



WEILL CORNELL
MEDICAL COLLEGE IN QATAR



PRESS RELEASE

WCMC-Q medical students join clinical teams at Hamad Medical Corporation

Doha, 9 July 2006: The partnership between Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q) and Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) moves into a new phase this week as Third Year medical students begin clinical clerkships in HMC hospitals.

The sixteen members of the Class of 2008 will spend much of the year ahead rotating among a number of departments, where they will join teams of physicians and work under the supervision of HMC consultants who hold appointments at Weill Cornell Medical College.

From now until December, the students are set to gain experience in medicine, obstetrics/gynecology and pediatrics. They then move on for a six-month period into specialties that include surgery, neurology and psychiatry, among others.

"This is a very exciting moment as we progress into the clinical phase of our four-year Medical Program," said Dean of WCMC-Q, Dr. Daniel R. Alonso. "The leadership of HMC has been notably open and receptive to our students. We have worked closely with the Department of Medical Education and with the physicians leading the teams to prepare the ground for the clerkships.

"The experience of being active members of patient care teams is hugely beneficial for the young physicians-in-training. We are confident that, as they emerge, the new generation of doctors in Qatar will be very well prepared to give the highest standards of patient care in the future."

The clerkships have been set up following consultations among senior faculty and administrators of Weill Cornell Medical College in both New York and Qatar, and the leadership of HMC.

Welcoming the students, Chairman of Medicine and Director of Medical Education at HMC, Dr. Abdul Latif Al Khal said: "HMC is highly committed to the training of the WCMC-Q medical students at its facilities. A significant amount of work was undertaken by the corporation in preparation for this event. We are delighted to have WCMC-Q's medical students joining our teams. They will be supervised by

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highly experienced physicians in busy departments, where they will be involved in a great variety of cases.

"The clerkships build on, and extend, the contacts established between HMC clinicians and WCMC-Q medical students during the past two years. We have worked with dedication to complete the preparations for the clerkships, further strengthening our partnership with Weill Cornell."

Hands-on experience

The clerkships give students significant hands-on experience. For example, in the medicine clerkship they work in general medicine, medical intensive care and coronary care, assistant professor of medicine and Associate Dean of Clinical Curriculum at WCMC-Q, Dr. Nounou Taleghani said.

"Each student gets exposure to every portion of the clerkship," she explained. "It is their role to make first contact with the patient assigned to them, to take a complete history and do the physical exam. Then they present the patient to the consultant or senior specialist.

"Following this, the consultant goes through the case with the student and they agree on a plan of management. The student's job is to learn everything they can and to become an expert on that patient for the team."

In addition, class members follow a daily program of education after completing the normal working day in the hospital. Assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology and Director of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Clerkship, Dr. Nady E. Nady-Mohamed, said the focus in these student-led sessions is on the patients they are following.

"The tutorial session is run by the student. As the student prepares for the case, it gives him or her the motivation to be a physician who can present, think through a case and arrive at the final diagnosis for him- or herself, under the guidance of the preceptor and Clerkship Director."

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Established in partnership with Qatar Foundation, WCMC-Q is part of the Weill Medical College of Cornell University, the first American institution to offer its MD 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 City.

Website: www.qatar-med.cornell.edu

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

Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) was established by Emiri decree in 1979. It is the premier not-for-profit healthcare provider in the State of Qatar.

HMC manages six hospitals: Hamad General Hospital, Women's Hospital, Rumailah Hospital, Al-Amal Cancer Hospital, the Psychiatric Hospital and Al-Khor Hospital, as well as the Hamad International Training Center. Nationwide, the Corporation manages a network of primary health centers that provide a range of services, including family medicine, preventive medicine and a number of specialized services such as ophthalmology.

HMC is mandated to provide the best quality care for patients irrespective of nationality, and to play a major part in Qatar's drive to meet, and exceed, global targets, as defined in the World Health Organization's "Health for All" campaign. Since its establishment, the Corporation has developed specialized medical facilities that offer levels of diagnosis and treatment that were previously only available overseas.

Website: www.hmc.org.qa

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