



Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar



PRESS RELEASE

Talented young Qataris discover what it's like to be a student at WCMC-Q

Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q) hosted the cream of the Qatari school system this week when students from two of Qatar's top high schools visited the Medical College over two days.

18 senior female students from Al Bayan Scientific School and eight students from Omer Bin Al Khattab Educational Complex for Boys, identified as having an interest in medicine, found out what it's really like to be a student at WCMC-Q. They attended a series of presentations by faculty, took part in question-and-answer sessions with Qatari pre-medical students, and heard about the admissions process and on-line application system introduced last fall.

Arranged by faculty in the Foundation Program, the visits are part of an ongoing effort to attract qualified local high school students with the aptitude to succeed in science and medicine.

"By organizing these events, we hope to get the young people familiar with medicine, and to show them that WCMC-Q is *their* medical college," Dr. Imad Makki, Director of the Program, said. "We want them to take away the message that, once they enter Weill Cornell, we will give them all the support we can to help them succeed."

The Foundation Program, introduced in 2007, extends the pre-medical phase by a year for those applicants who would benefit from a longer period of preparation before applying to the Medical Program.

WCMC-Q has been active in engaging the local school community through ongoing outreach activities. In addition to regular visits to high schools by admissions staff and faculty, these have included arranging Open House events, in which students and their families are invited to spend a day on campus. There are mock lectures, and the visiting students are introduced to work in the laboratory under the supervision of WCMC-Q pre-medical faculty and teaching assistants.

"These visits are an important outreach tool as we seek to engage the wider educational community in our mission to train the next generation of doctors in Qatar. As we prepare to graduate our first batch of home-grown doctors in May this year, we are committed to partnering with the local school system to provide every opportunity for more Qatari students to gain admission to the Medical College," Dr. Makki said.

WCMC-Q is also planning a series of workshops for teachers and students of both institutions, which are the main "feeder" schools for the Medical College. Topics include an introduction to research,

Office of Public Affairs
WCMC-Q
Education City
P.O. Box 24144
Doha, Qatar

Michael Vertigans
Director
Phone: +974 492 8650
Fax: +974 492 8444
Email: miv2008@qatar-med.cornell.edu

Sylvia Ismail
Associate Writer/ Editor
Phone: +974 492 865
Fax: +974 492 8444
Email: smi2001@qatar-med.cornell.edu

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teaching and writing for academic purposes, speech recognition technology, overcoming test anxiety, and developing test taking skills.

“With graduation approaching and WCMC-Q increasingly in the spotlight as the first American medical school to graduate doctors outside of the United States, these visits, along with our ongoing outreach activities, allow us to showcase the WCMC-Q model of medical education,” Dr. Makki concluded.

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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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WCMC-Q
Education City
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Doha, Qatar

Michael Vertigans
Director
Phone: +974 492 8650
Fax: +974 492 8444
Email: miv2008@qatar-med.cornell.edu

Sylvia Ismail
Associate Writer/ Editor
Phone: +974 492 865
Fax: +974 492 8444
Email: smi2001@qatar-med.cornell.edu