



PRESS RELEASE

High School Students Set Their Sights on Medicine in Qatar

Doha, June 7, 2009 – Two high-school students received an all-expenses-paid trip to New York City for their winning entries to this year’s Weill Cornell Medical College “Healing Hands: Making a Difference” essay competition.

During the award ceremony at the college, Dr. Javaid Sheikh, WCMC-Q’s interim dean and vice dean for research, presented Chantelle D'mello, a grade 11 student at Qatar Academy, and Nadia Hussain, a grade 11 student at El Eimman Independent School, with two summer scholarships as awards for their winning entries.

The scholarships will send them to Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City, where they will visit researchers in laboratories and spend time with Weill Cornell physicians in New York City hospitals.

“We’re really delighted with the entries that we have seen, and we hope to hear more from Qatari students in the future—they are the young generation today, yet they will be the leaders of tomorrow and will shape the future of the health care sector,” Sheikh said.

Honorable mention awards were presented to Abhirami Appukuttan, Fatima Hassan Al-Sayegh, Kiran Chandra Kedarisetti, Naeem Shoaib Chowdhury and Aatika Sultana Khan. Winning and honorable mention essays along with eight other noteworthy entries will be published in an anthology.

This year’s entrants were asked to explain how, as a future doctor, they would make a difference in Qatar’s health care system while contributing to its excellence, and what they would focus on in terms of biomedical research. As a new feature of the contest this year, the entrants had the option of submitting a video about their ideas. Although the essays were the most important part of the entry, two students received awards for their videos—D’mello again won for best video along with Arwa Ahmed El Sanosi, a grade 11 student at Amna Bint Wahab Independent high school.

D’mello’s essay focused on the chance to “not only save a life, but to guide it,” and she expressed strong interest in cognitive neuroscience and biomedical research in this sector. She explained that Dr. Harvey Cushing, the pioneer of brain surgery, is someone she hopes to emulate.

Hussain's essay highlighted a passion for treating the youngest of patients, and she outlined plans for weekly clinics for mothers and their newborns—"we need a special team of pediatricians to monitor and track infants after their successful births." Data from these regimented visits, she wrote, would also contribute to a database of knowledge from which doctors could learn.

"We had competitive entries and interesting ideas coming from high school students who are really aware of what's going on in the medical field in Qatar. They've done some good research to write these essays. And they've shown what they themselves want for the country. Essay writing provided them with an intimate way to reflect both personality and motivation," said Noha Saleh, director of student recruitment at WCMC-Q.

WCMC-Q received 70 essay and video entries this year, Saleh said, and it is hoped that this number grows over the coming years. In the end, all participants received a certificate for their entries, and their names follow:

Mariam Al Kaabi, Ribhi Aet Al-Aswad, Fatema Tuz Zohra Abdul, Nagi Eltaqi Ahmed, Reeman Majdi Al-Bustami, Haya Rasheed Al-Borshaid, Ali Abdulla Al-Buainain, Ayman Khaled Aljurdi, Yasmeen Alkhatib, Shams Ahmed Al-Obaidi, Maryam Al Obaidly, Saleem Samer Al-Rabadi, Abdulaziz Saber Al-Safadi, Nazim Mohammed Babikir, Hafsa Abdul Nasir Bakhsh, Sneha Balan Balan, Pooja Ramkisan Bhatt, Jeunelle Marie Juarez Buenaventura, Nora Dawass, Safa Yousif Eltayeb, Mariam Emadi, Adrina Surrthy Gnanachandran, Zahra Hejji, Asma Ul Hosna , Syeda Mishkaat Abid Hussaini, Marwa Khalil Hassan, Aaqib Ahmed Khan, Tejas S Kumar, Saleem Yasir Mohammad, Shreefa Mohammed Almari, Aishwarya Haridas Nair, Moosa Naqvi Shajeea, Theekshani Shenomi Perera, Queenie Edwin Pinto, Zarmeena Asghar Qazi, Rana Ahmed Saleh, Husam Rustom Shadid, Vignesh Shanmugam, Alaa Mahmoud Sultan, Neha Ann Thomas, Ummkulthum Ismail Umlai

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

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

Emily Alp
Senior Editorial Specialist
Phone: +974 492 8651
Fax: +974 492 8657
Email: ela2010@qatar-med.cornell.edu

contd./-

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

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

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

Emily Alp
Senior Editorial Specialist
Phone: +974 492 8651
Fax: +974 492 8657
Email: ela2010@qatar-med.cornell.edu