

## **WCM-Q Grand Rounds explores the changing world of medical education**

**Doha – May 29, 2017:** The innovations in learning science and technology that are driving changes in medical education were explained at the latest installment of WCM-Q’s Grand Rounds.

Visiting expert Dr. Rishi Desai, clinical instructor at Stanford University, said that the digital age has ushered in fundamental changes in the way medical students learn their craft, giving rise to exciting new developments in pedagogical science that medical colleges must take into account in order to stay relevant.

Dr. Desai said that students have become highly adept at using a wide variety of learning resources in a complementary manner, assimilating information from online videos, traditional and online textbooks and journals, and blogs where fellow students share experiences, among other sources. The largely independent nature of this form of learning means students are less dependent on traditional learning experiences, like lectures, meaning colleges must adapt their programs to maximize learning outcomes.

Dr. Desai, who is also chief medical officer at a hi-tech online medical learning platform, said: “At many medical colleges it is very common for the attendance at lectures to be as low as 15 or 20 percent, in part because it is simply not a good use of a student’s time to travel halfway across the city to obtain information they can find online quickly, easily and from high-quality sources.

“This doesn’t mean medical colleges are becoming redundant. What it means is that colleges have an opportunity to use technology to make information acquisition far more efficient, leaving them time to focus on other core learning goals such as skills acquisition, critical thinking, group work, professionalism training, cultural competence and patient-doctor interactions.”

Dr. Desai said that learning science research indicates that medical colleges should be investing in hi-tech simulation centers to help students gain important practical skills, maximizing access to quality online resources, encouraging students to be open to new technologies, and introducing students to clinical learning experiences very early in the curriculum. All of these elements have been incorporated into WCM-Q’s new curriculum, which was launched in 2016.

Dr. Desai also stressed the need equip students with the skills and mindset to be lifelong learners. “We know that the world of medicine is changing extremely rapidly,” he said. “The students of today will still be practicing in 30 to 40 years’ time so it is crucial that we prepare them to adapt to changes so they can continue to provide the best possible care for their patients.”

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Photos Captions:

Photos 1&2: Dr. Rishi Desai

Photo 3: Faculty attending the Grand Rounds



### **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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