

Three experts speak at WCM-Q Grand Rounds

Doha – November 4, 2017: Three healthcare experts gave individual presentations on treatments for thyroid cancer, harmful substances that disrupt the body's hormones, and rapid-reaction stroke treatment units at WCM-Q's Grand Rounds series.

WCM-Q graduate Dr. Tania Jaber returned to Doha to give a presentation on radioactive iodine treatments for thyroid cancer, while Dr. Thozhukat Sathyapalan, Professor of Endocrinology at the University of Hull, UK, explained that endocrine disruptors – chemicals that interfere with the body's hormones – can cause a variety of conditions, including malignant tumors, birth defects and developmental disorders, among others.

Dr. Matthew Fink, Louis & Gertrude Feil Professor and Department Chair of Neurology at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York, discussed how new mobile stroke treatment units are enabling earlier treatment of stroke victims and therefore dramatically improving long-term outcomes.

Dr. Fink, who is also Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs, said: "The focus is not just on survival, it's on returning people to health and fully independent lives. With stroke, the faster treatment is given the higher the chances of full recovery. That is why these new mobile treatment units are so important."

Mobile stroke treatment units are now operational in New York City and are equipped with modern portable CT scanners to help mobile teams diagnose whether a stroke is ischemic (caused by a blood clot) or hemorrhagic (caused by a ruptured blood vessel) in order to quickly administer the correct treatment and then transport the patient to the most appropriate facility.

Dr. Sathyapalan explained that a wide range of substances are understood to disrupt the endocrine (hormone) system, such as pesticides, certain types of plastic, heavy metals like lead and mercury, and bisphenol A (BPA), a chemical used in some types of plastic. Endocrine disruptors can adversely affect fertility and also pose a significant risk to unborn children and babies because their neural systems and organs are still growing and are highly sensitive to hormonal changes.

Dr. Tania Jaber, who graduated from WCM-Q in 2011, then undertook a residency in internal medicine at Cleveland Clinic in the US, before taking a fellowship in endocrinology at the University of Texas and then an advanced fellowship in endocrine cancers at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

In her Grand Rounds presentation Dr. Jaber said research had found that thyroid cancer is the second most common cancer in the GCC region and that between 1998 and 2002, Qatari females had the highest incidence of the disease of any group at 13.5 individuals per 100,000, versus Kuwait with 7. Some thyroid cancers can be fairly successfully treated with radioactive iodine therapy (RAI). Dr. Jaber explained which cases of thyroid cancer are recommended for RAI treatment and which are not, new research into dosages, common side effects of RAI and recommended frequency of follow-up scans.



Each activity was accredited locally by the Qatar Council for Healthcare Practitioners-Accreditation Department (QCHP-AD) and internationally by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME).

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Photos captions:

Photo1: Dr. Thozhukat Sathyapalan of the University of Hull, UK, discussed endocrine disruptors – chemicals that interfere with the body's hormones – at WCM-Q's Grand Rounds.

Photo2: Dr. Matthew Fink of Weill Cornell Medicine in New York spoke at WCM-Q's Grand Rounds to explain how mobile stroke treatment units can radically enhance long-term health outcomes for stroke patients.

Photo3: WCM-Q graduate Dr. Tania Jaber returned to WCM-Q to speak at Grand Rounds on radioactive iodine therapy for treating thyroid cancer.

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 Medicine 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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