

Although the Faculty of Health Sciences has never been an organization that rests on its laurels, the pace of change we are experiencing right now represents unprecedented growth and opportunity.

Our record enrolment of nearly 4,000 students is just one indication of how the Faculty is leveraging its reputation and strengths to continue expanding our ability to create a better health care system regionally, nationally and internationally.

In addition to providing the best possible education and training for future nurses, doctors, midwives, rehabilitation specialists and researchers, the Faculty has garnered significant support from individuals and government bodies who have shown the highest level of confidence in our capacity to effect positive change and make new discoveries.

Most of you have by now heard about the extraordinary gift of \$50 million from Hamilton businessman David Braley. This gift will empower the Faculty of Health Sciences, including the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine, to move forward in several areas that have the potential to impact thousands of area residents, and millions worldwide.

The \$10 million designated for a new family health centre in the downtown core allows us to begin developing an innovative combined clinical and academic facility that will include doctors' offices and an after-hours clinic to serve the needs of Hamilton residents, and provide a fertile training ground for thousands of our students. The centre will also be home to nurse practitioners, registered nurses, social workers,

dietitians, clinical pharmacists and rehabilitation specialists who will work in a multidisciplinary approach providing all aspects of primary care.

The \$15 million that will allow us to establish the first human stem cell library in Canada holds the promise of new discoveries that could lead to treatments and cures for a range of catastrophic illnesses. Leading researchers from around the world will be able to access the library's resources to advance their investigations into the potential of human embryonic stem cells.

The Braley gift also includes \$25 million for an endowment intended to provide flexibility in funding work that builds on medical discoveries that hold the greatest promise to improve health, as soon as they happen.

In addition to the significant research growth that will be fuelled by Mr. Braley's gift, our Faculty is also increasing our role in training health care professionals, with the support of the provincial government.

This year saw a record 164 students begin the three-year undergraduate medical program. That total includes the inaugural class of 15 students for the Waterloo regional campus of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine. Those students are currently here on the Hamilton campus for the start of their training, but have already begun clinical placements in the Kitchener-Waterloo area. They will be moving into temporary classroom facilities on Queen Street in Kitchener in December, while the permanent facility is under construction. The Kitchener expansion and the overall increase



Photo: Ron Scheffler

David Braley (right) talks to John Kelton, Mick Bhatia and David Price at the event announcing his gift to the Faculty of Health Sciences. Below, Braley is shown with David Andrews at the event reception.

in medical school spots are the result of an Ontario government initiative to address the ongoing doctor shortage in the province.

Our midwifery program is also expanding. First year enrolment this fall climbed to 27, from 20, and in 2008 it will rise to 30. McMaster is part of the provincial midwifery program, along with Ryerson and Laurentian universities. The Ontario government is allowing all three universities to take in more midwifery students in response to the need for obstetric services. Our assistant dean of midwifery, Eileen Hutton, will play a key role in the expansion across the province, as she also serves as director of the provincial midwifery program. Total first-year enrolment across the consortium will reach 90 in September 2008.

Enrolment in our School of Nursing is also continuing to rise, with 1,700 students now in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program offered at the three sites – McMaster and Mohawk and Conestoga colleges. The program is recognized as one of the best in the country, as it recently earned



the highest level of accreditation possible from the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing. The seven-year accreditation is an affirmation of the excellence demonstrated by the school under the leadership of associate dean Catherine Tompkins, and I congratulate everyone who contributes to the success of the program.

As always, many of our faculty members have earned significant appointments and awards, and this newsletter highlights those achievements.

I hope you find the information in this publication will instill in you the same sense of pride that I feel about our Faculty's many accomplishments.

Regional assistant deans have been appointed for the two regional campuses of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine.

Karl Stobbe, assistant clinical professor in the Department of Family Medicine, will lead the Niagara campus, which will accept its first students in 2008. He has led the expansion planning team for the medical school, and has also developed and directed the McMaster Community and Rural Education Program (Mac-CARE). He works as an emergency physician at West Lincoln Memorial Hospital.

Cathy Morris, assistant clinical professor in the Department of Medicine, is the regional assistant dean for the Waterloo campus. She has worked for Hamilton Health Sciences, and

has been chief of staff at Cambridge Memorial Hospital since 2004. The inaugural class of the Waterloo campus began their studies at McMaster in August.

Several other Faculty members have been appointed to senior positions both within and outside of the Faculty of Health Sciences:

Mark Levine, a renowned breast cancer researcher, is the chair of the Department of Oncology. He is a professor in the departments of oncology and clinical epidemiology and biostatistics, and holds the Buffett Taylor Chair in Breast Cancer.

Tim Whelan, associate professor in the Department of Oncology, has been appointed head of the Division of Radiation Oncology. He holds a Canada

Research Chair in Health Services Research in Cancer.

Cheryl Missiuna, associate professor in the School of Rehabilitation Science, has been appointed director of the Can-Child Centre for Childhood Disability.

Paul O'Byrne has been reappointed chair of the Department of Medicine. He is the E. J. Moran Campbell Professor of Medicine, and executive director of the Firestone Institute for Respiratory Health at St. Joseph's Healthcare.

Sonia Anand has been named a member of the board of Echo, the new women's health agency which has been established by the Ontario government to raise awareness and work toward solutions on women's health issues. She is

associate professor of medicine and holds the May Cohen/Eli Lilly Chair in Women's Health.

William Orovan, chair of the Department of Surgery, has been appointed chair of the new professional advisory committee of Comprehensive Care International, an international project management firm specializing in comprehensive healthcare solutions.

Morris Blajchman, professor emeritus of pathology and molecular medicine, has been appointed chairman of the Transfusion Medicine and Hemostasis Clinical Trials Network, which is comprised of 17 clinical centres around the U.S. and a data co-ordinating centre. The goal of the network is to design and perform multi-centre clinical trials on blood disorders.

The Faculty's focus on research continues to expand as we gain more Canada Research Chairs and privately funded endowed chairs. Research chairs announced recently include:

Petra Arck, who was recently recruited from Germany, has been awarded a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Neuroimmunology. Her research involves neuron-endocrine-immune circuitry in brain-body cross talk. She is an associate professor in the Department of Medicine.

Bradley Doble and **Christopher Wynder**, scientists with the McMaster Stem Cell and Cancer Research Institute, have each been awarded a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Human Stem Cell Biology. Doble's research focuses on understanding how embryonic stem cells make exact copies of themselves or develop and change into all the various cell types found in an adult.

Wynder is working towards understanding the interplay of different factors within stem cells, in order to better assess what factors impact on tumour growth.

Ruta Valaitis, associate professor in the School of Nursing, has been appointed as the inaugural holder of the Dorothy C. Hall Chair in Primary Health Care Nursing. The chair will focus on education and research into existing and potential nursing roles.

Mick Bhatia, scientific director of the McMaster Stem Cell and Cancer Research Institute, is the inaugural holder of the endowed Chair in Stem Cell and Cancer Biology. The chair is funded through the gift from Michael G. DeGroote. Bhatia's research focuses on how and why cancer begins.

The establishment of the **Scotiabank Chair in Child**

Health Research has been announced. Funded by a \$2 million endowment from Scotiabank and its employees, the chair will be held by the director of the new McMaster Child Health Research Institute, a joint venture of the University and McMaster Children's Hospital. A search is underway for a leader in child health for the two positions.

Five people have been reappointed to endowed research chairs:

Anthony Levinson has been reappointed as the John R. Evans Chair in Health Sciences Educational Research and Instructional Development. He is also director of the Division of e-Learning Innovation for the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine.

William Molloy, professor of medicine in the Division of Geriatric Medicine, has been

re-appointed as the St. Peter's/McMaster Chair in Aging. He also leads the St. Peter's/McMaster Centre for Studies in Aging.

Malcolm Sears, professor of medicine, has been re-appointed as the AstraZeneca Chair in Respiratory Epidemiology. He is also the research director for the Firestone Institute of Respiratory Health.

Charles Cunningham, professor of psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences, has been re-appointed as the Jack Laidlaw Chair in Patient-Centred Health.

Jack Gauldie, Distinguished University Professor of the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine, has been re-appointed as the John Bienenstock Chair in Molecular Medicine. He is also the director of McMaster's Centre for Gene Therapeutics.

The education, research and clinical strengths shown by our faculty members have resulted in important awards to our full-time, part-time and clinical professors.

Two Faculty professors have been elected to the prestigious Royal Society of Canada (RSC). **Brian Haynes**, chair of the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, received a citation from the Academy of Science. **Geoff Norman**, director of the Program of Educational Research and Development, received a citation from the Academy of Social Sciences. Election to membership in RSC is considered the highest honour among scholars, artists and scientists in Canada.

Bosco Paes, professor of pediatrics, received an Academic Leadership Award from the Pediatric Chairs of Canada for excellence in leadership as a clinical educator. The award recognizes educational innovation and practice that advances the quality of teaching related to children and youth.

Kevin Eva, associate professor of clinical epidemiology and bio-

statistics, received the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada-GlaxoSmithKline Young Educators Award. It honours individuals who, by their vision, work, and interaction with colleagues, have produced change within their university or within the medical community as a whole.

Akbar Panju, professor of medicine, was chosen as a Regional Mentor of the Year by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. The award acknowledges fellows of the college who have been exceptional role models for students and residents, while showing commitment to excellence in clinical care and ethical conduct.

Lynne Geddes, associate clinical professor in the School of Rehabilitation Science, won the 2007 Award of Distinction from the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario. It recognizes outstanding dedication to the profession in the areas of education, research and practice, and significant contribution in meeting the College mandate to protect the public interest.

The John C. Sibley Award for part-time faculty was shared by two

people this year. **Surianarayanan Ram Mohan** is medical director of Clinical Teaching Programs for the Niagara Health System, and **Viola Freeman** is manager of genetic services for the Department of Laboratory Medicine at Hamilton Health Sciences. Both have taught a wide range of health sciences students.

For the fifth consecutive year, **Ari Shali**, an assistant professor of pathology and molecular medicine, was chosen by the graduating MD class of the Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine as the winner of the David Carr Teaching Award.

The graduating MD class also presented clerkship awards to **Rob Whyte, Steven Haddock, Irene Turpie, Christine Bradley, Stephen Bates, Ramsay MacNay, Gagan Gaiind and Monali Misra**.

The School of Nursing presented Preceptor Awards of Distinction to **Amy Hall, Barbara Longo, Sabrina Ricci and Ann Marie Sirko**.

Harriet MacMillan, professor in the departments of pediatrics and psychiatry and behavioural

neurosciences, was named Researcher of the Year by the Centre of Excellence for Early Child Development.

The School of Rehabilitation Science received a Welcome to Work Award from The Family Alliance Ontario. The award recognizes organizations that go out of the way to welcome people with disabilities in the workplace. This was the first time in several years that the Alliance granted the award, due to the strong criteria on including people with disabilities in the work environment that is necessary to earn it.

Gerry Wright, chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences, was named as one of 50 Alumni of Honour for the Faculty of Science at the University of Waterloo.

The Department of Family Medicine won an Ontario Health Minister's Innovation Award for its role in developing a computer program that is helping to increase the number of people in Ontario receiving cancer screening. P-PROMPT was created by the department and Fig P. Software Incorporated.

President's Awards

Four individuals in the Faculty of Health Sciences received McMaster University President's Awards this year.

Bosco Paes, a professor of pediatrics, won the President's Award for Educational Leadership for his role in a range of educational leadership initiatives, including creating a graduate program for neonatal nurse practitioners, which is the only one of its kind in Canada.

President's Awards for Outstanding Service were presented to:

John Bator, an educational technology specialist in the Faculty's Computer Services Unit;

Rose Mason, an undergraduate program assistant in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology;

Allan Stafford, a research assistant in the Department of Medicine.

The annual service awards recognize employees who are neither faculty nor senior management.

We were saddened to learn of the deaths of three professor emeritus from the Faculty of Health Sciences in recent months.

Robert Lofthouse, an orthopedic surgeon for nearly 40 years, died in September at the age of 89. He joined McMaster University as an associate clinical professor in 1970, and became a professor in 1981. He was named professor emeritus in 1983.

Orville Mirehouse, a pioneering plastic surgeon who joined McMaster University in 1973 as an associate clinical professor,

served as the Faculty's first program director for plastic surgery. He was named a professor emeritus in 1983. He died in August at the age of 82.

Charles Dunnett, professor emeritus of clinical epidemiology and biostatistics, died in May at the age of 85. He was a McMaster alumnus who joined the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics as a professor in 1974, and later joined the Department of Mathematics. He was named professor emeritus for both departments in 1987.

The Faculty of Health Sciences oversaw \$100 million in research for the 2006/2007 year. Here is a report of recent research grants of more than \$100,000.

Our Faculty has continued its success in earning significant grants from the prestigious Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

Susan Jack of the School of Nursing was granted a CIHR New Investigator Award. Others who have received new CIHR grants include: **Clive Kearon, Mark Larche, Maureen Meade, Kathy McCoy** and **Damu Tang** of the Department of Medicine; **Rick Bishop, Lori Burrows, Bradley Doble** and **Richard Epand** of biochemistry and biomedical sciences; **Rick Austin, James Mahoney** and **Yonghong Wan** of pathology and molecular medicine; **Adriana Carvalhal** and **Peter Szatmari** of psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences; **John Lavis** of clinical epidemiology and biostatistics; **Wendy Sword** and **Heather Arthur** of the School of Nursing; **Eileen Hutton** of obstetrics and gynecology; **Kathleen Pritchard** of oncology.

Faculty members who received renewals of CIHR grants include: **Alba Guarne** of biochemistry and biomedical sciences; **Ashok Grover, Joan Krepinsky** and **Jeffrey Weitz**

of medicine; **Melissa Brouwers** of CE&B; **Joy McDermid** of the School of Rehabilitation Science; **Ali Ashkar** of pathology and molecular medicine; **Margaret Fahnestock** of psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences.

Three faculty members received new grants from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario: **Stephen Shaughnessy** of pathology and molecular medicine, and **P. J. Devereaux** and **Peter Gross** of medicine.

Many other FHS faculty members received significant grants from a wide range of organizations. They include: **David Andrews**, biochemistry and biomedical sciences, from the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research (OICR); **Anthony Chan**, pediatrics, from Diagnostica Stago; **Margaret Fahnestock**, psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences, from the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association; **Damu Tang**, medicine, from the Cancer Research Society Inc.; **Parminder Raina**, CE&B, from the Agency for Healthcare and Research Quality; **Harry Shannon**, CE&B, from the Worker's Compensation Board of B.C.; **Patricia Liaw**, medicine, from the National Cancer Institute of Canada (NCI); **Jonathan Bramson**, pathology

and molecular medicine; from NCI; **Andrew Macpherson**, medicine, from the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada (CCFC); **Joan Krepinsky**, medicine, from the Kidney Foundation of Canada; **Tim Whelan**, oncology, from the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation (CBCF); **Kathy Georgiades**, psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences, from the Ontario Mental Health Foundation (OMHF); **John Hassell**, biochemistry and biomedical sciences, from CBCF and OICR; **Ali Ashkar**, pathology and molecular medicine, from the Canadian Breast Cancer Research Alliance; **Anne Klassen**, pediatrics, from the Canadian Cancer Society; **Steven Arora**, pediatrics from the Hospital for Sick Children; **John You**, medicine, Career Scientist Award from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (OMHLTC); **Joaquin Ortega**, biochemistry and biomedical sciences, from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC); **Peter Szatmari**, psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences, from the Lawson Foundation; **Mark Larche**, medicine, from Circassia Ltd., the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation; **David Cowan**, medicine, from Physicians Services Incorporated; **Margaret**

Black, School of Nursing, from City of Hamilton; **Bernardo Trigatti**, biochemistry and biomedical sciences, from Astra-Zeneca; **Maureen Dobbins**, School of Nursing, from the City of Hamilton Public Health and Community Services Department; **Ken Croitoru**, medicine, from CCFC; **James Paul**, anesthesia, from the Canadian Patient Safety Institute; **Jo-Ann Reitzel**, psychiatry and behavioural Neurosciences, from OMHF; **Michael Mazurek**, medicine, from OMHF; **Brian Haynes**, CE&B, from McGraw-Hill Professional; **Charles Cunningham**, psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences, from OMHF; **Patty Solomon**, School of Rehabilitation Science, from MOHLTC; **Ted Warkentin**, pathology and molecular medicine, from GlaxoSmithKline; **David Price**, family medicine, from the MOHLTC; **Mohit Bhandari**, surgery, from Stryker Canada; **Mark Tarnopolsky**, medicine, from NSERC; **Brian Timmons**, pediatrics, from NSERC; **Radhey Gupta**, biochemistry and biomedical sciences, from NSERC; **Kevin Eva**, CE&B, from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada; **Morris Blajchman**, pathology and molecular medicine, from MacoProductions S.A.S.; **Ron Goeree**, CE&B, from the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health.

Congratulations on these achievements. They are an affirmation of the excellence found throughout our Faculty.

Sincerely



John G. Kelton, MD
Dean and Vice-President

