



PRESS RELEASE

**WCMC-Q Students Awarded UREP Funding for Seven Projects**

**Doha, July 6, 2009** – Qatar National Research Fund recently awarded money to seven research projects involving 23 WCMC-Q students. The Fund’s Undergraduate Research Experience Program (UREP) awarded \$10,000 to each of the participating students, who will conduct their investigations under the leadership of seven WCMC-Q faculty members and nine mentors representing WCMC-Q, Hamad Medical Corporation, College of the North Atlantic in Qatar, and Qatar University.

WCMC-Q faculty designed the studies, ranging in topic from the molecular effects of diabetes to environmental protection in Qatar. They have begun mentoring the students, and will guide them in running experiments, gathering results and explaining their meaning.

“UREP gives students the chance to build their research skills and to better appreciate how research is conducted—in many cases it helps the students appreciate the value of research that they already have learned from their premed training,” said Dr. Chris Triggles, professor of pharmacology at WCMC-Q and faculty mentor for an awarded study on diabetes.

Abdulwahed Zainel, 20, a second-year medical student and researcher on a project to measure patient satisfaction at a public hospital, said he is excited to learn how to address problems by gathering information and using it to explain how systems work so that they can be improved.

“I look forward to learning how to collect data, how to write a paper and how to get a result that helps to improve the patient-doctor relationship in Qatar,” he said.

Premedical and medical students may participate in research opportunities through UREP. The program promotes “learning by doing” and “hands-on” training as effective methods for undergraduate education. There are two UREP cycles per academic year, one in the spring and the second in the fall. This was the sixth award cycle.

contd./-

WCMC-Q students will embark on investigations under the following topics:

- Environmental protection in Qatar
- How hyperglycemia induces vascular disease
- The effect of television viewing and video games on youth
- Patient opinion of the doctor-patient relationship in a public hospital in Qatar
- Vocabulary learning with technology
- Studying osteoporosis
- In-depth study of the differentiation of pluripotent stem cells into certain tissues

*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 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/>

---

**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)

**Emily Alp**  
Senior Editorial Specialist  
Phone: +974 492 8651  
Fax: +974 492 8657  
Email: [ela2010@qatar-med.cornell.edu](mailto:ela2010@qatar-med.cornell.edu)