



Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar



Press Release
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Qatar University (QU) and Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q) get together today- Thursday, February 21, 2008 - at the third annual Qatar Symposium on Teaching and Learning.

The symposium, which will take place at Qatar University, will focus on increasing problem solving skills in teaching basic sciences. Science faculty, staff and teaching assistants from WCMC-Q and QU will share information and curriculum development in science courses that both institutions offer. The workshop is intended to be a continuation of the effort started two years ago. The first symposium was held in February 2006 at Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar. The second was held in March 2007 at Qatar University.

The goal of the Qatar Symposium on Science Teaching and Learning is to provide a platform for science educators in Qatar and the region to come together and exchange ideas on how to increase problem-solving skills in science.

Keynote speakers at the Symposium are Dr Diana Mason, Professor of Chemistry and Director of the Mean Green Chemistry Demonstration Team, University of North Texas, USA and Dr Nouredine Zettili, Dept of Physical and Earth Sciences, Jacksonville State University, USA.

President of Qatar University, Dr. Sheikha Abdulla Al-Missnad, said about the gathering: "Problem solving in science teaching and learning is an essential skill to get students engaged in discussions that help them learn and understand complex scientific concepts. We hope that this symposium will help our educators exchange ideas and design new experiments, methods, and modules that improve students' problem solving skills."

Dean of WCMC-Q, Dr. Daniel R. Alonso said the Medical College is highly supportive of the effort to promote a problem-based approach to science education:

"In both pre-medical and medical programs, WCMC-Q faculty consistently encourage students to develop their skills of critical analysis and problem solving, often through collaborative work in groups.

"In extending this approach to the wider educational community through a program of outreach activities in cooperation with Qatar University, we are getting across the message that young scientists can begin to develop these skills well before they enter higher education."

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