed well; our men's basketball team won first place in the EC-wide tournament with the championship commencing on Qatar Sports Day. This team achieved the second championship in the school's history. Meanwhile, the women's basketball team secured third place in the Qatar Collegiate Sports Federation basketball competition. In addition, our volleyball team won second place in the QF League.

The Big Red Fitness initiative continued with their annual Step Up competitions to track the steps of students, faculty and staff for a month to promote health and wellness.

The Reach Out to Asia Club (ROTA), in collaboration with FHSS, organized classes for the support staff, which include: basic computer skills, communication, grammar, English speaking, and learning different languages.

The popular Karak Thursday event, organized by the Qatari Student Association (QSA) once again attracted a large number of our students, staff and faculty, who find this a good opportunity to gather once a week to enjoy chats with their peers and the traditional Qatari drink Karak and typical Qatari snacks.

For the second year, the club collaborated with other Qatari clubs at fellow Education City campuses and the QF Community Development team to organize a Ramadan Night with Iftar for all students in Education City.

The National Charity Week Organization, along with Education Above All, collaborated with MSEC-Q, Takatuf and the Muslim Student Association to conduct the charity week activities at WCM-Q between 22-26 October, 2023. The week's activities were a mixture of competitions, donation drives, auctions and fun activities. Donations were raised towards emergency aid efforts in Palestine.

The Health and Wellness team, MSEC-Q and a number of other clubs organized the annual breast cancer awareness day event on November 8, 2023. The event hosted awareness stations and booths with fun games and activities. Staff, faculty and students participated in the different activities and enjoyed the information shared, interactive stations and nice snacks. Participants wore pink to show their support of the awareness campaign.

MSA collaborated again with Student Affairs and MSEC-Q and hosted the annual Ramadan Night for WCM-Q students on April 1, 2024. Students practiced the maghrib prayer and enjoyed Arabic food together.

The Emergency Medicine Interest Group volunteered to support the Palestinian Refugees camp. They visited the camp during Eid El-Fitr, and ran some activities and educational sessions for the children and families in the camp.

The Student Wellness Society collaborated with the Health and Wellness team and Sidra Medicine to organize the Eid for Everyone campaign, which aimed to collect toys for children. Staff, faculty and students donated toys throughout Ramadan to be distributed to students to hand to children at Sidra Medicine as gifts during Eid El-Fitr.

Our Arts Club participated in an artistic project with Education Above All and the Mall of Qatar to paint an Oryx to be placed at the mall. The names of the students and the college were displayed on the Oryx at the mall.

Over the year, the medical interest groups held multiple workshops and sessions to raise awareness about a specific medical issue, disease or specialty and hosted medical experts to speak during their sessions.

The Gaming Club organized multiple events that offered games and competitions. The aim of these games was to enhance communication among the WCM-Q community. The Student Environmental Sustainability Club (SESC) organized a clean-up trip to Al Zubarah Beach in collaboration with the Doha Environmental Actions Project (DEAP) organization. Eight students from different clubs and organizations benefited from the Student Affairs Clubs Travel Award. Related to the subject of their clubs, student travelled to different countries and attended conferences and workshops and represented WCM-Q.

MSEC-Q

In collaboration with Student Affairs, the Medical Student Executive Council - Qatar (MSEC-Q) did a great job of enhancing student life on campus. In addition to their studies and their work as advocates for their classmates, they were successful in organizing all of their annual events and more. MSEC-Q organized various activities to bring students together and create relationships that will last for years, such as the MSEC-Q Big Red socials, movie night, Jalabiya Day, and the send a message to a graduate initiative.

The annual MSEC-Q Club Fest event was held on September 14, 2023. More than 20 tables displayed their clubs in various creative ways. Some shared photos, videos and leaflets about their clubs, while others provided games and fun activities. The event was very vibrant, with music, chats, games and nice food.



Faculty Student Majlis

MSEC-Q held its annual faculty-student majlis on November 7, 2023. The event provided the opportunity for the students to interact with the faculty outside the classroom to build a stronger community at WCM-Q. During the event, students and faculty participated in interactive activities and discussions and enjoyed delicious food.



Palestine Heritage Night

MSEC organized a special night on November 23, 2023, to commemorate the rich history and cultural heritage of Palestine through art exhibitions and poetry readings. More than 150 guests attended the events and enjoyed the stations, poetry, speeches and Palestinian food. In addition, Qatar Charity was invited to collect donations for their campaign to support the Palestinian people in Gaza.

Wacky Week

The annual Wacky Week was held from January 28 - February 1, 2024. Students enjoyed the different themes for each day, for which they dressed accordingly. The week's different themes aimed to encourage student interactions and to build a strong student community on campus. This helped create a fun and relaxed environment around campus.



The Basant spring festival.

Basant

The annual spring festival hosted by MSEC-Q on February 7, 2024 celebrated the start of Spring Semester with many outdoor activities such as pot planting, kite flying, mug painting and a photo booth. More than 400 guests of students, staff, faculty and their families attended the event and participated in the different activities.

International Night

Human Resources, the Dean's Office, MSEC-Q and Students Affairs collaborated for the second time and organized the popular annual International Night event on March 7, 2024. The event was attended by more than 600 guests who wore their traditional costumes to celebrate their culture. A good number of staff, students and faculty hosted tables to represent their countries and provided a taste of their food to guests. Towards the end of the night, students from around Education City competed in singing, dancing and poetry performances for best artistic performance of the year.

More than 600 guests attended International Night in March.



Match Day

MSEC-Q organized a celebration to mark Match Day on March 15, 2024. The event was held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel and was attended by faculty, staff, graduates, their families and friends. During the event, students celebrated by sharing the news of their residency placements in Qatar and the US.



The students of the Class of 2024 celebrated a highly successful Match Day.

Med Gala

The annual Med Gala Award Dinner was held on April 18, 2024 at the Intercontinental Hotel. Students were requested to nominate colleagues to win various awards for their work, attitude and conduct throughout the year.

NASPA-MENASA Conference

Student Affairs collaborated with MSEC-Q to give a presentation during the NASPA-MENASA Conference held in Qatar on April 29, 2024. The presentation focused on challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic and the strategies that were implemented to maintain and enhance engagement while physical distancing guidelines were in place. These included switching student programming to the online sphere using video conferencing software, and the establishment of a centralized website to provide a space in which students could connect with one another and to facilitate the coordination of student clubs, societies and activities.

Health & Wellness

The Student Affairs Health and Wellness team continues to provide a variety of services to students, such as individual counselling, diagnostic aid, and learning assessments. The team hosted multiple sessions that focused on health and wellness services, resources, and connections to help students during their academic journey, ensuring a successful transition and fostering a sense of belonging during their life at WCM-Q. Some sessions focused on mindfulness and creating balance in their life.

In addition to their work with students' clubs and organizations, Human Resources and the Dean's Office, the team supported other divisions by giving presentations during their programs. For example, the team presented during the summer programs of the Office of Student Outreach and Educational Development, and participated in the Institute for Population Health's annual Lifestyle Medicine Week.



Communications, External Affairs & Development

Communications, External Affairs & Development

Utilizing multiple channels, campaigns, events and special initiatives, the Office of Communications continued its work to support the mission and vision of WCM-Q by broadening public awareness of the institution's activities in the spheres of patient care, education, research, community engagement and innovation.

Working both independently and in close collaboration with WCM-Q colleagues from other divisions and external strategic partners, the office was able to pursue many new opportunities to share information about important work and events taking place under the auspices of WCM-Q, to organize key college events such as Graduation, and to deliver both new and legacy initiatives under the banner of Sahtwak Awalan – Your Health First (YHF), WCM-Q's flagship public health campaign, in support of the broader goals of Qatar National Vision.

The office continued to garner significant high-profile exposure for WCM-Q's activities, highlighting the institution's important contributions to academia, civil society and sustainable development in Qatar and the wider region, and receiving official recognition for exemplary contributions in the field of corporate social responsibility.

WCM-Q's LifeHub Pavilion honored by visit from HH Sheikha Moza

Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar's LifeHub Pavilion at Expo 2023 Doha was honored by a visit to the ground-breaking installation by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development.

Her Highness toured the LifeHub Pavilion, which highlights the potential of a future in which innovation and AI drive improvements in both human health and environmental sustainability. Her Highness was welcomed to LifeHub, which was located in the Innovation Center of the International Zone at Expo 2023 Doha in Al Bidda Park, by Dr. Javaid Sheikh, dean of WCM-Q.

LifeHub was further privileged to receive a visit from Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Chairperson of Qatar Museums, Doha Film Institute, Reach Out to Asia, and Qatar Leadership Centre, as well as His Excellency the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah Al Attiya, and His Excellency the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr. Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Subaie.

In addition, LifeHub was honored to be visited by Her Excellency the Minister of Public Health (former) Dr. Hanan Mohamed Al Kuwari, plus a delegation of senior health ministers from across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region. More than 70 ambassadors representing nations all over the world visited LifeHub from the opening of the installation in October 2023, in addition to more than 70,000 members of the public, including many visits from school groups.



LifeHub, a state-of-the-art immersive educational experience, was held in collaboration with the Ministry of Municipality and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. The pavilion's many innovative experiential installations demonstrate four key dimensions that can be connected to create a healthier and more sustainable future for the planet, these being Climate Change; Sustainability; Nutrition & Wellness; and Science, Technology & AI. These immersive experiences demonstrate a wide range of pressing concerns, including the challenges of rising sea levels, global warming and changing weather patterns, the devastating impact of plastic waste on sea life, deforestation, and other environmental issues caused by human activity.

The LifeHub Pavilion was honored by a visit from Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development.

LifeHub



Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Chairperson of Qatar Museums, Doha Film Institute, Reach Out to Asia, and Qatar Leadership Centre, toured the LifeHub Pavilion.



His Excellency Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah Al Attiya, the Minister for Municipality, at LifeHub.



Her Excellency the Minister of Public Health (former) Dr. Hanan Mohamed Al Kuwari, His Excellency Dr. Ahmed Abdel Wahab Ahmed Al-Awadi, Kuwait's Minister of Health, and other GCC health ministers toured the LifeHub Pavilion.





More than 70,000 members of the public visited LifeHub, including many school groups.

Recognition for LifeHub Pavilion

WCM-Q was presented with the 'Most Innovative CSR Initiative for 2024' award at the Qatar CSR Summit in recognition of the achievements of the LifeHub Pavilion at Expo 2023 Doha.

The prestigious award was presented to Ms. Nesreen Al-Rifai, WCM-Q's Chief Communications, External Affairs and Development Officer by Dr. Saif Al-Hajari, CEO, Qatar CSR National Program and President, Mubadara for Social Impact; Dr. Rana Sobh, Dean of College of Business and Economics, Qatar University; and Mr. Jack Saba, General Manager, Mubadara for Social Impact. Held under the patronage of HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, the Qatar CSR Summit 2024 promoted the importance and potential of environmentally sustainable economic development and celebrated outstanding contributions to the development of CSR and sustainability in Qatar.

WCM-Q received an award at the Qatar CSR Summit in recognition of the achievements of the LifeHub Pavilion.



Transforming Medicine campaign – a global success story

The 'Transforming Medicine' campaign was launched by the Office of Communications in March 2024 to honor the remarkable achievements of WCM-Q alumni and their contributions to healthcare worldwide. The campaign includes a series of short films that follow the inspirational personal and professional journeys of 20 WCM-Q alumni in Qatar and the US. Just like our WCM-Q alumni, the Transforming Medicine campaign has proven to be a huge global success. The campaign has achieved extremely high engagement levels and to date has registered an impressive 1.2 million views globally, with numbers still rising. The Transforming Medicine campaign films can be viewed on WCM-Q's channel by scanning the QR code below:



Your Health First – Sahtak Awalan

Promoting health, fitness and sustainability across Qatar

The innovative Your Health First – Sahtak Awalan (YHF) campaign works to empower all members of the community to protect and improve their health through positive lifestyle change. Having begun as a campaign aimed at raising awareness of healthy behaviors, YHF has evolved into a far-reaching movement that provides a continually evolving range of innovative opportunities for community members to engage directly in healthy activities.

These initiatives and programs, which promote and enable members of the community to maintain a healthy diet, regular exercise, improve their health literacy, and achieve environmental sustainability, continue to receive strong support from YHF's strategic partners: The Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Ministry of Municipality, and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.

The Fitness Box



Launched in January 2022, initially at two sites, The Fitness Box initiative expanded to increase accessibility to opportunities for exercise to more people in the community. From the first venues at Al-Rayyan Park (Green Carpet) and Airport Park (Old Airport area), the initiative went on to bring installations to Almutazah Park, Umm Al Seneem Park, Almanal Park, Al Khor Park, and Wakrah Plaza Park. Temporary Fitness Box installations were also brought to short- and medium-term events, including National Sport Day, and the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ festivities, as well as a month-long installation during the Holy Month of Ramada. Fitness Box installations are crafted from upcycled shipping containers and are equipped with solar panels to provide some of the electrical energy they use. Each Fitness Box has a giant video screen which broadcasts tailor-made free fitness classes led by renowned instructors to the community as well as gym

equipment inside the 'box' free for participants to use.

The focus of The Fitness Box is accessibility: classes are free of charge, suitable for all fitness levels and ages, and are approximately 20 minutes each and require no special equipment. Classes are offered in three Language—English, Arabic and Urdu—and no bookings are needed. These measures have made the initiative extremely popular with the community, especially during the cooler months of the year, with many thousands of hours of exercise clocked up to date.

Khayr Qatarna

The Khayr Qatarna (KQ) program continues to produce many tons of healthy, homegrown fruit and vegetables for the local market. The program itself has also grown and now has 18 greenhouses based at 16 high schools in Qatar, up from 15 greenhouses at 13 high schools in the previous year of operation.

The greenhouses are used for growing a diverse range of crops including tomatoes, cucumbers, green beans, broccoli, leafy vegetables and peppers. Not only does this boost national food security and sustainability but the program also teaches students about agriculture, logistics, economics and healthy food. All profits are reinvested in the scheme and the food has been granted the status of 'Premium Produce by the ministry of Municipality and Environment. The fruit and vegetables are distributed via 23 of the leading supermarkets around Doha.

The Khayr Qatarna initiative teaches local children about nutrition, agriculture and food security.



Back to School

Sahtak Awalan – Your Health First once again supported the annual Back to School campaign of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MOEHE).

Each year, Your Health First works with the MOEHE, one of its strategic partners, to provide free school equipment to help returning schoolchildren start the new school year with motivation to learn, keep fit and healthy, and gain an appreciation of the importance of safeguarding the environment. This year, Your Health First provided excited schoolchildren with new water bottles, lunch boxes, and solar-powered STEM education kits. The kits allow the schoolchildren to learn practical lessons about renewable energy in a series of fun and engaging projects by building solar-powered model cars, airplanes, and houses.

Your Health First also provided free information resources to help children learn about the positive impact on health of eating a healthy diet rich in fruit and vegetables, avoiding unhealthy snacks, and engaging in physical exercise on a regular basis.

The Back to School initiative provides free school equipment to local schoolchildren.



National Sport Day

Sahtak Awalan – Your Health First participated in Qatar National Sport Day 2024 activities at the Expo 2023 Doha site at Al Bidda Park. The Sahtak Awalan celebrations featured a wide range of activities, including the innovative 'Fitness Box,' a solar-powered installation crafted from upcycled shipping containers and equipped with giant screens to broadcast tailor-made fitness classes led by internationally renowned instructors. The activities also included Sahtak Awalan's famous blender bikes, which allow participants to make their own vitamin-packed, pedal-powered smoothies from fresh, natural ingredients.

As the theme of Qatar National Sport Day 2024 was 'The Choice is Yours', the YHF activities provided a choice of a wide range of different sporting pursuits, emphasising that there is a sport out there for everyone, and that all individuals have the ability to enjoy the health and social benefits that come with engaging in sporting activities on a regular basis.

Your Health First brought a wide range of fun activities to Qatar National Sport Day 2024.

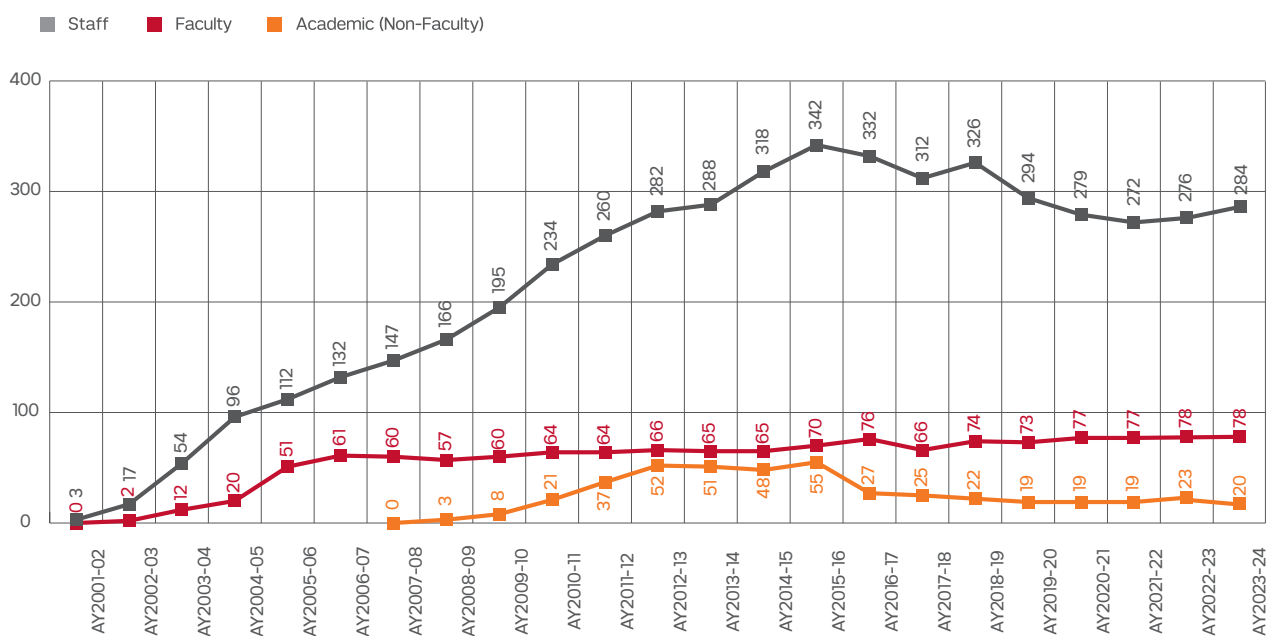




Statistics

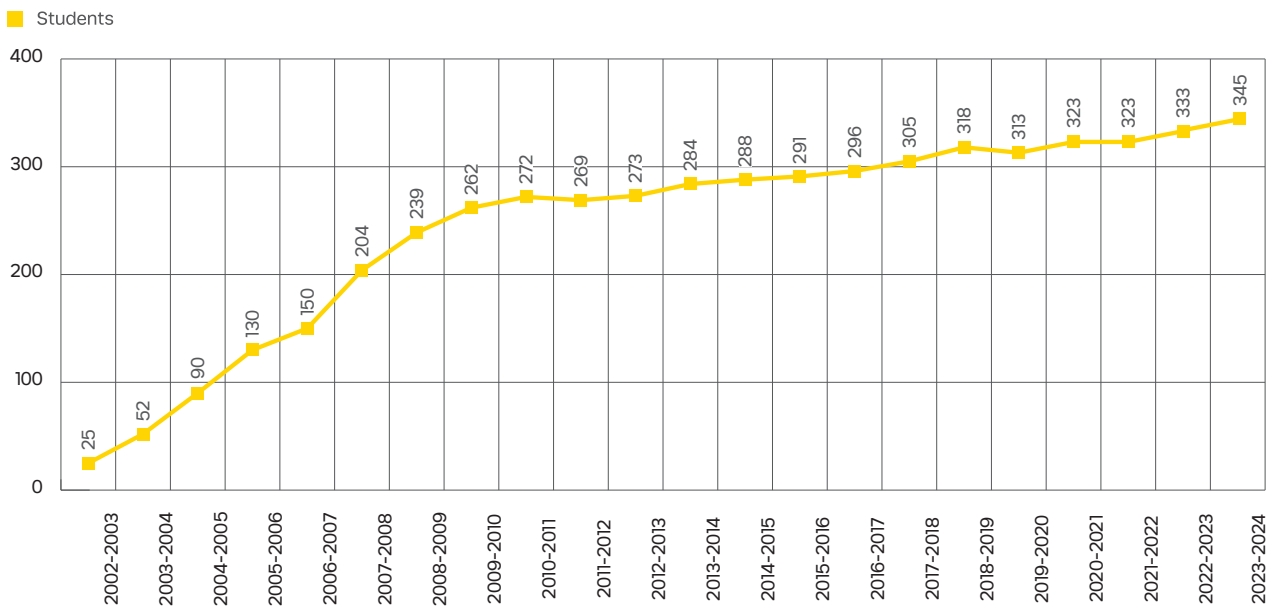
STATISTICS

FACULTY & STAFF NUMBERS, AY2001/02 TO AY2023/24

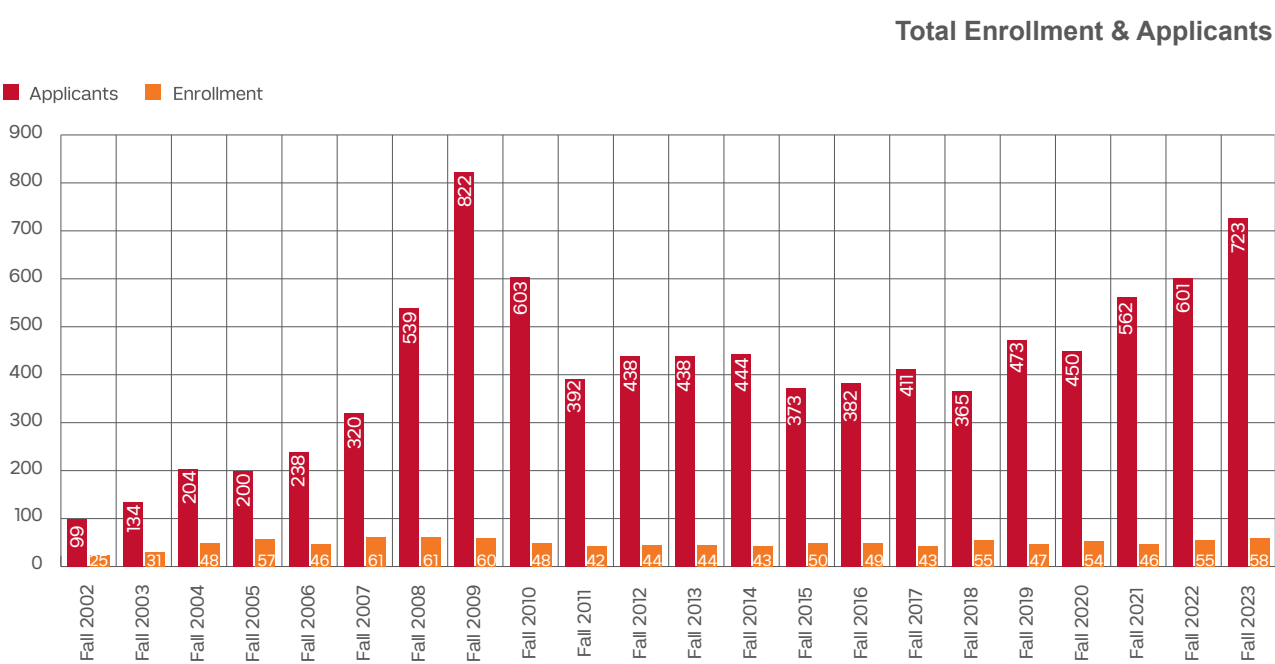


Figures for faculty include all those on the WCM-Q payroll considered active within the academic year. Figures for staff are as of September, 2023 and include those residing in New York. Academic non-faculty includes postdoctoral and research associates position in the research program.

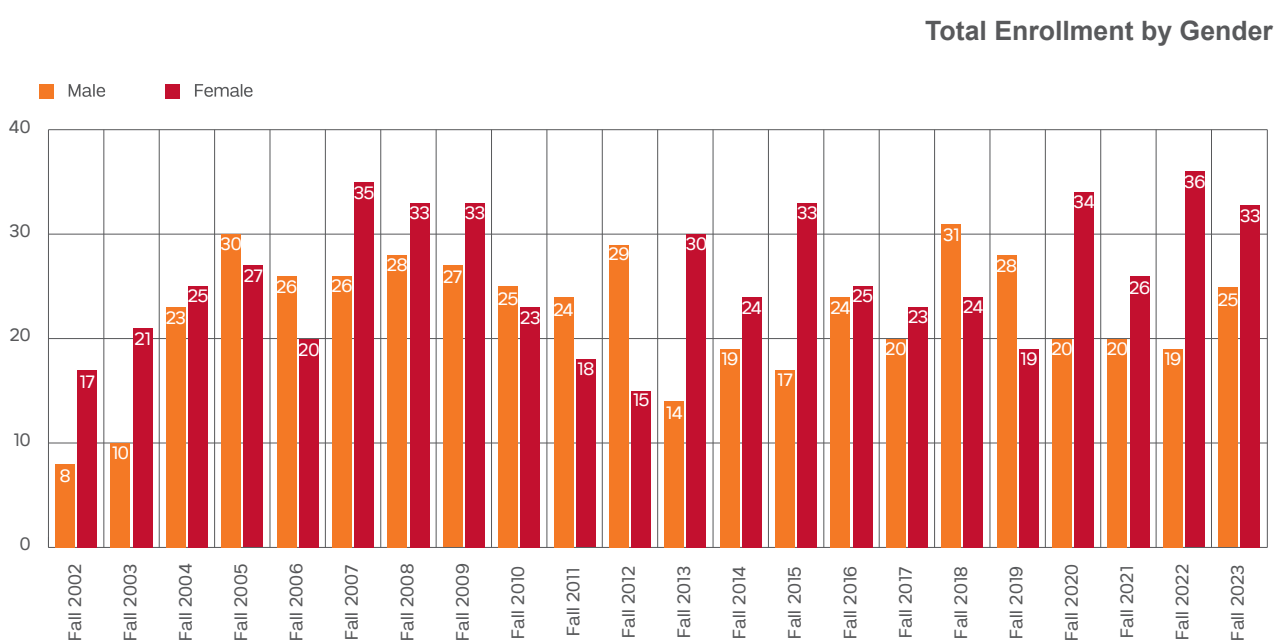
TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS, AY2002/03 TO AY2023/24



PROFILE OF CLASS ENTERING THE SIX-YEAR MEDICAL PROGRAM AY2002/03 TO AY2023/24



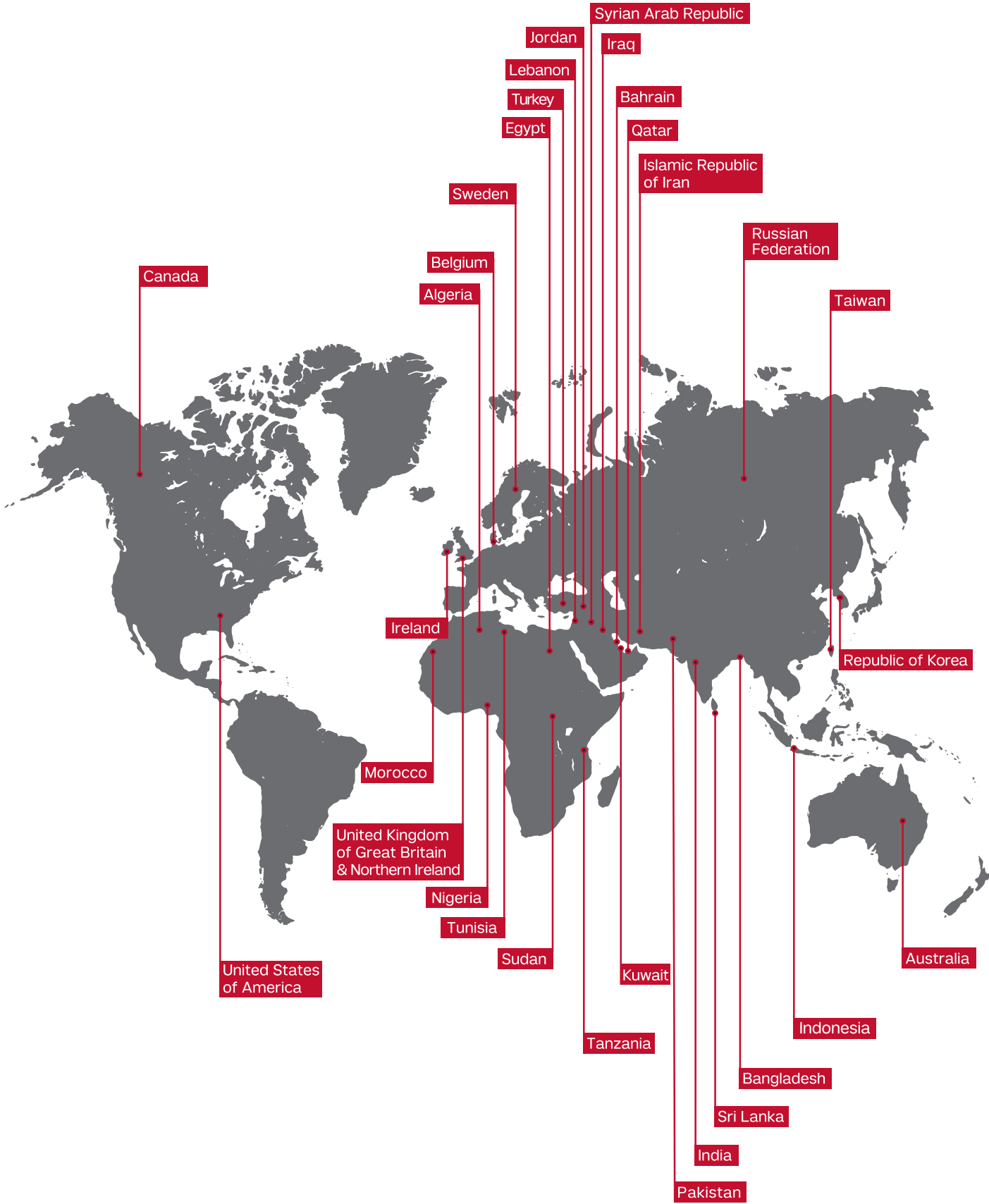
PROFILE OF CLASS ENTERING THE SIX-YEAR MEDICAL PROGRAM AY2002/03 TO AY2023/24



CITIZENSHIP OF STUDENT BODY FALL 2023



Students of WCM-Q come from across the world.





Leadership Structure

LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Robert S. Harrison Chairman, Board of Trustees	Martha E. Pollack, Ph.D. President Until June 30, 2024	Michael I. Kotlikoff, V.M.D., Ph.D. President (interim) From July 1, 2024
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Marco Ameduri, Ph.D. Senior Associate Dean for Pre-medical Education and Education City Collaborative Curricular Affairs	Khaled Machaca, Ph.D. Senior Associate Dean for Research, Innovations and Commercialization	Shahzad Jafri Chief Administrative Officer/Chief International Operations Executive
Nesreen Al-Rifai Chief External Affairs and Development Officer	Jamie Marie Gray Director, Health Sciences Library	Sameer Kalash Director, Finance and Business Services
Badar Khan Chief Information Officer	Niamh O'Reilly Director, Human Resources	
Dr. Dietrich Büsselberg, Ph.D. Associate Dean for Admissions	Dr. Sean Holroyd, Ph.D. Associate Dean for Student Affairs	



**WCM-Q
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