



Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar



PRESS RELEASE

Sidra, HMC Plan First Simulation Center

Doha, October 5, 2009 – Qatar’s first medical simulation center is being planned by Sidra Medical and Research Center and Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) at a joint workshop, starting today.

The center, which will allow clinicians and educators to practice their skills and techniques on the latest equipment in a simulated medical setting, will be one of the most advanced in the Middle East. It is envisaged that the center will be operational in late 2011.

The 3-day planning workshop will be facilitated by international experts in the field of medical simulation including Dr. Michael Seropian, President and CFO of SimHealth Consulting Services, Bonnie Driggers, CEO of SimHealth Consulting Services, Dr. Jose Pliego, Director of the Simulation Center at Scott and White in Temple, Texas, and Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Texas A & M College of Medicine, and Dr. Paula Gubrud-Howe, Associate Dean for Academic Partnerships at Oregon Health Sciences University and the Oregon Statewide Director of Simulation. Dr. Jordan J. Cohen, a Sidra Medical and Research Center board member and President Emeritus of the AAMC, is a special invited guest.

The workshop will be attended by top executives, clinicians and education specialists from Sidra, Hamad Medical Corporation, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, College of the North Atlantic, University of Calgary, and Qatar University. The attendees represent various fields of medicine, nursing, and allied health including emergency medicine, anesthesia, cardiology, obstetrics and gynecology, respiratory therapy, diagnostic imaging, pharmacy, and information technology.

The workshop will focus on joint planning between Sidra and HMC with the philosophy

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of “one program, two facilities”, and to set local and regional priorities for simulation program and curriculum planning with input from the attendees.

Commenting on the advent of a simulation center, Sidra Executive Project Director Dan Bergin noted that this would provide a significant boost to medical training in Qatar. “Simulation centers can help Qatar achieve best practice in clinical education and will assist Sidra in providing the best health care”, he said.

HMC Managing Director, Dr. Hanan al Kuwari said that the collaboration between Sidra and HMC would ultimately result in benefits to patients in Qatar. “We are honored to be involved in developing the simulation center with Sidra and this represents an excellent example of partnerships leading the development of healthcare in the country”.

Queries:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Established in partnership with Qatar Foundation, WCMC-Q is part of Weill Cornell Medical College (WCMC) of Cornell University, the first US institution to offer its MD degree overseas. WCMC-Q shares the triple 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, 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

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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

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

Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) was established by Emiri decree in 1979. It is the premier not-for-profit healthcare provider in the State of Qatar.

HMC manages six hospitals: Hamad General Hospital, Women's Hospital, Rumailah Hospital, Al-Amal Cancer Hospital, the Psychiatric Hospital and Al-Khor Hospital, as well as the Hamad International Training Center. Nationwide, the Corporation manages a network of primary health centers that provide a range of services, including family medicine, preventive medicine and a number of specialized services such as ophthalmology.

HMC is mandated to provide the best quality care for patients irrespective of nationality, and to play a major part in Qatar's drive to meet, and exceed, global targets, as defined in the World Health Organization's "Health for All" campaign. Since its establishment,

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the Corporation has developed specialized medical facilities that offer levels of diagnosis and treatment that were previously only available overseas.

Website: www.hmc.org.qa

Sidra Medical and Research Center will be an ultra modern, all-digital academic medical center, which is being designed and planned to the best international standards in health sciences. It will offer specialty care for women and children, in addition to select medical and surgical services for adult men and women. It will encompass three essential missions: world-class clinical care, medical education, and biomedical research.

Part of a collaborative effort entitled "one program in multiple institutions," Sidra will work closely with Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar and Hamad Medical Corporation in regard to all three missions, raising the standard of health care throughout the country and providing valuable opportunities for research and learning.

First announced in June 2004, Sidra represents the vision of His Highness the Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani and Her Highness Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al-Missned. The high tech facility will not only provide world-class patient care but will help build Qatar's scientific expertise and resources. Sidra will be funded by a US\$7.9 billion endowment from Qatar Foundation, the largest endowment of a medical and research center anywhere in the world.

Located in Doha on Qatar Foundation's 2,500 acre Education City campus, Sidra Medical and Research Center is expected to open in 2012. It will initially have 412 beds with infrastructure to enable expansion to 550 beds in a subsequent phase.

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