



PRESS RELEASE

Pioneering surgery offers new hope for diabetes sufferers

Doha, December 5, 2007: A new procedure for treating type 2 diabetes is introduced to the public in Doha today by pioneer in the field Dr. Francesco Rubino from Weill Cornell Medical College in New York.

Dr. Rubino delivers a public lecture on the technique at WCMC-Q; this will be followed by a further presentation at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) tomorrow, December 6th.

The novel procedure is an adaptation of an approach used in weight-loss (bariatric) surgery specifically designed to treat type 2 diabetes. Instead of shrinking the stomach like most approaches to bariatric surgery, his approach reroutes the small intestine, leaving the stomach intact.

In a study published in the *Annals of Surgery*, Dr. Rubino reported that the technique dramatically reduced diabetes in animals—demonstrating for the first time that surgery has a direct effect on type 2 diabetes unrelated to weight loss. The procedure, now known as Rubino's Procedure, has been performed on patients at several centers worldwide.

As a world leader in the research, teaching and practice of metabolic and weight-loss surgery, Dr. Rubino's approaches give hope to millions of people living with obesity and diabetes.

It is estimated that over 180 million people worldwide are affected by diabetes, a figure that is likely to double by 2030. Over 30 percent of sufferers are not aware that they have the metabolic disorder, yet diabetes has serious consequences for health including cardiovascular disease, kidney disease and visual impairment leading to blindness.

Executive Director of Qatar Diabetes Association (QDA), Dr. Abdulla Al Hamaq said: "As part of our mission, QDA is keen on providing the health care community with the latest updates regarding diabetes management and control.

"The percentage of the population with diabetes in the Gulf countries is among the highest in the world. QDA is working hard on educating and empowering the person with diabetes to manage his condition successfully and thus avoid complications. QDA welcomes Dr. Rubino and the Weill Cornell initiative, and will be following closely this novel approach in diabetes management."

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Dr. Rubino was recently appointed associate professor of surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College, and director of gastrointestinal metabolic surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center – an entirely new section of the Department of General Surgery and one of the first of its kind in the world.

Also visiting Doha this week is Dr. Alfons Pomp, professor of surgery, Frank Glenn Faculty Scholar in Surgery and attending surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell. He will present Grand Rounds at HMC on December 6th.

Dr. Pomp, who is Chief of the section of laparoscopic and bariatric surgery, is an expert in surgical weight-loss procedures that also play a part in controlling diabetes in overweight patients, and in minimally invasive (keyhole) techniques.

Welcoming the experts to Doha, professor and Vice Chairman of Surgery at WCMC-Q, Dr. Bakr Nour said their visit paved the way for further cooperation between the Medical College and HMC.

“Drs. Pomp and Rubino are bringing significant experience in these important surgical procedures to colleagues at HMC and WCMC-Q, and this will strengthen cooperation in areas that are of great importance to the population in Qatar and the wider region.

“We look forward to working together in the future, as the partnership between the institutions grows even stronger,” Dr. Nour said.

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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.

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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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