

WEILL CORNELL MEDICAL COLLEGE IN QATAR



Press Release

Doha, Qatar

07 September 2005

MORE DOCTORS IN TRAINING AT WCMC-Q

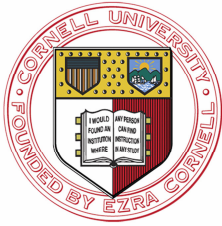
WCMC-Q's Class of 2009 stepped across the threshold of their future profession as they donned their new white coats at a prestigious ceremony at the Medical College last night. The eighteen students in the Class were assisted in putting on their coats by WCMC-Q faculty including physicians from Hamad Medical Corporation, with other members of the WCMC-Q community, family and friends looking on.

Dean of WCMC-Q, Daniel R. Alonso, M.D. opened the evening by extending greetings to the assembly and congratulating the students on their achievement in joining the four-year medical program after completing the two-year pre-medical curriculum. He also reminded them that, even at this early stage of their medical education, expectations were high.

In her keynote speech to the gathering, Senior Associate Dean for Education, Elizabeth Alger, M.D., F.A.C.P., explained the significance of the white coat, as she examined both the privileges and the responsibilities of the physician today. Following this, Dr. Alonso read out the Hippocratic Oath to the assembly. This is a hallowed ritual in medical education, although the students will only come to repeat the Oath at their graduation ceremony some four years down the line.

The version read out at last night's ceremony was a revised form of an Oath that has its origins in ancient times. It was amended following consultations this year among leaders, faculty and students of Weill Cornell Medical College in the U.S. and Qatar. WCMC-Q participants in this process were Dr Alger, assistant professor in the division of medical ethics, Pablo Rodriguez del Pozo, M.D., Ph.D., J.D., and Khaled Al Khelaifi from the Class of 2008. In its new form, the Oath reflects contemporary concerns, such as the importance of social justice in medicine.

The students then filed down to the front of the lecture hall carrying their new, white coats, with the distinctive WCMC-Q patch on the left sleeve. They handed the coats to members of the medical faculty, who assisted the students in putting them on. This touching gesture symbolized the entry of the young men and women into the medical profession, guided by their seniors. The white coats are shorter in length than the coats normally worn by physicians, a recognition that, at this early stage of their medical education, they are still doctors-in-training.



WEILL CORNELL MEDICAL COLLEGE IN QATAR



Dr Alonso, said: "The ceremony is a renowned event in the profession that symbolizes the first steps of students into the world of medicine. The Class of 2009 is our second medical class bringing total numbers in the medical part of our M.D program to 34 out of a total student population across our four pre-medical and medical classes of 132. These are exciting times in the life of our institution with the growth in our student intake overall a sign that we are firmly on the radar of aspiring medical students across the region."

Among the Class of 2009 are sixteen students who completed the Pre-medical Program at WCMC-Q and two students who are graduates of the American University of Cairo.

ENDS

For more information, please contact:

Michael Vertigans
Weill Cornell Medical College-Qatar
T: +974 492-8650
E: miv2008@qatar-med.cornell.edu

NOTES TO EDITORS

Established in partnership with the Qatar Foundation, WCMC-Q is a part of Weill Medical College of Cornell University in New York, the first American institution to offer its M.D. degree overseas. WCMC-Q offers a complete and integrated educational program, comprising the two-year Premedical Program, followed by the four-year Medical Program, with teaching by Cornell faculty. There are separate admission processes for each Program, guided by the standards of admission in use at Cornell University in Ithaca, and its Medical College in New York.

Website: www.qatar-med.cornell.edu

The Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development is a private, nonprofit, chartered organization founded in 1995 aiming to develop and utilize human potential through a network of centers and campuses. In 1997 the Foundation set out on a strategic plan to create an Education City that is composed of a number of research centers, branch campuses of world-class educational institutions and a Science Park that acts as an incubator for research, responds to the immediate needs of industry and anticipates future necessities for development. In October 2003, Education City was officially inaugurated and it is now home to branches of some of the world's leading universities and research centers.

Website: www.qf.org.qa