



Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar



PRESS RELEASE

**Javaid Sheikh Named Dean of  
Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar**

***Doha, January 9, 2010*** – Javaid I. Sheikh, MD, Interim Dean of Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar – part of Qatar Foundation’s Education City - has been named Dean.

Dr. Fathy Saoud, President of Qatar Foundation, said: “Weill Cornell was the first to join Qatar Foundation offering a home based degree program, so we have had a very special relationship from the beginning. On this occasion I would like to commend the work of the Founding Dean, Dr. Daniel Alonso, for his excellent leadership of the school during the startup phase and the following several years until the first class of students graduated in 2008. I am confident that his successor Dr. Sheikh, given his impressive academic and professional experience, will raise WCMC-Q to new horizons by integrating education with research and clinical excellence.”

“I am honored to accept the appointment,” said Dr. Sheikh. “It is an exciting challenge to lead the pioneering efforts of WCMC-Q, and one that I welcome. We are participating in a renaissance of science and education in the Middle East that will make a great contribution to the health and well being of the people of Qatar, the Gulf region and the world.”

Dr. Sheikh joined WCMC-Q as Vice Dean for research in April 2007 and took on the additional responsibilities of Deputy Dean in May the following year. He has served as Interim Dean since the retirement of Daniel R. Alonso, MD, who was Founding Dean of the Medical College from its inception in 2001.

Dr. Sheikh is a graduate of King Edward Medical College, Lahore, Pakistan. He started his psychiatry residency training at University of Connecticut and completed it at Stanford University School of Medicine. He also completed two research fellowships at Stanford after finishing his residency.

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He is an internationally renowned researcher in the area of anxiety disorders. During the 1990s, he conducted first studies to delineate impact of aging on anxiety disorders, particularly a detailed characterization of Panic Disorder in aging patients. His most recent investigations funded by the National Institutes of Health have focused on the interface of central fear circuits and sleep architecture in patients with chronic anxiety disorders. He has published more than 125 scientific articles, in addition to numerous abstracts documenting his research findings.

From 2001-2006, Dr. Sheikh served as Associate Dean for Veterans Affairs at Stanford and the Chief of Medical Staff at the Stanford affiliate VA Palo Alto Health Care System (VAPAHCS). As the Chairman of the Board of Palo Alto Institute for Research and Education (PAIRE), he also oversaw the substantial research endeavors of more than 100 Stanford faculty members based at the VAPAHCS. As the Research Director for National Center for Post-traumatic stress disorder and Clinical Director for Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center at VAPAHCS, he oversaw broad based research programs focusing on the neurobiology of anxiety disorders.

Under Dr. Sheikh's leadership as Vice Dean for Research, WCMC-Q has established a translational and clinical research infrastructure, including core laboratories and research administration structure. He has begun to implement a five-year strategic plan for the next phase of WCMC-Q's development and continuing implementation of its tripartite mission of education, research, and clinical care.

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

**Established in partnership with Qatar Foundation, WCMC-Q** is part of Weill Cornell Medical College (WCMC), the first US institution to offer its MD degree overseas. WCMC-Q shares the tripartite mission of WCMC: a dedication to excellence in education, patient care, and biomedical research.

WCMC-Q offers an innovative program of pre-medical and medical studies leading to the Cornell University MD degree. Teaching is by Cornell and Weill Cornell faculty,

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including physicians at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) who hold Weill Cornell appointments.

Faculty and staff of WCMC-Q and WCMC are building the research capacity of Qatar in partnership with Qatar Foundation, HMC, the Ministry of Health and other organizations, with a focus on high quality research in genetic and molecular medicine, women's and children's health, gene therapy, and vaccine development.

Website: [www.qatar-weill.cornell.edu](http://www.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.

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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