

It's convocation season at McMaster University, a time when we can all take pride in our efforts to provide an essential university function of offering the best education possible to our students.

At the Faculty of Health Sciences, our graduates included 17 midwives, 135 with a Bachelor of Health Sciences degree and 134 new doctors. In June, 321 nurses received their Bachelor of Sciences in Nursing degrees. The School of Rehabilitation Science traditionally holds its convocation for its graduate students in the fall.

The graduate students who receive their master's degrees or PhDs at the spring convocations are sometimes overshadowed, simply due to the numbers. There were 27 graduating at the May convocation and nine in June. But graduate degrees are becoming more necessary in our ever-changing world, and the need for these highly-trained individuals to become the leaders of tomorrow is particularly acute in the health sciences field.

Our Faculty recognizes this, and there is a major initiative underway to recruit more graduate students as part of a University-wide effort to increase its total graduate student enrolment to about 20 per cent of its overall enrolment.

Our School of Rehabilitation Science is already a leader. Its master's programs in physio-

therapy, occupational therapy and rehabilitation science have a well-established reputation, and its new PhD in Rehabilitation Science, launched last fall, will contribute to the school's success.

To attract the best and brightest graduate students in other areas of health sciences, we are growing and refining our programs. The School of Nursing has received approval for two new graduate programs for nurse practitioners: a combined master's and Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner (PHCNP) diploma, and a PHCNP diploma for students who already have a master's degree in nursing. The combined program will accept its first students this September, while the post-master's program will be launched in 2008.

These new offerings will join the already exemplary graduate program in the School of Nursing. The Ontario Council on Graduate Studies recently recognized the excellence in McMaster's MSc/PhD Nursing Program with its highest rating of "Good Quality". Approval was also received from the council to launch five fields of study within the Nursing Graduate Program, of health of populations, wellness and healing across the lifespan, health services and policy, nursing leadership and practice, and nursing education.

This fall we will launch a combined MD/PhD program and a new graduate program in neuro-



The Jan and Mien Heersink Reading Pavilion

sciences. The University is also seeking approval to offer a new PhD in Health Policy. The new offerings join an already impressive list of graduate programs, including health research methodology and medical sciences, and will ensure the Faculty continues to provide the most relevant higher education necessary for the future.

In order to support this student growth, ongoing infrastructure expansion and improvements are crucial. Our newly-renovated Health Sciences Library is just one example of these changes.

Many students and faculty took part in a celebration event in May to show off our Health Sciences Library after \$8.6 million in renovations. Earlier events were held to pay tribute to significant contributions. The Jan and Mien Heersink Reading Pavilion is named in honour of the Burlington couple by their four sons, Marnix, John, Bernhard and Ewout. The C. Barber Mueller

History of Health and Medicine Room is in tribute to the long-term support of the library by Dr. Mueller, who was also the first chair of surgery for the medical school.

The other most significant capital project underway is the development of two regional campuses for the Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine. The downtown Kitchener site at Victoria and King streets will be ready for its first medical students by January. Susan Denburg and the medical school expansion team led by Karl Stobbe are now recruiting doctors in the Waterloo region to join as faculty members for the new campus as the first 15 students begin in August. The Niagara Regional Campus is expected to open early in 2009.

I hope you will spend a few minutes reading this newsletter to learn of some of the other accomplishments and activities of our Faculty.

The Faculty continues to expand its reputation and capacity for cutting edge research in health sciences. During recent months we have gained two new Canada Research Chairs, named the inaugural chair holders for two privately-funded endowed chairs, and announced funding for two other endowed chairs.

Mick Bhatia, scientific director of the McMaster Stem Cell and Cancer Research Institute, received a Canada Research Chair in Stem Cell Biology. His research focuses on how and why cancer begins. He is a professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences.

Mark Larché has been awarded a Canada Research Chair in Allergy and Immune Tolerance. A scientist developing leading-edge treatments for a range of

chronic immunological disorders, he came to McMaster last year from Imperial College at the University of London. He is a professor in the Department of Medicine.

Eric Brown, associate professor in biochemistry and biomedical sciences, has been renewed as the Canada Research Chair in Anti-Microbial Research.

Jacques Tittley, assistant clinical professor in the Department of Surgery, is the inaugural holder of the Beamish Family Chair in Peripheral Vascular Surgery. He is head of the Faculty's division of vascular surgery, and head of the vascular surgery service for Hamilton Health Sciences.

Harriet MacMillan, a Canadian leader in the field of child maltreatment, has been named

to the David R. (Dan) Offord Chair in Child Studies. She is a professor in the departments of pediatrics and psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences, and founding director of the Child Advocacy and Assessment Program at McMaster Children's Hospital.

Searches are underway for the inaugural chair holders of two new endowed chairs for which funding has been secured.

McMaster alumna Suzanne Labarge has donated \$2 million for the establishment of the **Raymond and Margaret Labarge Chair in Research and Knowledge Application for Optimal Aging**, named in tribute to her parents. The endowed chair will direct an interdisciplinary research program investigating the aging musculoskeletal system,

and examine how to support the participation and health of older adults through technological design, prevention and intervention. The chair is a joint project with the Faculty of Social Sciences.

A partnership between McMaster University, St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton and Amgen Canada Inc. has resulted in the establishment of the **Amgen Canada Chair in Nephrology**. The chair is being funded by a \$3 million investment by the Canadian division of Amgen, a human therapeutics company in the biotechnology industry. The chair will position Hamilton as one of the largest hospital-based research centres performing both clinical and basic science research into the causes of and treatments for kidney disease and dysfunction.

Mac research fares well in polls

Our Faculty's researchers are regularly featured in the media and in medical journals, but we were particularly pleased to see two of our research accomplishments commended in a different way in recent months.

The concept of **evidence-based medicine**, developed here at McMaster, was chosen in a reader's poll of the British Medical Journal as one of the top 10 of the world's most important medical achievements since 1840. Evidence-based medicine finished eighth in a field that included such laudable developments as sanitation, vaccines, antibiotics and the

discovery of DNA structure. The phrase was coined more than 20 years ago, when various leaders in our Faculty worked to develop better methods for tracing and evaluating medical evidence.

In another reader's poll, this one for Maclean's magazine, Professor **Hertzel Gerstein** finished in the top three for the 2006 Achievement of the Year in Healthcare. He was selected as a finalist in the poll based on his role in a research project that showed that a drug used to treat diabetes may significantly reduce the chances of developing the disease when taken by those most at risk.

Esteemed professors leave legacies

Many of us in the Faculty of Health Sciences were saddened to hear of the deaths of two of our professor emeritus who made significant contributions during their years at McMaster.

Dr. Harold Richardson, (1938-2007) who joined McMaster in 1971 to establish a microbiology program for our new medical school, passed away in February at the age of 68. He made many significant contributions to education, research and service during his 27 years with McMaster University and the Hamilton Regional Laboratory Medicine Program, including serving as director of postgraduate

education from 1982 to 1990 and director of medical microbiology.

Dr. Arnold Johnson, (1913-2006) a professor emeritus of clinical epidemiology and biostatistics, died in October. A pioneer in Canada in cardiology, he joined McMaster in 1974. After retiring in 1983, he assumed a leadership role in developing and teaching ethical decision-making within hospitals and healthcare settings. McMaster established the Arnold L. Johnson Chair in Health Care Ethics in his honour.

The legacy of both these esteemed professors will live on in our Faculty for decades to come.

The **Faculty of Health Sciences** has welcomed four new people to senior positions.

Denise Marshall has been appointed assistant dean of the Program for Faculty Development. The associate professor in the Department of Family Medicine will oversee a system that identifies the needs and objectives of faculty development.

Eileen Hutton is the assistant dean of the Bachelor of Health Sciences in Midwifery Program. She was most recently an assistant professor at the

University of British Columbia. Hutton, who has also been appointed an associate professor in obstetrics and gynecology, previously worked at McMaster from 1993 to 2003, as an assistant clinical professor. Hutton follows Karyn Kaufman, who established McMaster's midwifery program and had served as assistant dean since 1993.

Robert Zipursky has taken over as chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences. Previously, the clinician scientist in psychiatry was at the University of Toronto and the

director of the Schizophrenia Program at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. He has also been appointed to the Morgan Firestone Chair in Psychiatry. Zipursky succeeded Richard Swinson, who was chair of the department for nearly 10 years.

Ron Goeree, assistant professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, is director of the Program for Assessment of Technology in Health (PATH), a joint research program of McMaster and St. Joseph's Healthcare. Goeree ob-

tained both his bachelor's and master's degrees at McMaster.

Two others were re-appointed to senior administrative positions. **Andrea Baumann** has been renewed as the associate vice-president (international health). A professor in the School of Nursing, she was first appointed to the newly created position in 2004.

Craig Coblentz has been re-appointed acting chair of the Department of Radiology. He joined the Faculty in 1988, and has served as program director for Diagnostic Radiology.

Awards, honours for faculty members

I would like to congratulate several faculty members who have been honoured for their contributions to education, research and clinical practice.

Brian Coombes, an assistant professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences, won the prestigious ICAAC Young Investigator Award from the American Society for Microbiology. The award recognizes early career scientists for research excellence and potential in microbiology and infectious diseases.

Dean Daya, a professor of pathology and molecular medicine, won the 2006 Distinguished Service Award from the Canadian Association of Pathologists. He also won the National Faculty Award for Excellence in Residency Education from the Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Mary Law, associate dean of the School of Rehabilitation Science, received the 2006 Heart Award from Family Alliance Ontario, in recognition of exceptional commitment to and compassion for the human rights of children and youth with disabilities. Law holds the John and Margaret Lillie Chair in Childhood Disability Research.

Nancy Pollock, associate clinical professor in the School of Rehabilitation Science, was selected as

Outstanding Health Care Educator of the Year by the Marskell Group and Health Careers Magazine. The award honours educators whose accomplishments have made an extraordinary impact on their students, peers, academic institution and community.

Meir Steiner has been elected president of the Canadian College of Neuropsychopharmacology for a period of two years. He is a professor in the department of psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences.

Allyn Walsh, education co-ordinator in the Department of Family Medicine, won the 2006 Ian McWhinney Family Medicine Education Award from the College of Family Physicians of Canada. It acknowledges unique and innovative contributions that have made a significant national impact on the development of family medicine education in Canada. Walsh is an associate professor of family medicine, and recently completed a six-year term as assistant dean of the Program for Faculty Development.

Two faculty members were honoured with McMaster Students Union Teaching Awards. **Bruce Wainman**, an associate professor in obstetrics and gynecology, was named the winner for the Faculty of Health Sciences for the second time, and **Gloria Bott**, an instructor, was the winner for the School of Nursing.

Many of our faculty members have been successful in obtaining research grants from the prestigious Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

Among those receiving new grants recently are: **Sonia Anand, P.J. Devereaux, Luke Janssen, Marek Smieja, Martin O'Donnell, Roma Sehmi** and **Jeffrey Weitz** from the Department of Medicine; **Ali Ashkar, Rick Austin, Jonathan Bramson, Helga Duivenvoorden, Carl Richards, Judith West-Mays** and **Wan Yonghong** from the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine; **Eric Brown, Lori Burrows, Brian Coombes, Joaquin Ortega** and **Ray Truant** of biochemistry and biomedical sciences; **Warren Foster** of obstetrics and gynecology; **Fiona Miller** and **Parminder Raina** of clinical epidemiology and biostatistics (CE&B); **Peter Rosenbaum** of pediatrics; **Charles Cunningham** and **Margaret Fahnstock** of psychiatry and behavioural

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neurosciences; **Cheryl Missiuna** of the School of Rehabilitation Science. Renewal grants from CIHR have been awarded to **Mick Bhatia**, **Eric Brown** and **Gerry Wright** of biochemistry and biomedical sciences; **Peter Margetts** and **Geoff Werstuck** of medicine; **Martin Stampfli** of pathology and molecular medicine; **Henry Szechtman** of psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences. Receiving CIHR funds to conduct clinical trials are **Shamir Mehta**, **William Molloy** and **Carlos Morillo** of medicine; **Haresh Kirpalani** and **Barbara Schmidt** of pediatrics.

Sharon Kaasalainen of the School of Nursing received a joint special initiative grant from CIHR and the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC).

The Heart and Stroke Foundation recently announced grants for several McMaster researchers. Those who have received funds for new projects are: **Uma Athale** of pediatrics; **Rick Austin** of pathology and molecular medicine; **Mark Crowther** and **Martin O'Donnell** of medicine; **Richard Epand** of biochemistry and biomedical sciences; **Yu-Jing Gao** of anaesthesia. Renewal grants were awarded to **Rick Austin**, **Fred Ofori** and

Ted Warkentin of pathology and molecular medicine; **Ashok Grover** and **Geoff Werstuck** of medicine; **Anthony Chan** of pediatrics; **Radhey Gupta** of biochemistry and biomedical sciences. **Fred Spencer** and **Jeffrey Ginsberg** of medicine had their career investigator awards renewed.

Many other FHS faculty members received significant grants from a wide range of organizations. They include: **Geoff Hall**, of psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences, from the Cure Autism Now Foundation; **Alba Dicenso**, of the School of Nursing, from the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation (CHSRF); **Justin Nodwell**, of biochemistry and biomedical sciences, from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and JNE Consulting Ltd.; **Ken Rosenthal**, of pathology and molecular medicine, from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; **Shucui Jiang**, of surgery, from the Canadian Spinal Research Organization; **Manel Jordana**, of pathology and molecular medicine, from Med-Immune Inc.; **Parminder Raina**, of CE&B, from the Agency for Healthcare and Research Quality and the MOHLTC; **Brian Haynes**, of CE&B, from the

British Medical Journal; **Bobby Shayegan**, of surgery, from St. Joseph's Healthcare Foundation; **Peter Szatmari**, of pediatrics, from the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services; **Melissa Brouwers**, of CE&B, from the American Society of Clinical Oncology; **Gonzalo Hortelano**, of pathology and molecular medicine, from Bayer Inc., Canadian Blood Services and Hema Quebec Partnership Fund; **Mark Loeb**, of pathology and molecular medicine, from Physicians Services Inc. and the National Institutes of Health; **Fiona Miller**, of CE&B, from the MOHLTC; **Sujata Persad**, of biochemistry and biomedical sciences, from The Cancer Research Society Inc.; **Sam Schulman**, of medicine, from Physicians Services Inc.; **Brian Lichty**, of pathology and molecular medicine, from the National Cancer Institute of Canada; **Julia Abelson**, of CE&B, from the MOHLTC; **Rick Adachi**, of medicine, from the Eli Lilly Osteoporosis Research Fund; **Heather Arthur**, of the School of Nursing, from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada; **Stephen Bates**, of obstetrics and gynecology, from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada; **Joan Krepinsky**, of the School of Nursing, from the Canadian Diabetes Association;

Peter Margetts, of medicine, from the Kidney Foundation of Canada; **Cheryl Missiuna**, of the School of Rehabilitation Science, from the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation; **Karen Mossman**, of pathology and molecular medicine, from the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation and the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research; **Arya Sharma**, of medicine, from Johnson & Johnson; **Jane Underwood**, School of Nursing, from CHRSEF; **John Bienenstock**, of pathology and molecular medicine, from the U.S. Department of the Interior; **Susan Jack**, of the School of Nursing, from the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario; **David Andrews**, of biochemistry and biomedical sciences, from the Canada Foundation for Innovation; **David Armstrong**, of medicine, from AstraZeneca; **Sue Baptiste**, of the School of Rehabilitation Science, from Health Canada; **Mohit Bhandari**, of surgery, from the Association Internationale pour l'Osteosynthese Dynamique; **Jane Foster**, of psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences, from NSERC and the Ontario Mental Health Foundation; **Jennifer Skelly**, School of Nursing, from the MOHLTC; **Marek Smieja**, of medicine, from the Ontario HIV Treatment Network.

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

Sincerely



John G. Kelton, MD
Dean and Vice-President

