

Special Edition: Focus on Michael DeGroot's \$105 million gift

McMaster sets strategy for record-breaking funds



photo by: Ron Scheffler

Dr. John Kelton, dean and vice-president of the Faculty of Health Sciences, adjusts the first lab coat with a Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine insignia on Michael DeGroot, as McMaster University President Dr. Peter George applauds during a standing ovation.

The gift of Michael DeGroot and his family to McMaster and its medical school in December was a history-making occasion: At \$105 million, it was the largest donation ever given to a Canadian university. In fact, it was the largest cash gift given to any institution in Canadian history.

"Health and health care are clearly the most prominent concerns for Canadians," said DeGroot. "I am investing in new discoveries in health care and in the delivery of health care. The dividends of that investment will not only impact our community, but others around the world. I am confident of McMaster's ability to maximize the impact of this gift so that its net effect will have far-reaching benefits."

At the announcement, Dean and Vice-President of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Dr. John Kelton said a donation that large had a "wonderful impact, which promises to transform our school of medicine, our entire faculty, and, in fact, our entire University."

Since then, stakeholders at all levels of the McMaster health sciences community have start-

ed developing strategies for putting the \$105 million sum – which will be provided to the University over a five-year period – into action.

The Faculty is following a "people first" policy in allotting the funds, Kelton said. Emphasis will be placed on hiring international-calibre experts in health education, research and care, particularly in the areas of pain, infectious diseases, stroke prevention and cancer.

"McMaster has gained a reputation for self-directed learning, and people are the key to that process," says Kelton.

"The DeGroot gift will enable us to recruit the finest talent from around the world to help us enhance the outstanding teaching and research efforts we have in place here in Hamilton."

University President Peter George said the gift is already having an impact on the University as a whole, and has raised McMaster's profile within the international academic and medical community.

"I've received a number of messages of congratulations from several other university presidents," he said. "But along with the

momentum created by the gift comes the need to take a very proactive stance on allocating the funds. As we have said from the outset, we need to be creative and aggressive in the ways we move forward on our strategic priorities."

Within the Faculty of Health Sciences, a number of key initiatives are already well into the planning stages. One of them is the development of the Michael G. DeGroot Institute for Pain Research and Care. A symposium on pain is being organized to take place in Hamilton in the fall.

As well, Debbie Martin, department manager of obstetrics and gynecology, has been appointed project manager for the gift.

And the Michael G. DeGroot Centre for Learning and Discovery is expected to be substantially finished this spring, with researchers, educators and staff moving in over the rest of the year and classes starting in September.

Plans are underway for a multi-storey atrium, which will significantly enhance the aesthetic design of the centre. It will be added to the Centre's northwest corner.

Message from the Dean and Vice-President



**Dr. John Kelton,
Dean and
Vice-President**

Although the initial feelings of exhilaration inspired by the DeGroote family's gift to McMaster have settled down a little, it is not likely that they will ever disappear completely. The gift is truly a history-making one, and the opportunities it affords both the Faculty of Health Sciences and the University as a whole are unprecedented.

This is, without a doubt, a transformative gift for McMaster, one that has the ability to change the entire character of the University in the near future and in the long term. I know I am echoing the sentiments of McMaster President Dr. Peter George, and the entire University community, in thanking Michael DeGroote and his family for the vote of confidence they have placed in us.

We're pleased to give tribute to our benefactor by naming the medical school, and several facilities and endowed chairs he is specifically supporting, for him. This is not the first time the University has chosen to honour a significant contributor by combining his or her name with our educational mission. In fact, the University is named for its first donor, Senator William McMaster, who established our institution of higher learning in 1887 with a bequest.

Today, private funds are still needed to assist universities like ours if we want to make quantum leaps ahead with our important mission of education, research and service to the community. Government funding is not increasing and we are loath to increase tuitions more than necessary. The active recruitment of financial support from the private sector simply makes good practical sense.

In addition, it is worth pointing out that we have established a tradition of acknowledging those who have supported McMaster's Faculty of Health Sciences by their leading-edge work. The names of John Evans, Moran Campbell, Fraser Mustard, Mary Cohen, Jack Laidlaw, Jack Sinclair and, most recently, Richard Hunt – just to name a few examples – all accompany endowed chairs within the Faculty.

We have also established our Community of Distinction to honour members of the Faculty who

have brought acclaim to McMaster as outstanding researchers and innovative educators.

In short, I can answer all those who wonder if we are somehow “selling” our identity by these recent name changes by responding emphatically that, as one of the world's top educational institutions in the health sciences, our identity is already secure. But what I do want is to provide the best possible infrastructure, faculty and funding lines to allow our faculty, staff and students to reach the goals to which they aspire.

With that in mind, it is now time to begin repaying the confidence placed in us by Michael DeGroote and his family, by making the best possible use of the funds they have allotted to us.

By building on the momentum and enthusiasm created by the gift, we will be able to embark immediately on a number of initiatives that will ensure that this historic gift will enhance the three important mandates that have brought McMaster and the Faculty of Health Sciences renown around the world: to further innovation in education, to conduct research at the highest level, and to achieve excellence in health care.

Never in Canadian history has a university been presented with this kind of opportunity. At McMaster, we are lucky enough to be able to draw on a long tradition of excellence that will enable us to make the most of our good fortune.

This special edition of our Faculty's magazine is being issued to let our alumni and others connected to the Faculty know about the ways in which we will be moving forward in the allocation of these funds. Our next issue of Network, out within the next few months, will update everyone about the activities of alumni and the Faculty.

I would like to outline a few of the general principles that will guide us as we make decisions about how to make optimal use of the DeGroote gift. One of these is what we're calling the “people-first” concept. In other words, key decision-makers in the Faculty will be looking first to attract the top talent in the relevant fields.

The “people-first” plan will allow us to adopt a revolutionary strategy for recruiting the best and brightest talent. Traditionally, management of medical schools have identified needs within their programs, placed advertisements, and have then waited to see which applicants have answered the call.

Now, fuelled by the DeGroote family's gift, we will take a more aggressive, proactive approach. We will identify the world's most talented teachers, educators, researchers and clinicians, and recruit them to McMaster. And, because in the medical world success follows success, we are confident that the recruitment of the best scientists and educators to McMaster will, in turn, attract other outstanding people eager to work and learn alongside them. In this we will be working with our partners at our affiliated hospitals Hamilton Health Sciences, St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton and St. Peter's Hospital.

A good example of this approach is already underway. Dr. Akbar Panju, professor of medicine and the chief of medicine for Hamilton Health Sciences, has been named the interim director of the Michael G. DeGroote Institute for Pain Research and Care, an institute that will have a special focus on thalamic pain.

Dr. Panju has now begun his search for the world's most innovative medical professionals in the field of thalamic pain, and pain in general. Similar efforts will also be underway in cancer research, pediatric intensive care and infectious diseases, among other areas.

A good deal of work will be necessary to ensure we make the correct plans to put the funds to their best use. With that in mind, we have also begun to assign staff to the task of taking a “big picture” approach to managing the DeGroote family's gift, by coordinating our efforts both internally and with the rest of the university, while keeping everyone informed about the many related initiatives.

We have assigned Debbie Martin, currently the manager of the obstetrics and gynecology department, to the crucial position of project manager for the gift. Debbie brings a wealth of knowledge about all areas of the Faculty to this position, and her ability to organize large-scale projects will be invaluable as we move forward.

Certainly, the entire McMaster University community feels a tremendous amount of gratitude toward Michael DeGroote and his family. But, at this point in the history of the Faculty, feelings alone will not be enough. We are faced with an enormous responsibility in the face of this gift, and I am confident that we are up to the challenge that this responsibility brings.

Never in Canadian history has a university been presented with this kind of opportunity. At McMaster, we are lucky enough to be able to draw on a long tradition of excellence that will enable us to make the most of our good fortune.



photo by: Ron Scheffler

Michael DeGroot, right, confirms the agreement with Dr. John Kelton, dean and vice-president of the Faculty of Health Sciences, left, and McMaster President Dr. Peter George.

Gift will have wide impact on research, education and care

Michael DeGroot's \$105 million gift has not only made history as the largest such gift ever given to a Canadian university – it is also significant because of the continuing, wide-ranging impact it will have on medical education, research, and the construction of facilities at McMaster University.

The funds will be allocated to two areas: a \$64 million endowment fund, supporting education, health care and medical research in perpetuity, and a \$41 million capital fund directed to construction and outfitting of laboratory, library and hospital units.

The endowment fund will be allocated as follows:

- \$35 million will be directed to the establishment of three centres. Each centre will have an internationally recognized leader in an endowed professorial chair who will build an exceptional team of scientists and caregivers. The centres are:
 - The \$15 million Centre for Research, Education and Care in Pain with a special focus on thalamic pain.
 - The \$10 million Centre for Research, Education and Care in Cancer, with a particular focus on the molecular determinants of cancer.
 - The \$10 million Centre for Research, Education and Care in Infectious Diseases.
- \$25 million will create the Michael G.

DeGroot Faculty of Health Sciences Development fund. It will enable McMaster to attract the best health sciences researchers, physicians and teachers.

- \$4 million will be directed to two immediate priorities with the establishment of:
 - An endowed chair in stroke prevention and treatment.
 - The Medard DeGroot Chair in Medicine, an endowed chair named after DeGroot's father. The recommended chairholder is Dr. Akbar Panju.

The capital fund will be allocated as follows:

- \$26 million to the Michael G. DeGroot Centre for Learning & Discovery, under construction on campus adjacent to the McMaster Health Sciences Centre.
- \$5 million directed to the Michael G. DeGroot Institute for Pain Research and Care that will provide appropriate facilities for a team of researchers and clinicians to revolutionize the way pain is treated and managed.
- \$10 million dedicated to the Michael G. DeGroot Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.

"This opportunity is too great, too unique for us not to be bold in seizing it," said Dr. John Kelton, dean and vice-president of the Faculty of Health Sciences. "But we will also be prudent in ensuring its impact. We will make Mr. DeGroot proud of his commitment."

The life of the Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine

- *Founded in 1966, with hiring of its first dean, Dr. John Evans.*
- *Students follow a unique three-year program based on small group, problem-based study and early introduction to the clinical experience.*
- *The "McMaster Approach" has been adopted by medical schools around the world.*
- *First medical class begins at Chedoke Hospital in September 1969 with 20 students (18 men and 2 women). Nineteen graduate in 1972.*
- *Graduate programs in health sciences added in 1969.*
- *McMaster University Health Sciences Centre opened in 1972.*
- *Faculty of Health Sciences formed in 1974 with the School of Medicine and the School of Nursing, which had been established in 1946.*
- *Since 2000, enrolment has increased by 40 per cent to 140 first-year students annually.*
- *Now the second largest medical school in Ontario, third largest in Canada.*
- *More than 400 undergraduate MD students currently enrolled, along with 490 medical residents in 44 specialties and sub-specialties.*
- *Leads all Ontario medical schools with more than 4,000 applicants per year.*
- *James Orbinski, '89, became a founding member of Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF), and accepted the organization's Nobel Peace Prize in 1999.*
- *Maureen Hogan, '04, has been awarded a Rhodes Scholarship.*



Illustration by: McCallum-Sather Architects

An artist's depiction of the entrance to the Michael G. DeGroot Institute for Pain Research and Care.

Institute focuses on pain causes and treatment

Pain is central to many medical conditions and ailments. Its causes and potential treatments, however, are not thoroughly understood.

A world-class centre is being set up at McMaster, as the result of the DeGroot family gift, that will be devoted to exploring the causes of pain and strategies for overcoming it, as well as caring for patients.

The benefactor's gift allots a \$15 million endowment to establish the Michael G. DeGroot Institute for Pain Research and Care, and \$5 million to build the facility on the second floor of the new Michael G. DeGroot Centre for Learning and Discovery.

In particular, the new institute will focus on neuropathic pain, with a special emphasis on thalamic pain. This type of pain is centred in the thalamus of the brain and can cause sufferers to experience numerous forms of discomfort. DeGroot has himself suffered from a severe form of thalamic pain since experiencing a stroke three years ago.

Dr. Akbar Panju, professor of medicine for the Faculty of Health Sciences at McMaster and chief of medicine for Hamilton Health Sciences, has been named interim director of the institute. He has also been recommended to the McMaster University Senate for the new Medard DeGroot Chair in Medicine, an endowed chair named after DeGroot's father.

"Very little is known about the causes of thalamic pain, and very little is known about how to treat it," said Panju. "But those who suffer from it find it to be, in many cases, extremely severe and intractable. Not only is there a lack of research and treatment for thalamic pain, there is a lack of

awareness of this condition. We are planning to develop a place where top researchers and clinicians from around the world can come together to develop a better understanding of this kind of pain, and develop better ways of treating it."

The first objectives are to seek out international leaders in pain to establish the centre; to set up a website which will build awareness and act as a resource; and to set up an symposium on pain this fall.

"We are committed to recruiting experts in the field who have demonstrated excellence in both research and in clinical settings," said Dr. Panju. "It is very important that the people we recruit be strong in both these areas."

Dr. Panju is also adamant that the new institute must tie in seamlessly with the research already going on at McMaster in all areas of pain research, education and treatment.

"Pain is a very broad area of study, and one in which we as a medical community are just beginning to do some critical work," he said. "There are so many individual variations in terms of basic mechanisms for pain, different pathways in the body, different sites, different causes and different classes of drugs.

"Our goal is to augment the already excellent work done at McMaster and around the world in these areas, and to establish leadership.

"We really appreciate that Mr. DeGroot has given McMaster and Hamilton this exciting activity. Our ultimate goal is to help people who suffer pain."

Distinguished physician and educator will launch chair

Dr. Akbar Panju is the interim director of McMaster University's newly established Michael G. DeGroot Institute for Pain Research and Care and it is intended that he will be appointed to the newly created Medard DeGroot Chair in Medicine. Both positions were announced on Dec. 17, as part of the \$105 million gift by businessman Michael DeGroot to McMaster's medical school.

Dr. Panju is also a professor of medicine for the Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University and chief of medicine for Hamilton Health Sciences.

Trained as a physician in Britain, Dr. Panju came to Canada in 1975 and worked as a family



Dr. Akbar Panju

physician in the Ontario communities of Ignace, Thunder Bay and Cambridge before completing a residency in internal medicine with further training in cardiology and thrombosis at McMaster University in 1984.

Dr. Panju, 54, has been a faculty member at McMaster since 1986 and his abilities as an instructor have been reflected in teaching awards he has

received from students, medical residents and his academic peers.

He is known as a researcher in internal medicine, thromboembolism and cardiology and has produced 46 articles, as well as two book chapters. Earlier this year he was awarded the national Osler Award by the Canadian Society of Internal Medicine, as an individual who exemplified the best in medicine. Previously he was awarded the John C. Sibley award by McMaster's Faculty of Health Sciences for his outstanding contribution to health sciences education and research.

The Burlington resident is married, with two children.



photo by: Geoff Grenville

Construction of the 300,000-square-foot Michael G. DeGroot Centre for Learning and Discovery is expected to be finished this spring.

Centre puts spotlight on learning and discovery

The Michael G. DeGroot Centre for Learning and Discovery will be state-of-the-art both for innovative teaching and ground-breaking research.

The move into the \$71 million, 300,000-square-foot centre is expected to start by late spring, with its first classes scheduled for September this year. The building is north of the Health Sciences Centre, backed by Forsyth Avenue.

A significant portion of the University's gift from Michael DeGroot and his family, \$26 million, has been earmarked for the new building, which is the largest constructed on campus since the Health Sciences Centre was built more than 30 years ago.

The first floor will seat up to 1,800 students from across the University in six large classrooms and five lecture theatres, including the largest seating space on campus with 600 seats.

With room for that many students, Dr. John Kelton, dean and vice-president of the Faculty of Health Sciences, says that the new centre will have a tremendous and immediate impact. "This new space will greatly assist the Faculty's ability to deliver on our promise of innovative, problem-based learning in all areas of health sciences," Kelton says.

"Furthermore, it will give a major boost to our ongoing goal of attracting top medical researchers, educators and clinicians."

The second floor will be used for health care facilities and an additional \$10 million of the DeGroot family gift has been allocated for the capital costs of the new Michael G. DeGroot Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, which will be connected to patient units of Hamilton Health Sciences with an enclosed pedestrian bridge to Hamilton Health Sciences' McMaster site.

Currently, critically ill children and their families from the area must often be sent to other hospitals for care, and the new patient unit will provide for their needs in Hamilton.

As well, the second floor will hold the new Michael G. DeGroot Institute for Pain Research and Care, which has been allocated an additional \$5 million from the gift to provide appropriate facilities.

On the third floor will be the offices of the newly-named Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine and the Margaret & Charles Juravinski Education, Research and Development Centre, where research will include faculty investigating new ways of learning.

Also, the third floor will house the Faculty's Midwifery program, currently based at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton. In addition, it will contain three 5,000-foot research areas with offices, classrooms and workstations, as well as the advanced videoconferencing technology that will allow students at off-site clinical placements to participate with other students at McMaster.

There are a number of key tenants slated to begin operations in the new DeGroot Centre. One of these, the Faculty's Program for Education Research and Development (PERD), is an initiative designed to enhance the way health care professionals learn and develop their skills.

Faculty of Health Sciences administrators are enthusiastic about how the DeGroot family gifts will allow McMaster to continue its world-class mission of education, research and care.

"Within the educational sphere, this gift will allow us to renew and expand our physical space, to include state-of-the-art facilities and the consolidation of undergraduate and postgraduate medicine," said Susan Denburg, associate dean, academic for the Faculty. "It will make it possible

to attract top notch career educators and continue the legacy of curriculum innovation that has brought us world renown."

On the fourth and fifth floors will be McMaster's Institute for Molecular Medicine and Health, which recently made innovative steps in the development of the SARS vaccine. There will also be space to pursue new developments in biotechnology.

John Capone, the Faculty's associate dean, research, says the increased laboratory space will bring many benefits to both the University and the Hamilton area. "This much needed new space will enable us to grow our capacity in leading-edge research in infectious diseases, cancer, and the development of new gene-based therapeutics," said Capone. "As well, an associated centre will provide support for the commercialization of research findings by McMaster University scientists, and help translate this into economic growth for this region."

Enhancements for the building feature two innovative design elements: a large atrium that will provide an attractive gathering space for patients, families and staff, and a large "double helix" structure up the west wall by the entrance, that will be visible on the glass wall.

Although stakeholders from all areas of McMaster's health sciences community have emphasized that the prime focus of the gift will be to attract top medical talent to the University, expenditures on laboratory, medical and classroom equipment are also crucial.

Bookings for the Centre's third-floor classrooms and tutorial rooms will be arranged by educational services at the Faculty, with classrooms and lecture rooms on the first floor being booked by the office of the registrar at the University.

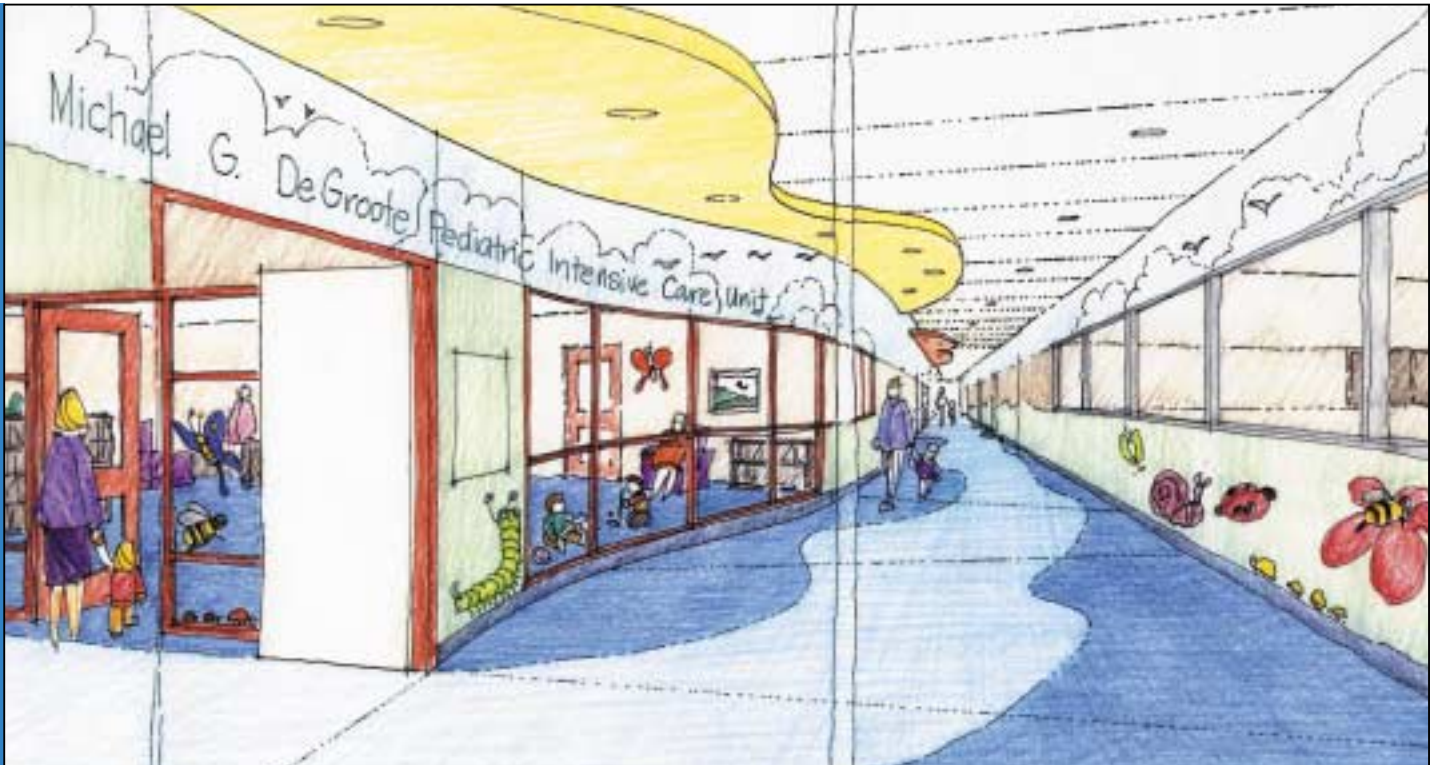


Illustration by McCallum-Sather Architects

An artist's depiction of the entrance to the Michael G. DeGroot Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.

Pediatric ICU to reap multiple benefits from gift

McMaster Children's Hospital is the second largest pediatric hospital in Ontario, but it currently turns away three of 10 children brought in for care. It has only five beds for critically ill children.

Now, \$10 million of the DeGroot family gift has been earmarked to set up the new Michael G. DeGroot Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

Located on the second floor of the new Michael G. DeGroot Centre for Learning and Discovery, it will be linked by a pedestrian skyway to other patient units of the McMaster Children's Hospital in the McMaster Health Sciences Centre.

The new unit will provide better care for children and their families and improved pediatric medical education for students of the Faculty of Health Sciences, says Dr. Peter Steer. He is chair of the Department of Pediatrics in the Faculty of Health Sciences, president of McMaster Children's Hospital, and chief of pediatrics for Hamilton Health Sciences and St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton.

"The gift is most extraordinary, just breathtaking," said Steer. "The sheer size of the gift is quite humbling, really. But with all this excitement comes an awesome responsibility to do good work with what we've been given."



Dr. Peter Steer
Chair, Department
of Pediatrics

The funds will set up a fully-equipped 14 bed pediatric ICU, outfitting the facility with the ventilation, monitoring, invasive and investigative equipment needed, he said, "to get the facility up to speed as efficiently as possible." Government funds will also be sought to assist in operating the new ICU.

The benefits of the new unit will be immediate for both pediatric patients and the medical professionals who work with them, Steer said. As well, it will also boost another important area of McMaster's medical mission: the teaching of

pediatric medicine.

"As a significant teaching area in our program, pediatric medicine will really get a boost from the new facilities," said Steer.

"Not only will current students benefit from the enhanced equipment and opportunities for care on a much larger scale, but it will allow us to make our recruitment of post-graduate students that much more attractive."

Dr. John Kelton, dean and vice-president of the Faculty of Health Sciences, agrees.

"Having facilities that are state-of-the-art means our students are well-versed in the leading edge of developments in the field," said Kelton. "More exposure to critical pediatric patient care will sharpen their skills."

Finally, said Steer, the pediatric ICU will benefit in one more major way from the funds – one which emphasizes a unique aspect of pediatric care. "Providing support for patients' families is a high priority in any type of intensive-care environment," he said.

"But in pediatric ICUs, this is even more significant. Right now, we have virtually no facilities for families of patients who may need long-term care. Within the design of the new unit, though, space is being allotted so the needs of parents and families of patients can be taken care of in a much more appropriate way."

McMaster Children's Hospital plays a central role in the community, providing services for children and their families throughout Hamilton and surrounding area. In the past year, more than 150,000 children and their families received care there.

Currently, there are more than 40 pediatric clinics within the hospital that help young patients with asthma, cancer, developmental disorders and other illness. It offers outpatient programs and services including those in the nutrition, metabolism, exercise, developmental pediatrics and rehabilitation.

The hospital is also home to one of the country's newest and busiest neonatal intensive care units.

Michael DeGroot believes in hard work and being decisive



photo by: Ron Scheffler

Michael DeGroot, McMaster benefactor

Philanthropist Michael DeGroot is a self-made man whose extraordinary achievements in the world of business were predicated on a few distinct principles.

He believes in hard work, doing the most with the least, being determined and consistent, being accountable, and above all, being decisive.

DeGroot, 70, was born in Belgium and immigrated to Canada with his parents when he was 14 years old.

Due to family financial pressures, he left school in Grade 9 to work in the tobacco fields in Langton near Tillsonburg, Ontario to help his family. At age 18, he bought an old army truck and began hauling manure from dairy farms to the tobacco fields. From that first foray into the world of business, he built a small trucking firm.

In 1959, DeGroot moved to the Hamilton area. He purchased Laidlaw Transport Ltd., building it into the company that would become the largest school bus operator and third largest waste management company in

North America.

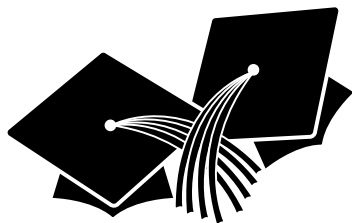
During the 1970s, DeGroot owned the Hamilton Tiger-Cats of the Canadian Football League.

In 1988, DeGroot sold Laidlaw Inc. to Canadian Pacific. In 1990, he retired to Bermuda where he still resides. His retirement did not last long, however, as he entered into several successful business ventures including U.S. companies such as Republic Industries, AutoNation Inc., Century Business Services, Capital Environmental Resource Inc.

This is not the first time DeGroot and his family have made major contributions to McMaster. Previous gifts have included significant donations to the business school, the student centre and the Museum of Art. He has also contributed to programs in literary criticism and epilepsy research.

In 1990, DeGroot was made an Officer of the Order of Canada, and in 1992 he was awarded an honorary degree from McMaster.

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Bachelor of Health Sciences Hon. Bursary Fund
Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine Bursary Fund

Please indicate in the memo section of your cheque the desired bursary



Gift's impact is felt across campus and city

Sonia Anand, MD
Medicine '92
Associate Professor, Medicine
Faculty of Health Sciences

"The donation to McMaster Medical School is spectacular. The funds have been earmarked to improve research programs at the University and clinical services within Hamilton Health Sciences. I am thrilled by the announcement, and look forward to seeing all of the great things that come from it!"

The Hon. Tony Valeri
Minister of Transport
MP, Stoney Creek

"Mr. DeGroot's exceptional gift will have a significant impact for many years to come. It's also an overwhelming expression of confidence in the future for McMaster and the Hamilton community at large."

Cynthia Forrest, RN
Nursing '94
President, Nursing Alumni

"Mr. DeGroot's endowment to McMaster, to further facilitate the university as a world-wide centre of excellence in health care, will undoubtedly create an indelible impact on the quality of health care overall and the health of the local community in Hamilton."

Sarah McMullen
Medicine '05
Editor, McMaster University Medical Journal

"McMaster has long been touted as the most innovative medical school in Canada, and hopefully this gift will provide the resources and motivation necessary to keep us at the forefront of innovation and discovery."

Larry Di Ianni
Mayor, City of Hamilton

"The gift helps emphasize the important role that McMaster plays within our city. Thanks to the work of the McMaster Health Sciences program, Hamilton has an internationally renowned reputation in health care research and education. Mr. DeGroot's generosity will greatly enhance the good work at McMaster and will continue to enrich our community."

Marie Bountrogianni, PhD
MPP for Hamilton Mountain

"Mr. DeGroot's gift will not only benefit McMaster students and faculty, but will have a far-reaching impact beyond the campus, helping the University to continue to produce highly educated and highly trained graduates, eager to make their mark on the world."

John Evans, MD
Founder, McMaster Medical School
Chairman of the Board, Torstar Corporation

"This unprecedented gift will allow the Faculty and the University to continue the outstanding track record of innovation that has always characterized health sciences education at McMaster. We could not have dreamed about support at this level when the Medical School was founded. It recognizes the creative contribution and commitment of excellence which have continued over more than three decades to enhance the School's reputation worldwide."

John Capone, PhD
Associate Dean, Research
Faculty of Health Sciences

"Strategic investments into leading-edge cancer, infectious diseases and pain research, made possible through the DeGroot donation, provides an outstanding opportunity to recruit the best and the brightest scientists to McMaster, and to establish international centres of excellence in these fields."

Susan Denburg, PhD
Associate Dean, Academic
Faculty of Health Sciences

"The opportunities the gift will afford should boost the morale and motivation of members of the Faculty and the broader McMaster community, taking our programs to new levels of excellence. It will create new opportunities for the Faculty within a highly competitive external environment, as the associated resources are leveraged strategically."

Mary Law, PhD
Associate Dean, School of Rehabilitation
Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences

"Because of the Faculty of Health Science's interdisciplinary focus, the DeGroot gift will be of tremendous benefit for all members of the Faculty of Health Sciences. Supporting education, capital building and the generation of new knowledge for people with chronic pain, stroke or cancer will make an important difference for the Faculty, University and our community for years to come."

Catherine Tompkins, PhD
Acting Associate Dean, School of Nursing
Faculty of Health Sciences

"This gift will have a far-reaching effect on all aspects of health sciences education at McMaster, and nursing is no exception. Students will now be able to benefit from a wide range of educational opportunities, enhanced resources and increased practical applications that were not possible before."

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[network]

Network is published semi-annually by the Faculty of Health Sciences Advancement Office in co-operation with the Faculty of Health Sciences Alumni Branches. Photographs, news items and letters are welcome.

Address corrections requested.

Network
PUBLISHING OFFICE
1200 Main Street West, HSc-2E4
Hamilton, Ontario Canada L8N 3Z5

CANADIAN PUBLICATIONS MAIL PRODUCT SALES
AGREEMENT NO. 40063416
*GOODS AND SERVICES TAX REGISTRATION
NUMBER R119035988.

McMaster
University
HEALTH SCIENCES

