



PRESS RELEASE

**Qatar Students Get Early Experience of Medical School**

**Doha, July 9, 2009** – Aspiring physicians in grades 10 through 12 were treated to an early glimpse of life as a medical doctor this week. Qatar Future Doctors, a free academic enrichment program by Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, provided a unique opportunity for 22 high school students to experience medical school first hand.

Sara Hassan, MD and Noor Suleiman, MD, both WCMC-Q graduates from the class of 2009, coordinated the course and conducted some of the sessions. The interactive program included lectures, films, hands-on trainings, and exercises focused on didactic thinking and problem-based. Participants also received a full-day course in Basic Life Support conducted at Hamad Medical Corporation by HMC physicians.

“Qatar Future Doctors gives the students a taste of the study of medicine and relates it to issues that they see on a daily basis, but on a medical level,” said Dr. Suleiman.

“The course activities focus on metabolic syndrome, which includes diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and high cholesterol. It’s likely that many of the students have family members affected by these conditions, so they can relate to what we are talking about. In the future they can even play a role in helping prevent the lifestyle habits that contribute to such conditions,” Dr. Suleiman added.

Mouayad Zaza, a 3rd year medical student and teaching assistant for the program, noted the participants’ high level of interest and ability. “The students are all focused and very advanced for their grade level. They asked difficult questions – and answered them. I felt like they were my colleagues,” he said.

Participants noted many reasons for their keen interest in medicine. For some, WCMC-Q and a future in medicine already seem to be a family tradition. Noura Al-Jurdi, currently in 11th grade at the Al Bayan Educational Complex for Girls, has one brother in the second year of the WCMC-Q Medical Program and another beginning the Pre-medical Program in September.

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Fahad Al-Marri, a Qatari in 11th grade at the Al Jamilayah Secondary School for Boys, best expressed the notion of service and dedication to the medical profession shared by the other participants. “I want to save lives, to help people, and to serve my country,” he said.

“Qatar Future Doctors is part of WCMC-Q’s efforts to help cultivate the talent of local students,” said Noha Saleh, director of student recruitment. “By opening our doors to them, we can help prepare them for college and hopefully inspire them to consider careers in medicine and biomedical research.”

WCMC-Q offers three summer programs free for selected applicants: Qatar Future Doctors, the Qatar Summer Math & Reading Talent Scholars (Q-SMARTS) and the WCMC-Q Pre-College Enrichment programs.

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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: <http://qatar-weill.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.

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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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