



WEILL CORNELL MEDICAL COLLEGE IN QATAR



PRESS RELEASE

WCMC-Q's Class of 2010 embark on medical education

White Coat Ceremony symbolizes entry into medical profession

Doha, September 5, 2006 Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar's Class of 2010 made a formal commitment to the practice of medicine at the White Coat Ceremony held at the Medical College in Education City this evening, September 5.

With 27 students in the class, WCMC-Q has recorded a remarkable increase in numbers entering the Medical Program, up from 18 last September – a rise of 50 percent. The Class of 2010 includes 25 students who successfully completed the Pre-medical Program at WCMC-Q, with two additional students from outside.

A highlight of the ceremony was the donning of white coats by the students, assisted by WCMC-Q medical faculty, and by Hamad Medical Corporation physicians who hold faculty appointments at the Medical College and who participate in the clinical education of WCMC-Q's medical students. By this gesture, the faculty welcomed the young men and women into the profession as junior colleagues.

The keynote address was by Chairperson of the National Health Authority, Dr. Ghalia Bint Mohammed Bin Hamad Al-Thani.

Dean of WCMC-Q, Dr. Daniel R. Alonso, congratulated the class on their success in entering the Medical Program. He noted that this is the third medical class admitted to WCMC-Q.

"The significant increase in numbers admitted this year demonstrates that the momentum towards educating the physicians of tomorrow in Qatar is gathering pace," Dr. Alonso said. "We are also delighted to welcome external students, as we do every year."

During the ceremony, Dr. Alonso read out the Hippocratic Oath to the students – a prelude to the graduation ceremony in 2010, at which they will recite the Oath.

Intended to help students establish a symbolic connection to the practice of medicine, the White Coat Ceremony both emphasizes the importance of compassionate care for patients and represents the students' public acknowledgement of the responsibilities of the profession. The white coats worn by medical students are shorter than those normally worn by physicians, since they are still doctors-in-training at this early stage.

Ends

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