



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Class of 2009 Celebrates Successful Match Day**

**Doha, March 19, 2009** – Exhilaration, and euphoria were the overriding emotions on March 19 as Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar’s (WCMC-Q) Class of 2009 discovered where they would spend the next few years as resident physicians.

Match Day marks a celebration of many years of hard work. Seventeen medical school seniors were joined by classmates, friends, family, and faculty members at WCMC-Q Match Day Ceremony in honor of the occasion.

It took only seconds for the WCMC-Q Class of 2009 to click open the email messages that revealed where they would undergo their postgraduate residency training. “I can’t believe it! All these years of hard work have finally paid off,” exclaimed Yasir Tarabichi who matched at Cleveland Clinic and will do his residency there in internal medicine.

Members of WCMC-Q’s Class of 2009 were not the only ones anxiously awaiting Match Day. As part of the National Residency Program, medical students across the US also learned their residency destination. For most it was a moment of excitement as well as relief.

The newly matched Class of 2009 is a diverse group, with chosen specialties that include Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Family Medicine, Surgery, Neurology, Psychiatry, and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Two students have elected to pursue a year of clinical research before pursuing their residency training.

The assignments are made by a non-profit organization, the National Resident Matching Program, using a computer algorithm to align the preferences of applicants with those of the residency programs. Students submit their residency choices, and the participating hospitals rank their preferred resident candidates. Sophisticated software does the matching, and the results are delivered to medical students simultaneously throughout the country.

Manisha Deb Roy, who matched at New York Hospital Medical Center in Queens, New York, said: "It is mind-blowing to know that we are here now! Everything feels completely surreal. I could hardly imagine this day when I started medical school. I am grateful to the faculty at WCMC-Q who made this day possible, and I am especially grateful to my parents for their support."

Dr. Javaid Sheikh, Interim Dean at WCMC-Q extended his congratulations to the Class of 2009: "This is a very special day in the life of a medical student – a day that they will remember for a long time. I applaud the students for their perseverance, dedication, and hard work that have allowed them to reach this momentous day. The fact that all our students matched in areas of their choice is highly significant and speaks to the quality of our programs."

Dr. Maya Hammoud, Senior Associate Dean of Education added her congratulations to the students and the faculty and staff who supported them. "It has been wonderful to watch these students progress through the years and accomplish what they desire. I have no doubt they will do well, and we are all going to miss them." On May 6, 2009 the Class of 2009, the second graduating class from WCMC-Q, will graduate and embark on their new careers as doctors.

Ali Saad who matched at New York Presbyterian Hospital – Weill Cornell Medical College in New York summarized his experience at WCMC-Q: "Above all else I thank my class for things that cannot be conveyed through words. They were the greatest part of my experience at WCMC-Q."

### *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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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](mailto:miv2008@qatar-med.cornell.edu)

Phaedra Al Majid  
Media Relations Specialist  
Phone: +974 492 8659  
Fax: +974 492 8444  
Email: [pa.te2@med.cornell.edu](mailto:pa.te2@med.cornell.edu)

contd./-

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.

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P.O. Box 24144  
Doha, Qatar

**Michael Vertigans**  
Director  
Phone: +974 492 8650  
Fax: +974 492 8444  
Email: [miv2008@qatar-med.cornell.edu](mailto:miv2008@qatar-med.cornell.edu)

**Phaedra Al Majid**  
Media Relations Specialist  
Phone: +974 492 8659  
Fax: +974 492 8444  
Email: [pa.te2@med.cornell.edu](mailto:pa.te2@med.cornell.edu)