



PRESS RELEASE

Healing hands: being a doctor in Qatar

As part of efforts to engage young people in Qatar's medical and healthcare journey, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q) has announced its 1st Annual High School Essay Contest.

The contest will allow pupils to share their perspectives on different issues concerning medicine and Qatar. This year's inaugural theme, '*Healing Hands: Being a doctor in Qatar*', promises to elicit thoughtful responses on what young people really think about medical care in Qatar.

The essay contest gives students the opportunity to explore a wide variety of possible topics including why they would want to be a doctor, what does it mean to be a doctor in Qatar, what kind of issues might affect a doctor practicing in the country and whether more are needed.

"These students are the future of Qatar, and many of them will be WCMC-Q students formally dedicated to becoming physicians. As medical educators, we know that being able to listen to and learn from your students is an integral part of the teaching process. We look forward to learning what high school students think about the issues affecting Qatar's medical profession," said Dr. Maya M. Hammoud, Senior Associate Dean for Education, WCMC-Q.

The contest's top prize will be a Doctor of the Future Summer Scholarship. WCMC-Q will send the top two winners of the competition for a fully funded two-week summer experience at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City. Under the generous sponsorship of Dr. Ronald G. Crystal, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Genetic Medicine at WCMC-NY, the two students selected for the prize will spend time in research laboratories with prominent researchers, as well as at the renowned New York Presbyterian hospital with distinguished Weill Cornell physicians. Each winner will be allowed to bring one guardian and will also receive a \$1000.00 stipend, economy round trip airfare, and lodging in Manhattan.

Dr. Crystal commented: "I am personally very excited to receive these students here in New York. It is a great opportunity to engage young people in medicine and give them some insight into one of the world's most dynamic medical and scientific research communities".

In addition to these top prizes, the winning essays and those of the ten finalists will feature in an anthology to be published in the fall.

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WCMC-Q is a leading player in Qatar's healthcare developments. As the first American medical college graduating doctors outside of the United States, the college brings an illustrious tradition of medical teaching to Qatar. This tradition is inspiring the next generation of doctors in the country, preparing them to be physicians, biomedical researchers and medical educators at the forefront of their fields.

"As we prepare to graduate our first batch of home-grown doctors this May, the essay contest is a timely reminder of the importance of engaged and talented young people to the future of healthcare in Qatar. We look forward to their input on this important and timely subject," said Dr. Hammoud.

To apply for the competition each essay must be written in English and submitted by May 31st, 2008 online at www.qatar-med.cornell.edu Applicants should **click on the "Healing Hands" link.**

For questions, please contact Ms. Rola Elnatour at rim2008@qatar-med.cornell.edu

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About Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar

Established by Cornell University in partnership with Qatar Foundation, WCMC-Q is part of Weill Cornell Medical College. A member of the Ivy League, Cornell is the first American university 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 is a separate admissions process 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.

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

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