Dear colleagues and students:

Since my last newsletter, our faculty and staff have received many accolades in the form of awards, research grants and promotions. This issue focuses on these achievements, and my next letter will delve more into our latest developments and accomplishments.

During the summer, activity in the Faculty of Health Sciences slows down a bit as many of our students enjoy a break from their academic studies, graduates move on to the next stage of their lives, and faculty and staff relax while on well-earned vacations.

This slower pace is but a brief respite in our ever-broadening agenda of teaching, conducting research and providing the best care possible for patients. The strides we are making as a whole, and the accomplishments of many individuals within our Faculty are testament to our commitment to hard work and excellence in all our endeavours. And the growth that has occurred in conjunction with our successes is evident in many of our undertakings.

Consider our recent graduation ceremonies. In May, 135 students from the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine received their MD degrees – the largest group ever to graduate from McMaster’s program.

In June, McMaster celebrated its first-ever nursing-only convocation, at which 259 students from the inaugural class of the School of Nursing’s collaborative nursing program received their Bachelor of Science (Nursing) degrees. Eventually, this program will be able to accommodate 2,000 students in the four-year curriculum offered at McMaster and both Mohawk and Conestoga colleges.

Our MD program is poised for exciting growth and change. A provincial government initiative resulted in an additional 10 spots in the school, so we can accommodate 148 students in the first-year class about to commence. Other advancements in the MD school include the September launch of a revamped curriculum, and a new program aimed at getting more of our medical students and residents learning and practising in under-served areas outside of Hamilton. You’ll find more details on Mac-CARE in my next letter.

Just as commendable as our strides in education are the impressive accomplishments of our numerous researchers. With more than $100 million of funding being overseen by our investigators, the Faculty is expanding its reputation as a leader in innovation and the study of medicine and health care.

The confidence engendered by the work of our professors and researchers has led to increasing financial contributions from the private sector, allowing us to expand the number of endowed chairs to 45, a remarkable accomplishment when just a decade ago there were none.

Part of our research success can be directly attributed to John Capone, as associate dean, research, for the past five years. As Dr. Capone takes on the new challenge as Dean of Science for McMaster University, we wish him all the best, and thank him for his efforts in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

We have had some exemplary Faculty members step into new roles of responsibility recently.

**Susan Denburg** has been appointed associate vice-president, academic and associate dean, education for the Faculty of Health Sciences. She is a professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences, and since becoming a faculty member in 1978, she has worked as a staff psychologist at St. Joseph’s Healthcare, an education co-ordinator and vice-chair of her department. During the past five years, as associate dean, academic, Dr. Denburg has developed and nurtured a solid infrastructure to support education.

**Catherine Tompkins** is the associate dean of the School of Nursing. She has extensive experience in the nursing school, having joined it as an instructor in 1977. Previous roles include chair of the BScN program, assistant dean, undergraduate nursing education and acting associate dean of health sciences (nursing). She was actively involved in the development of the collaborative BScN Program with Mohawk and Conestoga colleges. The appointment was announced last December, although Dr. Tompkins has been in the role for the past year.

**Mary Law** has been reappointed as associate dean, School of Rehabilitation Science, effective July 1. Dr. Law has been in the position since September 2000. She is also an associate member of the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, holds the John and Margaret Lillie Chair in Childhood Disability Research, and is co-director of the CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research.

**Jack Gauldie**, University Professor and director of the Institute for Molecular Medicine and Health, has been appointed acting associate dean, research, effective July 1. Dr. Gauldie is also director of both the Centre for Gene Therapeutics and MOBIX.

**Greg Peachey** has been appointed as the new assistant dean for the Continuing Health Sciences Education Program. The appointment took effect on March 1. Dr. Peachey joined McMaster’s faculty in
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1996 as an assistant professor. Most recently he served as an associate clinical professor and postgraduate program director in the Department of Anesthesia. He is also a staff anesthetist at Hamilton Health Sciences and St. Joseph’s Healthcare.

Janet Landeen has been appointed assistant dean, Undergraduate Nursing Education Programs, effective July 1. She has served as the acting assistant dean since last year. Dr. Landeen joined the School of Nursing at McMaster in 1990, and is now an associate professor in nursing and an associate member of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences.

Wendy Sword has been appointed assistant dean, research, for the School of Nursing effective September 1, 2005. Dr. Sword obtained both her BScN and M.Sc. degrees from McMaster, and a PhD from the University of Guelph. She joined the School of Nursing in 1986, and is currently an associate professor and an active researcher.

Norman (Norm) Buckley was named chair of the Department of Anesthesia, effective July 1, 2004. He had previously served as acting chair of the department since January 2003. Dr. Buckley earned both BA and MD degrees from McMaster, and joined the faculty as an assistant professor in 1987. He is also a member of the University’s Clinical Faculty Association Executive Committee and the Senate Executive Committee.

Mehran Anvari has been appointed director, McMaster Institute for Surgical Invention, Innovation and Education, Faculty of Health Sciences, effective June 1, 2005. Dr. Anvari completed his medical training at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, his surgical residency training at McMaster University, and obtained his PhD in Australia. Dr. Anvari is a professor of surgery and director of research for the Department of Surgery. In May 2004, he was appointed to the newly created Chair in Minimally Invasive Surgery and Surgical Innovation.

Dr. Peter Szatmari, a renowned child psychiatrist and professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences, has been named Director, Offord Centre for Child Studies, effective March 1, 2005. He has been acting director since April 2004. Dr. Szatmari became an assistant professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences in 1989. He has earned numerous awards over the years, and is the first holder of the Chedoke Health Chair in Child Psychiatry at McMaster.

Four assistant deans, educational programs, have been reappointed to further five-year terms:

Del Harnish, a professor in the departments of Pathology and Molecular Medicine and Biology, reappointed assistant dean, Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) Program;

Alan Neville, a medical oncologist and professor in the Department of Medicine, reappointed assistant dean, Undergraduate Medical Education Program;

Geoff Norman, a full-time professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, reappointed assistant dean, Program for Educational Research and Development;

Allyn Walsh, an associate professor in the Department of Family Medicine, reappointed assistant dean, Program for Faculty Development.

Many of our excellent educators have received awards of distinction during the past year.

The prestigious John C. Sibley Award for Part-Time Faculty is shared by two people this year. Greg Peachey, newly-appointed assistant dean for the Continuing Health Sciences Education Program, and Patricia Mandy, assistant clinical professor in the School of Nursing, were named co-recipients of the award. Dr. Peachey, who has been a faculty member since 1996, was cited for his commitment to education and various student groups through his roles in numerous courses within the Faculty of Health Sciences. Mrs. Mandy was selected for her impressive contributions to educating nursing students, and particularly her outreach to aboriginal students.

The 18 instructors of the Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) Program won the 2005 President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching (Course or Resource Design). The awards recognize outstanding contributions to education. The instructors are Sheila Barrett, Julie Butler, Elizabeth Cates, Carl de Lottinville, Del Harms, 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. This group also received the Alan Blizzard Award for collaborative course development and contributions to teaching from the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education.

Denis Crankshaw, a professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Ola Lunyk-Child, an associate professor in the School of Nursing, were each presented with a McMaster Students Union Faculty Teaching Award for 2004-2005. The awards recognize outstanding all-round teaching performance of the instructor.

Joseph Pham of gastroenterology was named the 2004-2005 McMaster winner of the Excellence in Teaching Award for Senior Residents from the Professional Association of Internes and Residents of Ontario.

Three preceptors who help in the training of students in the School of Rehabilitation Science have been recognized for their excellence in education and training, Dan McQueen and John Stareshin, Jr., of Beamsville Physiotherapy and The Physiotherapy Edge in Grimsby, and Gord Hirano, with DMG Workable in Mississauga, were among 70 clinical educators honoured at a ceremony earlier this year.
Two faculty members were awarded honorary degrees from other universities this spring. Karyn Kaufman, director of the Midwifery Education Program and professor of family medicine, received an honorary doctorate from the University of British Columbia, recognizing her outstanding leadership in the development of the midwifery program. Oded Bar-Or, professor emeritus of pediatrics, a childhood obesity expert and director of the Children’s Exercise and Nutrition Centre, received an honorary degree from Brock University, in recognition of numerous contributions in the field of pediatrics.

During the Oath Ceremony for MD graduates in May, Ari Shali was presented the David Carr Teaching Award for the third consecutive year. The graduates also presented Outstanding Clerkship Preceptor Awards to faculty members Rob Whyte, Karl Stobbe, Christine Bradley, David Small, Madan Roy, Patricia Rosebush and Jeffrey Cranford. Resident’s Teaching Awards were given to Tim O’Shea, Mark Soth and Brad Weening.

Three faculty members were honoured recently by provincial medical organizations. Elizabeth Shaw and Stephen (Sandy) Buchman, both faculty members in the Department of Medicine, were named Family Physician of the Year for the Southern Ontario Region by the Ontario College of Family Physicians. Dr. Shaw, who practices in Hamilton, and Dr. Buchman, who works in Mississauga, are both 1981 graduates of McMaster’s MD program. Elaine Foster-Seargant, an assistant professor with McMaster’s satellite Northern Studies Stream at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, earned the Ontario Physiotherapy Association’s special award for education.

McMaster University President’s Awards for 2004 were presented to three individuals in the Faculty of Health Sciences. They are: Carol Lavery, a senior research technician at the Centre for Gene Therapeutics; Mary Jane Sales, a clinical trials nurse co-ordinator based at St. Joseph’s Healthcare; Bogdan Wilk, a research associate and exercise physiologist in pediatric sports medicine.

Several faculty members were honoured by various physicians’ professional groups. Watson Buchanan, professor emeritus of rheumatology, received the Cullen Prize from the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh. A distinguished service award from the Hamilton Academy of Medicine was given to Lorne Finkelstein, a clinical professor in cardiology. Alan Neville, assistant dean of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine, received a 2004 Council Award from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. Our head of gastrointestinal radiology, Sat Somers, received an honorary fellowship from the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland.

A member of the Faculty’s Community of Distinction, David Sackett, received one of the highest international distinctions for researchers in the health services field. Dr. Sackett was presented with the Baxter International Foundation Health Services Research Prize in June, during the annual meeting of the Association of University Programs in Health Administration.

Cheryl Levitt, chair of the Department of Family Medicine, was recognized by South African Women for Women for her contributions and commitment to improving the lives of others in the field of health.

Cardiologist Shamir Mehta, an associate professor in the Department of Medicine, was named one of Canada’s Top 40 Under 40™.

Congratulations to the outstanding researchers in our Faculty on their recent awards and research funding.

John Eikelboom, associate professor in the Department of Medicine who came to McMaster University from Perth, Australia, has been granted a Canada Research Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine. His research involves studying what causes aspirin resistance in some people with cardiovascular disease, and improving its diagnosis and treatment.

Mohit Bhandari, assistant professor in surgery, was granted a Canada Research Chair in Musculoskeletal Trauma and Surgical Outcomes, the only chair of its type in the country. Dr. Bhandari, a McMaster alumnus, is uncovering novel strategies to improve outcomes following orthopedic surgery.

Patricia Harvey, assistant clinical professor in the Department of Surgery, was one of 47 people who received a Meritorious Service Decoration from the Governor General of Canada.

Sonia Anand, associate professor in the Department of Medicine and holder of the endowed Eli Lilly Canada—May Cohen Chair in Women’s Health, has been inducted into the McMaster University Alumni Gallery. She earned her MD, MA and PhD degrees from McMaster, and joined the faculty in 1999. The award recognizes the achievements of graduates who make outstanding contributions to society.

Warren Foster, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, has received a career award from the Ontario Women’s Health Council. The award recognizes emerging leaders in women’s health. Dr. Foster is also the director of the Centre for Reproductive Care.

Ali Ashkar, assistant professor in the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine, was awarded a Research Career Award in the Health Sciences by the Rx&D Health Research Foundation.

Catherine Hayward has been awarded a renewal of a Career Investigator Award from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada (HSFC). She is an associate professor with the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine.

Anthony Chan, an associate professor with the Department of Pediatrics, was also given a HSFC Career Investigator Award.
Gordon Guyatt, a professor in the departments of clinical epidemiology and biostatistics (CE&B) and medicine, has earned a place in the Institute of Scientific Information’s “citation hall of fame” for clinical medicine. This status is accorded to the top 250 most cited researchers in the world in the field.

The Canadian Society of Biochemistry, Molecular and Cellular Biology awarded the 2005 Merck Frosst Prize to Eric Brown, an associate professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences. He also holds a Canada Research Chair in Microbial Biochemistry.

The Emily Cooley award was presented to Morris Blajchman, a professor in the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine. The award is from the American Association of Blood Banks.

John Kelton, dean and vice-president and a professor of medicine, was the first North American physician to receive the Karl Landsteiner award from the German Society of Transfusion Medicine and Immunohematology.

Matthew McQueen, a professor in the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine, received the Award for Outstanding Contributions to Clinical Chemistry, from the American Association for Clinical Chemistry.

Karlo Hockmann, a graduate student in Health Sciences, was recently awarded the Fight-for-Sight President’s Award for Excellence in Research from the International Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology.

In addition to these noted awards, many of our faculty have been awarded new and significant grants for their research projects, during the past year.

Mark Loeb, of the departments of pathology and molecular medicine, and clinical epidemiology and biostatistics, is leading a $19-million study on West Nile Virus, funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

Judah Denburg, a professor of medicine, is the leader of a new $20 million federal Network of Centres of Excellence, based at McMaster. Allergen (Allergy, Genes and Environment Network) will focus on research and developing new and better treatments for allergic diseases.

Last fall, the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) gave new grants to 12 faculty members. They include Marek Śmieja, Clive Kearon, Alexandra Papaioannou, Kenneth Croitoru and Jeffrey Ginsberg of medicine; Boris Sakic and Henry Szechman of psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences; Bernardo Trigatti and Sujata Persad of biochemistry and biomedical sciences, Rick Austin of pathology and molecular medicine, Brian Haynes of CE&B, and Maureen Dobbins of the School of Nursing.

At that time CIHR also announced renewal grants for David Andrews, Eric Brown and Murray Junop of biochemistry and biomedical sciences; Michael Boyle of psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences; Jan Huizinga of medicine; and Stephen Shaughnessy of pathology and molecular medicine.

Other recent CIHR awards include a five-year grant to Peter Szatmari, of psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences, and an Investigator Award to Parminder Raina of CE&B.

Dr. Austin and Dr. Trigatti were among eight faculty members who received new grants from the HSFO, announced last fall. They are joined by Salim Yusuf, Arya Sharma, Mark Crowther, Geoff Werruck and Dr. Eikelboom of the Department of Medicine, and Dr. Chan of pediatrics.

Eight faculty members received renewal grants from the HSFO at the same time. They are Stephen Bates, Catherine Demers, Dr. Kearon and Dr. Kelton of medicine, Bryan Clarke, Mark Hatton and William Sheffield of pathology and molecular medicine, and Robert Lee of anaesthesia.

Several faculty members have received significant grants for research from various other organizations during the past year. They include: Yingfu Li, of biochemistry and biomedical sciences from Genome Canada; Cheryl Levitt, chair of family medicine, from the Ontario College of Family Physicians and the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC); Deborah Marshall of CE&B from MOHLTC; Deborah Cook of medicine from Pfizer Canada; Jonathan Bramson, of pathology and molecular medicine, from the Ontario Cancer Research Network; Dr. Raina of CE&B from the Agency for Health Care and Research Quality; Hertzel Gerstein of medicine, from Merck Frosst Canada; Stephen Collins of medicine, from the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of Canada; Mehran Anvari of surgery, from the Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center; Melissa Brouwers of CE&B from the MOHLTC; Marko Simunovic of medicine, from the National Cancer Institute of Canada; Ken Rosenthal of pathology and molecular medicine, from the Ontario HIV Treatment Network; Shucui Jiang of surgery, from the Canadian Spinal Research Organization; Peter Lovrics, of surgery, from the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation; and Paul O’Byrne, chair of medicine, from AstraZeneca.

Congratulations on these achievements: we can take pride in the work of all our outstanding faculty, staff and students.

Sincerely

John G. Kelton, MD
Dean and Vice-President