



**WEILL CORNELL**  
MEDICAL COLLEGE IN QATAR



## PRESS RELEASE

# **Qatar's physicists come together**

April 5, 2006

The Qatar Physics Society (QPS) was established today (April 5) at an initial meeting jointly organized by physicists from Qatar University (QU) and Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q).

The initial meeting at WCMC-Q in Education City was attended by people interested or working in physics – from scientists and industry professionals, to primary, secondary and university level teachers, as well as representatives from Qatar's Ministry of Education.

All attended with the mission of QPS in mind: to advance and disseminate knowledge of and information about physics and its applications.

The meeting included brainstorming and discussion sessions on the future of QPS and possible training workshops and activities, led by Qatar University physicist Dr. Ilham Al-Qaradawi.

"This initial meeting provided us with a chance to find out what people in the physics field would like from the QPS," Dr. Al-Qaradawi said.

"We are concerned with promoting public understanding of physics, providing a place for physicists to meet and raise issues, supporting physics education and endorsing physics career development."

With a strong focus on teacher education in physics, the meeting also included lectures on making physics relevant to students, and simple and clever laboratory experiments for the classroom, presented by Cornell University professor of physics Robert Thorne and WCMC-Q professor of physics Dr. Roger Hinrichs.

"Among other activities, the QPS is trying to help physics teachers enhance their effectiveness in educating their students. We want to help them make physics relevant

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and exciting in the classroom by encouraging active involvement and learning by enquiry,” Dr. Hinrichs said.

The initial meeting of QPS follows discussion on teacher education at the First Qatar Physics Conference in December.

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### 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](http://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](http://www.qf.org.qa)

**Qatar University**, founded in 1977, is the country's major institution of higher education committed to fostering an intellectual and scholarly community characterized by teaching excellence, free and respectful exchange of ideas, and a commitment to rigorous inquiry that serves the needs of the Qatari community. It comprises five colleges: the College of Education, the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Shariaa & Islamic Studies, the College of Engineering, the College of Law and the College of Business & Economics, and offers a sound educational and research infrastructure and a broad range of academic programs.

Website: [www.qu.edu.qa](http://www.qu.edu.qa)

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