

*On October 12, Dean Antonio Gotto spoke at the dedication of the new WCMC-Q building in Doha. Following is his address to the audience:*

Your Highness, Your Excellencies, Honored Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The official opening of a branch of Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar last October was a defining moment in the history of our institutions. We began our partnership with the Qatar Foundation with a highly ambitious goal: namely to set up a branch offering a complete program of medical education leading to the Cornell University M.D. degree in the Gulf State of Qatar. No American medical school had ever established a branch in a foreign country.

Thanks to the vision of His Highness, the Emir, and the inspirational guidance of Her Highness Sheikha Mouza, we have been able to launch the project and successfully complete the first year. One year ago, we met here in Doha for the inauguration of the program and of the building. It was a memorable event held beside the framework structure, which was still in the early stages of construction at the time. Her Highness personally selected the architect, Arata Isozaki. The Foundation supervised every aspect of the project. Senior members of the faculty and staff at the Medical College gave their input in an example of extraordinary teamwork. And what we have today is a partnership between Weill Cornell, the state of Qatar, its leadership, its people, and the Qatar Foundation. We are in a long-term partnership; the initial agreement extends more than a decade. We are fortunate that Congresswomen Carolyn Maloney and Sue Kelly from New York were in Qatar observing local elections when they became aware of the vision of Education City. After their return, they called me and helped establish contact with the Qatar Foundation.

I am immensely proud and privileged to return to Doha, to participate in the opening ceremony for the new Weill Cornell building in Qatar and to attend the exciting launching of Education City. These activities confirm Weill Cornell's vision that medicine is global rather than national in scope. We further believe that we have an obligation to share our knowledge, our research, and our education. I know that our new president, Jeffrey Lehman, strongly endorses this view. In the case of Qatar, we will learn from each other. Generosity and commitment, so evident in the building in which we now meet, are founding principles of this great educational enterprise. We share with the Emir, Her Highness, and our Qatari colleagues the same commitment to the highest standards of education and to developing the potential of all who in the future will study within these walls.

I have every confidence that our partnership will succeed and will lead to a generation of superb physicians, medical advances, and better health care for the people of Qatar. Health and education know no boundaries, know no politics, and form the basis for a lasting relationship, which can benefit all peoples of this region. We join together with our partners in dedicating this wonderful new home for our medical branch in Qatar and we thank you for your generosity, your trust, and your friendship.

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