



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 is, in the words of its eleventh president, Jeffrey S. Lehman, the "birthplace of the integration of theory and application within American higher education, champion of the equal dignity of humanism and science, exemplar of openness to all peoples and to the critical examination of ideas."*

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 Medical College of Cornell University (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, thereby establishing its first overseas branch campus.

Cornell's commitment to developing trans-national education – the exchange of knowledge and sharing of perspectives across borders – has been given greater emphasis since President Lehman took office in 2003, and it is set to develop further in the years to come.

Website: www.cornell.edu

**Speaking during the ceremony to mark the start of his inauguration week at WCMC-Q on October 12, 2003*

Office of Public Affairs
WCMC-Q
Education City
P.O. Box 24144
Doha, Qatar

Michael Vertigans
Director
Phone: +974 492 8650
Fax: +974 492 8444
Email: miv2008@med.cornell.edu

Sylvia Ismail
Associate Editor / Writer
Phone: +974 492 8651
Fax: +974 492 8444
Email: smi2001@med.cornell.edu



WEILL CORNELL MEDICAL COLLEGE IN QATAR



Weill Medical College of Cornell University

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

Founded in 1898, Weill Medical College of Cornell University 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 followed an educational policy that emphasizes the importance of combining a strong basic foundation in the medical sciences with extensive training in patient care.

In 1927, the Medical College affiliated with what is now New York 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 M.D.-Ph.D. 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 across the globe, 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: at least 50% of each Class opt to take an elective overseas during their fourth year.

With the signing of the agreement to establish Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q) in fall 2002, Weill Cornell Medical College became the first American medical school ever to offer its M.D. degree overseas.

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Michael Vertigans
Director
Phone: +974 492 8650
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WEILL CORNELL MEDICAL COLLEGE IN QATAR



Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar

Doha, Qatar

Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q) affords young people in the Middle East region an unprecedented opportunity to access a world-class medical education without having to travel thousands of miles from home.

The only branch of Cornell University established outside the U.S., 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 signing, 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 (WCMC-NY): education, research and patient care.

WCMC-Q offers a complete medical education leading to a Cornell University M.D. degree. The integrated program of study has been designed for students in the Middle East, and comprises the two-year Pre-medical Program followed by the four-year Medical Program.

Teaching is by Cornell faculty and academic standards are very high. Admission requirements are the same as those at Cornell in the U.S. and it should be noted that there is a *separate* admission process for each Program.

The Pre-medical Program consists of courses in the sciences basic to medicine, and seminars in writing and medical ethics. The Medical Program, which replicates the curriculum taught at WCMC-NY, features a variety of learning experiences, including problem-based learning in small groups, seminars, lab work and lectures.

Through an Affiliation Agreement with the Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), WCMC-Q's medical students gain exposure to patient care in primary healthcare centers and hospitals of the HMC from an early stage. In addition, the Qatar Foundation plans to construct a 350-bed Specialty Teaching Hospital (STH) close to the Medical College in Education City. Set to open in 2008, the STH 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; together, they will form the first American-style academic medical center in the region.

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Director
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