



## PRESS RELEASE

### **First WCMC-Q Graduate Addresses Class of 2012**

***Doha, September 9, 2008*** - Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q) inducted the Class of 2012 into the medical world on September 9, 2008, during the annual White Coat Ceremony, and for the first time a graduate of the Medical College addressed the incoming class.

Dr Jehan Al-Rayahi of the historic inaugural class of 2008 – the first class outside the US to receive MD degrees from a US institution – delivered the evening’s keynote speech. Her presence served as a poignant reminder of the growing history of the Medical College.

The White Coat Ceremony is the traditional rite of passage where the new doctors-in-training first don the symbolic emblems of their new roles in the medical world. The evening was attended by a capacity audience of faculty - including WCMC-Q faculty at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) - staff, family, friends and guests gathering to witness the occasion.

Dr Maya Hammoud, Senior Associate Dean for Education, opened proceedings by reminding the 27 new medical students that the ceremony was intended to “impress upon you the importance of dedicating yourself to upholding the principles of this profession from the first day of your training.”

The Dean of Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, Dr Daniel R. Alonso, then introduced Dr Al-Rayahi for the evening’s keynote speech. Her address drew from her experiences as a student, but with the matured perspective of the doctor that she has since become.

Dr Al-Rayahi was born and raised in Qatar and, in her short time since graduating in May, has continued to be a vital and active member of the WCMC-Q community by developing and serving as Co-Director for three of the Medical College’s summer programs. She is currently pursuing her goal to become an academic and a radiologist at WCMC-Q partner HMC.

The highlight of the evening was the “cloaking” process, when Dean Alonso helped each new medical student in turn to put on their coats for the first time, officially marking their entrance into the WCMC-Q medical community.

“As you don your white coats,” Dean Alonso told the new students, “you acknowledge the responsibilities and obligations of our profession and commit yourselves to both scientific excellence and compassionate patient care.”

Students were also presented with a stethoscope by a member of the faculty. The ceremony ended with a reading of the Hippocratic Oath, further reinforcing the expectations of the medical profession.

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As this year's White Coat Ceremony took place during the holy month of Ramadan, the event was followed by an Iftar dinner where the students and their families shared the traditional breaking of the daily fast with the faculty and deans of the Medical College.

The ceremony and Iftar mark the start of a three-day orientation for the new students. The next two days will include a number of introductory and social activities to help the new medical class get to know each other and the WCMC-Q community.

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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](http://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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