



## PRESS RELEASE

### **WCMC-Q Embraces New Goals Under Leadership of Dean Javaid Sheikh**

**Doha, Feb. 23, 2010** – As Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar goes forward with new leadership, it is setting its sights on becoming the best medical college in this part of the world, said Dr. Javaid Sheikh at a reception this week in honor of his appointment as dean.

“We want to make WCMC-Q the best medical college not only in the Middle East and North Africa but also in Asia,” said Dr. Sheikh at the reception that included leadership from Weill Cornell Medical College in New York, Hamad Medical Corporation and the Supreme Council of Health. “This is one of four new goals we will work to achieve over the next five years,” said Dr. Sheikh. A second goal is helping to build a broad local workforce. “We have to produce not only physicians but also people who will become scientists and health care leaders,” he said. The college also will focus on integrating its three-part mission of education, research and patient care more closely with partners HMC and Sidra. “And, finally, we will work to make WCMC-Q an even more valuable citizen of Qatar by becoming more involved with the Supreme Council of Health and its planning for the country,” said Dr. Sheikh.

“Over the next several weeks, we plan to develop very specific strategies and tactics to meet these goals and specific milestones to assess our progress.”

The reception was held at the Four Seasons Hotel in honor of Dr. Sheikh’s appointment Jan. 1 as dean of the medical college to replace Dr. Daniel Alonso, who helped establish the college and served as its dean through the graduation of its first class of medical students.

WCMC Chairman of the Board of Overseers Sanford Weill has firmly supported the medical college in Qatar, said Vice Dean Havva Idriss at the reception. “Those of us who have had the privilege to be involved with this project are indebted to his support and vision,” she said. “We are delighted that the story of WCMC-Q goes on under new leadership and we look forward to continued growth and development.”

---

**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)

**Kristina Goodnough**  
Associate Editor/Writer  
Phone: +974 492 8660  
Fax: +974 492 8657  
Email: [krig2007@qatar-med.cornell.edu](mailto:krig2007@qatar-med.cornell.edu)

WCMC-Q began strictly as an educational program with the same standards as the medical college in New York, WCMC Dean Antonio Gotto, MD, said at the reception. “From there, with a generous grant from Qatar Foundation, we began to carry out important research in Qatar. When Sidra Medical and Research Center opens with our doctors as its faculty, we will have achieved something remarkable. We are fortunate to have an outstanding leader like Dr. Sheikh to take us forward.”

Qatar is engaged in a nothing less than the rebirth of science and education in the Middle East, said Dr. Sheikh. “Thanks to the vision of her highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Missned, Education City is like the 9<sup>th</sup> century House of Wisdom that became the center of Islamic learning for 300 years,” said Dr. Sheikh. “It is a true honor to be involved in this unique, historic moment.”

### *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 an innovative educational program comprised of a 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. Website: [www.qf.org.qa](http://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](mailto:miv2008@qatar-med.cornell.edu)

Kristina Goodnough  
Associate Editor/Writer  
Phone: +974 492 8660  
Fax: +974 492 8657  
Email: [krg2007@qatar-med.cornell.edu](mailto:krg2007@qatar-med.cornell.edu)

**Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC)**

Hamad Medical Corporation is the premier non-profit health care provider in Doha, Qatar. It was established by Emiri decree in 1979 and manages five highly specialized hospitals, namely, Hamad General Hospital, Rumailah Hospital, Women's Hospital, Al Amal Hospital and Al Khor Hospital. Since its establishment, HMC has rapidly developed medical facilities capable of providing state-of-the-art diagnosis and treatment of diseases that previously could only be managed in overseas medical centers.

The Corporation has recently achieved the accreditation of the Joint Commission International (JCI), which certified that the health care services secured by the Corporation are on equal footing to those provided by world-class prominent hospitals.

---

**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)

**Kristina Goodnough**  
Associate Editor/Writer  
Phone: +974 492 8660  
Fax: +974 492 8657  
Email: [krig2007@qatar-med.cornell.edu](mailto:krig2007@qatar-med.cornell.edu)