



QATAR FOUNDATION GRADUATE DEDICATES CAREER TO HUMAN SERVICE

Doha, Qatar, April 30, 2018 – Faten Aqeel, a Qatari graduate of Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q), had close links to the college even before enrolling in its medical program.

In 2011, Aqeel was named the winner of ‘Healing Hands’, an annual competition that aims to inspire Qatari high school students to follow a career in medicine. As a result, she received a scholarship to travel to New York City for two weeks, and took advantage of a range of opportunities in clinical medicine and medical research at Weill Cornell Medicine.

“Healing Hands introduced me to a variety of areas in the field of medicine,” said Aqeel, who will receive a Cornell University Doctor of Medicine degree from WCM-Q this year. “In these two weeks, I learned basic research methodology and shadowed physicians in their clinics, witnessing their compassion to treat and educate patients. After winning the competition, I realized that a career in medicine would be a perfect fit for me.”

Aqeel strongly believes in the importance of spreading awareness to encourage the community to adopt a healthy lifestyle. During her time at WCM-Q, Aqeel participated in several local and international volunteer activities and awareness campaigns organized by the college, including ‘Medicine Unlimited’.

“Some of my favorite memories came from volunteering in underserved communities, such as Costa Rica and Tanzania. These were truly eye-opening experiences that enabled me to offer medical assistance and raise awareness about common medical issues, such as diabetes and hypertension,” said Aqeel.

“These overseas experiences helped me fulfill my goal of improving the quality of life in communities that are deprived of medical utilities and services, develop strong friendships with people from different cultures, and make great memories that I will cherish forever.”

Aqeel visited Weill Cornell Medicine in New York once when she was a first-year medical student for a two-month period of intense research, which helped her master the skills needed to become an excellent researcher in the field of medicine, and also for four months to participate in the delivery of healthcare to patients at the New York Presbyterian Hospital.

“In these four months, I rotated between different departments, including Internal Medicine, Hematology, and Nephrology. I was part of a team which consisted of consultants, residents,



medical students, and social workers, all trying to take care of the medical and social problems that our patients had.”

“Through my experiences at WCM in New York, I realized that interacting with adults in a hospital environment, working on complicated cases, and considering different treatment options were the reasons behind my decision to pursue a career in Internal Medicine.”

In July this year, Aqeel will start her Internal Medicine residency at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Medical Center in the US.

Aqeel believes that the healthcare system in Qatar is moving in the right direction, given the fact that “Qatar has achieved many medical accomplishments within a very short period of time.” In the future, following her training at VCU Medical Center, Aqeel plans to come back to Qatar to work in the healthcare sector in her country.

"I encourage prospective medical students to pursue their studies at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar. Choosing WCM-Q was the best decision of my life, and I’m more than ready to start my medical training in VCU. I attribute this to the intense coursework I had in WCM-Q in addition to the social skills that I’ve developed over the past six years.”

ENDS

Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) is a non-profit organization that supports Qatar on its journey to becoming a diversified and sustainable economy. QF strives to serve the people of Qatar and beyond by providing specialized programs across its innovation-focused ecosystem of education, science and research, and community development.

QF was founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, who shared the vision to provide Qatar with quality education. Today, QF’s world-class education system offers lifelong learning opportunities to community members as young as six months through to doctoral level, enabling graduates to thrive in a global environment and contribute to the nation’s development.



QF is also creating a multidisciplinary innovation hub in Qatar, where homegrown researchers are working to address local and global challenges. By promoting a culture of lifelong learning and fostering social engagement through programs that embody Qatari culture, QF is committed to empowering the local community and contributing to a better world for all.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>