Establishing the footing of the McMaster Health Campus

At the construction site of the McMaster Health Campus in downtown Hamilton, the project is both on budget and on time. The concrete footings have been put in place and the superstructure is being built during the summer of 2013.

Plans have been made for the use of each floor, with the basement holding a parking garage for 70 vehicles. This will be reserved for the patients of the clinics.

The first floor will have a large public atrium lobby, with a staircase designed to also seat an audience. There will also be several areas for support services such as diagnostic imaging, a pharmacy and a coffee shop.

The second floor will be the health sciences learning centre, with 11 small teaching spaces designed for McMaster’s famous small group, problem-based learning; two mid-size meeting rooms and one large event space designed for many uses. There are also plans for a direct connection through the Irving Zucker Sculpture Garden to the Art Gallery of Hamilton.

The third floor will have the new large McMaster family practice with more than 40 exam rooms and clinical space for providing primary health care for 15,000 Hamiltonians. The practices will have teams of family doctors, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, occupational therapists and physiotherapists to provide integrated health care.

The fourth floor will be the home of the McMaster Maternity Centre, along with the research and offices of the Department of Family Medicine of McMaster’s Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine. This will also be the home for Continuing Health Sciences Education and the Program for Educational Research and Development.

The fifth and sixth floor will have the headquarters for the City of Hamilton’s Public Health Services and clinics, with a scholar’s lounge on the sixth floor. Intentionally, all the clinics will be shared by the Public Health Services and McMaster to ensure an environment that promotes collaboration.

Facts about project construction
• More than 50 workers a day on site
• About 15,000 cubic metres of soil excavated
• More than 6,500 cubic metres of concrete poured
• About 800 tons of rebar used so far

Facts about the project
• $84.6M project
• 195,000-square-foot LEED certified building
• Home to a large family health clinic for 15,000 patients
• Base for the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine’s Department of Family Medicine; the McMaster University School of Nursing’s nurse practitioner program; the McMaster Continuing Health Sciences Education Program and other research programs
• Headquarters for the City of Hamilton’s Public Health Services and public health clinics
• Location for the Maternity Centre of Hamilton and the Shelter Health Network
• 54,000 patient visits a year
• 4,000 McMaster students and 450 employees
Health campus joins Renew Hamilton project

McMaster University’s downtown Health Campus is a star attraction in an initiative designed to document, promote and accelerate the regeneration of downtown Hamilton and adjacent neighbourhoods.

The Renew Hamilton project is a community-based effort headed up by the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with the City of Hamilton and myriad public and private sector partners. Its goal is to advance Hamilton’s urban core as a magnet for talent, investment and development.

In addition to a speaker series and grassroots education program, the project features a variety of video case studies showcasing downtown renewal in action. Working together, these components are helping to tell the unfolding story of Hamilton’s remarkable transformation.

Leaders from the Faculty of Health Sciences, and other areas of the university, have teamed up with Renew Hamilton to track the construction of the Health Campus and document its outreach to downtown neighbours and partners. This involvement helps communicate McMaster’s on-the-ground commitment to downtown Hamilton and collaborative approach to healthcare design and delivery.

McMaster researcher granted $5.7M for pharmacy research

In May, a large study that will be headquartered at the McMaster Health Campus was granted $5.7 million in funding to study how to make the use of drugs more effective for patients and health-care professionals.

The funding, for the study led by McMaster University and the University of Waterloo, was provided by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care through the Health System Research Fund Program. It allows researchers across Ontario to study the effectiveness of provincial pharmacist-led medication programs. The team’s goal is to study the quality, outcomes and value of pharmacist services and improve medication use.

The grant will go towards the Ontario Pharmacy REsearch Collabortion (OPEN), a new interdisciplinary research program led by professor Lisa Dolovich of McMaster’s Department of Family Medicine and Nancy Waite of the University of Waterloo’s School of Pharmacy.

“By all measures, the McMaster Health Campus is a major catalyst for downtown renewal. Our job is to capture and share the campus’ growing economic and social impacts over time.”

Richard Allen, Director of Renew Hamilton

More information is available at renewhamilton.ca

Family medicine leads electronic medical record development

Development of OSCAR/MyOSCAR, an electronic medical record (EMR) system, is a major innovation that will be based at the new downtown health campus.

The program originated in McMaster’s Department of Family Medicine in 2001 and has evolved into a state-of-the-art web-based program to support both system and personal health records.

Currently, OSCAR is used by more than 2,000 physicians across Canada, ranging from family doctors to specialists and from community-based clinics to public health. More than three million patients in Canada have an OSCAR medical record.

In addition, more than 12,000 patients are enrolled in MyOSCAR, a personal health record that enables patients to control their own health care information.

OSCAR is also part of the development in Canada of the Connected Health and Wellness Project. Funded in 2012 with $15.5 million from the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario, along with $23.3 million from other major partners, it will create a new people-centred and technology-enabled system to offer tools to help people better manage their own health and wellness and to connect more easily with health professionals. The project is in conjunction with York University, NexJ Systems and other partners.

“This is transformative work,” said Dr. David Price, chair of the McMaster Department of Family Medicine of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine. “This project will speed our vision for a more connected health system that will improve health, save money and improve both the patient’s and health-care provider’s experience.”

McMASTER HEALTH CAMPUS TIMELINE

More information is available at renewhamilton.ca

AUGUST 1, 2012 – NOVEMBER 30, 2012

Excavation & shoring


Site preparation

DECEMBER 3, 2012

Foundation


Underground structure (parking)

MID-JULY, 2013

Mechanical & electrical work

SEPTEMBER, 2013

Superstructure work completed

NOVEMBER, 2014

Move-in

DECEMBER, 2014 – MARCH, 2015

Substantial completion

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