



WEILL CORNELL MEDICAL COLLEGE IN QATAR



PRESS RELEASE

Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar to Recognize HMC Physicians for their Role in Medical Program

Doha, Qatar

May 4, 2005

On Wednesday, May 4th, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q) hosts a ceremony to recognize the contribution of preceptors from the Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) to the clinical education of its first year medical students.

At the ceremony, certificates will be presented to the preceptors, and to senior officials at the HMC departments of primary health care and family medicine, pediatrics, general medicine, and medical education.

The preceptors are HMC physicians who are also faculty at WCMC-Q. They work in the West Bay and Airport primary health care centers, and at HMC pediatrics and general medicine outpatient clinics. The preceptors have a key role in introducing WCMC-Q medical students to the practice of medicine as part of the Medicine, Patients and Society I course.

Over the past 22 weeks, the sixteen members of WCMC-Q's Inaugural Class have been regular observers at the clinics. During their weekly visits, the medical students gained first-hand experience of the skills a doctor must have when caring for patients, from establishing a rapport with them to conducting patient interviews and taking a family history.

Working one-on-one with medical students, the preceptors make a significant contribution to the development of the communication skills and professionalism of the young doctors-to-be.

A number of preceptors have also conducted sessions at the Medical College, giving instruction and feedback as the medical students explored these skills further through role-play.

Dean of WCMC-Q, Daniel R. Alonso, M.D., said: "The preceptorships demonstrate the importance of our partnership with the Hamad Medical Corporation, following the signing of the affiliation agreement between Weill Cornell Medical College, New York-Presbyterian Hospital and HMC last October.

"Preceptors play a central part in the development of an understanding among our medical students of what it is to be a doctor, and in their acquisition of clinical skills.

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“Our curriculum introduces students to patient care in a gradual and comfortable way, starting in the first semester of medical school. The experience of going out to clinics to see how physicians work with patients is hugely motivational for the medical students.”

Assistant professor of medicine and course director for Medicine, Patients and Society I (MPS I), Wendy Terry, M.D., commented: “What the students study in the basic sciences courses is complemented by MPS I, which introduces them to how the sciences are applied in clinical practice. The preceptors’ clinics show how theory is distilled into practice.

“By observing how physicians interact with patients, and how the relationship between them works, the medical students really grasp the importance of their work in human terms.”

Dr. Abdul Latif Al Khal, chairman of the department of medicine at HMC said: “We are pleased to work with WCMC-Q in this vital aspect of the medical students’ education. The preceptors are making a significant contribution to developing the skills of the next generation of physicians in Qatar.”

Director of primary health care at HMC, Dr. Salih Al Marri said: “This occasion marks the successful completion of the first year of the partnership between HMC and WCMC-Q. Through the preceptorships, the medical students understand how the network of primary health care centers brings care into the community, and they gain an idea of the breadth of work that general practitioners do.”

The Medicine, Patients and Society I course runs throughout the first year of the Medical Program. It is an introduction to the practice of medicine, and to public health and epidemiology, with an emphasis on evidence-based medicine.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Established in partnership with the Qatar Foundation, WCMC-Q is a branch of Weill Cornell Medical College 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 Pre-medical 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

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