

Letter from the DEAN AND VICE-PRESIDENT



As we enter a new year, I'm pleased to reflect on the last half of an exciting 2012 filled with significant developments in the Faculty of Health Sciences.



In September, alumna Suzanne Labarge announced her gift of \$10 million to our Faculty to promote healthy aging. The first part of her gift gives seed funding to support research to maximize mobility, slow chronic disease and tackle deadly infections, and researchers across our schools received the initial grants. The second part supports a new web-based McMaster Optimal Aging Portal that will become a unique, one-stop information source on healthy aging.

In October, McMaster

University was recognized as having the top programs in health science in Canada and 14th in the world. This is a tremendous accolade from the Times Higher Education World University Rankings of the U.K. which judges world class universities in clinical, pre-clinical and health programs.

These rankings are snapshots that validate the accomplishments of our dedicated faculty, staff and students as we work together to create improved health care of our local, national and international community. It also establishes confidence within our community members that we are leading the advancement of research and knowledge.

This fall, I was pleased to see that two of our professors, Gordon Guyatt and Gerry Wright, received the country's highest honour for a scholar in the arts, humanities or sciences by being elected fellows of the Royal Society of Canada.

And, we're growing our community involvement with the School of Nursing's Olive Wahoush receiving nearly \$1 million from the Public Health Agency of Canada to promote cancer screening in Hamilton's low-income neighbourhoods.

We've further strengthened the field of cancer prevention with the establishment of the ArcelorMittal Dofasco Chair in

Experimental Therapeutics. Paolo Muti, the inaugural holder of the chair, is focusing her research on the potential of vitamins and drugs to prevent cancer.

We've also established a new master's program in health education.

Within Hamilton, we broke ground on the McMaster Health Campus, an \$84.6 million landmark project in downtown Hamilton which is set to open in 2014.

Our Department of Family Medicine, with its electronic patient record system OSCAR, is also part of a partnership of 16 Ontario private sector, academic and not-for-profit research partners on the Connected Health and Wellness Project, which received \$15.5 million from the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. They are working on a more connected health system to improve both the patient's and health-care provider's experience.

I must also acknowledge the commitment of members of our administrative staff assisting with the development of McMaster's Mosaic project, which over the next few years will modernize the University's business processes with a new enterprise resource planning system. This is a much-needed development.

You'll read more of the accomplishments and activities of our Faculty in this newsletter. For the latest news in the Faculty of Health Sciences, please visit our website at <http://fhs.mcmaster.ca>.



■ At the McMaster Health Campus groundbreaking, (from left): John Kelton; President Patrick Deane; Kim Wilms, potential patient for new family health clinic and McMaster staff member; Senator David Braley; Department of Family Medicine chair David Price and Hamilton Mayor Bob Bratina.



■ The Niagara Regional Campus of the medical school is in the Cairns complex.



■ Team members of the Mark Loeb Research Group with President Patrick Deane: (Front row, from left) Vanessa Manning, Sasha Eskandarian, Ruthanne Cameron, Cassandra Pohl, (Back row, from left) Tammy Hlywka, Georgina Rafanan, Tiffany Pattison-MacLeod, Laura Childerhose and Iris Wang.



■ Team members of the McMaster University Animal Facilities Team with President Patrick Deane: (Front row, from left) Carey MacNeill, Kelly MacNeill, Lillian Robson, Tammy Robson, Jennifer Ward, Neil Sutton, Kathleen Barber, Tamara Kearns, (Middle row, from left) Shawn Bukovac, Janis MacDonald, Trish van Hoek, Darlene Casemore, Ray Bayliss, Jackie Ferreira, Alexandra Soberg, (Back row, from left) Sheryl Stewart, Wendy Whittaker, Karen Gourlay, Ksenija Kasumovich, Marion Corrick, Shu Shu Dai, Emese Chodzakewicz and others not pictured.

Two Faculty of Health Sciences teams and one individual received McMaster University President's Awards for Outstanding Service in 2011. They were among 130 McMaster employees honoured at a reception in May.

The **Mark Loeb Research Group** won for its conduct of complex and large-scale research studies. One of the team's study papers was named article of the year by the prestigious medical journal *The Lancet*. The team's work has been a magnet for new studies and partners, including the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

The **McMaster University Animal Facilities Team** won for establishing a care program considered the gold standard in Canada, along with its training program for new researchers that is copied by similar institutions across the country. The team has developed a research training program that includes 25 different courses and labs, and is known for its concern for animal welfare and care.

Karin Dearness, a research co-ordinator in medicine, was recognized for her resourcefulness and her commitment to using evidence-based medicine to improve patient care. She is the managing editor of the Upper Gastrointestinal and Pancreatic Diseases Cochrane Review Group which collates research on an international basis.



■ Karin Dearness

Our congratulations extend to faculty members who have been appointed or re-appointed to several senior roles within the Faculty of Health Sciences. Listed below are the most recent:

Eileen Hutton, an associate professor with the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, has been re-appointed as assistant dean of the Midwifery Education Program.

Paul Moayyedi, professor in the Department of Medicine, has been appointed as the acting director of the Farncombe Family Digestive Health Research Institute.

Catherine Morris, associate clinical professor in the Department of Medicine, has been re-appointed as the regional assistant dean for the Waterloo Regional Campus of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine.

Kathryn Murphy, professor in the Department of Psychology, Neuroscience and Behaviour, has been re-appointed as the director of the Neuroscience Graduate Program.

Harold Reiter, professor in the Department of Oncology, has been appointed as the

director of the Program for Educational Research and Development.

Karl Stobbe, associate clinical professor in the Department of Family Medicine, has been re-appointed as the regional assistant dean for the Niagara Regional Campus of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine.

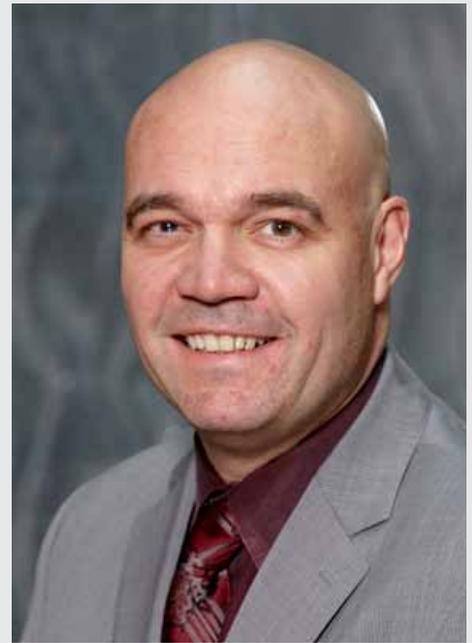
Anne Wong, an associate professor and the associate chair of education in the Department of Anesthesia, has been appointed as assistant dean of the Program for Faculty Development.

Gordon Guyatt, Distinguished University Professor in clinical epidemiology and biostatistics and medicine, has been elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. Founded in 1882, it is the country's oldest and most prestigious scholarly organization. He is recognized for his contributions to the advancement of evidence-based medicine and its teachings — an approach which uses critical appraisal and applies the best available evidence from science to decisions on patient care.

Gerry Wright, a professor of biochemistry and biomedical sciences and scientific director of the Michael G. DeGroot Institute of Infectious Disease Research, has also been elected as a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. Wright is recognized for understanding the origins, evolution and molecular mechanisms of antibiotic resistance in bacteria.



■ Gordon Guyatt



■ Gerry Wright

Recognition for their achievements in research, education and clinical practice has recently been awarded to many of our current and former faculty members:

Farhan Asrar, resident physician in the Public Health and Preventive Medicine Program, has received the 2012 Royal College of Physician & Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) Leadership Award. The recipient of this prestigious award is a resident physician who has demonstrated outstanding leadership skills during residency training and has encouraged the development of future leaders in medicine.

Eric Brown, professor and chair in the Department of Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences, is the recipient of the Canadian Society of Microbiologists' Murray Award for Career Achievement. The society gives national recognition to an outstanding Canadian microbiologist for key contributions to microbiological research.

Brian Coombes, associate professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences and Canada Research Chair in Infectious Disease Pathogenesis, has received the Canadian Society of Microbiologists' Fisher Scientific Award, given to stimulate and recognize new researchers in the microbiological sciences.

Winnie Doyle, assistant clinical nursing professor and an executive at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, is the recipient of the 2012 John C. Sibley Award. The award is presented annually to part-time faculty members who have made outstanding contributions to the education of health professionals.

Mark Ferro, a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences, and **Rahul Kushwah**, a post-doctoral fellow at McMaster's Stem Cell Cancer and Research Institute, were named the Banting Postdoctoral Fellows for 2012. This is Canada's most prestigious award for post-doctoral research.

Hertzel Gerstein, professor of medicine and clinical epidemiology and biostatistics, is the recipient of the Canadian Diabetes Association's 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his considerable commitment to, and achievements in, diabetes research. The award is bestowed on a prominent Canadian physician or medical scientist who is a leader in diabetes research and has made long-standing contributions to the Canadian diabetes community.

Jenn Salfi, an assistant professor with the School of Nursing, has been named the recipient of the 2012 Award for Excellence

in Nursing Education (Non-Tenured Position) from the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN). The honour acknowledges the contributions and accomplishments of individuals towards fostering the highest standards in professional nursing education.

McMaster University's **Program for Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research (PIPER)** has received the 2012 Alan Blizzard Award, the top national award of the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. The award, named in honour of the society's former president, is designed to stimulate and reward collaboration in teaching and to encourage and disseminate the scholarship of teaching.

A Maclean's magazine blog, *Science-ish*, a joint project of *Maclean's*, *The Medical Post* and the **McMaster Health Forum**, has won the 2012 Excellence in Digital Health Reporting award from the Canadian Medical Association. The weekly blog, written by Julia Belluz, was established with the support of the McMaster Health Forum and brings to light the most relevant evidence related to various health issues. Belluz checks the latest health headlines against the best available research evidence and holds politicians, healthcare leaders and other journalists accountable.

New Endowed Research Chairs:

Paolo Muti, professor in the Department of Oncology, as the ArcelorMittal Dofasco Chair in Experimental Cancer Therapeutics

Canada Research Chair Renewals:

Bradley Doble, assistant professor in

the Department of Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences, as the Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Stem Cell Signaling

Sheila Singh, associate professor in the Department of Surgery, Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences and Pediatrics, as the Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Human Cancer Stem Cell Biology

Endowed Chair Appointments & Reappointments:

Jonathan Bramson, professor of pathology and molecular medicine, as the John Bienenstock Chair in Molecular Medicine

Susan Reid, professor of surgery, as the John A. Bauer Chair in Surgery

The Faculty of Health Sciences administers more than \$118 million in research funding. Many of our faculty members received grants of more than \$100,000 between May and November 2012.

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) New Investigator Awards were received by: **Kathy Georgiades** of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences; **Eleanor Pullenayegum and Feng Xie** of the School of Rehabilitation Science.

Faculty members also received research and personnel grants from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Among them are:

Maureen Dobbins of the School of Nursing; **Mick Bhatia, Lori Burrows, Jonathan Schertzer** and **Gerry Wright** of the Department of Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences; **Sarah McDonald** and **Warren Foster** of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology; **Mohit Bhandari** of the Department of Surgery; **Michael Boyle, Peter Szatmari** and **Charles Cunningham** of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences; **Charu Kaushic, Alexander Ball, Karen Mossman** and **Mark Loeb** of the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine; **Anne Klassen, Stephanie Atkinson** and **Katherine**

Morrison of the Department of Pediatrics; **Geoff Werstuck, Salim Yusuf, Peter Margetts, Sonia Anand** and **Elena Verdú** of the Department of Medicine and **Julie Richardson** of the School of Rehabilitation Science.

Faculty members who received renewals of CIHR grants include: **Alba Guarne** of biochemistry and biomedical sciences; **Yonghong Wan** of pathology and molecular medicine and **Joy MacDermid** of the School of Rehabilitation Science.

The Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation awarded grants to several faculty members: **David Andrews** and **John Hassell** of biochemistry and biomedical sciences; **Gurmit Singh** of pathology and molecular medicine and **Anita Bane** and **Tim Whelan** of the Department of Oncology.

The Canadian Diabetes Association granted a CDA Scholar Award to **Jonathan Schertzer** of biochemistry and biomedical sciences as well as a grant for a new project. **Geoff Werstuck** of the Department of Medicine also received a grant renewal.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario provided grants to **Sam Schulman, Sonia Anand, Salim Yusuf, Eva Lonn** and **Clive Kearon** of the Department of Medicine and renewed grants for **William Sheffield** of pathology and molecular

medicine and **Geoff Werstuck** of medicine. The Ottawa Health Research Institute awarded grants to **Brian Lichty** and **Jonathan Bramson** of pathology and molecular medicine.

Other FHS faculty members received significant grants from a wide range of organizations. They include: **Eric Brown**, biochemistry and biomedical sciences, from Merck & Co. Inc.; **Luis Braga**, surgery, from Physicians Services Incorporated; **Charu Kaushic**, pathology and molecular medicine, from Ontario HIV Treatment Network; **Roma Sehmi**, medicine, from the Canadian Lung Association; **Donald Arnold**, medicine, of Amgen Canada Inc.; **Martin Kolb**, medicine, from Boehringer Ingelheim Pharma GmbH & Co. KG; **Michael Surette**, medicine, from Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada, **Lori-Ann Linkins**, medicine, from Bayer Inc.; **Jonathan Sussman**, oncology, from Ontario Institute for Cancer Research; **Brian Haynes**, clinical epidemiology and biostatistics, from Elsevier Gold Standard, **Jan Willem Gorter**, pediatrics, University of Western Ontario, **Katherine Morrison**, pediatrics, from Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation and Hamilton Academic Health Sciences Organization, **Oliver Wahoush**, nursing, from the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Kidney Foundation of Canada renewed a grant to **Catherine Clase** of medicine.



Congratulations to our faculty, staff and students on your successes. It instills a remarkable sense of pride in all of us and sets the bar for another wonderful year of accomplishments.

Sincerely,

John G. Kelton, MD
Dean and Vice-President

