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Qatar Foundation

WEILL CORNELL MEDICAL COLLEGE IN QATAR

PRESS RELEASE

WCMC-Q stepping up cooperation with librarians in Qatar

Doha, Qatar

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During a visit to Qatar this week, a senior official from the library of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, presents his vision of the academic library of the twenty-first century to members of the library community in Qatar, and holds discussions with officials of Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC).

Associate University Librarian for Information Technologies and Special Collections and Director of the Division of Digital Library and Information Technologies at Cornell University, H. Thomas Hickerson, is visiting Doha to participate in Qatar Foundation's Innovations In Education Symposium, April 30-May 2.

Following the Symposium, on May 3, he gives a presentation at WCMC-Q on the future of academic libraries, in which he argues that far from becoming outmoded by developments in information technology, they are at the forefront of a revolution in the distribution of resources and services.

Librarians working in the educational field are finding new ways to fulfil their traditional role, interacting with users wherever they are by email, phone and fax, in addition to face-to-face encounters; delivering materials in digital as well as print form; and providing customized guidance and training in the new technologies for faculty, students and researchers.

Among the guests invited to attend the presentation are librarians and information technology specialists from across Education City; Hamad Health Sciences Library; Qatar University; CNA-Q; Qatar National Library; the Ministry of Education; Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting; British Council; French Cultural Center; Berlitz Language Center; and members of the WCMC-Q community.

During his visit, Hickerson will meet with senior officials of HMC's Medical Education Department and Health Sciences Library to discuss technical aspects of providing efficient access to, and management of, information resources for physicians and WCMC-Q medical students at HMC.

As part of WCMC-Q's partnership with Hamad Medical Corporation, library staff members are currently collaborating with colleagues at the Corporation to develop seamless access to information services and document delivery for medical personnel at HMC and WCMC-Q medical students during the clinical phase of their education, which starts in HMC facilities in July.

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In addition, a series of workshops run by the staff provides WCMC-Q faculty at HMC with an introduction to the Distributed eLibrary, the first of its kind in Qatar. Further workshops are planned in resources for evidence-based medicine and techniques of building a personal library on a laptop, among other areas.

Dean of WCMC-Q, Dr. Daniel R. Alonso, said: "The visit of Thomas Hickerson further strengthens the close relationship between the libraries of Cornell University and Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar.

"The discussions with colleagues at HMC will highlight the importance of the library community in supporting the work of WCMC-Q faculty at HMC and medical students as we move into the clinical clerkships this summer. In addition, in presenting his vision of the future role of academic libraries and their staff, he reminds us that they have not only embraced the information revolution of recent years – they have also, in some important respects, led it."

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

Established in partnership with the Qatar Foundation, WCMC-Q is part of the Weill Medical College of Cornell University, 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 City.

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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