



PRESS RELEASE

WCMC-Q Launches *Qira'at Readings* Book to Public

Doha, March 22, 2009 – Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q) presents the launch of an anthology of winning essays by future doctors in Qatar entitled *Qira'at: Readings from the Students of Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, 2004-2008*. The launch, held at Waqif Art Center on March 22nd, 2009, will include public readings of several essays to be followed by a book signing in the Afkar Bookstore.

Qira'at: Readings from the Students of Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, 2004-2008 is a compilation of the best essays produced by students of the Medical College. Students were encouraged to submit essays of any kind, provided they were written as part of their college course work. WCMC-Q faculty selected 27 essays for publication from those entered in the competition.

WCMC-Q is donating proceeds to the Qatar National Cancer Society (QNCS). Dr. Alan Weber, Assistant Professor of English at WCMC-Q stated, “We are very excited to partner with QNCS. The editors did not want to make a profit from the book because it is solely an educational and artistic project, so we decided to send all profits to the Cancer Society. The book gives the general public a glimpse of what WCMC-Q medical students are writing about and helps an organization raising funds to educate people about cancer.”

QNCS is a national society whose objective is to control cancer through public awareness. The main purpose of the society lies in the fact that almost 70% of cancer can be prevented and controlled through lifestyle choices. Nevertheless, many citizens and residents die every year as a result of this life-threatening disease.

“We are thrilled to receive the proceeds of the book sale from WCMC-Q and honored to be partnered with them. QNCS is a valuable resource for cancer patients, their families, and the community. The proceeds of *Qira'at* will go directly towards the treatment of cancer patients,” said Dr AbdulAzim Hussain, Vice Chairman of QNCS.

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Qira'at will be sold exclusively through Souq Waqif Art Center. The center has a book distribution network and specializes in stocking and promoting books related to the country and culture of Qatar. Maya Saikali, Art Director at the Waqif Art Center said: "Waqif Art Center's mission is to provide services that support aspiring writers and artists. Our goal is to nurture artistic excellence and discover emerging writers. By launching WCMC-Q's *Qira'at*, we are connecting writers with an audience and developing a community."

Tasnim Khalife (Class of 2010), whose essay "Rieux: A Willing Victim of Abstraction" was named First Place Prize winner stated, "Besides being honored that my essay has been included in the book, I'm also pleased that the profits from the book will help educate people on ways to reduce their cancer risk and help in the treatment of cancer patients."

The event is free and open to the public.

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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: 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.

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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/>

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