



Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar



PRESS RELEASE

WCMC-Q's Class of 2011 Steps into the Medical Profession

Doha, September 10, 2007. Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q) welcomed its fourth intake of medical students in a ceremony held this evening to mark the entry of the Class of 2011 into the medical profession.

Class members donned their white coats, assisted by Dean of the Medical College, Dr. Daniel R. Alonso; received stethoscopes from faculty of WCMC-Q; and listened as Dr. Alonso recited the Hippocratic Oath.

The 30-strong incoming class is larger than its predecessors. Five students are from Qatar, while their colleagues come from countries including the US, India, Lebanon and Jordan. The 28 members of the class who completed the Pre-medical Program at WCMC-Q are joined by one student from the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, and one from the University of Florida in the US.

Commenting on the stellar quality of the incoming medical students, Dr. Alonso said: "The Class of 2011 are academically highly accomplished, as shown not only by their achievements in pre-medical studies and the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), but also by their remarkable record of participating in scientific research.

"Even at this early stage of their career, almost 60 percent of the group have experience of work at the bench, for example at Cornell University in the US through our Summer Student Research Fellowships, or here in Qatar through the Undergraduate Research Experience Program of Qatar National Research Fund."

As multi-talented as they are multi-national, class members have notched up more than 8,000 hours of community service. Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs, Dr. Maya Hammoud, underlined their dedication to volunteering:

"Their willingness to devote time to helping others – from tutoring in math and science, and working with children with special needs, to participating in the programs of Qatar

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Foundation's *Reach Out to Asia* – really shows their commitment to the humanistic principles that underlie the practice of medicine.”

The themes of devotion to service and care for others, as well as lifelong learning, were brought out by WCMC-Q Professor of Pediatrics, Dr. Marcellina Mian, in her keynote address to the students, faculty and guests who gathered for Monday's ceremony.

“The decision to become a doctor is one of the best gifts you could have given yourself... There are many reasons for this. The first is that this is a profession in which you can truly save lives. (Even when) we cannot save a life, we can always provide comfort,” she said.

Reflecting on the wonder of passing on knowledge to the next generation of doctors-in-training, Dr. Mian noted: “Again and again, I am excited by seeing students examine an infant for the first time. There is magic in seeing the look of uncertainty turn into quiet relief and enjoyment when the students realize that they have learned to handle an infant.”

Following Dr. Mian's speech, each class member in turn was assisted by Dean Alonso in donning the short white coat of the medical student. Presentation of stethoscopes was by Dr. Ismail Helmi, Assistant Director of Medical Education at Hamad Medical Corporation and Assistant Dean of Medical Education at WCMC-Q; and Dr. Bakr Nour, Professor of Surgery, and Dr. Suresh Tate, Professor of Biochemistry, at WCMC-Q.

The enrolment of the Class of 2011 means that rollout of the four-year Medical Program of WCMC-Q is nearing completion. The Inaugural Class, set to graduate in May 2008, will be the first physicians ever to receive the M.D. of Cornell University outside the U.S.

Ends

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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

About Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development

Founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, and chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned, Qatar Foundation is a private, non-profit organization committed to the principle that a nation's greatest natural resource is its people.

The headquarters of Qatar Foundation are located within its flagship project, Education City, a fourteen million square-meter campus which hosts numerous progressive learning institutions and centers of research, including branch campuses of five of the world's leading universities, plus a cutting-edge research and development center. Qatar Foundation also works to enhance the quality of life in Qatar by investing in community health and development.

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