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WEILL CORNELL MEDICAL COLLEGE IN QATAR

PRESS RELEASE

Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar Recognizes HMC Physicians

Doha, Qatar

April 11, 2006

The contribution of preceptors from Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) to the clinical education of medical students is recognized in a ceremony at Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q), Tuesday, April 11th.

The students will present certificates to their preceptors, and to senior officials of the HMC departments of primary health care and family medicine, pediatrics, general medicine, accident and emergency, obstetrics and gynecology, cardiology and medical education.

The preceptors are HMC physicians who have the required credentials to be appointed as medical faculty at WCMC-Q. They practice in primary health centers and in departments of HMC hospitals. A total of 31 preceptors from nine departments were appointed for the year 2005-2006.

Working one-on-one with medical students, they make a significant contribution to the development of the communication and physical examination skills of the young doctors-to-be. They also are models of professional bearing, as they serve their patients and work with other members of health-care teams.

Today, the Medical College recognizes their work with students in both first and second years of the Medical Program. Preceptors have been involved in the first-year Medicine, Patients and Society I (MPS I) course, and the Medicine, Patients and Society II (MPS II), and Brain and Mind, courses in the second year.

A number of preceptors have also conducted sessions at the Medical College, giving instruction and feedback as the medical students developed further their skills of patient interviewing through role-play in the Clinical Skills Center.

Dean of WCMC-Q, Dr. Daniel R. Alonso, said: "As our partnership with the Hamad Medical Corporation moves forward, we are pleased to note the success of the preceptorships in introducing medical students to the skills of the physician from an early stage.

"The preceptors play a major role in establishing the foundation of our students' clinical and communication skills, on which they will build in the future. For the second years – the Class of 2008 – this is particularly significant ahead of the next phase of their education, the third-year clinical clerkships, which will take place in the hospitals of HMC starting in July."

Assistant professor of medicine and course director for MPS II, Dr. Nounou Taleghani, commented: "The MPS courses provide students with a thorough grounding in the skills of taking a patient history, performing a physical examination and writing up the record.

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@qatar-med.cornell.edu

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

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“A key part of the courses is to practice in the clinical setting, guided by the preceptors. This provides the students with invaluable experience as they acquire the skills and build the confidence they will need in their professional lives.”

Dr. Abdul Latif Al Khal, chairman of the department of medicine and acting director of medical education at HMC, said: “By working with the medical students of WCMC-Q as they train to become tomorrow’s physicians in Qatar and the region, the preceptors are making a key contribution to our future health-care services.

“We are delighted with the ongoing cooperation between HMC and the Medical College, and we look forward to continuing to work together closely as the four-year Medical Program unfolds.”

The Medicine, Patients and Society I course in the first year of the Medical Program provides an introduction to the practice of medicine including interviewing and communication skills, public health and epidemiology.

The second-year course, Medicine, Patients and Society II, covers patient assessment and care in the broader context of the health-care system. Modules include physical diagnosis, aspects of public health, medical ethics, an introduction to health systems and nutrition.

The Brain and Mind course, also taught in the second year, synthesizes the basic science and clinical aspects of knowledge about the central nervous system. Medical students acquire an understanding of areas such as neuroanatomy and psychopathology, along with related diagnostic skills through examination of patients in clinical settings.

Ends

NOTES TO EDITORS

Established in partnership with the Qatar Foundation, WCMC-Q is part of Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City, 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 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. Education City was officially inaugurated in October 2003, and it is now home to branches of some of the world’s leading universities and research centers.

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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@qatar-med.cornell.edu

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