



PRESS RELEASE

A Record 41 Students Enter the WCMC-Q Medical Program

Doha, September 10, 2009 – WCMC-Q inducted the class of 2013 into the medical world during the annual White Coat Ceremony. Forty-one students participated in the ceremony, considered a traditional rite of passage where the new doctors-in-training first don the symbolic emblems of their new roles as doctors.

“When the students wear the white coat for the first time, they are actively committing themselves to the cause of excellent patient care and dedicated research,” said Dr. Javaid Sheikh, interim dean of WCMC-Q. “They are joining the ranks of doctors, who live by time-honored principles of the profession.”

Among this new class of medical students is Iqbal Assaad, 16, the youngest medical student in the college’s history, who is sponsored by Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Missned. Hailing from Lebanon, Assaad entered WCMC-Q’s Pre-medical Program from high school at the age of 12.

“After studying really hard for two years, it’s just nice to know that your dream is coming true,” Assaad said.

The event took place in a lecture hall filled to capacity with faculty—including WCMC-Q faculty at Hamad Medical Corporation—staff, family, friends and guests gathering to witness the occasion.

A break in the talks marked the most poignant moment—the audience watched with rapt attention as Dr. Sheikh assisted each student in putting on a white coat, marking the passage into the medical community.

Each student received a stethoscope presented by a member of the faculty, and the ceremony ended with the Hippocratic Oath—a passage that further instilled upon the students their upcoming roles as doctors.

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Since this year's ceremony took place during the holy month of Ramadan, it concluded with an Iftar dinner, where students, their families, faculty and deans of the college joined together to break the day's fast.

The evening's events were part of a three-day orientation for the new WCMC-Q medical students. Other orientation activities include introductory and social meetings to help the students get to know each other and the college community at large.

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

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.

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