

It's been a year of exciting developments in the Faculty of Health Sciences, and I am pleased to update you on some of the many accomplishments of our faculty and staff, as well as share with you the numerous projects that have come to fruition recently.

In October, the Farncombe family of Oakville committed \$15 million to McMaster's renowned intestinal disease research program to establish the Farncombe Family Digestive Health Research Institute. The gift includes funding for infrastructure and endowments for graduate scholarships and four research chairs. Construction of the institute will begin later this year on the third floor of the Health Sciences Centre. A unique glass atrium will be the focal point of the space and serve as a meeting place for scientists to share ideas and form collaborations.

Construction is finishing this spring on the second floor of the Michael G. DeGroot Centre for Learning and Discovery. This space includes classrooms for all health sciences students and the homes for the Michael G. DeGroot Institute for Infectious Disease Research and the Michael G. DeGroot Institute for Pain Research and Care.

The School of Nursing spent the past year forging new relationships as well as renewing seasoned ones. In November, a new agreement was signed by McMaster University and the Aga Khan University to continue a 25-year partnership that has

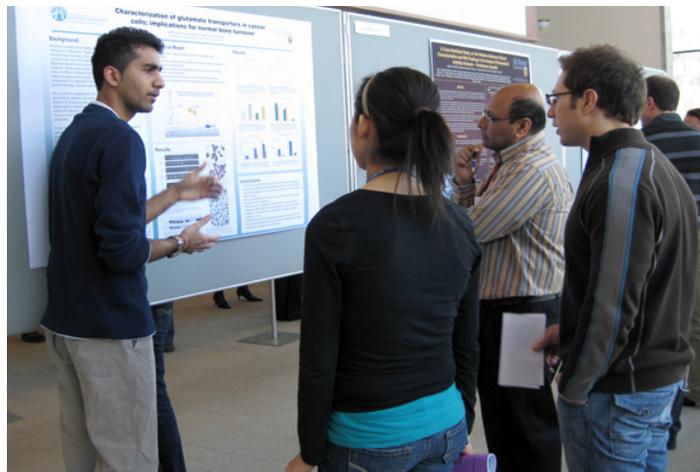
resulted in stronger nursing programs and more leaders in nursing internationally. Our School of Nursing also welcomed nursing graduates from Oman to learn Canadian nursing theory and observe Canadian nursing practice. The initiative marked a new connection with Sultan Qaboos University.

The School of Rehabilitation Science is leading an initiative to help internationally educated occupational therapists train for their Canadian certification exam. The Occupational Therapy Examination Preparation Program commenced last fall and a second session will begin in April.

The Bachelor of Health Sciences Program is gearing up for the launch of its new biomedical sciences specialization this coming fall. The specialization draws on the expertise of our faculty members in the departments of Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences and Pathology and Molecular Medicine by incorporating fundamental concepts and experimental techniques used in biomedical research. BHSc students will be eligible to apply for the specialization after their first year.

More than 60 graduate students in medical sciences, health research methodology, nursing and rehabilitation science came together in January to showcase and discuss their research interests as part of Research Day. The annual event is an important way to foster interdisciplinary approaches to research among our faculty and students.

Since our inception, we have been



Graduate student Mohit Sharma (from left) speaks to poster session judges Vicki Zhang, Sandeep Raha and Jonathan Bramson at Research Day, an annual event hosted by the Health Sciences Graduate Programs. Below, Andrea Baumann shares a light moment with His Highness the Aga Khan.

a leader in developing innovative ways to improve health care. This fall, we launched Canada's first undergraduate physician assistant education program. The inaugural class of 21 students is currently training through a combination of problem-based learning and clinical placements, which begin next September.

The Niagara Regional Campus of the Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine opened with 15 first-year students this past fall. The campus is located in a newly renovated wing of the St. Catharines General Hospital while options for the permanent location are under review.

The permanent site for the Waterloo Regional Campus will open in the fall at the University of Waterloo's Downtown Kitchener Health Sciences Campus.

The Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine set a new



record this year by welcoming 183 first-year students across three campuses. That trend paralleled overall Faculty enrollment, which soared to more than 4,900 students.

These are just a few of our many outstanding accomplishments in the Faculty of Health Sciences. I hope you will take a few minutes to review this publication, which is returning to a more regular schedule. As well, you can always find the latest news on our website at <http://fhs.mcmaster.ca>.

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

John Bienenstock has been re-appointed to serve a second term as director of the Brain-Body Institute. Bienenstock is a Distinguished University Professor of pathology and molecular medicine, a professor emeritus of medicine and a past dean and vice-president of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Eric Brown has been appointed chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences. He is the Canada Research Chair in Antimicrobial Research, director of the McMaster High Throughput Screening Laboratory and a professor of biochemistry and biomedical sciences.

Peter Fitzgerald, a professor of pediatric surgery, has been appointed president of McMaster Children's Hospital. Fitzgerald

has held a variety of positions at the children's hospital including: medical director, chief of pediatric surgery and co-principal investigator of the Pediatric Oncology Group.

David Koff, a physician known for leveraging technology to improve medical imaging, has been appointed the chair of the Department of Radiology. He is an associate professor of radiology and also holds an appointment as the chief of the department of diagnostic imaging at Hamilton Health Sciences.

Bridget Lynch, an associate clinical professor of midwifery, has been appointed president of the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM). A midwife since the early 1980s, Lynch served as president of the Association of Ontario Midwives before becoming a board member of the ICM. She has taught in the midwifery education program since 2001.

Akbar Panju has been appointed

the co-lead of Chronic Disease Prevention and Management for the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network. Panju is a professor of medicine and holds the Medard DeGroot Chair in Medicine. In April 2008, he stepped down after a 10-year term as chief of medicine at Hamilton Health Sciences.

Peter Rosenbaum has been appointed director of the McMaster Child Health Research Institute. A developmental pediatrician, he holds the endowed Scotiabank Chair in Child Health Research and the Canada Research Chair in Childhood Disability Research, Dissemination and Mentoring. He is co-founder of the CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research and a professor of pediatrics.

Holger Schünemann has been appointed chair of the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics. The professor also holds the Michael Gent Chair in Healthcare Research.

John Wallace, a renowned investigator in the field of inflammation, has been appointed the director of the Farncombe Family Digestive Health Research Institute. Wallace holds the newly established Farncombe Family Chair in Digestive Health Research and is a professor in the Department of Medicine.

Dave Williams, a Canadian astronaut and physician, has been appointed the director of the McMaster Centre for Medical Robotics. He is a professor of surgery and holds a physician executive position at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton.

Gerry Wright has been named scientific director of the Michael G. DeGroot Institute for Infectious Disease Research. He holds the endowed Chair in Infection and Anti-Infective Research, the Canada Research Chair in Molecular Studies of Antibiotics and is a professor and past chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences.

Over the past year, many of our full- and part-time faculty members have received awards for their achievements in research, education and clinical practice. Here are just a few of the numerous honours received:

Sue Barreca, an assistant clinical professor in the School of Rehabilitation Science, received an Award of Distinction from the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario for her practice excellence, support of clinical education and advocacy in clinically relevant physiotherapy research in the area of stroke care.

Denise Bryant-Lukosius, an assistant professor in the School of Nursing and the Department of Oncology, accepted the CANO/Pfizer Research Award of Excellence for her influential work related to advanced practice nursing roles, with a particular focus in oncology.

Three members of the School of Nursing received a Centennial Award from the Canadian Nurses Association for their contributions to the profession. Recognized were: **Alba DiCenso**, professor in the School of Nursing and the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, **Jennifer Skelly**, associate professor of nursing and **Sue Matthews**, associate clinical professor.

Anita Gross, associate clinical professor in the School of Rehabilitation Science, received Special Award for Research from the Ontario Physiotherapy Association for her demonstrated leadership and her significant contribution to research within the physiotherapy profession.

Geoff Norman, assistant dean of the Program for Educational Research and Development, received the 2008 Karolinska

Institutet Prize for Research in Medical Education. The international award, given by one of Europe's leading medical universities, recognizes high-quality research in medical education.

Alan Taniguchi, an assistant clinical professor in the Department of Family Medicine, has been honoured with the 2008 John C. Sibley Award for part-time faculty members. Taniguchi is the interim director of the division of palliative care and program director of the palliative medicine fellowship program.

Salim Yusuf, professor of medicine, has become the first Canadian to receive the European Society of Cardiology's highest honour, the Gold Medal. The professor of medicine received the award for his involvement in developing large, simple trials and the concept of meta-analysis.

Two young investigators are the inaugural recipients of the Michael G. DeGroot Post-Doctoral Fellowship Award:

Kelly O'Brien, a PhD and physiotherapist who joined the School of Rehabilitation Science, received the award in support of her research on the disability experienced by adults living with HIV/AIDS;

Tim James, a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Biology, received the award for his research on the pathogenic yeast *Cryptococcus neoformans*, which can cause pneumonia-like symptoms in people with compromised immune systems.

The award provides annual support, of up to \$45,000 for up to three years, through the Michael G. DeGroot Faculty of Health Sciences Development Fund.

The Faculty of Health Sciences

continues to demonstrate a focus on health sciences research by growing the number of Canada Research Chairs and privately funded endowed chairs. Chairs announced recently include:

Jonathan Draper, assistant professor in the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine, has been named the tier two Canada Research Chair in Human Stem Cell Lineage Commitment. Recruited in February 2008, Draper was one of the first scientists in the world to intensively grow and begin to characterize human embryonic stem cells.

Christoph Fusch has been named the Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation/Jack Sinclair Chair in Neonatology. Fusch is the medical director of the Department of Pediatrics. His research interests involve enhancing the McMaster's Children's Hospital as a centre of excellence in care of the newborn.

Michael Gent, a professor emeritus who established the leading clinical trials research group in the country, has established the **Michael Gent Chair in Healthcare Research**. The

research chair is held by the chair of the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CE&B). **Brian Haynes**, a former student of Gent, was the inaugural chairholder followed by **Holger Schünemann**.

Mark Larché, a professor of medicine, has been appointed the McMaster University/GlaxoSmithKline Chair in Lung Immunology at St. Joseph's Healthcare. His research focuses on developing peptide immunotherapy for immunological diseases.

Kathy McCoy, a scientist investigating how bacteria and fungi influence the development of the immune system, has been appointed the tier two Canada Research Chair in Gastrointestinal Immunology. McCoy joined the Department of Medicine as an assistant professor in 2006, returning home to Canada from the Institute of Experimental Immunology in Zurich, Switzerland.

Parminder Raina has been named the Raymond and Margaret Labarge Chair in Research and Knowledge Application for Optimal Aging. Raina is a professor in the Depart-

ment of CE&B and director of the McMaster University Evidence-Based Practice Centre. His research interests focus on the epidemiology of aging.

Sheila Singh, assistant professor of the Department of Surgery, has been appointed the tier two Canada Research Chair in Human Cancer Stem Cell Biology. As a pediatric neurosurgeon and research scientist, Singh brings her patient experiences to the laboratory as she seeks to understand what causes brain tumours in children.

Gregory Steinberg, a recently recruited associate professor in the Department of Medicine, has been appointed the tier two Canada Research Chair in Metabolism, Obesity and Type 2 Diabetes. Joining McMaster from Australia's St. Vincent's Institute, Steinberg is working at the molecular level to understand of how hormones regulate the body's storage and breakdown of fat and responsiveness to insulin.

The following professorships have been named recently:

Steven Baker, an assistant professor of medicine in the divisions of physical medicine

and neurology, has been named the holder of the Hamilton Hospitals Assessment Centre Endowed Professorship in Neuromuscular Disease. Baker's research focuses on neuromuscular rehabilitation and neuromuscular disorders.

John Cairney has been named the inaugural holder of the McMaster Family Medicine Professorship in Child Health Research. Cairney is an associate professor in the Department of Family Medicine and the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences. His research interests involve examining the pattern of mental health problems across the lifespan as well as the impact of childhood disability on the physical and psychological development of children.

Mark Oremus has been named the inaugural holder of the McLaughlin Foundation Professorship in Population and Public Health. Oremus is an assistant professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics. His research interests include the determinants of health, population and public health from a life-course perspective and knowledge transfer.

President's Awards

Members of the BScN Program Staff team were honoured in May 2008 with McMaster University President's Awards. The citation noted that the group works together to provide consistent, reliable, high-quality support services to the McMaster-Mohawk-Conestoga Collaborative BScN Program. The program has the reputation of being the most successful in the province.

Honoured members of the

BScN Program Staff are:

- Michelle Allan
- Helen Buac
- Martha Davis
- Connie Heckbert
- Vicki Lewis
- Liz Reeves
- Anne Bolender
- Michelle Buchner
- Kelly Edge
- Wendy Lejambe
- Brenda Montesanto
- Carlene Viinberg

Many of us were saddened to hear of the death of a professor emeritus in the Faculty of Health Sciences who made important contributions to McMaster's growing reputation in health sciences.

John Basmajian, a professor emeritus of medicine, died in March 2008 at the age of 86. He was renowned internationally as a pioneer in the field of electromyography. His work influenced the development of biofeedback. Basmajian joined

McMaster in 1977 as a professor and director of the Hamilton Health Sciences Rehabilitation Centre at Chedoke Hospital. He published more than 400 scientific articles and is the author of many books. He also received numerous accolades including the Order of Canada, the Order of Ontario and membership in the Faculty of Health Sciences' Community of Distinction. He remained actively involved in the School of Rehabilitation Science after becoming professor emeritus in 1986.

The Faculty of Health Sciences oversees \$122 million in research a year. The following list of researchers received more than \$100,000 from grants between September 2007 and August 2008.

Many of our Faculty members have received grants from the prestigious Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Among them are:

Gerry Wright of the Department of Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences and **Alison Niccols** of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences received New Emerging Team Grants. **Charu Kaushic** of the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine was granted a New Investigator Award.

Other Faculty members who received new CIHR grants include: **Mick Bhatia, Russell Bishop, Eric Brown, Lori Burrows, Brian Coombes, Radhey Gupta, Joaquin Ortega, Bernardo Trigatti, Ray Truant** and **Gerry Wright** of biochemistry and biomedical sciences; **Kathryn Bennett, Gordon Guyatt, Brian Haynes, John Lavis, Ann McKibbin, Mark Oremus** and **Don Willison** of clinical epidemiology and biostatistics (CE&B); **Sonia Anand, Deborah Cook, Clive Kearon, Mark Larché, Willie Molloy, Carlos Morillo, Michel Rathbone, Malcolm Sears, Roma Sehmi, Martin O'Donnell,**

Chris Rabbat, Marek Smieja, Koon Teo, Jeffrey Weitz, Salim Yusuf and **Damu Tang** of the Department of Medicine; **Heather Arthur, Alba DiCenso, Olive Wahoush** and **Wendy Sword** of the School of Nursing; **Warren Foster** of obstetrics and gynecology; **Mark Levine** and **Timothy Whelan** of oncology; **Zhou Xing, Yonghong Wan, Carl Richards, Mark Loeb, Catherine Hayward, Murray Potter** and **Jonathan Bramson** of pathology and molecular medicine; **Gabriel Ronen** and **Peter Rosenbaum** of pediatrics; **Adriana Carvalho, Chuck Cunningham, James Henry, Margaret Fahnestock, Katholiki Georgiades, Peter Szatmari** and **Ram Mishra** of psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences; **Carol DeMatteo, Mary Law, Joy MacDermid** and **Cheryl Missiuna** of the School of Rehabilitation Science; **André Lamy** of surgery.

Faculty and staff members who received renewals of their CIHR grants include: **David Andrews** and **Alba Guarne** of biochemistry and biomedical sciences; **Melissa Brouwers** of CE&B; **Geoff Werstuck, Stephen Collins, Ashok Grover** and **Paul O'Byrne** of medicine; **Eileen Hutton** of obstetrics and gynecology; **Ali Ashkar, Rick Austin, Ken Rosenthal, Gurmit Singh** and **Martin Stämpfli** of pathology and molecular medicine, **Henry Szechtman** of psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences.

Several faculty members received grants from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario: **Sonia Anand, Patricia Liaw, Lori-Ann Linkins** and **Martin O'Donnell** of medicine; **Heather Arthur** of the School of Nursing; **Sarah McDonald** of obstetrics and gynecology; **Rick Austin** and **Ted Warkentin** of pathology and molecular medicine.

Several grants were received from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Recipients include: **Lisa Dolovich** and **Michelle Howard** of family medicine; **Andrea Baumann, Pam Baxter, Anita Fisher** and **Charlotte Noesgaard** of the School of Nursing; **Julia Abelson** of CE&B; **Alexandra Papaioannou** of medicine; **Nancy Heddle** of pathology and molecular medicine; **Cheryl Missiuna, Julie Richardson** and **Patty Solomon** of the School of Rehabilitation Science.

Seven faculty members received grants from the National Institutes of Health: **Mary Law** of the School of Rehabilitation Science; **Hertzell Gerstein** and **Clive Kearon** of medicine; **Mark Loeb** and **Judy West-Mays** of pathology and molecular medicine; **Michael Van Ameringen** of psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences; **Jack Sinclair** of CE&B.

Our faculty have also received awards from other public and

private organizations. They include: **Yingfu Li** and **Justin Nodwell**, biochemistry and biomedical sciences, from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada; **John Hassell**, biochemistry and biomedical sciences, from the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research (OICR); **Parminder Raina**, CE&B, from the Agency for Healthcare and Research Quality; **PJ Devereaux**, CE&B, from the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation; **Waliul Khan**, pathology and molecular medicine, from the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada; **N. Renee Labiris**, medicine, from AstraZeneca; **Jonathan Adachi**, medicine, from the Eli Lilly and Company; **Jane Underwood, Ruta Valaitis** and **Alba DiCenso**, School of Nursing, from the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation; **Brian Lichty**, pathology and molecular medicine, from the National Cancer Institute of Canada; **Manel Jordana**, pathology and molecular medicine, from Anaphylaxis Canada; **Karen Mossman**, pathology and molecular medicine, from the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation; **Harriet MacMillan**, psychology and behavioural neurosciences, from the Public Health Agency of Canada, **Mohit Bhandari**, surgery, from the Association Internationale pour l'Ostéosynthèse Dynamique; **Sheila Singh**, surgery, from the OICR.

Congratulations to everyone who has contributed to these accomplishments. Your success has inspired an enormous sense of pride in all of us in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Sincerely



John G. Kelton, MD
Dean and Vice-President

