



WEILL CORNELL

MEDICAL COLLEGE IN QATAR



PRESS RELEASE

WCMC-Q welcomes new pre-medical class

Doha, August 10 2006: Starting its fifth year of operation, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q) welcomed an incoming class of 50 pre-medical students this week, bringing the total number of students to more than 160.

During a three-day orientation the new students were given a wide-ranging introduction to college life, helping them prepare for the challenges that lie ahead. They also had the opportunity to bond with their classmates and with second year pre-medical students, of whom many had stepped forward to assist with the orientation. Leisure time was high on the agenda, with activities organized by the Medical Student Executive Council.

Dean of WCMC-Q, Dr. Daniel R. Alonso, said: "We've planned this orientation program with careful thought, as we want the students to adjust to their new surroundings as seamlessly as possible."

"It is important that the students, and their families, understand the pre-medical program will challenge them in many ways, but we would also like them to enjoy themselves as they enter the Medical College. They are assured of a warm welcome."

Class members are citizens of countries that include Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Lebanon, France, Bangladesh, Syria and Jordan as well as South Korea, Tanzania and the US, among others.

The incoming students were selected in a rigorous admission process, which takes into account not only academic excellence, but also the breadth of their interests.

This week's orientation program included a wide range of activities designed to help students make the transition from high school to university life.

contd./-

Welcome introductions from WCMC-Q's faculty and staff, site tours and discussion forums on a range of topics from study skills to grading policies helped familiarize students with the business side of the Medical College. A separate session for parents offered them the opportunity to understand this transition, and to put their questions to faculty and staff.

By taking part in the Cornell University summer reading project, which this year focused on F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby*, they were also brought into the wider Cornell community.

- Ends-

Photo caption: Members of the incoming pre-medical class at Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q) on their first day of orientation.

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 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

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

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