The Faculty of Health Sciences has continued a tradition of innovation over the past decade with the launch of the COMPASS and Kaleidoscope curriculums, the creation of the Niagara and Waterloo regional campuses, introduction of innovative educational offerings, including the physician assistant program and a long list of significant research advances.

During that time, I have had the pleasure of serving as your Dean and Vice-President and in July I began my third term in this role.

While there have been many successes over the last 10 years, there have also been challenges. None have been as tenacious as the increasing cost for the delivery of education and research and the fact that university funding hasn’t kept pace. It’s reality that our funding needs to go further, given the financial stresses on the health-care system and the rising capital and operational needs of post-secondary institutions.

I believe that, at the highest level, the Faculty of Health Sciences is most able to respond to these changing forces by reinforcing our culture of innovation. Over the past decade, we have all endeavoured to put the structures in place to best serve our community – a decentralized structure that is defined by strong collaborations with our teaching hospitals, community partners and the various schools, departments and research institutes that comprise the Faculty.

We have also enhanced our educational offerings, including revitalizing both the nursing and medical curriculums and becoming a leader in distributed medical education and e-learning. Our focus over the next five years will be to develop better integration of these tools and programs, and evolve our distributed medical campuses into health education centres that advance interprofessional education and care.

McMaster continues to be known as one of Canada’s most research-intensive universities. Over the past 10 years, we have realigned our research groups to synergize research outcomes. Future success will involve collaborations that will cross disciplines, schools and universities as well as universities and commercial enterprise partners.

Research is increasingly competitive and expensive and requires constant renewal.

The solution will come from researchers themselves and may include enhanced government relations, cost-effective collaborations across institutions and the opportunity for commercialization of discoveries.

Still, our greatest asset in the Faculty of Health Sciences is the people who make up our community. Attracting the best minds and nurturing their talent will be critical to sustaining success.

Each member of our community has a different perspective and, consequently, a different contribution. Our students have a primary responsibility to acquire knowledge and skills. Our faculty have responsibility for the generation of knowledge through research and the transmission of knowledge or education. The staff is responsible for facilitating these groups.

I am optimistic about the future for McMaster’s Faculty of Health Sciences. Even at a time of fiscal constraint, new opportunities arise. The challenge is to recognize them and be sufficiently nimble to capture them. Attracting the best minds and forming flexible partnerships across traditional and non-traditional boundaries will be important to our continued success, as will fostering a culture where all individuals aspire to excellence.
Several faculty members have been appointed or reappointed to senior roles in the Faculty of Health Sciences:

**Mick Bhatia** has been reappointed to a second term as director of the McMaster Stem Cell and Cancer Research Institute. A professor of biochemistry and biomedical sciences, he is also the lead principal investigator of the Ontario Consortium for Regeneration-Inducing Therapeutics project.

**Lori Burrows**, a professor of biochemistry and biomedical sciences, has been appointed for a second term as associate chair, research, for the department. She is also an investigator with the Michael G. DeGroote Institute for Infectious Disease Research.

**Stephen Collins**, professor in the Department of Medicine, has been reappointed for a second term as associate dean, research, for the Faculty of Health Sciences. A faculty member since 1981, he holds the GlaxoSmithKline Chair in Gastroenterology and the title Distinguished University Professor – the highest rank awarded by the University.

**Vanina Dal Bello-Haas** has been appointed assistant dean, physiotherapy, and associate professor in the School of Rehabilitation Science. She joins McMaster from the School of Physical Therapy at the University of Saskatchewan.

**Christina Grant**, an associate professor of pediatrics, has been named associate chair, education, for the Department of Pediatrics. A member of the Division of Adolescent Medicine at McMaster Children’s Hospital, she primarily cares for young people with eating disorders.

**Mick Bhatia** has been reappointed for a second term as director of the McMaster Stem Cell and Cancer Research Institute. The institute will focus on clinical trials, translational research and knowledge translation and quality of care. Levine holds the Buffett Taylor Chair in Breast Cancer Research.

**Mick Bhatia** has been reappointed as chair and chief of the Department of Pediatrics at McMaster University, Hamilton Health Sciences and St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton.

**Mark Levine**, professor and chair of the Department of Oncology, has been named director of the Escarpment Cancer Research Institute. The institute will focus on clinical trials, translational research and knowledge translation and quality of care. Levine holds the Buffett Taylor Chair in Breast Cancer Research.

**Farhana Alam**, a second-year midwifery student, received the Albert Lager Student Initiative Award for contributions to the Faculty of Health Sciences. Alam’s extracurricular activities include participation in the McMaster Student Union, McMaster Biology Society and the Midwifery Student Council. She also serves as a representative on the Midwifery Curriculum Committee.

**Carolina Alba**, a cardiologist and PhD student in the Health Research Methodology program, and **Jonathan Lai**, a PhD student in neuroscience, were among the six McMaster winners of the 2011 Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships. The prestigious awards were established in 2009 by the federal government to attract and retain world-class doctoral students from across Canada and abroad.

**Sharon Baptist**, administrative co-ordinator in the School of Nursing, and **Teresa Basilio, Penny Losier** and **Andrea Phair**, members of the Bachelor of Health Sciences (B.H.Sc.) administration team, have received President’s Awards for Outstanding Service in 2010. Baptist has provided more than two decades of service to McMaster and has been instrumental in supporting the McMaster-Mohawk-Conestoga BScN program. The B.H.Sc. team are responsible for supporting and promoting one of McMaster’s most successful degree programs. In 2010, the team also organized the 10-year B.H.Sc. anniversary celebrations and fundraising initiatives.

**Andrea Gonzalez**, a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences, has received a NARSAD Young Investigator Grant for brain and behaviour research. Her studies will examine factors that may link maternal history of childhood maltreatment with parenting difficulties in new mothers, focusing on the association of these factors with brain function.

**David Koff**, an associate professor and chair of the Department of Radiology, will receive $1.4 million from the province to lead a team to develop technologies that will accelerate how large data sets — diagnostic and medical images such as x-rays, ultrasounds and MRIs — are shared among health-care providers. The research is funded through the Ontario Research Fund Research Excellence (ORF-RE) program.

**Cheryl Levitt**, a professor of family medicine, has been named a 2011 YWCA Woman of Distinction in the health and wellness category. A rural family physician, academic and teacher, Levitt has worked to promote gender equality and women’s health in family medicine.

**The School of Nursing** (SON) hosted Haitian nursing administrators in June to learn more about their challenges, how McMaster can help meet their needs, and to provide an overview of nursing in Canada. The project, funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, will allow the SON to support joint Canada-Haiti academic projects to build capacity of academic institutions, provide opportunities for Haitians to resume studying and enhance their skill sets.
David McCann, a family and emergency doctor who excelled in handling crises, has died at the age of 50. McCann was a lead physician at the Stonechurch Family Health Centre, deputy incident manager for the City of Hamilton’s health sector emergency management services as well as its intermediate and long-term planning lead. Recently, he was promoted to associate professor of family medicine. In tribute to his work, he was named an honorary chief of the city’s emergency medical services, and the Emergency Operations Centre that serves both the health sector and public health was named in his honour. McCann served as chief medical officer of the Florida One Disaster Medical Assistance Team, and co-ordinated medical disaster relief after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti and in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Frederick (Freddy) Hargreave, a professor emeritus who led international advancements in the care of asthma patients, has died at the age of 72. A member of the medical school since 1969, he was one of the founders of the Firestone Institute for Respiratory Health at McMaster and St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton. His studies in asthma changed the way the disease is diagnosed, as he developed innovative tests to measure airway responsiveness and airway inflammation and make decisions on clinical treatments. He was a leader in the change in focus from just treating asthma symptoms to preventing and controlling them. Known as an excellent teacher, he trained many of the world’s current leaders in asthma research. He retired in 2004, but continued to be involved in research studies.

Howard Barrows, a McMaster architect of problem-based learning who pioneered the concept of using simulated patients to train medical students, has died. A professor of medicine at McMaster from 1971 to 1980, Barrows created educational tools and methods that have defined modern medical training. His innovations included standardized patients and performance-based testing. His research encompassed the problem-solving skills of physicians and problem-based learning as a structured teaching/learning method. In 2005, he was inducted into the Faculty of Health Sciences’ Community of Distinction. The Howard Barrows Award was established in 2010 to coincide with the 10-year anniversary of McMaster’s Bachelor of Health Sciences Program. The award recognizes exceptional teachers.
The Faculty of Health Sciences administers more than $120 million in research funding. Grants of $120,000 or more were received by the following faculty members between July 2010 and April 2011.

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) New Investigator Awards were received by: Monica Maly of the School of Rehabilitation Science; Nathan Magarvey of the Department of Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences; Waliul Khan of the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine; Brian Timmons of the Department of Pediatrics.

Anne Klassen of pediatrics received a CIHR Mid-Career Investigator Award. Michael Surette of the Department of Medicine received a CIHR New Emerging Team Grant.

CIHR research and personnel grants were awarded to the following faculty members: Nathan Magarvey of biochemistry and biomedical sciences; Feng Xie of the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CE&B); John Cairney of the Department of Family Medicine; Rick Austin, Judah Denburg, Nancy Heddle, Patricia Liaw, Maureen Meade and Danu Tang of medicine; Jonathan Bramson, Tim Gilberger, Manel Jordana, Mark Loeb, Guillaume Paré, Gurmit Singh and Pingchang Yang of pathology and molecular medicine; Brian Timmons of pediatrics; Carrie McAiney, Michael Boyle and Bruce Christensen of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences; Mohit Bhandari and Kevin Teoh of the Department of Surgery.

Faculty members who received renewals of CIHR grants include: Bernardo Trigatti and David Andrews of biochemistry and biomedical sciences; Brian Haynes of CE&B; Warren Foster of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology; Mark Levine of the Department of Oncology; Karen Mossman and Zhou Xing of pathology and molecular medicine; Peter Szatmari of psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences.

Alba Guarné, biochemistry and biomedical sciences, from the Canada Foundation for Innovation; Ray Truant, biochemistry and biomedical sciences, from the Huntington Society of Canada; Eric Brown, biochemistry and biomedical sciences, from Cubist Pharmaceuticals Inc.; Julie Emili, CE&B, from the Public Health Agency of Canada; Brian Haynes, CE&B, from the Hamilton Academic Health Sciences Organization; Parminder Raina, CE&B, from the Agency for Healthcare and Research Quality; Gordon Guyatt, CE&B, from Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceutical Research Institute; Rick Austin and Damu Tang, medicine, from the Prostate Cancer Research Foundation of Canada; Elena Verdu, medicine, from the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of Canada; Gregory Steinberg, medicine, from the Canadian Diabetes Association; Mark Tarnopolsky, medicine, from Genzyme; Margaret Larché and Mark Larché, medicine, from Adiga Life Sciences; Donald Arnold, medicine, from Amgen Canada Inc.; Zubin Punthakee, medicine, from the Hamilton Academic Health Sciences Organization; Michael Surette, medicine, from Cystic Fibrosis Canada; Judith West-Mays, pathology and molecular medicine, from the Foundation Fighting Blindness; William Sheffield, pathology and molecular medicine, from Canadian Blood Services; Martin Stämpfl, pathology and molecular medicine, from Hoffman-La Roche; Magdalena Janus, psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences, from the Ontario Ministry of Education.

Our faculty, staff and students consistently strive for excellence in all that they do. Congratulations on these remarkable achievements.

Sincerely,

John G. Kelton, MD
Dean and Vice-President