Creating a New Medical School in the Gulf Region after the Arab Spring

Transformation of Medical Education in the New Era – AAHCI MENA Regional Meeting 2018

September 29, 2018
Qatar traditionally sent students to study medicine abroad.

- Peaked around 2000 where 35 graduated yearly (many particularly girls at Arab Gulf University).
- In 2002 Weill Cornell established a branch university delivering a medical program as delivered in USA.
- In 2014 by decree from his excellency the Emir a national program with closer relation to the local culture and health care system of Qatar was added at Qatar University.
Qatar’s need for physicians is not currently being met by the local medical education pipeline

- Qatar needs more than 500 physicians a year through 2030...
- Qatar trains only ~50 physicians a year currently...
- Of which only ~5 are Qataris

Objective: Create a sustainable pipeline for physicians rooted within the Qatari Healthcare system, trained to international standards.
The national College of Medicine in Qatar was an opportunity to

- transform Qatar’s health and healthcare system through building a sustainable local source of physicians, and

- drive collaboration and synergies across Qatar’s healthcare and education institutions improving academic health care.

The concept development was based on demand and supply for medical professions in Qatar, as well as benchmarking in the region.

This report was instrumental in defining the right size and educational framework of the College and to create an attractive program offering.
College of Medicine is part of QU Health

College organization

- College of Pharmacy
- College of Medicine
- College of Health Sciences
- QU Health Clinic

RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

CLINICAL AFFAIRS
Short history of the College

Feasibility Study

Key Appointments:

VP/Dean Management

Start of first cohort

Start of PhD in Medical Sciences

Start of first clerkships

Board approval

Outreach

Approval of QU Health

2013-2014

Oct 2014

Nov 2014 Jan 2015

Spring 2015

Aug 2015

Aug 2018

Oct 2017

Feb 2019

2013-

2014

2013-

2014
College of medicine highlights

“QU HEALTH LAUNCHES NEW PHD PROGRAMS” (2018-05-03)

“QU HEALTH HOSTS PHD OPEN DAY” (2018-05-14)

“IPE ACTIVITY ENGAGES A TOTAL OF 147 STUDENTS ACROSS QATAR” (2018-05-27)

“QU HEALTH HOSTS 3RD ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM” (2018-05-03)

“CMED HOLDS FACULTY MENTORING-TRAINING WORKSHOP SERIES” (2018-05-21)

“QU HEALTH HOSTS PHD OPEN DAY” (2018-05-14)
Our Vision

- To be recognized regionally for **excellence in interprofessional health education** and interdisciplinary health **research**;

- a **first choice for students and scholars**, and a national **catalyst for innovation** in the field.
Strategic questions

- College of Medicine

Region benchmarking

- Community preferences
  - ‘Product’
    - Degrees
    - Structure
    - Language

- Demand
  - Size
    - Students
    - Faculty
    - Buildings

- Supply
Conceptual development – Setting up the school

- Six-year undergraduate model preferred, hybrid learning approach
- Communication skills and language (both Arabic and English)
- Arab language official language of Qatar University since 2017
- Co-education to ensure professional behavior with patients from both genders
- Customized curriculum focusing on local needs, following international standards
Conceptual development – Setting up the school

- Competence based (ACGME aligned)
- Close collaboration public hospitals on the education
- Gender equality
- Elective in arts in medicine
- Committee for the healthy work place, psychologist once weekly
- Decorating walls with illustrations from Arab scientists
- Early clinical exposure to ambulatory and hospital setting
- Qatarisation of administrative staff
Conceptual development – Setting up the school in the new era

- Digitised with a minimum of paper being used
- Early introduction of ultrasound
- Virtual reality materials for histology and anatomy
- Communication central element
- Research central - all do projects integrated in the curriculum
- 63 publications so far in 2018
- Writing to be strengthened
Core elements of an integrated system

- Administrative support
- Education
- Research
- Branding/Outreach
Setting up national and international network

7 national partnerships

International partnerships (excerpt)
CMED today

**Eligible applicants**

- 2015: 515
- 2016: 613
- 2017: 516
- 2018: 514

**Newly admitted MD students (year 1)**

- 2015: 59 (28 Qatari)
- 2016: 101 (44 Qatari)
- 2017: 93 (48 Qatari)
- 2018: 81 (28 Qatari)

**Headcount (incl. vacancies)**
- Total: 73 (61 academics)

**Admission 2018/2019**

- MD program: 81 (50% Qatari)
- PhD program: 7
- Foundation: 25