

Match Day joy for WCM-Q's future doctors

Doha – April 24, 2017: Soon-to-graduate medical students of Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar gathered at the college to celebrate securing places in residency programs at some of the most prestigious healthcare institutions in the world.

WCM-Q students 'matched' at leading institutions including NewYork Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, Virginia Commonwealth University Health System, Yale New Haven Hospital, Lincoln Medical Center in New York, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) where they will continue their training after they graduate in May.

The annual Match Day event is the moment students discover whether they have been accepted onto a residency program in a medical specialty of their choice. The process is highly competitive – this year 54,110 U.S. and international medical school students vied for just 28,849 positions. The match results for students applying to residency programs at HMC were announced shortly after the U.S. results.

There was standing room only inside the lecture hall at WCM-Q as the students of the Class of 2017 joined their friends and families to reveal the results of their applications shortly after they were announced online by the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) in Washington D.C.

Class of 2017 student Diala Steitieh matched at NewYork Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center where she will join the Neurology residency program. Diala said: "I am so happy to have matched – it really is a dream come true. There have been some tough times along the way because the program is so challenging, so I am very grateful to my family, my friends and the faculty and staff for all their support. None of us would have been able to experience this amazing moment without the support of all of these people."

Students who graduate from WCM-Q's Medical Program receive the same M.D. degree as graduates of Weill Cornell Medicine-New York, so they are well-prepared for applying to U.S. residency programs. Many WCM-Q graduates return to Qatar after they have completed their residency training in the U.S. to work locally and serve the community as the next generation of doctors.

One of the medical students who has been accepted to a residency program at HMC is Qatari Sahar Al-Kurbi, who is joining the Family Medicine residency program. She said: "I am so happy because HMC has always been my choice. I feel very strongly that I want to be here in Qatar to serve my community and give something back in return for all the support I have received from Qatar Foundation and HMC during my training. Family Medicine is perfect for me because I have wide-ranging interests and I will be able to treat a diverse range of patients. I am someone who is interested in being active in the community in more than one way, and Family Medicine can help me do so since I will have the chance to build strong relationships with my patients."

Fellow Class of 2017 student Ali Khairat will join the Emergency Medicine residency program at Lincoln Medical Center in New York City. He said: "I am absolutely over the moon and so proud of my fellow Class of 2017 students. I am extremely happy because it's very difficult to get accepted to Emergency



Medicine residency programs and Lincoln was my first choice. We are all so fortunate that we were able to receive a world-class education here in Qatar while remaining in the region with our families – we are so grateful for that.”

Throughout the evening students expressed their gratitude to Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation, for her vision in bringing world-class educational institutions to Qatar.

Echoing those sentiments, Dr. Javaid Sheikh, Dean of WCM-Q, said: “Through the vision and the support of the Qatari leadership the potential of these truly impressive young people has been realized. We are all extremely proud of them, not only for their achievements, but also because they take seriously their responsibilities as citizens and as physicians to make positive contributions to their communities. I know that they will serve as wonderful ambassadors for WCM-Q, Qatar Foundation and Qatar.”

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Photos Captions:

Photo1: Dr. Javaid Sheikh, Dean of WCM-Q, addressing the students during the Match Day event

Photo2: WCM-Q’s Class of 2017 celebrating the Match Day results

Photo3: WCM-Q students Tarek Barbar, Ali Khairat and Diala Steitieh celebrate Match Day

About Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar

Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar is a partnership between Cornell University and Qatar Foundation. It offers a comprehensive six-year medical program leading to the Cornell University M.D. degree with teaching by Cornell and Weill Cornell faculty and by physicians at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), Aspetar Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Hospital, the Primary Health Care Corporation, the Feto Maternal Center, and the Sidra Medical and Research Center who hold Weill Cornell appointments. Through its biomedical research program, WCM-Q is building a sustainable research community in Qatar while advancing basic science and clinical research. Through its medical college, WCM-Q seeks to provide the finest education possible for medical students, to improve health care both now and for future generations, and to provide high quality health care to the Qatari population.

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