



PRESS RELEASE

Dean of WCMC-Q Announces Retirement

Doha, September 17, 2008 - Dr. Daniel R. Alonso, Dean of Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q) since its inception in 2001, has announced his retirement, and therefore his resignation from the post, effective January 1, 2009.

Dr. Alonso's eight years at the helm witnessed the start-up of WCMC-Q and, through partnership with the Qatar Foundation, its growth from a fledgling organization housed in temporary facilities, to a fully functioning Medical College in a state-of-the-art building. His tenure has seen the college through its first complete educational cycle, culminating in the May 2008 graduation of the historic inaugural class.

Dr Alonso said: "The vision and ongoing support of the Emir, HH Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, HH Sheikha Moza bint Nasser Al Missned, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation, and the leadership of the country has made my tenure both enjoyable and stimulating. I would like to take the opportunity to thank them, our partners and my colleagues for their ongoing commitment to WCMC-Q. Their drive to create this world-class higher education model is unique.

"WCMC-Q is in very good shape and is inspiring the next generation of doctors. We have met the important milestone of graduating the inaugural class and the other two legs of our triple mission, research and patient care, are steadily progressing.

Under Dean Alonso's guidance, the Medical College has formed partnerships with Hamad Medical Corporation, the National Health Authority, Qatar Diabetes Association and other local entities, providing strong links between the college, the medical community and opinion formers across Qatar.

Also in partnership with the Qatar Foundation, the groundwork is laid for a world-class biomedical research program with a five-year plan of development firmly in place. Working closely with the Qatar Foundation, WCMC-Q is also playing an important role in the planning of the Sidra Medical and Research Center, the teaching hospital scheduled to open in 2011. Together, WCMC-Q and Sidra will form a world-class academic medical center in Education City where both Cornell-appointed faculty and students will participate.

To continue future progress, Dr. Javaid Sheikh, Deputy Dean of WCMC-Q, will take over as Interim Dean at the time of Dr Alonso's departure in January. Dr. Alonso will be appointed Dean Emeritus and continue to serve the Medical College in an advisory role to help with the transition.

Dr. Alonso joined the faculty of Cornell University Medical College in New York in 1969, and became a full Professor in 1984. In 1982 he was appointed Associate Dean of Admissions and Student Affairs and later served as Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. In that role, he directed a major curricular reform that was implemented in the fall of 1996, a date coinciding with the opening of the Weill Education Center, a new teaching facility designed under his supervision. He currently serves WCMC-Q as both Dean and Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

A committee to conduct an international search for a new Dean will be appointed in the near future by Dr. Antonio Gotto, Dean of Weill Cornell Medical College in New York and Provost for Medical Affairs of Cornell University.

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 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.

For more information please visit: <http://www.qf.org.qa/>

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