

TOGETHER, ADVANCING HEALTH CARE THROUGH LEARNING AND DISCOVERY

*Dear colleagues and students:*

*The fall of 2005 was an exciting time for the Faculty of Health Sciences, with several major events and developments marking our continual pursuit of excellence in education, research and practice. We can all share a common sense of accomplishment and pride in these various undertakings.*

Although it's always busy at the Faculty of Health Sciences — some would call it hectic — strategic planning allows us to focus on growing our mandate in conjunction with the priorities of the University.

Over the past year we have reached a number of milestones, including: a) curriculum redevelopment; b) increased interprofessional education; c) graduate studies expansion; d) the initiation of a joint School of Biomedical Engineering with the Faculty of Engineering.

These initiatives will continue this year, and all match the University's Refining Directions.

One of last year's initiatives was to implement strategic planning, which we have done. Specifically, we are now implementing strategic planning at the school and departmental level in an iterative fashion.

We also added the University's "Collaborations for Health" initiative, which involves all McMaster's Faculties and aims to position us as the premier health university in Canada. A separate article in this letter describes the focus and activities within this initiative.

Also in this newsletter you will learn about Mac-CARE, a new and progressive program that will see more of our medical students and residents learning and practising their skills in cities and towns outside of Hamilton which are experiencing doctor shortages.

You will read about the School of Nursing's proactive approach to ensuring its preceptorship program is providing a high caliber training experience to our students, while improving resources available to the preceptors.

Over the fall, we held three gala events, in tribute to both our past and our future.

The opening of the Michael G. DeGroot Centre for Learning and Discovery provided an opportunity to acknowledge Mr. DeGroot's contributions to McMaster, and what they will mean to the future of health care research and training.

In the late fall we inducted four new members into our Community of Distinction. Drs. James Anderson, Howard Barrows, Barber Mueller and Dan Offord were all pillars of the McMaster community. We honour them for their distinguished contributions in scholarship and research. Tributes to each of them have been added to the Community of Distinction gallery, located in the west corridor of the second floor of the McMaster Health Sciences Centre, between the red and purple sections.

In that same area, we have established a permanent gallery on the History of Health Care in Hamilton. Unveiled in the fall, it allows us to see just how far medicine and health care in our community have advanced since the 1800s. I encourage you to visit it to learn more about the places and people who have played key roles in the health care of Hamilton area citizens.

With this new year, we look forward to continuing our commitment to advancing health care through learning and discovery.

## HEADLINERS

**Oded Bar-Or**, who passed away Dec. 8, received several honours in recent months. He was professor emeritus in pediatrics and the director of McMaster's Children's Exercise and Nutrition Centre. An honorary degree from the Jozef Pilsudski Academy of Physical Education in Warsaw, Poland, for his lifetime work in the area of children and exercise, was presented in a ceremony at McMaster on Dec. 1. Earlier last fall, he received the Thomas E. Shaffer Award for lifelong contributions to the field of pediatric sport medicine, from the American Academy of Pediatrics' Council on Sport Medicine and Fitness. The council also announced a new award named in his honour. Starting this year, the Oded Bar-Or Award will be presented annually to the best sports medicine or healthy active living presentation at the council's abstract session during the academy's national conference. Dr. Bar-Or also received the 2005 Honour Award from the Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology, for significant achievements in the field of exercise physiology.

**Fiona Smaill** has been appointed the chair of the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine, effective July 1, 2005. She had been acting chair of the department for the previous year. Dr. Smaill is a professor in the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine with an associate appointment in the Department of Medicine.

**Pat Mohide** has been reappointed chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, effective July 1, 2005. He has been a full-time faculty member of the department since 1975, and is an active staff of the clinical Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Hamilton Health Sciences.

**Peter Rosenbaum**, a professor in the Department of Pediatrics, received an honorary degree last fall from Laval University, in recognition of his contributions to the health of children with cerebral palsy. Dr. Rosenbaum also holds a Canada Research Chair in Childhood Disability Research.

**Mark Tarnopolsky**, an associate professor in the departments of pediatrics and medicine, received both the national and regional Dr. David Green

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## HEADLINERS - cont.

■ **Mac-CARE**

Our strong tradition of innovation and partnerships is once again evident in a new program that's been launched for students in our Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine.

The McMaster Community and Rural Education program (Mac-CARE) will benefit medical students and the citizens of Ontario, by having many of our clinical clerks and residents complete portions of their training outside of Hamilton. The students will be learning and practising their skills in cities and communities in need of more doctors. This represents a new direction for our school of medicine, which is now increasing in size beyond Hamilton and into the surrounding communities.

This initiative will help address the doctor shortage in the province, as studies show that medical students often stay and practise where they learn. As well, doctors practising in small cities or rural communities are more likely to stay there longer, if they are able to teach.

Under the leadership of Dr. Karl Stobbe, of the Department of Family Medicine, Mac-CARE is targeting three geographic areas of Niagara, Brantford and Waterloo/Wellington. These areas provide a diverse learning environment with 22 hospitals and 2,800 beds, ranging from small, rural operations to high-tech, full-service hospitals. The population base is more than one million people with a mosaic of cultures and traditions, living in a mix of urban, suburban and rural centres.

In addition to getting more doctors-in-training into these communities, Mac-CARE is actively recruiting physicians in these areas to become clinical teachers.

Efforts to have more student doctors training outside of the cities with medical schools have been in place for several years through the Rural Ontario Medical Program (ROMP). However, Mac-CARE is focused on increasing the number of clinical clerks, family medicine residents, and certain specialty residents spending their rotations in the three targeted geographic areas known as Clinical Education Campuses (CEC).

Together, the CECs will offer the critical mass to provide educational experiences covering a wide spectrum of working environments. Mac-CARE also emphasizes vertical integration (clerks and residents learning together) and interprofessional education. Dr. Denise Marshall, a professor of family medicine, will be co-ordinating interprofessional education for Mac-CARE and the Faculty of Health Sciences.

When the first full year of operation for Mac-CARE ends in March, about 80 clinical clerks, 28 family medicine residents and 27 specialty residents will have provided services in the targeted areas. Those numbers will increase each year as the program continues to expand.

To ensure consistency, academic sessions for clerks and residents in the CECs will be provided by McMaster using learning technologies such as videoconferencing, web-conferencing and webcasting. In time, it will be possible for academic sessions to originate from any CEC community and be shared by all.

Mac-CARE, funded by the provincial government, will allow McMaster to build on its reputation as a leader in addressing the doctor shortage in Ontario. The medical school is already known for its ability to graduate a higher proportion of family doctors. It offers more than 20 positions in rural and underserved communities throughout the province to first and second year family medicine residents.

In 2005, the Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine won the prestigious Keith Award as the medical school that best selects and trains physicians who choose to practice in rural communities. The award from the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada was given for the school's emphasis on striving to select and train doctors based on where they are most needed.

Mac-CARE will enhance our success in providing well-trained doctors equipped with the technical and personal skills needed to address the most urgent needs of patients throughout Ontario.

Award from Muscular Dystrophy Canada. The awards recognize excellence in research and the provision of service for those with neuromuscular disorders. Dr. Tarnopolsky holds the Hamilton Hospitals Assessment Centre Endowed Chair in Neuromuscular Disorders.

**Edward Young**, a professor in the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine, received the 2005 Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists award. Dr. Young, the Discipline Director of Clinical Chemistry and Immunology for the Hamilton Regional Laboratory Medicine Program, was honoured for his outstanding achievement in the field of clinical chemistry.

**Mary Law**, associate dean, School of Rehabilitation Science, and holder of the John and Margaret Lillie Chair in Childhood Disability Research, has been inducted into the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS). Dr. Law is the first occupational therapist in Canada to be inducted into the CAHS, which recognizes the full range of academic health science.

**Paul Stratford**, a professor in the School of Rehabilitation Science, received an Honorary Canadian Physiotherapy Association Membership Award. The award recognizes individuals who have enhanced the physiotherapy profession through a unique or long-term contribution over at least 15 years. Stratford is also an associate member of the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

Instructors in the Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) Program have won the Alan Blizzard Award from the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. The 18 instructors were honored with the national award for their collaborative course development and contributions to teaching. The instructors are: **Sheila Barrett, Julie Butler, Elizabeth Cates, Carl deLottinville, Del Harnish, Manel Jordana, Erika Kustra, Jennifer Landicho, Annie Lee, Jennifer McKinnell, Andrea McLellan, Stash Nastos, Debbie Nifakis, Sean Park, Stacey Ritz, Margaret Secord, Henry Szechtman and Kristina Trim.**

**Lorne Finkelstein**, an assistant clinical professor in the Department of Medicine, has been inducted into the Hamilton Gallery of Distinction. Joining him as 2005 inductees to the gallery were three people who have had a significant impact on the Faculty of Health Sciences. **Michael G. DeGroot**, and **Charles and Margaret Juravinski** have made major contributions to McMaster and have facilities named for them. The gallery recognizes Hamilton citizens for their lifetime achievements and contributions to the community.

Five nurses who acted as preceptors for students in the Bachelor of Health Sciences Nursing program received Preceptor Awards of Distinction for 2005. They are: **Kelly Cronin, Donna May, Tanya McDonald, Janet Perron and Victoria St. John.**

## ■ Expanding collaborations

A campus-wide initiative to position McMaster as the premier health university in Canada is moving forward.

Collaborations for Health aims to capitalize on McMaster's unique culture of collaboration and experience in tackling complex health problems using the combined insights of many disciplines. It will leverage existing areas of strength and foster new strategic research and educational collaborations focused on health.

Three broad themes will provide the organizational framework: Health and the Environment, Health Services and Policy, and Development across the Lifespan. These "umbrella" themes are intended to facilitate communication and gather within them groups of faculty and students who will identify foci for new interdisciplinary collaborations. Participation of hospital and community partners will be actively sought. Knowledge translation and information technology will provide enabling platforms for the initiative as a whole.

With its roots in Refining Directions, Collaborations for Health was launched early in 2005. It is being led by Susan Denburg, Associate Vice-President, Academic and Associate Dean, Education, Faculty of Health Sciences, at the request of Vice-Presidents Ken Norrie (Academic) and Mamdouh Shoukri (Research and International Affairs). Dr. Denburg is supported by an advisory group with members from all six McMaster Faculties.

A call for proposals sent out last February to gather ideas on the direction and focus for the initiative resulted in more than 60 submissions from across the campus. Those submissions helped shape the agenda for a one-day retreat in June which was organized to develop a shared understanding of the initiative and to review the proposed organizational framework. Approximately 100 faculty members from diverse disciplines participated in the retreat, reflecting widespread interest in the initiative. The retreat enabled participants to gain awareness of common health-related interests, validated the organizational themes, and identified the challenges that need to be addressed in order for the initiative to succeed. Steps are now underway to address those challenges and to lay the groundwork to move the project forward.

A one-time budget over two years was approved by the University's Refining Directions Funding Allocation Committee. This will be used to set up an administrative infrastructure, to create an electronic clearinghouse of health-related expertise, to fund workshops and visiting scholars and to provide seed money to support new research and educational initiatives.

A half-time managing director and part-time administrative staff are now in place, electronic resources are being developed, a search for team leaders for each of the three themes is near completion, a process is being developed to vet applications to support new collaborative initiatives, and discussions are underway to streamline the approval and administration of new interdisciplinary programs.

As the initiative evolves, there will be ongoing communication with key external stakeholders such as funding agencies and government bodies, to ensure the activities planned within the three flagship themes represent new and innovative approaches to tackling relevant health questions in a way that differentiates McMaster from other universities and helps to brand McMaster as the premier Health University.

Collaborations for Health is an innovative initiative that promises to build on McMaster's international reputation in health.

Congratulations to our excellent researchers who have received grants and awards from a wide range of organizations and companies to pursue their work in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

**Parameswaran Nair**, assistant professor of medicine, has been named Canada Research Chair in Airway Diseases. His work, conducted at the Firestone Institute for Respiratory Health, will focus on understanding cellular biology and measuring airway inflammation in clinical practice to improve treatment of airway diseases.

Two other McMaster professors recently had their Canada Research Chair appointments renewed. **Catherine Hayward**, a professor of pathology and molecular medicine and associate member in the Department of Medicine, holds the Canada Research Chair in Molecular Hemostasis. **Yingfu Li**, an associate professor of biochemistry and biomedical sciences, is the Canada Research Chair in Directed Evolution of Nucleic Acids.

Five researchers received new grants this fall from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR). They are **Melissa Brouwers** of clinical epidemiology and biostatistics (CE&B), **Charo Kaushic** of pathology and molecular medicine, **Waliul Khan** of medicine, **Carol DeMatteo** of the School of Rehabilitation Science, and **Wendy Sword** of the School of Nursing.

Renewal grants from CIHR were given to **David Andrews** and **Justin Nodwell** of biochemistry and biomedical sciences, **George Heckman** and **Mark Inman** of medicine, and **Karen Mossman**, **Ken Rosenthal** and **Gurmit Singh** of pathology and molecular medicine.

**Alba Guarne** of biochemistry and biomedical sciences received both a New Investigator Award and a maintenance grant from CIHR. A Mentoring Program grant from CIHR was awarded to **Clive Kearon** of the department of medicine.

Earlier in the summer CIHR also approved several other grants for faculty in the Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine. They are: **Joaquin Ortega** (New Investigator Award) of biochemistry and biomedical sciences, **Sonia Anand**, **Joan Krepinsky**, and **Judah Denburg** of the Department of Medicine, **Peter Margetts** and **Martin Stampfli** of pathology and molecular medicine, and **Karen Choong** of pediatrics.

Several other faculty members have received significant research grants from various organizations.

**Tim Whelan**, of medicine, who holds a Canada Research Chair in Health Services Research in Cancer, received a grant from the National Cancer Institute of Canada, and a post-doctoral grant from the United States Army Research Office.

**Mehran Anvari**, of surgery, and director of the McMaster Institute for Surgical Invention, Innovation and Education, received grants from both the Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Centre and CISCO Systems Inc.

Others who received major research grants include: **Diane Semogas**, of the School of Nursing, from Human Resources Development Canada; **Paul O'Byrne**, chair of medicine, from the Asthma Foundation of New South Wales; **Dr. Andrews** of biochemistry and biomedical sciences, from Evotech Technologies in Germany; **Heather Arthur**, of the School of Nursing, from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario; **Stephen Collins** University Professor

## ■ Nursing preceptorship

Clinical placements in health-related workplaces are a crucial component of education for senior students earning their Bachelor of Science Nursing degrees.

The training and support provided by the registered nurses in health-care settings who act as preceptors is invaluable to the academic programs. Our School of Nursing has recently implemented changes to recognize those efforts and ensure the preceptor experience is of the highest quality.

A new Preceptorship Handbook, awards of distinction and improved access to an expanded series of continuing education workshops for registered nurses working with students are all components of the new BScN Preceptorship Program.

Under the direction of E. Ann Mohide, chair of the Preceptorship Program and associate professor in the School of Nursing, a standing committee spent 10 months developing a program designed to benefit students, preceptors and faculty tutors. The new program strengthens clinical nursing education, makes students better prepared for professional work, fosters professional development of preceptors and improves communication among all stakeholders.

With the launch of the McMaster Mohawk Conestoga BScN Program in 2001, the need for dedicated preceptors increased substantially. There are now about 1,600 students across the three sites, and those in the fourth and final year must spend 24 hours a week for 13 weeks per term in clinical settings. That means that almost 600 nursing preceptors are needed for the undergraduate nursing programs for the current academic year.

The new preceptorship model is based on a social learning theory, which is reflected in the redesigned handbook. The Introductory Preceptorship Workshop for nurses has been re-developed, and five new, advanced workshops are provided.

Preceptors also have access to professional development offerings available to faculty members.

Proper recognition of the critical role of preceptors is also a key focus. Each year, one nurse preceptor from each of the three sites for the BScN degree, will be chosen to receive the BScN Preceptor Award of Distinction. Nominations for the awards will come from the students.

In another initiative to enhance the BScN program, McMaster's School of Nursing launched a new, annual lecture series. The inaugural Bernice King Lectureship in Clinical Nursing Education was held in November. The lecture is named in honour of King, a retired assistant clinical professor from our School of Nursing. She is being recognized for her outstanding contributions to clinical education of nursing students and many other health discipline students.

These efforts, and future plans to continue evolving the preceptorship program, will ensure that the McMaster Mohawk Conestoga BScN Program remains at the forefront of undergraduate nursing education.

in medicine, from the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology; **Dr. Kaushic** of pathology and molecular medicine, from the Canadian Foundation for Aids Research; **Brian Lichty**, of pathology and molecular medicine, from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society; **Lynne Lohfeld**, of CE&B, from the Medical Council of Canada; **Andrew Macpherson**, of pathology and molecular medicine, from the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada; **Peter Rosenbaum** of pediatrics, from the Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy; **Ray Truant**, of biochemistry and biomedical sciences, from the Huntington's Disease Society of America; **Manel Jordana**, of pathology and molecular medicine, from the Food Allergy Initiative; **Karen Mossman**, of pathology and molecular medicine, from Philip Morris USA; **Kathy Bennett**, of CE&B, from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada; **Alba DiCenso**, of the School of Nursing, from the Ontario Women's Health Council Secretariat; and **Arya Sharma**, of medicine, from Abbott Laboratories Limited (Canada).

## AWARDS

Several students in the Faculty of Health Sciences have been recognized in recent months for accomplishments outside of their educational training.

Three students in the Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) program received the McMaster University President's Award of Excellence in Student Leadership. **Jaimini Chauhan**, **Elaine Cheng** and **Avita Sooknanan** have demonstrated exemplary scholarship and community service.

Medical student **Carly Thompson** won the 2005 Dr. Mary Keyes Award as the top female scholar-athlete. She also won the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) Academic Achievement Award and the Golden Key International Honour Society, Scholastic Excellence Award.

Medical student **Christina Leung** won the Dr. Henry Chaim Witelson Memorial Prize in Ophthalmology.

**Rachael Seib**, a second-year medical student, won a national essay-writing competition organized by the Canadian Anesthesia Society.

**Debra Charlesworth**, a student in the Clinical Behavioural Sciences program and mother of four, has been honoured with a 2005 Grey Power Caregiver Award.

Two students in the Faculty of Health Sciences submitted research projects that were among five chosen for the 2004/05 Ashley Studentship for Research in Tobacco Control. **Cheryl Everall** is a MD student and **Michael Neal** is a PhD candidate in Health Sciences.

*Congratulations and thanks to all of our Faculty, staff and students who have shared in our recent achievements.*

