



Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar



Cornell University

Ithaca, New York State, U.S.A.

“I would found an institution where any person can find instruction in any study.” These words of Ezra Cornell – farmer, mechanic and educational pioneer - lie at the heart of the inspiration behind the foundation of Cornell University in the 1860s. They remain just as relevant today.

Cornell University received its charter in 1865. Since then, it has built up a reputation as one of the leading universities in the United States. It is a member of the prestigious Ivy League, an elite group of universities renowned worldwide for their academic excellence.

By the year 2000, the University comprised seven undergraduate units and four graduate and professional units in Ithaca, and two medical graduate and professional units in New York City, the Weill Graduate School of Medical Sciences and the Weill Cornell Medical College (both private institutions.)

While 412 students were present at Opening Day ceremonies in 1868, the most recent figure for the student body totals some 20,000.

The University has a long tradition of engagement at the international level: tens of thousands of overseas students have studied at Cornell, while its faculty and students have travelled to many parts of the globe in pursuit of their research and studies.

Cooperation with institutions across the world has also been an important part of the University’s work. In 2001, Cornell signed an agreement with the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development to set up the Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar.

Cornell’s commitment to developing trans-national education – the exchange of knowledge and sharing of perspectives across borders – is set to develop further in the years to come.

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Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar



Weill Cornell Medical College

New York, N.Y., U.S.A.

Founded in 1898, Weill Cornell Medical College rapidly became a national leader in medical education. It was one of the first coeducational medical schools in the U.S. and there were 12 women in the first graduating class in 1899 – a rarity for the time.

Since its inception, the Medical College has provided medical students with an education that combines a strong basic foundation in the medical sciences with extensive training in patient care.

In 1927, the Medical College affiliated with what is now NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. Five years later, the two institutions opened their joint campus on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, confirmation of the integration of university and hospital in one academic medical center.

With a triple mission of education, research and patient care, the Medical College offers the Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) degree, Ph.D. programs in biomedical research and education at Weill Graduate School of Medical Sciences, and a joint MD-PhD program in cooperation with Rockefeller University and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

At the heart of a world-famous center of medical education, biomedical research and health care in Manhattan, Weill Cornell physicians and scientists have led the way for such advances as the Pap test for cervical cancer, the first “double-blind” controlled experiment to test the efficacy of drugs, and the synthesis of penicillin.

Research efforts are now focussed on three critical areas: structural biology, genetic medicine and neuroscience. Currently, pioneering work is being carried out in the field of gene therapy for heart disease.

Over the years, the Medical College has developed close links with medical institutions outside the U.S. The faculty are actively involved in a reciprocal sharing of knowledge with colleagues in countries as diverse as Turkey, Tanzania and Haiti. In addition, many Weill Cornell students spend some time abroad as part of their medical education: in 2004, forty per cent of the fourth year class chose an elective overseas.

With the signing of the agreement to establish Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q), Weill Cornell Medical College became the first American medical school ever to offer its M.D. degree overseas.

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Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar

Doha, Qatar

Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q) affords young people in the Middle East an unprecedented opportunity to access a world-class medical education in the region.

Since the Inaugural Class entered in 2002, WCMC-Q has achieved some notable 'firsts', as a pioneering Medical College and coeducational higher learning institution in the State of Qatar.

The establishment of WCMC-Q followed the announcement, on April 9, 2001, of an agreement between Cornell University and the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, a private, non-profit organization set up in 1995 by Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar.

The Medical College brings the same quality of education offered by Cornell University in the United States to students in Qatar and the wider region. It shares the triple mission of Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City: a commitment to excellence in education, research and patient care.

WCMC-Q offers a complete medical education leading to a Cornell University M.D. degree. The six-year program of study comprises the two-year Pre-medical Program followed by the four-year Medical Program. There is a separate admissions process for each Program, with selection of students for the Medical Program being by the Committee on Admissions of Weill Cornell in New York City.

Pre-medical faculty hold appointments at Cornell University; medical faculty are members of academic departments at Weill Cornell Medical College.

The Pre-medical Program comprises courses in the sciences basic to medicine, with, in addition, seminars in writing and in medical ethics. The Medical Program, which replicates the curriculum taught at Weill Cornell in New York City, features a variety of learning experiences, including problem-based learning, case-based conferences, journal clubs, lab work and lectures.

Through an Affiliation Agreement with the Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), WCMC-Q's medical students begin their clinical education in primary health centers and hospitals of the HMC from an early stage. In addition, the Qatar Foundation plans to construct a 382-bed Specialty Teaching Hospital close to the Medical College in Education City. Set to open in 2010, the Hospital will have state-of-the-art clinical programs focused on women's and children's conditions, and academic and research programs directed by WCMC-Q faculty.

Working together, WCMC-Q, Qatar Foundation and the Hamad Medical Corporation are forming a clinical and research partnership that will bring lasting benefits to the people of Qatar.

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