“As a patient of a McMaster family clinic for several years, I’m looking forward to this beautiful new building. This will be so very convenient for me and others who live downtown, and it is a real sign of the revitalization of Hamilton.”

Diane Bussey, patient of the McMaster Family Practice

“Our co-location with public health will be the first of its kind in Canada – together we will have the chance to learn more about how public health and primary care collaborations can transform the health of the community. We are also committed to being good neighbours – to discover how our expertise in excellent patient-centred care can partner with the important work being done locally within neighbourhood action strategies.”

Dr. Cathy Wodan, co-director of McMaster Family Practice and professor of family medicine, Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine

“In family medicine, we are very good at responding to patients needs when they come to see us. But we don’t do as good a job in reaching out to our patients and our community. This central downtown location, with clinical sites along with research, administration and public health all together, will very much enhance our ability to participate fully in the life of our community.”

Dr. David Price, chair, Department of Family Medicine, Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine

“This is a beautiful landmark that reflects Hamilton’s growing importance in the provincial and national health sector, particularly for our renowned excellence and innovation in health sciences education and research. This building is designed to support the inter-disciplinary team-based environment that is the hallmark of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine and, indeed, the Faculty of Health Sciences.”

Dr. John Kelton, dean and vice-president, Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University

“As a resident training in both family medicine and public health, I am quite happy about the centralization of both McMaster’s Department of Family Medicine and Hamilton Public Health Services under one roof. It will be a welcoming building, purpose-built to recognize the importance of both fields working together.”

Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, second-year resident, Public Health & Preventative Medicine Program, Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine

“I came to McMaster because the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine is renowned for its leadership in health care from all of the perspectives of education, research and patient care. There’s no better proof of its commitment to the next generation in primary care than its new home downtown.”

Dr. Amanda Ramdyal, first-year resident, Family Medicine Program, Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine

“Public Health Services is excited about providing transit accessible services for clients in the downtown heart of Hamilton. The McMaster Health Campus allows us to bring many of our services closer to the people who will benefit most from them. We are also eager to explore together bold new ways for public health and primary care to provide a seamless continuum of services from prevention to treatment that will improve the health of Hamiltonians.”

Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, medical officer of health, City of Hamilton Public Health Services

“This is a beautiful landmark that reflects Hamilton’s growing importance in the provincial and national health sector, particularly for our renowned excellence and innovation in health sciences education and research. This building is designed to support the inter-disciplinary team-based environment that is the hallmark of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine and, indeed, the Faculty of Health Sciences.”

Dr. John Kelton, dean and vice-president, Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University

“The McMaster Health Campus is evidence of the University’s commitment to deepening its relationship with the community. By putting down roots in the city centre, and integrating the excellence of the city’s public health services with McMaster’s celebrated learning and discovery in primary care, we will enhance the future of health care in Hamilton and far beyond.”

Dr. Patrick Deane, president & vice-chancellor, McMaster University

“McMaster Health Campus”

McMaster Health Campus

UPDATE | FEBRUARY 2015
OPENING THE DOORS OF THE McMASTER HEALTH CAMPUS

The buzz of discussion and keyboards will soon replace the sounds of hammers at the new McMaster Health Campus in downtown Hamilton as its occupation begins in March.

Moves into the six-storey landmark are expected to fall consecutively into place through March and April, with grand opening celebrations planned for late spring.

The building will be the home of Hamilton Public Health Services, the Department of Family Medicine of McMaster University’s Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine, a large family health clinic, a maternity clinic and facilities for several health sciences teaching units, and it has been designed to welcome the community.

“The design is intended to support the innovative interdisciplinary, team based environment that is the hallmark of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine and its unique collaboration with Hamilton Public Health,” said David Clusiau, senior principal, architectural design, NORR Limited. “There is a focus on creating a healthy working environment that encourages star use and features daylight and views for all.”

The $84.6 million project has been funded by McMaster University, the City of Hamilton, the Province of Ontario and private donors. It is anticipated 450 McMaster and 110 Hamilton Public Health Services employees will move in this year.

The 192,000-square-foot (or 17,600-square-metre) building, directly across from Hamilton City Hall, has an impressive Main Street entrance opening into a large lobby filled with light from the floor to ceiling windows, greenery and a water feature. Plans include a pharmacy, a bistro specializing in fresh foods and a diagnostic imaging clinic for this floor. At the north side of the building will be a patients’ drop-off entrance with a protective portico. There are 82 parking spots reserved for patients in the lower level.

A large, wide staircase, with space to seat an audience, ascends from the lobby to a second floor corridor lit by skylights and east windows. A large multi-purpose room with 30-foot-high windows, which will also be the location of public events, overlooks city hall. Among the room’s features is seating that can be retracted into the wall.

The second floor will have the health sciences learning centre with 11 teaching spaces designed for McMaster’s innovative small group, problem-based learning, and two meeting rooms with flexibility to become one larger room. A bridge is planned to connect the second floor to the living Zucker Sculpture Garden of the Art Gallery of Hamilton.

The third floor is home of the large McMaster Family Practice, with 48 exam rooms as well as offices, and collaborative space for the physicians, nurses and other health professionals. The waiting room features large windows overlooking Main Street, an aquarium, and an outdoor garden. The clinic for 15,000 Hamiltonians will have integrated primary health care provided by family doctors, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, occupational therapists and physiotherapists, and McMaster students of those professions. All of the clinic facilities will also be used by Public Health Services for sexual health clinics, breastfeeding clinics, immunization clinics and tobacco cessation.

On the fourth floor is the Hamilton Maternity Centre clinic. Unique in Canada, the fourth, fifth and sixth floors are designed to provide many opportunities for collaboration between the leaders, educators, researchers and staffs of the City of Hamilton’s Public Health Services and the Department of Family Medicine of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine, as well as other health sciences programs.

Public Health Services will have program staff from its surveillance unit which monitors reportable diseases in the community; tobacco control, injury prevention, chronic disease prevention and sexual health. The space includes the public health library and public health’s applied research and evaluation team.

McMaster’s programs that further its renowned and continuing innovation in how health professionals are taught and learn will be here, including the Program for Educational Research and Development, the Program for Faculty Development, the Foundation for Medical Practice Education, and the University’s Continuing Health Sciences Education Program, which offers upgrade training to local health care professionals.

A sixth floor multi-purpose space will provide outdoor garden areas and large views of the city to the north, west and south.

LEED certification for the building is being sought by the University.

New explorations in primary care make up TAPESTRY project

Major research in primary care will be a focus of the work at the McMaster Health Campus, and one of the first large projects to be headquartered there is a study on how to improve the quality of life of older adults and at-risk people living at home.

The TAPESTRY (Teams Advancing Patient Experience: Strengthening Quality) project is sending community volunteers into the homes of older adults to help identify issues and intervene before a health crisis occurs. Making connections to community services and improving access to their health care team with the use of technology in the home is some of the key strategies TAPESTRY will promote.

The project has four key areas of research:

- Finding ways to improve collaboration between primary health care teams and community resources;
- Training community volunteers to help patients link better with health care professionals;
- Using an electronic personal health record to communicate and exchange information;
- Helping patients better navigate the health care system.

A number of feasibility studies have finished, and the TAPESTRY project is now conducting a large research project in Hamilton with important partner studies occurring in Vancouver, Edmonton, Montreal, St. John’s as well as Sturgeon Lake First Nations in Saskatchewan.

Other major research programs which will be sited at the McMaster Health Campus are:

- Ontario Pharmacy Research Collaboration (OPC), which is looking at the effectiveness of pharmacist-led medication management programs;
- Cardiovascular Health Awareness Program (CHIP), which is re-searching the prevention of heart disease through offering free, risk assessment sessions to the public;
- Infant and Children Health (INCH) laboratory which is looking for better understandings of child development.

In addition, development of McMaster’s OSCAR/PHR electronic health record system will be housed at the Campus.