



# Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar



## PRESS RELEASE

### **WCMC-Q Welcomes New Pre-medical Class**

**Doha, August 20, 2009** - Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar welcomed 73 new freshmen in its Pre-Medical and Foundation Program opening exercises this week. The ceremony and reception for family and friends capped off the first of three days of orientation activities for the new students.

The diverse body of students hails from 18 different countries, and includes 17 Qataris. The comprehensive orientation program allows the students to have some fun as they get to know each other, while introducing them to college life and preparing them for the challenges that lie ahead.

“We are very pleased to welcome our eighth intake of students,” said Interim Dean Dr. Javaid Sheikh. “They are highly intelligent and engaged individuals who, in being accepted to WCMC-Q, have already distinguished themselves as the best of the best. The college continues to attract some of the most talented medical and pre-medical students from Qatar and the region.”

In addition to the 60 students joining the Pre-medical Program, 13 took part in the welcoming ceremony as they prepared to enter the yearlong Foundation Program. Covering the basic sciences, mathematics and English, with an emphasis on critical thinking and problem solving, the Foundation Program gives participants the opportunity to build on their skills in core areas.

Among them is Qatar native Mohamed Hajji, a winner of the First Annual WCMC-Q Healing Hands Essay Competition in 2008. Although excited and nervous on his first day, Mohamed’s prior experience gave him more confidence – one advantage of WCMC-Q’s many outreach programs such as the essay competition.

“I know what to expect now and I know my potential,” Mohamed said. “I’m looking forward to having a good year.”

This year’s entering class also demonstrates how families often hold a shared interest in medicine. Four new students have brothers already enrolled in the WCMC-Q Medical Program, and two more pairs of siblings are entering the Pre-medical Program together this year.

New Pre-medical student Hayder Al-Mazraqchi says he feels proud of his older brother Yahya who is entering the first year of the Medical Program.

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“He gave me lots of advice,” Hayder said. “Mostly to work as hard as I can, and of course that I will make a lot of new friends.”

Pierre Halteh says he was motivated to attend the WCMC-Q Pre-medical Program by the classes he took in high school here in Doha. “I enjoy biology and chemistry and thought that pursuing medicine would allow me to use those skills to benefit other people.”

He says working with the teachers at WCMC-Q was a particular attraction: “The faculty here is excellent and very experienced. I heard that Cornell is the best place to learn medicine, and I am looking forward to the day I become a doctor.”

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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

Founded in 1995 by decree of His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, Qatar Foundation is a non-profit organization focusing on education, scientific research and community development. Under Qatar Foundation’s umbrella are Education City, which comprises elite universities, several academic and training programmes and Qatar Science and Technology Park, which boasts more than 21 world class companies involved in scientific research and development.

Chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned, Qatar Foundation also aims to enhance lives through community development initiatives including Doha Debates, Reach out To Asia and Al Jazeera Childrens Channel.

Joint venture partnerships in the areas of design, ICT, telecommunications, policy studies and event management contribute to fulfilling the objectives of Qatar Foundation.

Website: [www.qf.org.qa](http://www.qf.org.qa)

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