



WEILL CORNELL MEDICAL COLLEGE IN QATAR



PRESS RELEASE

Qatari high school students get a taste for medicine

Doha, Monday, March 19, 2007: Students from Al-Bayan Independent School for Girls, their parents and teachers, gained an insight into life at Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q) on Saturday, March 17.

Taking part in a Science Day hosted by the Medical College, guests got to experience some of the activities that pre-medical students undertake on a day-to-day basis and gain an understanding of what it is like to pursue a career in medicine at WCMC-Q.

The day included an explanation of the Pre-medical and Medical Programs at WCMC-Q and encouragement for students interested in studying medicine.

There were presentations by WCMC-Q faculty members, a medical student and by Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs, Dr. Maya Hammoud. Students also participated in laboratory experiments while parents and teachers toured the building, learned about the admissions process, and asked questions.

The day began with an inspirational presentation by second year medical student Sara Hassan.

"Life at WCMC-Q is very exciting and very interesting," Hassan told the students. "If you really want to be a doctor, you're determined, and if you meet the requirements academically, you will enjoy studying at WCMC-Q."

Hassan described her journey into the Medical Program, by way of Qatar Foundation's Academic Bridge Program and WCMC-Q's Pre-medical Program. She also spoke about some of the challenges she overcame while pursuing her dream to become a physician, including improving her English language skills and adjusting to a new educational environment.

"It's very different here (WCMC-Q) from what I was used to – there are people of all different nationalities and it's a coeducational environment. At WCMC-Q we are like one big family: I have support from faculty, staff, my classmates and my parents," she said.

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Hassan's presentation was followed by a lecture on the physics of blood circulation, given by Associate Dean for Pre-medical Education, Dr. David Robertshaw. Students then attended one of three labs on the physics of lasers, electrophoresis of DNA, and medical cardiology.

The event closed with a motivational speech by Dr. Hammoud, who spoke about the opportunities for women in medical school and her path to becoming an obstetrician and gynecologist.

Science Day participant, Fatima Hijran, said she loved the idea of studying medicine and hoped to follow in her parents' footsteps.

"Both of my parents are doctors. My father is a general surgeon and my mother is a pathologist. We've heard a lot about WCMC-Q and its facilities, so were excited to visit the Medical College.

Another participant, Moza Al Sulaiti, said she hoped to enrol in WCMC-Q's Pre-medical Program.

"This is a great opportunity for me to graduate from a medical college that's in my home country," she said.

Asked why she wanted to be a doctor, Moza said: "Most importantly, I want to help people. But I also want to raise the name of my country, Qatar, and do my family proud. "The facilities at WCMC-Q are very good and the teachers are friendly and welcoming. It makes me want to be a graduate of this school!"

The Al-Bayan Science Day follows WCMC-Q's Open House series, which began in March 2006. During the series, students from a number of schools in Qatar visited the Medical College to take part in a similar program.

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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

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

The Academic Bridge Program (ABP) of the Qatar Foundation was founded in 2001 as a post-secondary program to equip top-calibre secondary school graduates in Qatar and the Gulf region for admission to and success in degree programs at the universities of Education City and other world-class educational institutions.

Website: www.abp.edu.qa