



PRESS RELEASE

**WCMC-Q's Biomedical Research Program Wins 20 NPRP Grants**

**Doha, May 28, 2009:** Biomedical researchers at WCMC-Q recently received over \$19 million in the form of Qatar National Research Program's (QNRF) National Priorities Research Fund (NPRP) grants to forge ahead on their projects.

WCMC-Q won a total of 20 grants for their projects, many of which will support collaborative efforts with renowned laboratories around the world. Among the 20 projects awarded, WCMC-Q researchers will take the lead on 10 and will contribute well over 50 percent of the work to the remainder. Of the total NPRP funding available this cycle, WCMC-Q was granted about 21 percent to spearhead Qatar's biomedical research program.

The money will support vital research into stem cells, molecular medicine, genomics, cancer, diabetes and basic health as well as other fields relevant to regional and global needs.

Dr Javaid Sheikh, Interim Dean and Vice Dean for Research at WCMC-Q said: "The boost to our biomedical research program with this funding is very encouraging. Our success rate was good. The NPRP process itself is well organized with knowledgeable scientists worldwide conducting peer reviews of the projects submitted."

"The NPRP funding mechanism, in addition to other QNRF programs, increases our ability to recruit top-tier scientists given the robust extramural funding stream. With this kind of support, individual investigators can initiate novel research programs and do it at a serious level that's competitive internationally, leading to contributions scientifically through publications, new knowledge and patents."

"We're excited to move forward with these projects and to increasingly contribute to the growth and establishment of biomedical research in Qatar," said Khaled Machaca, PhD, Associate Dean for Basic Science Research and Professor of Physiology and Biophysics.

The number of NPRP grants allocated to medical and health sciences research ranked second after engineering and technology among all categories awarded, showing the country's strong dedication to advances in this sector. The support will help build the momentum as world-class researchers look to Qatar as a place to conduct their work and pursue their careers.

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**NOTES TO EDITORS**

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**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 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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