DeGroote medical school to open satellite campuses

The Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine is launching satellite campuses in the Waterloo and Niagara regions as part of a provincial government plan to address the chronic doctor shortage in Ontario.

The satellite campuses, to be based in Kitchener and St. Catharines, will each accommodate 15 first-year medical students. Besides attending school there, the students’ clinical education will be in the hospitals and health care facilities of their campus area.

In addition, McMaster will have eight more medical school places at the Hamilton campus. These students began in September 2006.

The provincial government, which announced the expansion in February, will provide a total of $7.5 million in funding for the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine expansion.

“This announcement is a further step in addressing wait times in the health care system,” said Jennifer Mossop, the MPP for Stoney Creek who made the announcement at McMaster. “The public has made it clear that they want the government to make these investments in order to speed access.”

For 25 years, the medical school accepted 100 students a year into the three-year program. Since 2000, enrolment has climbed to 138 first-year students. The expansion will increase enrolment of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine to 176 first-year students by 2008-09.

Students are expected to begin at the Waterloo campus in September 2007, and the Niagara campus in September 2008. No final decisions have been made on location of the campuses, however it is expected the Waterloo site may be located at the new health sciences campus being built by the University of Waterloo in downtown Kitchener. The Niagara campus may be connected to a Niagara Health System hospital in St. Catharines.

Upgrades are planned on the Hamilton campus to provide the hub of enhanced information technology infrastructure that will be required for the full operation of the satellite campuses. This will mean that all the medical students will have computer access to the digital library, the curriculum, video archives and e-learning modules. They will also be able to participate in web and video conferences across the three sites.

“Behind this expansion is the spirit of innovation that’s always been a driving force of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine; the use of new learning technologies, and the welcome of these communities,” said John Kelton, dean of the school and dean and vice-president of the Faculty of Health Sciences. “These new campuses will offer students a premium experience. We will train students from the Kitchener-Waterloo and the Niagara areas to become the physicians of tomorrow’s health care teams for these communities.”

The selection process for candidates for the medical school will remain the same, but selected candidates who come from the Waterloo and Niagara campuses... continued on page 4
Message from the Dean and Vice-President

Dr. John Kelton
Dean and Vice-President

I nnovation has been the hallmark of McMaster’s Faculty of Health Sciences since our beginning, contributing to our renown in the national and international medical communities.

That tradition not only continues, but is being expanded and enhanced as we move forward with a range of new initiatives that will result in an even broader mandate for training the professionals who will be the providers and leaders of our health care system of the future.

The Faculty of Health Sciences has doubled its enrolment since 2000, to more than 3,600 students. We are in the midst of planning and implementing several new educational endeavours that will again increase the number of health care professionals we train, and, more importantly, will enable us to provide them with the broad scope of skills necessary in the ever-changing field of health.

From the new PhD program in the School of Rehabilitation Science and the renewed program for fast tracking students with prior post-secondary education through the School of Nursing, to the announcement of satellite campuses for the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine, the changes and improvements now underway cross all sectors in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

In this publication you will find the details on several of our most recent undertakings, starting with our cover story on the expansion of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine.

As we take on an additional 38 medical students (the largest share of the province’s increase of 104 student places), and establish satellite campuses in the regions of Waterloo and Niagara, McMaster will continue to be a leader in the efforts to solve the chronic shortage of doctors that plagues Ontario.

Not only will the new campuses allow us to train more doctors, bringing the total number of first-year students to 176 by 2008-2009, but we will be training them right in some of the communities where they are most needed. This will help address the doctor shortage in two ways: the communities will benefit by having doctors-in-training providing some of the much-needed health care services, and studies have shown that new doctors are more likely to stay and set up practice in the areas where they have trained.

As we work through the details in preparation for the opening of the first satellite campus in 2007, the planners will be greatly assisted by the experiences of Mac-CARE, a program launched in 2005. A feature article in this publication explains how more of our existing MD students have been spreading out more deeply into communities surrounding Hamilton for portions of their clinical training.

Our School of Nursing is also making great strides to ensure the clinical portion of the education provided to its students is of the highest possible calibre. In addition to the redesigned preceptorship program, the school is spearheading a project that will eventually provide interdisciplinary training for students from throughout the Faculty using robotic, simulated patients. More information on both of these undertakings is outlined here.

In the School of Rehabilitation Science, final preparations have been made for the launch this September of a PhD program that will train rehabilitation scientists to advance research and transfer new knowledge into practice and policy. This program will add to the prestige already accorded the school for its ability to graduate highly-skilled physiotherapists and occupational therapists.

The Faculty is also involved in several other projects to offer programs at the highest echelons of education.

We partnered last year with the Faculty of Engineering to establish the McMaster School of Biomedical Engineering to offer Master’s and PhD programs. The school is under the leadership of University Professor John Brash, who joined McMaster in 1972 in both the departments of Chemical Engineering and Pathology and Molecular Medicine. Associate director of the new school is an alumnus of our medical school, Dr. Anthony Adili, an assistant professor in the Department of Surgery. The professionals who train in this new school will develop expertise in the combined fields of engineering and physical science, and health science and medicine.

In the future, we will be further developing educational programs that combine the knowledge and skills from engineering and medicine. The $50-million centre of medicine, engineering and science that is slated to open by the end of 2008 will allow us to eventually offer a joint MD and engineering program focused on developing new medical technologies.

Along with all of these advances in the education component of our mandate comes the need for substantial physical changes and construction. On that front, the largest current undertaking is the $7.4-million renovation of the Health Sciences Library. This year-long project, started last fall, will create a state-of-the-art facility that will serve as a focal point for the University as well as the Hamilton health care community.

The learning resources available through the library, combined with the latest in technology, will ensure the Faculty’s undergraduate and postgraduate students continue to have ready access to the materials that are crucial to attaining their preferred degrees and accreditations.

Also contributing to the top-level academic experiences available at McMaster is the University’s continued focus on health research. Our students have the benefit of working alongside and learning from an array of clinicians and scientists who share their expertise in the classroom, clinical settings and research facilities that are second to none.

One way in which we are able to attract the best and brightest clinicians and scientists is through our commitment to endowed chairs. As of this spring, the Faculty now has a total of 52 privately-funded endowed chairs. These positions allow the holders to focus their research in specific areas of expertise, with the ultimate goal of improving patient care.

The latest chair announcement was made just a couple of weeks ago, when Dr. John Turnbull, a professor of medicine, was named to the new Andrew Bruce Douglas Chair in Neurology. The chair is funded by a Stoney Creek company, Bartek Ingredients Inc., founded by Douglas. He died in 2004 of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease or ALS.

Details on the eight other endowed chairs announced since the beginning of 2005 can be found inside this publication.

I am confident that you, the alumni, will be impressed by our recent accomplishments, and feel a great deal of pride that your alma mater continually expands and improves its ability to impact health care in Hamilton and around the world.

Our students have the benefit of working alongside and learning from an array of clinicians and scientists who share their expertise in the classroom, clinical settings and research facilities that are second to none.

Dr. John Kelton
A $7.4 million renovation is under way to transform the Health Sciences Library into a showcase facility incorporating all of the elements of a state-of-the-art library of the 21st century.

The year-long construction began in October. The library, located in the northwest section of the McMaster Health Sciences Centre, has not been renovated in a major way since it opened 35 years ago.

Dorothy Fitzgerald, library director, said the project will dramatically enhance the look of the library and upgrade its facilities. The renovation plans focus on creating more “people space”, with more group learning and quiet study areas. The design is client-centred, in keeping with McMaster’s commitment to lifelong, student-centred learning and scholarly excellence.

Highlights of the renovated library will include a two-storey Reading Pavilion providing a view of the campus, an elegant History of Health and Medicine Room with a fireplace, and a Learning Commons incorporating the latest in technology. The entire library will have wireless access to the Internet, in addition to many wired computer workstations and outlets for laptops. Seating is being increased by 100 to 766 and there will be 15 group study rooms as well as an Open Reserve Room where students can browse the very popular collection of short-term loan materials.

Artwork, elegant design elements, enhanced lighting and a café at the dramatic new entrance will all contribute to a welcoming ambiance, and make the library a focal point for the Faculty of Health Sciences, the University and the local health care community.

The library is maintaining its regular hours of opening throughout construction and, although seating is limited, all resources continue to be available.

The library’s extensive electronic collection of books and journals makes a renovation project of this magnitude manageable from a library user’s perspective.

Fitzgerald explained that the plans for a renovation began more than four years ago with discussions to develop an Open Reserve Room. From there, the project grew incrementally.

Funding for the project is being provided by the University, the Faculty of Health Sciences and donors. There is already significant donor interest in the naming opportunities provided by the renovation, including the various rooms and major sections of the library, and the library itself. The architect of the project is Hamilton’s McCallum Sather Architects Inc., and the contractor is Dineen Construction Corporation of Toronto.

When the work is complete, there will be a gala to celebrate the official opening. “We hope that many of the alumni will take the opportunity to come back to see the wonderful transformation of their library,” said Fitzgerald. “They will be very pleased with the results.”

To learn more about the renovation project and see the photo gallery, go to the library’s homepage http://hsl.mcmaster.ca.
A n internationally recognized scientist in stem cell research and McMaster alumnus is leading a new institute focused on cancer and stem cell biology being set up at McMaster University. Mick Bhatia, B. Sc. ’92, as scientific director of the institute, is overseeing the set up of a facility that is unique in Canada.

He has earned an international reputation for his work understanding the regulatory mechanisms in human stem cells, and was sought by prestigious American universities before deciding to accept the position at McMaster.

Bhatia, who earned his PhD from the University of Guelph, is a professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences. He is also the founding holder of the endowed Chair in Stem Cell and Cancer Biology, and will be nominated for a senior Canada Research Chair.

Bhatia, 36, who officially joined McMaster on Jan. 1, is impressed with the University and particularly its approach to research. He said the dedicated infrastructure being set up to support research in cancer and stem cell biology was a key factor in his decision to turn down much more lucrative offers from universities in the U.S.

“Having a dedicated institute for human stem cell research is unique,” he said. “There’s a very collegial atmosphere here, and excellent support from other departments and divisions, throughout the campus and city.”

He also cited the innovative approach to teaching at McMaster, its intensive focus on research and its ability to bring that research to reality in the form of better treatments and therapies for patients, as reasons for his admiration of the University.

The new institute, being funded by a portion of the $105 million donated to the University by philanthropist Michael G. DeGroote, is being set up in 13,000 square feet of the fifth floor of the Michael G. DeGroote Centre for Learning and Discovery. The first of the labs should be operating this spring.

The new facilities include areas that have strict specifications for stem cell research, such as sterile environments similar to a hospital operating room.

The institute will initially be staffed by about 20 researchers and administrative staff, most of whom have been working with Bhatia at the University of Western Ontario in London, where he was director of the Krembil Centre for Stem Cell Biology at the Robarts Research Institute for the past seven years.

Bhatia’s team is also involved in an international search to recruit three top investigators whose work is focused on stem cell biology. It is hoped those three, plus others will all be working at the institute by the end of 2006, with the eventual goal for the institute of having 65 full-time staff.

Mac alumnus leads new stem cell institute

N nominations are being sought for new members of the Faculty of Health Sciences’ Community of Distinction. The successful nominees will have either made a distinguished contribution in scholarship, or a conspicuous contribution in the science or delivery of health care, or demonstrated outstanding leadership that is recognized by his/her peers.

The Community of Distinction members are shown in pictures - along with brief descriptions of their outstanding accomplishments - in the west hall of the second floor of McMaster’s Health Sciences Centre. There are now 18 members.

The nominator must indicate whether the nomination is for an individual or a team, and must attach a supporting narrative of not more than 750 words. Each nomination must be supported by letters of no more than 150 words from two to four references.

The deadline for nominations this year is June 1. The criteria is available on the Faculty’s website at http://fhb.mcmaster.ca/distinction1.htm.

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McMaster has several advantages in helping to cure the doctor shortage in Ontario. The University is known for its unique, third-year undergraduate medical program, and its propensity to graduate, proportionately, a higher percentage of family physicians. Last year, 39 percent of McMaster medical graduates went into family medicine residency training, compared to 28 per cent of all Canadian medical school graduates.

McMaster received the 2005 Keith Award from the Society of Rural Physicians in Canada as being the most effective school in Canada for producing family doctors who practise in rural areas.

It also has the most popular medical program in the country, receiving 4,600 applicants this year, and is renowned for its successful community-based medical education programs.

The satellite campuses provide a particular advantage to solving the doctor shortage, as studies have shown that medical students are more likely to stay and practise in the communities where they learned.

McMaster is also recruiting physicians in the Niagara and Waterloo regions to become part of the clinical teaching staff for the satellite campuses. This effort is well under way already, as part of the new Mac-CARE program launched last year (see related story on Page 5).

Although enrolment was increased at all five Ontario medical schools, McMaster received the highest proportion – 38 of 104 new places.

The government also announced the creation of two other satellite campuses in the province: one in Windsor operated by the University of Western Ontario (UWO) in London, and one in Mississauga, operated by the University of Toronto.

The province-wide expansion of medical school places includes a total of 26 at U of T, 20 at the University of Ottawa, 14 at UWO, and six at Queen’s University in Kingston.

Nominations sought for Community of Distinction

Medical school to expand . . . continued from page 1

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Individuals chosen for induction will be notified by the dean and invited to attend a reception in their honour, to be held Nov. 10, 2006.

All nominations for the 2006 Community of Distinction should be sent, via e-mail, to Ruth Mullin at mullinr@mcmaster.ca

“The Faculty has gained its strong reputation because of the outstanding work of many people on our team as faculty, staff or students. We would like to recognize their work,” said John Kelton, dean and vice-president of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

The Community of Distinction was launched in 2003 and previous winners include: Dr. James Anderson, Dr. Howard Barrows, Dr. John Basmajian, Dr. Moran Campbell, Dr. May Cohen, Dr. Jerry Dolovich, Dr. Murray Enkin, Dr. John Evans, Dr. Susan French, Dr. Barber Mueller, Dr. J. Fraser Mustard, Dr. Dan Offord, Dr. Alma Reid, Beatrix Robinow, Dr. David Sackett, Dr. Bill Spaulding, Dr. Harry Thode, and Dr. William Walsh.
A new program in the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine aims to build on McMaster’s strong tradition of innovation and partnership while benefiting medical students, practising physicians and the residents of Ontario.

Last year the McMaster Community and Rural Education program (Mac-CARE) was launched to provide clinical clerks and residents with the opportunity to experience working in a wider range of community and hospital settings by spending their core training rotations outside of Hamilton-based academic hospitals.

The program also gives doctors in cities and towns outside of major, urban areas the opportunity to teach medical students, and will ultimately help address the chronic doctor shortage in Ontario.

Dr. Karl Stobbe, director of Mac-CARE, explained that the initiative represents a significant change in direction for the school of medicine, by expanding beyond Hamilton and placing a greater emphasis on community training. The experiences of Mac-CARE will also be beneficial to McMaster as it prepares to set up two satellite campuses for the medical school.

Mac-CARE targets three geographic areas: Niagara, Brantford and Waterloo regions. Designated as Clinical Education Campuses (CEC), these areas offer a diverse learning environment, with a total of 22 hospitals and 2,800 beds, ranging from small, rural facilities to high-tech, full-service hospitals.

Funded by the provincial government, Mac-CARE is providing the impetus and organizational structure to place more medical students in these under serviced areas to complete various portions of their training requirements, and thereby provide much-needed medical services in those areas.

This initiative is particularly important in addressing the doctor shortage in the province, as studies show that medical students often stay and practise where they learn, and that doctors practising in small cities or rural communities will stay there longer if they are able to teach.

Recruiting more physicians in the CECs to become clinical teachers is a crucial aspect to the success of Mac-CARE, said Stobbe. While these doctors have had teaching opportunities in the past through the Rural Ontario Medical Program (ROMP), Mac-CARE will substantially increase the number of students wanting to train in the targeted areas, creating the demand for more teaching physicians.

Dr. Brian Kerley, a McMaster alumnus and a family physician in St. Catharines, has been providing clinical instruction to students, practising physicians and the residents of the targeted towns and cities. Those numbers are expected to increase each year as the program continues to expand.

Physicians who agree to join McMaster’s clinical teaching contingent will provide instruction at their offices or in hospitals, and the University will be responsible for the academic instruction. The teaching physicians earn a small stipend, and are offered continuing education through the University, access to online resources, and professional development opportunities.

Another important aspect of Mac-CARE is increased communication between communities and the medical school about doctor-training, said Stobbe. Facilitators of Mac-CARE will be gathering input from the hospitals, physicians and lay people in the CECs to better understand and meet the communities’ needs.

“We think the communities and McMaster should work together in partnership,” said Stobbe. “We believe this is the best way to design health care education for the future.”
Faculty members named to senior positions

Susan Denburg has been appointed associate vice-president, academic and associate dean, education of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Denburg, a professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences, was associate dean, academic, for the previous five years.

Her new role is a dual mandate, which includes responsibility for guiding the educational mission of the Faculty and for assisting the dean in the conduct of the academic and operational functions of the Faculty, including government funding of new or expanded educational programs and faculty recruitment and promotion.

She is leading the University’s strategic initiative, Collaborations for Health, to identify and enhance innovative interdisciplinary health-related research and education across the University, and served as co-chair of the Undergraduate Working Group of Refining Directions.

A registered clinical psychologist, she has been a faculty member since 1978, and served as education co-ordinator and vice-chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences.

Denburg earned her BA from McGill University, an MA from Cornell University and a PhD from the University of Toronto. She joined McMaster in 1973, serving as chair in the BScN Program, and as a member of the Curriculum Committee, Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing Certificate Program, a member of the Steering Committee, Graduate Nursing Program and co-ordinator for the Post-RN Stream.

Mary Law has been reappointed associate dean of the School of Rehabilitation Science for a second five-year term.

Law, who has been associate dean since September 2000, is a professor in the School of Rehabilitation Science, as well as an associate member of the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics. She holds the John and Margaret Lillie Chair in Childhood Disability Research and is also co-director of the CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research, a partnership between researchers at McMaster University and 21 children’s rehabilitation centres in Ontario.

She earned a B.Sc. in Occupational Therapy from Queen’s University, a M.Sc. from McMaster, and became one of the first clinician researchers in occupational therapy at McMaster.

Janet Landeen, an associate professor in the School of Nursing, has been named assistant dean for Undergraduate Nursing Education programs. She has served as the acting assistant dean since 2004. Landeen joined the School of Nursing at McMaster as an assistant professor in 1990 while working as director of education for the Hamilton Program for Schizophrenia. She is now an associate member of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences, an associate investigator with the System Linked Research Unit and a co-investigator for the Nursing Effectiveness Utilization and Outcomes Research Unit.

She has been active in nursing education for many years, including serving as co-chair of the Steering Committee, Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing Certificate Program, a member of the Curriculum Committee, Graduate Nursing Program and co-ordinator for the Post-RN Stream.

Landeen graduated with a BScN from the University of Connecticut, a Masters in Education from the University of British Columbia, and a PhD from the University of Toronto. She has also represented the Faculty in McMaster leadership groups.

A new senior administrative position has been added to the School of Nursing, in keeping with the increased focus on research.

Wendy Sword has been appointed to the new position of assistant dean, research for the School of Nursing.

An associate professor who joined McMaster in 1986, Sword has held various administrative leadership roles over the years, including chair of Level II in the BScN Program, and as a member of the University’s Graduate Council and Graduate Council Executive.

Dr. Fiona Smaill has been named chair of the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine, after serving as acting chair for a year.

Trained as a doctor in New Zealand, Smaill came to McMaster University in 1984 and completed residencies in internal medicine, infectious diseases and medical microbiology. She joined the Faculty in 1989 and is now a professor in pathology and molecular medicine with an associate appointment in the Department of Medicine.

She is director of microbiology for the Hamilton Regional Laboratory Medicine Program and consultant in infectious diseases and infection control for Hamilton Health Sciences and St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton.

She is an associate editor for BMJ Evidence-Based Journals and chair of the Canadian HIV Clinical Trials Network Scientific Review Committee.

Dr. Pat Mohide has been reappointed Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

A full-time faculty member since 1975, Mohide received his MD from the University of Toronto before completing an internship at the Hamilton Civic Hospitals (1970), and both a residency in obstetrics and gynecology and a perinatal fellowship at McMaster. He obtained a M.Sc. in Design, Measurement and Evaluation (Clinical Epidemiology) from McMaster in 1988.

He is a member of the clinical and academic departments of radiology at McMaster, and on active staff at Hamilton Health Sciences.

Mohide’s educational contributions include teaching in the undergraduate medical education program, and the graduate and postgraduate medical programs.

An active researcher, Sword is currently an investigator on five research grants, three as principal investigator. She has held many research grants, including operating grants from the Canadian Health Sciences Research Foundation and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). She is also an associate faculty investigator with McMaster’s System Linked Research Unit, and an affiliate researcher with the Nursing Education Research Unit.

Sword earned both her BScN and M.Sc. degrees from McMaster, and a PhD in Family Studies from the University of Guelph.
Hundreds gathered last fall to celebrate the official opening of the $71-million Michael G. DeGroote Centre for Learning and Discovery (MDCL) at McMaster University. Current and former faculty and students, dignitaries, McMaster supporters and members of the community gathered to hear how the five-storey, 300,000-square-foot building is impacting the University as well as the community and beyond.

The opening featured a tribute video on Mr. DeGroote, who donated $20 million towards the facility, and the unveiling of a bust of the philanthropist. Mr. DeGroote also donated an additional $6 million for the striking three-storey atrium at the entrance to the building that houses a winter garden and serves as a place for quiet reflection for students and staff.

The MDCL houses classrooms, lecture halls, administrative offices and a range of laboratories where more than 250 scientists will eventually be working. The complex is unique in bringing together several specialized teams to work collaboratively to speed the discovery of new medicines.
McMaster’s School of Nursing is spearheading a project that will see students throughout the Faculty of Health Sciences using robotic, simulated patients to practise clinical skills before they reach human patients.

A practical skills training centre housing a range of human-like robots will be built on the first floor of the McMaster Health Sciences Centre (HSC) to allow students from various programs to experience working in a virtual hospital setting that looks and functions as close as possible to the real thing.

With $600,000 in provincial government funding, the School of Nursing is purchasing about a dozen of the robo-patients, including adults, children, a baby and even a female giving birth. These anatomically-correct, computerized mannequins mimic a variety of bodily functions such as breathing, heart rate, swelling and other changes in human conditions that might be experienced by actual patients.

The new centre will also feature simulated body parts, including arms, a torso and a pelvis, on which students can practise specific skills such as starting an intravenous line and performing a pelvic exam. All of the simulated patients and body parts can be programmed or controlled by remote to respond in various ways — both good and bad — to the actions of the students.

“This will help the students spend more time on hands-on skills and develop more confidence to take with them into the clinical setting,” said Janet Landeen, assistant dean for undergraduate nursing education programs in the School of Nursing. “This is not replacing any of their actual clinical training.”

The centre will be used by nursing students to practise assessment and treatment, and apply their critical, problem-solving skills using the robots that can speak and simulate different medical conditions.

Students from the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine, the School of Rehabilitation Science and the midwifery program will also have access to the equipment. Eventually the centre will offer interprofessional training, with students from all disciplines learning side by side.

The interdisciplinary focus will be particularly valuable for students, said Landeen. “They will be able to practise together how to react to things that happen in real life.”

The simulator training centre will be an extension of the existing clinical learning centre, and will occupy 3,500 square feet of space now used by the administration offices for the Bachelor of Sciences in Nursing program. Those offices will be moved to the second floor of HSC, where other School of Nursing offices are now located.

The renovations, which are expected to cost about $2.3 million, will begin soon, and the centre should be ready for its first students in September.

The benefits of this type of simulation training are already seen in the anesthesiology program of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine.

In the fall, a simulator training lab was set up by the anesthesia department, featuring computer-operated medical equipment hooked up to what appears to be a real patient on an operating room table. The “patient” is a $100,000 computerized, human-like robot, an example of the type of equipment to be used in the new centre.

Students learn how to properly administer anesthesia and monitor the patient and medical equipment. A control room in the lab allows the instructor to watch the students and manipulate the mannequin’s responses to mimic what might occur in a real-life situation, requiring students to think on their feet and make the necessary adjustments. The learning sessions can be videotaped, allowing students to watch how they performed and reacted.

Dr. Norm Buckley, chair of McMaster’s anesthesia department, said the anesthesia simulator lab ensures students are receiving the most advanced training possible.

“This simulator lab allows the students to be better prepared before heading into an operating room for clerkship,” he said. “The students are more confident and skilled, they understand more of what the clinical instructors are showing them, and they are able to assimilate more of what they are seeing and doing.”

The anesthesia lab has earned positive reviews from both students and instructors. An official opening was held in November, along with the first alumni dinner for the department established in 1971.

The anesthesia simulator lab is to be amalgamated into an OR/ER suite that will be part of the Interprofessional Practical Skills Lab.

Dr. Catherine Tompkins, associate dean of the School of Nursing, said simulation training is another example of the University’s commitment to excellence in educating health care students.

“In a continually changing health care environment, training of future health care professionals is a complex undertaking that requires innovative thinking and creative use of new and available resources,” she said.

“Simulation technology represents the wave of the future, and will provide our students with the state-of-the-art tools necessary to further their training and prepare them as the leaders in our future healthcare environment.”
Four inducted into Community of Distinction

Four physicians who each made significant contributions to the development of the Faculty of Health Sciences and its reputation have been inducted into the Community of Distinction of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Dr. James Anderson, Dr. Howard S. Barrows, Dr. Barber Mueller, and Dr. David (Dan) Offord were inducted in a November ceremony.

The photographs and a short biography of each of the four are displayed in the gallery on the second floor west wall in McMaster’s Health Sciences Centre. There are now 18 people in the gallery. All were chosen for their leadership and distinguished contributions through innovative scholarship and outstanding research.

“These are four special people, four revolutionaries who created history - the history that the current faculty is intent on moving forward and repeating the path of success,” said Dr. John Kelton, dean and vice-president of the Faculty of Health Sciences and dean of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine.

“All of the inductees helped to create an inimitable and much better medical school, and to create the foundations of a unique Faculty of Health Sciences.”

Up to five individuals are selected annually to join the Community of Distinction. Those eligible include alumni and anyone who is, or has been, faculty or staff of the Faculty.

The new inductees:

James Anderson MD was the founding chair of the Department of Anatomy (1966-1975) and a member of the Faculty until 1988. He helped develop the unique educational programs of the Faculty of Health Sciences. Known for his appreciation of the principles of self-directed learning, his expertise in both anatomy and anthropology, as well as a sharp wit, he engendered admiration and affection among colleagues and students. His skill as a charismatic educator and tutor extended beyond the University to leadership roles in the community, including the launch of Cool School, an alternative school for Hamilton youth. He was honoured as Hamilton’s Citizen of the Year in 1974.

Howard S. Barrows MD made an indelible mark on the now-renowned problem-based learning method developed at McMaster’s medical school. As a visiting professor, then a faculty member from 1971 to 1980, Barrows pioneered educational tools and learning methods that have defined modern medical training. His innovations included standardized patients and performance-based testing. His creativity in a career that spanned more than 40 years is internationally recognized and continues to influence the training of health care professionals at institutions world-wide.

C. Barber Mueller MD came to McMaster University as the founding chairman (1967-1972) of the Department of Surgery during the formative years of the university’s medical school. His vision was influential in the development of the McMaster philosophy of medical education. His exemplary skills as a surgeon, combined with a devotion to teaching in a kind, thorough manner, earned him many academic and professional honours during a 45-year career. Dr. Mueller’s dedication and contributions to knowledge, education and clinical care have created a legacy at McMaster and helped set the standards of modern surgery.

David R. (Dan) Offord MD was one of the world’s authorities on child psychiatry and a passionate advocate for children and youth. As a professor at McMaster (1978-1999), and through his many leadership roles in children’s mental health research and treatment, he displayed scholarship and practical clinical concern for all children while maintaining an affable demeanor. Offord earned many distinctions, including the Order of Canada, and established the Faculty of Health Sciences as an international leader in child psychiatry research. The Offord Centre for Child Studies at McMaster University was named in honour of its founding director.

History of Hamilton health care highlighted

The development of medicine and health care in Hamilton is featured in a new permanent gallery that has been installed at McMaster Health Sciences Centre. The History of Health Care in Hamilton, with pictures and detailed descriptions of the places and people who have made important advances for the care of Hamilton area citizens, was officially opened during a recent ceremony.

The Faculty of Health Sciences initiated the project to promote awareness of the area’s development of medicine and health care from its first settlement to present day. Currently, the display has a focus on the development of the hospitals in the city, along with profiles of some of the remarkable individual health care professionals who created a culture for medical innovation.

“Health care is the foundation for our standard of living,” said John Kelton, dean and vice-president of the Faculty of Health Sciences, during the official opening.

“How we treat people who are sick and vulnerable is a measure of our society.”

The gallery includes historical and more recent photographs of the various hospitals that have existed in Hamilton from the 1800s to present day. The accompanying text explains the role of the facilities, several of which no longer exist.

Three of the earliest and most influential physicians connected with Hamilton are also featured in the gallery.

Dr. William Case was one of the first doctors to practice in the area that was known as the “Head of the Lake” which was essentially where the City of Hamilton is today. He was born in New Hampshire in 1776, educated at the Philadelphia Medical College and emigrated here in 1805. He and his wife, Ruth, settled on a farm near what is now King Street at Lottridge.

Dr. William Osler, who grew up in Dundas, made substantial contributions to the field of medicine in various cities in Canada and the United States. He worked to introduce the concept of having medical students at the bedside, rather than listening to lectures. Much of the McMaster innovative approach to teaching can be traced to forward-looking suggestions and practices stemming from Osler’s work from 1889 through 1905.

Dr. Oliver Tiffany is thought to be the first physician to practise in the Gore District which was a huge tract of land that included the communities of Burlington, Hamilton, Ancaster, Dundas, Guelph and Galt. He settled in the area in 1796.

The gallery, located along the west hallway on the second floor of HSC, between the red and purple sections, will be changed or supplemented on a regular basis with more information and pictures. It was created by Anne McKeage, archivist for the Health Sciences Library, with benefactor Wynn Bensen and graphic artist Rick Zazulak. All of the current information can also be seen at www.fhs.mcmaster.ca/history.
New program strengthens clinical nursing education

McMaster’s School of Nursing has implemented a new preceptorship program to enhance the clinical learning component of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. The changes provide additional resources for preceptors, and emphasize the important role of faculty tutors in maximizing the learning opportunities nursing students experience with preceptors. The changes aim to ensure student nurses get the best training possible while working under the supervision of registered nurses in health-care settings.

The new program strengthens clinical nursing education by enhancing students’ preparation for professional work, fostering professional development of preceptors and improving communications.

A new preceptorship handbook, improved access to a new series of continuing education workshops for registered nurses working with students, and the launch of BScN Preceptor Awards of Distinction are part of the program developed by a team led by associate professor E. Ann Mohide.

With the launch of the McMaster Mohawk Conestoga BScN Program in 2001, the need for dedicated preceptors increased substantially. There are now more than 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 almost 600 nursing preceptors are needed each academic year.

The new preceptorship model is based on a social learning theory, reflected in the redesigned handbook. The introductory workshop for nurse preceptors has been redeveloped and five new, advanced workshops cover student-centred education, critical thinking and evidence-based practice. Preceptors may also attend faculty professional development offerings.

To improve communication a webpage and a twice-yearly newsletter on preceptorship are being developed.

In recognition of the role of preceptors, the BScN Preceptor Award of Distinction will be presented each year to one preceptor from each of the three sites for the McMaster Mohawk Conestoga BScN program. The inaugural awards were presented at the pinning ceremonies of the 2005 graduating class, the inaugural graduation from the McMaster Mohawk Conestoga BScN program.

In a separate initiative, the School of Nursing has launched a new, annual lecture series.

The inaugural Bernice King Preceptorship Lectureship in Clinical Nursing Education was held in the fall, with speaker Florence Myrick, an associate professor at the University of Alberta School of Nursing.

SRS innovations highlighted in book

Two leaders in the School of Rehabilitation Science (SRS) are the editors of a recently-published book called Innovations in Rehabilitation Sciences Education: Preparing Leaders for the Future.

Sue Baptiste, an associate professor and former assistant dean in occupational therapy, and Patty Solomon, a professor and former assistant dean of physiotherapy, had worked on the book for two years.

The book illustrates educational innovations in the rehabilitation sciences curricula at McMaster University, and is geared towards faculty and curriculum developers in health sciences.

Authors of all the chapters are also from McMaster’s School of Rehabilitation Science. They include: Margaret Brockett, Jennifer Cano, Beverley Cole, Elaine Foster-Seargent, Lynne Geddes, Hallie Groves, Bonny Jung, Lori Letts, Julie Richardson, and Penny Salvatori.

Baptiste said the unique book focuses on problem-based learning, and features innovations created in McMaster’s SRS that are now recognized internationally.

Baptiste and Solomon have each made significant contributions to the development of programs within the SRS. In 2003 they were named winners of the McMaster University President’s Award for Excellence in Educational Leadership.

Medical journal seeks papers

The student-initiated McMaster University Medical Journal (MUMJ) is seeking submissions for the 2006 issue of the peer-reviewed medical publication.

Faculty of Health Sciences alumni, as well as faculty and current students, are invited to send in articles for consideration for the fourth edition of MUMJ. The journal is produced by students of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine, and features medical and healthcare articles and commentaries. MUMJ covers a broad range of topics, including evidence-based medicine, health policy, clinical research, health technology, public health, ethics and medical education.

Editor-in-chief Dawn Gano, a second year medical student, said the multi-disciplinary approach means submissions can deal with almost any health-related topic.

“We’re hoping that alumni will want to collaborate with us on this project from their school,” she said, adding that alumni are also invited to become advisors for the journal.

Deadline for submissions is May 1. They can be sent by e-mail to editor-in-chief@mumj.org.

The 2005 issue of MUMJ was published in February and distributed on campus to medical classes, authors and staff advisors.

For more information on the journal, visit www.mumj.org.

Cara Gagne (left), a member of the inaugural graduating class for the McMaster Mohawk Conestoga BScN program, is shown with Tanya MacDonald, a nurse at Brantford General Hospital who won a BScN Preceptor Award of Distinction in 2005.

The lecture is named in honour of King, a retired assistant clinical professor in McMaster’s nursing school, in recognition of her contributions to clinical education.

Catherine Tompkins, associate dean, School of Nursing, praised the efforts of the preceptorship program committee.

“This high-quality program, as well as plans to continue evolving our preceptorship experience, will ensure that the McMaster Mohawk Conestoga BScN program continues to be a leader in the area of undergraduate nursing education,” she said.
New bursary creates unique partnership

A unique partnership between McMaster University, the local public school board and a Hamilton philanthropist will make it possible for disadvantaged area youths to pursue a career in medicine.

The new Ron and Gina Fraser Health Sciences Bursary will pay full tuition for up to seven years for students who demonstrate academic excellence but, due to extreme financial hardship or a disadvantaged family situation, would not be considering a university education in health sciences.

The impetus for the establishment of the new bursary came from Gina Fraser, president of The Ronald K. Fraser Foundation, which is named for her husband, a Hamilton businessman and philanthropist who died in 2003.

The foundation has established a $1 million endowment to grant the annual bursaries. The provincial government will match that donation with funds from the Ontario Trust for Student Support program, which matches private donations for student financial aid, bringing the total endowment to $2 million.

Fraser said she and her husband had been interested in helping disadvantaged children for many years, and have made earlier philanthropic contributions, including other bursaries for university and college students. However, they were committed to finding a way to help disadvantaged students at the high school level to realize the dream of a university education in health sciences. It came together at a meeting last fall between Chris Spence, director of education for the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board, Gina Fraser and Roberta Shaw, administrator for education services in FHS.

“We wanted to reach those students in high school, who have no hope of ever going to university, and give them the opportunity to take advantage of this,” said Fraser. “We want to ensure this bursary goes to those in particular need.”

In addition to financial hardship, the criteria used to further assess who should receive the bursary will include disadvantaged personal situations such as living on social assistance, being a Crown Ward of the Children’s Aid Society, or experiencing family breakdown.

Students who qualify for the bursary and have an interest in health sciences will be identified at the high school level. Each year, at least one student who has been accepted into McMaster’s Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) program, will receive the full tuition bursary of about $5,000 a year.

If the student also applies and is selected to go on for medical education at McMaster’s Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine, the full tuition bursary worth about $14,500 a year will be granted.

The bursary recipient will also be given a job in a research laboratory in the Faculty of Health Sciences for the summer between high school and university.

McMaster and Hamilton school board officials are not aware of any other partnership of this type in the province.

John Kelton, dean and vice-president of the Faculty of Health Sciences at McMaster, said the Fraser bursary is an example of the University’s commitment to its community.

“The Bachelor of Health Sciences program at McMaster is unique, and attracts extremely high-calibre students from across Canada,” he said. “We are pleased a deserving Hamilton student will be able to take advantage of this opportunity.”

Fraser noted that the provincial government program to match private donations for student aid means the endowment will have an even greater impact. She would like to see other benefactors take advantage of this government plan.

Giannini bursary increases six-fold

A medical student bursary has jumped six times in value, due to a bequest by its founder.

In 1998 Burlington businessman Daniel Giannini established a bursary to provide $1,300 to $1,800 a year for a medical student in each year of the three-year program.

The Second World War veteran passed away in 2003, and provisions in his will have increased the bursary amount to about $10,000 a year for each student. The bursary was established through the Hamilton Community Foundation.

The students previously awarded the Giannini bursary who are now in the second and third years of the MD program, are also receiving the increased amount, meaning the bursary is providing a total of about $30,000 annually.

Pam Lakin, vice-president of development for the Hamilton Community Foundation, said Giannini felt strongly about making sure the success he enjoyed during his life was used to help young people who wanted to pursue an education, but didn’t have the necessary financial means.

She said that it was particularly noteworthy that even though Giannini had led a successful and adventure-filled life, he was most proud of his contribution to medical students.

“He was very keen on helping people with a strong drive for education,” said Lakin.

Giannini was a miner before the Second World War, and served as part of the Royal Canadian Engineers during the war. He moved to Burlington in the early ’60s and worked in life insurance.

Giannini was quoted as saying: “Of all the things I’ve accomplished in my life, the initiation of this fund at the foundation is the one I’m most proud of.”

Ways to Make a Difference

in the Faculty of Health Sciences

at McMaster University

INVEST in the Faculty of Health Sciences
Greatest Needs
ESTABLISH a Scholarship to promote academic excellence
FUND a Bursary to assist students in financial need
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• The Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine Bursary
• The Midwifery Bursary
• The School of Nursing Bursary
• The School of Rehabilitation Science Graduate Bursary
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Endowed chairs advance research in many areas

The number of endowed chairs in the Faculty of Health Sciences continues to grow each year, bringing an ever-greater emphasis on the importance of health research.

Three new chairs were announced in January of this year, along with five during 2005. That brings the total of privately-funded endowed chairs in the Faculty to 51. Just a decade ago, there were none.

A wide range of generous supporters, including individuals, foundations and corporations, allow the Faculty to establish these chairs which help attract and retain some of the best researchers and clinician scientists in the world. The eight appointments since the beginning of 2005 all involve existing Faculty members, and five of those are also McMaster alumni.

Dr. Anthony Levinson is the inaugural holder of the John R. Evans Chair in Health Sciences Educational Research and Instructional Development. He is also the director of E-learning Innovation in the undergraduate medical program. The chair is named for the first dean of medicine, Dr. John Evans, who played a pivotal role in the development of McMaster’s innovative medical school, and is supported with a $1 million gift from Alcan Inc., a company for which Evans formerly served as chairman of the board.

Levinson earned his medical degree at McMaster in 1997. He completed his psychiatry residency in 2002, followed by training for an M.Sc. in health research methodology in 2004. He has received many awards, scholarships and fellowships during his academic career, including the Associated Medical Services Incorporated/Wilson Senior Fellowship in Medical Education for development of new instructional technologies for medical education.

As chair holder he will ensure that new learning technologies are integrated into the Faculty’s curriculum and tested for their effectiveness through research.

Dr. Paul Whelan, associate professor in the Department of Surgery, is the first holder of the David Braley and Nancy Gordon Chair in Urology. The chair is funded by a $1-million endowment from the couple, who are both former McMaster students. Whelan is program director and founder of the urology residency program at McMaster, and founder of the McMaster Institute of Urology at St. Joseph’s Healthcare. He is overseeing the development of a research program in urology at McMaster, including studies into the initiation of prostate cancer, treatment of prostate and kidney cancer, and laparoscopic surgery of the kidney and prostate. He obtained both his BA and MD degrees from McMaster.

Whelan has been instrumental in introducing a number of new surgical techniques to the community, including the laser treatment of urinary stone disease, laser treatments of benign prostatic hypertrophy and laparoscopic surgery of the urinary tract.

David Braley and Nancy Gordon also contributed another $1-million endowment to fund a chair in thromboembolic disease. The chair holder is Dr. Jeffrey Ginsberg, professor of medicine at McMaster, and director of the Clinical Thromboembolism Group (CTG) at the Henderson Research Centre. The new chair will allow Ginsberg and his group to advance research into causes of blood clots, and to develop new diagnostic and treatment measures.

Ginsberg obtained his MD degree from the University of Ottawa, and joined McMaster in 1985 as a research fellow. He has been teaching in the department of medicine of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine since 1989.

The Medard DeGroote Chair in Medicine is held by Akbar Panju, a professor of medicine at McMaster, chief of medicine for Hamilton Health Sciences and medical director of the Michael G. DeGroote Institute in Pain Research and Care. The chair, funded by a $2-million endowment by Michael G. DeGroote, will provide Panju with the resources to further his research on chest pain, cardiology, thrombosis and general internal medicine, with particular emphasis on evidence-based health care. Panju trained in Britain, and did his internal residency at McMaster. The chair is named for the father of Michael G. DeGroote, Medard DeGroote, who was a tobacco farmer in Langdon, Ont., and died in 2001 at the age of 95.

Dr. Martin O’Donnell, whose clinical and research work focuses on internal medicine, has been named to the William J. Walsh Chair in Internal Medicine. It is also funded by a $2-million endowment by Michael G. DeGroote.

O’Donnell is an assistant professor of medicine, and has a keen interest in the education of doctors and medical specialists. He is actively involved in undergraduate and postgraduate education in general internal medicine, promoting the vital role of bedside teaching, clinical skills and an evidence-based approach to patient care. He trained as a doctor in Ireland, and completed fellowships in both geriatric and thrombosis medicine at McMaster. Dr. Bill Walsh, for whom the chair was named, is a Hamilton physician and one of the founders of McMaster’s Faculty of Health Sciences and the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine. He retired in 1990.

Dr. Jonathan (Rick) Adachi is the inaugural holder of the Alliance for Better Bone Health Chair in Rheumatology. He is professor in the Department of Medicine, director of the Hamilton Arthritis Centre, and head of rheumatology at St. Joseph’s Healthcare.

A graduate of McMaster’s medical school in 1979 and a specialist in internal medicine and rheumatology, Adachi will use his new role to further promote education and research in osteoporosis and osteoarthritis. His research involves studying the architecture of bone in normal and osteoporotic individuals to understand the underlying structural design of bone. He is looking to better predict who will suffer from fractures and to develop new therapies.

Adachi is a member of the Osteoporosis Society of Canada and the International Osteoporosis Foundation.

The chair is being funded by the Alliance for Better Bone Health.

Dr. Andrew J. Macpherson, who came to McMaster from Switzerland in 2004, is the inaugural chair holder of the Farncombe Family Chair in Inflammatory Bowel Disease. He is a professor in the Department of Medicine and holds a senior Canada Research Chair in Mucosal Immunology. A specialist in gastroenterology and general internal medicine, he was educated in England at the University of Cambridge and Addenbrooke’s Hospital. Macpherson’s research concerns the interactions of the mucosal immune system with commensal intestinal bacteria and the immuno-pathogenesis of inflammatory bowel disease.

Dr. Stuart Connolly has been named the first chair holder of the Salim Yusuf Chair in Cardiology. He is a professor in the Department of Medicine, holds a master’s degree from Fordham University and an MD from McGill University. He received his specialist training in cardiology at the University of Toronto and Stanford University.

A faculty member since 1983, Connolly is an active clinical cardiologist and director of the arrhythmia service for the McMaster Division of Cardiology. The division director for cardiology since last September, Connolly is recognized for his research specializing in the evaluation of treatments for heart rhythm disorders, particularly by means of randomized controlled trials.

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Three new Canada Research Chairs in FHS

The Faculty of Health Sciences gained three new Canada Research Chairs in 2005.

**Dr. Parameswaran Nair**, a respiratory physician and assistant professor in the Department of Medicine, was named Canada Research Chair in Airway Regulation and Inflammation.

Earlier in the year, **Dr. Mehran Anvari**, an 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. At that time **Dr. John Eikelboom**, associate professor in the Department of Medicine, was named Canada Research Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine.

The Canada Research Chairs Program was launched by the federal government in 2000 to provide funds that help Canadian universities attract and retain the best researchers and achieve research excellence in health sciences, natural sciences and engineering, social sciences and humanities.

Each chair holder is considered an exceptional emerging researcher, acknowledged by their peers as having the potential to lead in their field.

Nair, who works 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 such as asthma and chronic obstruction pulmonary diseases (COPD).

Asthma and COPD are common diseases afflicting approximately 20 per cent of all Canadians. The treatment of these diseases costs the health care system billions of dollars and their prevalence is increasing. Nair’s work will focus on further development and clinical application of non-invasive measurements of airway inflammation to treat both asthma and COPD.

**Bhandari**, a McMaster alumnus, is studying musculoskeletal trauma and surgical outcomes. The research is uncovering novel strategies to improve outcomes following orthopedic injury.

Traditionally, the care of patients with musculoskeletal injuries has been guided by physician opinion, since quality research in this area has been limited. Bhandari and his colleagues at McMaster are now changing the paradigm of evidence-based practice to evidence-based practice.

Eikelboom, who came to McMaster from Australia, is studying aspirin resistance in some people with cardiovascular disease, and improving its diagnosis and treatment.

Cardiovascular disease is the single most common cause of death or long-term disability in Canada. Aspirin is a simple, safe, and highly cost-effective treatment to prevent cardiovascular disease, but not all patients at risk of cardiovascular disease benefit from aspirin.

Because of the scope of cardiovascular disease and the widespread use of aspirin, even a small improvement in its effectiveness could prevent thousands of heart attacks and strokes each year. In addition to the three new appointments, two other FHS Faculty members had their Canada Research Chairs renewed for a further five years.

**Dr. Catherine Hayward**, professor in pathology and molecular medicine and an associate member in the Department of Medicine, was renewed as the Canada Research Chair in Molecular Hemostasis.

During her first five-year term in this role, Hayward was able to expand the scope and size of her research group, providing new training opportunities for graduate and postdoctoral students. Her team made important contributions to the field of molecular hemostasis.

With the renewal, Hayward will continue bench-to-bedside studies of proteins important for blood coagulation and platelet adhesion, and move into new areas, such as testing protein function in animals.

**Yingfu Li**, an associate professor in biochemistry and biomedical sciences and a joint member, Department of Chemistry, was renewed for a further five years as Canada Research Chair in Directed Evolution of Nucleic Acids. During his first term, he cemented his reputation as an emerging star in the field of nucleic acids. His work encompasses the fields of bioanalytical chemistry, biotechnology, nanotechnology, chemical biology and studying cancer.

With the renewal, he hopes to build a lab that is interdisciplinary in nature and continue performing research and training at the interface of chemistry, biology and medicine.

The 19 Canada Research Chairs held by the Faculty of Health Sciences are among a total of 58 chairs at McMaster University.

Two McMaster professors who are specialists in their respective fields have been appointed to new leadership positions.

**Dr. Mehran Anvari**, a world leader in minimally invasive surgery, has been appointed director of the McMaster Institute for Surgical Invention, Innovation and Education of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

A professor of surgery and director of research for the Department of Surgery, Anvari is the founding director of the Centre for Minimal Access Surgery, the first Canadian centre of its kind dedicated to the promotion of minimal access techniques in all surgical specialties. He also holds the Chair in Minimally Invasive Surgery and Surgical Innovation.

Anvari completed his medical training at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne (1984) and his surgical residency training at McMaster University (1989), followed by three years in Australia obtaining his PhD. In 1992, he established his own clinical practice and GI motility laboratory at St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton.

In 2003, he established the world’s first telerobotic surgical service linking St. Joseph’s Healthcare and a distant community hospital.

His work with telerobotics has been recognized by the Government of Canada with the presentation of the Gold Medal of Distinction during the annual Government Technology Exhibition Week, and by the Government of Ontario with the Diamond Award for Innovation in Technology awarded during Showcase 2003.

**Dr. Peter Szatmari**, a professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences, has been named director of the Offord Centre for Child Studies. He had been serving as acting director since April 2004.

Szatmari is a specialty qualified psychiatrist who joined the Faculty of Health Sciences in 1989. In 2002 he assumed the role of head, Division of Child Psychiatry and vice-chair of research for the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences. He also holds associate appointments in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics and the Department of Pediatrics.

In 2004 he was appointed the first holder of the Chedoke Health Chair in Child Psychiatry at McMaster.

Szatmari obtained his B.Sc. and MD degrees at McMaster, followed by a residency in psychiatry. He then spent two years as senior registrar and honorary lecturer, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Manchester in England before returning to McMaster.
The outstanding work conducted by the doctors and researchers of the Faculty of Health Sciences has resulted in an impressive number of awards in recent months.

Lorraine Allan, a professor of psychology, neuroscience and behaviour, has been elected a fellow of the elite Society of Experimental Psychologists (SEP). The SEP admits only 10 new members each year, and Allan is one of only a handful of Canadian researchers among the approximately 200 members. Allan is known for her research in time perception, casual learning, perceptual after effects and applied psychophysics. She earned her PhD at McMaster, and was appointed an assistant professor in 1971. She has been a professor since 1981, and has served several terms on both the McMaster Board of Governors and the McMaster Senate.

Warren Foster, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, has received a new Career Award from the Ontario Women’s Health Council (OWHC). Foster, who received his PhD in medical sciences at McMaster in 1991, is the director of the Centre for Reproductive Care and head of the reproductive biology division in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine. Foster was one of two recipients of the newly-established OWHC Career Awards, which fund emerging leaders in women’s health who have between 10 and 15 years of research experience. The $300,000 award is given over three years. Foster also received a 2005 OWHC/Canadian Institutes of Health Research – Institute of Gender and Health Mid-Career Award. His research investigates the role of environmental toxicants such as pesticides, flame retardants and solvents, as well as dietary factors on human health.

Dr. Nancy Fowler, an assistant professor in the Department of Medicine, received the Geeta Gupta Equity and Diversity Award from the College of Family Physicians of Canada. The prestigious national award recognizes a college member for outstanding contributions in caring for diverse populations. Fowler has devoted her professional career to caring for the North Hamilton Community population. The award is named after Geeta Gupta, a family physician devoted to working with minority and ethnic communities to provide medical care.

Dr. Gordon Guyatt, a professor in the departments of clinical epidemiology and biostatistics 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 of clinical medicine.

Dr. Patricia Harvey, assistant clinical professor in the Department of Surgery, was one of 47 Canadians who received a Meritorious Service Decoration from the Governor General of Canada. The award recognizes exceptional deeds or activities that bring special credit to Canada. Harvey is a retinal specialist with Hamilton Health Sciences. She has been a pioneer in the study of photodynamic therapy and the wet form of age-related macular degeneration (AMD), Canada’s leading cause of blindness. She also championed the approval in Ontario of Viscudyne, a vision-saving therapy that prevents the relentless progression to blindness caused by AMD.

Dr. Nicholas Kates, a professor in McMaster’s Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences, received an award from the Canadian Psychiatric Association (CPA) in recognition of his leadership and dedication to health care research and the health of the Canadian population. The Alex Leighton Joint CPA - Canadian Academy of Psychiatric Epidemiology Award in Psychiatric Epidemiology was presented to Kates during the CPA Annual Conference. Kates is a recognized national and international expert on shared-care modes of care for primary care in psychiatry. The award is named in honour of Alex Leighton, a pioneer of Canadian psychiatric epidemiology, who combined innovative scientific endeavours with humanistic values and social concerns.

Dr. Arya Sharma, professor of medicine and holder of the Canada Research Chair in Cardiovascular Obesity Research and Management, has been awarded the Rick Gallop Award from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario. The research funds will be used for his study of the roles of different types of fat in cardiovascular disease.

Dr. Mark Tarnopolsky, an associate professor in the departments of pediatrics and medicine, has been awarded both a national and regional award from Muscular Dystrophy Canada (MDC). He is the double winner of the Dr. David Green Award for the Ontario region and for Canada. The awards recognize excellence in research and the provision of service for those with neuromuscular disorders. Tarnopolsky was cited for his various research projects, exceptional bedside manner, and his willingness to assess clients in a timely fashion. Tarnopolsky is a clinician scientist who holds the Hamilton Hospitals Assessment Centre Endowed Chair in Neuromuscular Disorders. He is also director of the Neuromuscular and Neuro-metabolic Clinic at McMaster University Medical Centre.

Dr. Edward Young, a professor in the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine, was named the 2005 winner of the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists (CSCC) award, which recognizes outstanding achievement in the field of clinical chemistry. Young is the Discipline Director of Clinical Chemistry and Immunology for the Hamilton Regional Laboratory Medicine Program, a collaboration between Hamilton Health Sciences, St. Joseph’s Healthcare, and McMaster University. He is also an active student advisor at the University and serves on several supervisory committees.

Dr. Salim Yusuf, a professor of medicine at McMaster University, has been inducted as a Fellow in the Royal Society of Canada (RSC), the highest honour that can be attained by scientists, scholars and artists in Canada. Those chosen are recognized for their dedication to achieving excellence in their endeavours, and thus enhancing Canada’s competitiveness on a global basis. Yusuf, who is also the director of the Population Health Research Institute, a joint venture of McMaster and Hamilton Health Sciences, is a leading cardiologist, epidemiologist and scientist. The RSC cited his many landmark studies, involving more than 50 countries, that have helped identify new preventive and treatment strategies for cardiovascular diseases.
Academic excellence awards received by faculty

Academic excellence in the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) is reflected in the various awards won by several faculty members in recent months.

The prestigious John C. Sibley Award for part-time faculty was shared by two people in 2005. Pat Mandy, an assistant clinical professor in the School of Nursing, and Dr. Greg Peachey, an associate clinical professor in the Department of Anesthesia, were chosen as co-winners of the annual award that recognizes excellence, initiative and sustained commitment among part-time FHS faculty members.

Both recipients have taken on new career roles since the announcement of the award.

Mandy, previously a senior administrator with Hamilton Health Sciences, is the inaugural chief executive officer for the Local Health Integration Network for the Hamilton-Niagara area. The provincial networks have been developed by the Ontario government to integrate and co-ordinate health services in specific geographic areas.

Peachey has taken on the position of assistant dean of the Continuing Health Sciences Education Program for the Faculty of Health Sciences. He is also the director of anesthesia resident training.

The Sibley Award selection committee was impressed by both educators’ contributions in and outside of the classroom.

The 18 instructors in the Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) Program, who developed the popular undergraduate program, earned two major awards in 2005. The team took Canada’s top award for teaching scholarship, the Alan Blizzard Award from the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. The B.H.Sc. instructors were cited for their collaborative course development and contributions to teaching. They also earned the 2005 McMaster University President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching (Course or Resource Design) which recognizes outstanding contributions to education.

The B.H.Sc. program, launched in 2000, promotes the ability to identify and solve problems, to think critically, to work in groups and communicate more effectively. 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 Szechtmann and Kristina Trim.

During 2005 convocation ceremonies, preceptor awards were presented for both the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine and the McMaster-Mohawk Conestoga Bachelor of Science Nursing program.

Outstanding clerkship preceptor awards in the medical school were presented to faculty members Rob Whyte, Karl Stobbe, Christine Bradley, David Small, Madan Roy, Patricia Rosebush and Jeffrey Cranford.

The inaugural BScN Preceptor Awards of Distinction went to Kelly Cronin, Donna May, Tanya McDonald, Janet Perron and Victoria St. John.

The Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine won the 2005 Keith Award as the medical school that best selects and trains physicians who choose to practise in rural communities, from the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada.

At the time of the announcement, Trina Larsen-Soles, president of the physician society, said that while medical schools are generally producing an increased number of specialists who practise in cities, McMaster is one of the schools that has been able to produce rural doctors by selecting students and training doctors for where they are most needed.

The Keith award selection involved a survey of the alma mater of Canadian rural doctors in 1998 and again in 2004.

Laval bestows honorary degree

Dr. Peter Rosenbaum, a professor in the Department of Pediatrics and co-director of the CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research, has received an honorary degree from Laval University in recognition of his contributions to the health of children with cerebral palsy.

Rosenbaum works to make the latest research and newest ideas about childhood disability available and accessible. Holder of a Canada Research Chair in Disability Research, he has a particular focus on cerebral palsy.

Rosenbaum has developed a test called the Gross Motor Function Classification System, which describes the severity of cerebral palsy in ways families and service providers can understand. It is now being used in more than 20 countries around the world.

Along with conducting research on children with disabilities and their parents, Rosenbaum writes patient-friendly reports on the results of each research study, as well as short summaries of current literature and ideas. The reports and summaries are posted on the CanChild Web page and published as a column in a leading journal about childhood disability.

The results of all of these activities are improvements in the quality of life for both parents and children with cerebral palsy and similar disabilities.

Mac grad earns CMA May Cohen Award for mentors

A national award set up to honour a distinguished former associate dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, has been won by a graduate of McMaster’s medical school.

The 2005 May Cohen Award for Women Mentors has been awarded to Dr. Laurie Morrison, who earned her MD degree in 1981 and a master’s degree in health research design in 2000. She received the award at the annual meeting of the Canadian Medical Association (CMA).

The award is presented annually to a female physician who has demonstrated outstanding mentoring abilities, including encouraging, facilitating and supporting young doctors in career and leadership development, and acting as an effective role model in medicine or medical leadership.

Morrison is a clinician scientist in emergency medicine at the University of Toronto, an adjunct scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, and scientist at both the Institute of Medical Sciences and Sunnybrook and Women’s College Research Institute.

Morrison has advocated strongly to establish the clinician scientist and educator programs at the faculty and resident level in emergency medicine. She is the fifth recipient of the May Cohen Award, which is named for the former associate dean, health services, of McMaster’s Faculty of Health Sciences.

Family Physician of the Year

Dr. Fionnella Crombie, an associate clinical professor in the Department of Family Medicine, has been named Family Physician of the Year for the Southern Region by the Ontario College of Family Physicians.

Crombie has practised comprehensive family medicine including full care obstetrics for many years in a group practice in downtown Hamilton.

“Dr. Crombie devotes herself to her patients and passionately believes in the invaluable role played by family doctors in health care,” said Dr. Cheryl Levitt, chair of family medicine. “She is a wonderful role model, balancing both a very successful career and family life.”

In addition to her teaching and clinical roles, Crombie has recently taken on two new, major leadership roles: Chief of the Department of Family Medicine at St. Joseph’s Healthcare and Director of the Undergraduate Program in Family Medicine at McMaster University.

“In these two new roles she has already distinguished herself, bringing new initiatives to both of these jobs,” said Levitt.

Crombie is also on the Board of the Family Medicine Association of Hamilton.
May Cohen featured in WMA book

Dr. May Cohen, a former associate dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, and professor emeritus in the department of family medicine at McMaster University, has been honoured by the World Medical Association (WMA).

Cohen is one of 65 physicians from 58 countries selected for international recognition in a coffee table book, Caring Physicians of the World, which was recently published by the WMA for distribution at its general assembly to be held in October in Santiago, Chile.

The publication notes that these physicians represent "the finest traditions of our great profession and show how physicians today are working to the highest professional standards in different cultures and under different pressures."

Cohen was associate dean, health services, from 1991 to 1996. She joined the Department of Family Medicine in 1977, and retired from McMaster in 1998. As an educator, researcher and clinician, she was respected for her efforts to advance the health concerns of women and promote gender equality within the medical profession.

Her legacy continues with the establishment of the annual Eli Lilly-May Cohen Chair in Women's Health at McMaster, currently held by Dr. Sonia Anand. Cohen was also one of the first inductees to the Faculty's Community of Distinction which honours those whose leadership and contributions had a significant impact on the development of the Faculty.

Cohen, 74, lives in Toronto and remains active in the medical field. She is a member of the Health Services Appeals and Review Board, a tribunal set up by the provincial government to investigate appeals of laws regulating the delivery of health services.

She said deciding to come to McMaster to work was the best decision she and husband Dr. Gerry Cohen ever made. The two Toronto family physicians were recruited by the Department of Family Medicine.

"Going to McMaster was the best thing that happened to us," she said. "It was a great opportunity and allowed us to branch out into all these other areas. We were able to learn from brilliant people in all kinds of specialties."

She said teaching residents as a way to continue her own learning, developing research skills and having the opportunity to explore new avenues in the medical field were among the benefits of working at McMaster.

Among Cohen's honours are: the Governor General's Award in 1995 for her contribution to the equality of women in Canada; the City of Hamilton's Woman of the Year in 1986; the Canadian Medical Association's Medal of Service in 2000; the Hamilton Gallery of Distinction in 2001.

Friends of McMaster named to Gallery of Distinction

Our friends of McMaster’s Faculty of Health Sciences were inducted into the Hamilton Gallery of Distinction in 2005.

Philanthropists Michael G. DeGroote, Margaret and Charles Juravinski, and clinical faculty member Dr. Lorne Finkelstein were among seven outstanding Hamiltonians chosen to be honoured for their lifetime achievements and making significant contributions to the community.

DeGroote made history in December 2003 when he announced he was giving McMaster’s Faculty of Health Sciences $105 million to support education, research and clinical service in medicine. Both the School of Medicine and the Centre for Learning and Discovery at McMaster are named in his honour.

After immigrating to Canada as a young boy and achieving multiple successes as a local, national and international entrepreneur, DeGroote has become the most generous benefactor of Hamilton and Canada.

At the time of the induction, DeGroote told others that his proudest moment in life was the unveiling of his bronze bust during the official opening earlier in the year of the Michael G. DeGroote Centre for Learning and Discovery.

Margaret and Charles Juravinski donated $1 million to the Faculty of Health Sciences in 2003. It was used for the Margaret & Charles Juravinski Education Research & Development Centre, a central home for educators who are in the vanguard of research on new ways to teach health science students.

After several successful business ventures including owning a gas station and operating a development company, the Juravinskis built and operated the Flamboro Downs racetrack where they established the Confederation Cup race.

Finkelstein, a clinical professor at McMaster and renowned cardiologist, was selected for his numerous contributions in the health care field. In addition to advocating for patients and improving Canada’s health care system, he has worked to combat racism in the community.

Mac obstetrician receives service award

McMaster obstetrician Dr. Jean Chamberlain has been honoured with the 2005 Distinguished Community Service Award for Emergency Obstetrical Care, from the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO).

Chamberlain, an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, is the executive director of the international Save the Mothers program operated by Interserve Canada. She has authored a book titled, Where Have All the Mothers Gone?, that contains stories of hope and courage during childbirth among the world’s poorest women.

Chamberlain has chosen to use the $5,000 award to support the International Women’s and Children’s Health organization, and the Save the Mothers master’s degree public health leadership program that she is directing in Uganda.

“Mothers dying needlessly is a story in need of more international attention,” says Chamberlain. “It’s led me to places I would have never dreamed, and it’s led me to try to make a difference. I’ve found God has given me strength I didn’t know I had, and opened roads I didn’t know existed.”

There will be a special celebration and presentation of the award at the annual meeting of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada in Vancouver in June 2006.

Chamberlain also recently received a travel scholarship from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists for her work overseas. In working to make childbirth safer, her travels have taken her to Yemen, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Pakistan.
Oded Bar-Or was expert on children's nutrition

Dr. Oded Bar-Or, known internationally for his significant contributions in the field of sports medicine and children's exercise and nutrition, died in December.

He joined McMaster in 1981, and was the founder and director of the Children's Exercise and Nutrition Centre located at Chedoke Hospital from its inception in 1983 to its current status as an international training centre for researchers. Bar-Or retired as a professor of pediatrics in 2003 and became a professor emeritus.

He was seen as a visionary when he turned his attention to overweight children, as few at the time shared his concern for the rising epidemic. He developed a multi-disciplinary team of researchers who created individual nutrition and physical activity programs for children. As well, he spearheaded many research projects studying obesity in childhood and how to combat its growing prevalence.

“He was one of the most respected scientists in our field,” said colleague Joe Blimkie, professor and director of the graduate program in kinesiology. “He was well known anywhere I travelled, he just commanded that much respect internationally.”

Colleagues and friends remembered him as a devoted family man with three children and two grandchildren, and an excellent clinician with a warm bedside manner who could inspire children with disabilities to start exercising for the first time. A graduate of Hadassah medical school in Jerusalem, Bar-Or did postgraduate work at Penn State University in the U.S.

Bar-Or received a host of special honours during 2005, including honorary degrees from both the Jozef Pilsudski Academy of Physical Education in Warsaw, Poland, and Brock University in St. Catharines, in recognition of his outstanding contributions in sport medicine and childhood obesity. He also received:

- The 2005 Honour Award from the Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology, recognizing significant achievements in the field of exercise physiology;
- The Thomas E. Shaffer Award for lifelong contributions to the field of pediatric sport medicine, from the American Academy of Pediatrics’ (AAP) Council on Sport Medicine and Fitness;
- The naming of an Oded Bar-Or Award to be presented annually by the AAP to the best sports medicine or healthy active living presentation at the council’s abstract session during the academy’s national conference.

Bar-Or leaves his wife Marilyn and children Amit, Yuval and Tali.

McMaster professor was noted rheumatologist

Dr. William Watson Buchanan, professor emeritus of rheumatology, died in January.

The well-known Hamilton physician who retired as a clinician with Hamilton Health Sciences in June, 2005, will be remembered for his distinguished accomplishments in his field.

Buchanan, 75, had won many awards for his work, including the 2004 Cullen Prize from the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, Scotland, in recognition of clinical and academic excellence and the ‘greatest benefit done to practical medicine.’

The same year, the Canadian Rheumatology Association recognized Buchanan as a “Distinguished Rheumatologist.”

Buchanan received his medical training with a specialty in endocrinology in his native Glasgow, Scotland.

Following a postdoctoral fellowship in the United States, he returned to Glasgow in 1964, where he proceeded to build a reputation as a rheumatic disease specialist. His studies in clinical pharmacology and the interaction of anti-rheumatic drugs drew attention to the problems of their use in the elderly.

After joining McMaster in 1979, he became well known for his work as a clinician with a large number of patients; as a researcher, with more than 525 published papers on a range of topics; and as an educator, for his encouragement of new rheumatologists. He retired as a professor in 1994.

Colleague Dr. Walter Kean, a clinical professor of rheumatology of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine, said Watson would be remembered for his friendship, energy, strength of character and willingness to help anyone.

He noted that Buchanan started two international centres for rheumatology, one in Glasgow and one at McMaster, where “he took in for training a ragtag group and sent out groomed researchers and clinicians.”

Kean said Buchanan knew people from all walks of life and had a wide range of interests, including Scottish and English literature. Besides his research, Buchanan had published more than 100 books and articles on non-medical topics.

The Dundas resident leaves his wife Margaret and his children Alan, James and Helen, and their families.

Flight tutored medical students

Dr. George Flight, former associate dean, health services (1982) and acting dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences (July 1985 to December 1986) passed away in Halifax in November, at the age of 79.

He joined McMaster in 1975 as professor and chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and retired in 1992.

Born in Broad Cove, Nfld., Flight received his medical degree in 1950 from Dalhousie University in Halifax. He did his specialty training in Halifax, and at the University of Minnesota where he was named a McEachran Fellow by the Canadian Cancer Society.

An active clinician, he served as head of the section of obstetrics and gynecology at the McMaster Division of Chedoke-McMaster Hospital, which was one of the few facilities in Canada at the time that had both a high-risk pregnancy care unit and an intensive care unit for sick and premature babies.

An advocate of the McMaster problem-solving approach to medical education, Flight had served as a tutor to undergraduate medical students, interns and residents.

He is survived by his wife Celeste (Sanderson), three children and many grandchildren.

Ferrier remembered for influence, contributions

Dr. Barbara Ferrier, a professor emeritus of the Department of Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences, died in early January.

Born in Scotland, she held a doctorate in chemistry from the University of Edinburgh. She came to Hamilton in 1969, joining the Faculty of Health Sciences part-time in 1972 and full-time in 1982.

Although she retired in 1998, she had been actively involved in the recent development of the new curriculum for the undergraduate MD program of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine.

“She has been a support, mentor and healthy critic for many colleagues and has provided a rich connection to the educational history and legacy of this Faculty,” said colleague Sue Baptiste, professor in the School of Rehabilitation Science.

“Barbara renewed her intimate connection to curriculum development through her energized input to the undergraduate MD Compass Curriculum. ‘To say she will be sorely missed is a truly inadequate testimony to the influence and contributions of this vibrant woman’”

In 2000, Ferrier was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the McMaster Student Union, given in recognition of her dedication to teaching at McMaster.

Ferrier was the second director of the Arts and Science Pogram and for many years led the first-year inquiry course. A scholarship in her name is being planned by the family.

Ferrier leaves her two sons, Ewan and Neil, and several grandchildren.
Maureen Dobbins is an assistant professor in the McMaster School of Nursing, and holds a five-year career scientist award from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

After working in public health for several years, she earned her PhD at the University of Toronto in 1999. Her doctoral work in the development of a theoretical model of knowledge transfer and exchange has been utilized by researchers and knowledge transfer brokers in Canada and internationally.

At McMaster since 1999, she becomes an associate professor in July. She is also an associate member of the School of Rehabilitation Science.

Dobbins is heavily involved in research, focusing on understanding knowledge transfer and evidence-based decision making among public health decision makers. Her research led to the March 2005 launch of a website registry of all reviews evaluating the effectiveness of public health and health promotion interventions published since 1985.

With colleagues at the Canadian Centre for Evidence-Based Nursing, Dobbins will host a week-long Evidence-Based Practice Workshop at McMaster in June this year.

She and her husband Mike have two young children – Emma, 3, and Derek, 17 months. She makes some time for running, mountain biking, skiing and snowboarding, and is planning to train for her second marathon this year in the hopes of qualifying for the Boston Marathon.
A look at what some are up to

training. Since 2002 she's been the Managing Editor of the Canadian Journal of Midwifery Research and Practice, a national peer-reviewed midwifery journal published three times a year.

Heather is also a consultant for the Saskatchewan government as it works to establish midwifery in that province.

This summer she will begin yet another new phase in her life, when she moves to British Columbia where she and McMaster alumni Lorna McRae (MEP '01) are setting up a practice in Esquimalt.

Wood and her husband Dave Traynor have three children: Cory, who lives and works in Hamilton; Jaime, who is in her second year at the University of Victoria; and Kelly, who is in Grade 12 at Westdale Secondary School and will be going to school in Louisville, Ky., in fall 2006 on a rowing scholarship.

Janette Mishibinijima (Batacharya) BHScM '02

Janette Mishibinijima is working in a unique, collaborative health centre in Sudbury that offers care by nurse practitioners, midwives and traditional aboriginal healers.

The multi-discipline pilot project is a first for Ontario, and other types of health care providers will be added in future.

Mishibinijima moved to Sudbury after graduating from Mac, to work with Midwives of Sudbury. She was involved in the lobbying to earn more hospital privileges for midwives in the Sudbury community, and has worked with students from various health care disciplines.

In September 2004 she took over the administration of the midwife practice. The Mahdzewin Maternal Child Health Centre where she now works has three midwives, a nurse practitioner and a traditional healer providing primary family care, pregnancy and obstetrical care, on-call access for childbirth, reflexology, massage, infant massage instruction classes and traditional aboriginal treatments.

Mishibinijima is the mother of two children, Nimiki, 11, and Mgizi, 5. Her husband Don is from the Wikwemikong First Nation on Manitoulin Island and owns a computer graphics design and animation business.

She and her husband, Sandy Thompson, a 2001 graduate of McMaster's nurse practitioner program, have two young daughters and live in Amsterdam. van Dam has recently started a job as a nurse specialist in HIV/AIDS.

Prior to living in the Netherlands, van Dam studied in Cardiff; Wales to earn a Master's degree in public health. While studying part-time, she and her family lived in a community for people with learning difficulties, where she was responsible for running a household of five learning-disabled adults. During her studies, she travelled to Angola to conduct HIV/AIDS research with Doctors Without Borders.

Catherine d'Anjou, MD '05

A former social worker who is becoming a family doctor is the first McMaster University recipient of the ALTANA Pharma Family Medicine Scholarship.

Catherine d'Anjou graduated from the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine last year.

The new scholarship of $5,000 is given to a student from each of the province's five medical schools who pursues family medicine as their specialty.

d'Anjou, who also has a BA in Women's Studies from the University of King's College, is currently a medical resident in Fredericton, N.B., as part of Dalhousie University's family medicine program.

"Family medicine provides an important service to communities, but medical students are sometimes hesitant to pursue this route," said d'Anjou.

"This scholarship fund provides an extra incentive for students to advance in this rewarding career."

d'Anjou has a passion for social justice and worked for several years as a social worker in a women's shelter. She is interested in making a difference at a personal level and hopes to practise family medicine in a community health centre.

ALTANA Pharma Inc. is the Canadian pharmaceutical division of ALTANA AG (Germany). It was designated as A Caring Company by Imagine Canada, and named one of Canada's Top 100 Employers by Maclean's.

Keep In Touch

Network invites all Faculty of Health Sciences alumni to let us know what you're up to these days. Whether you're breaking new ground in your chosen profession, working to make life better in developing nations, or simply enjoying life with family and friends in the Hamilton area, we'd like to hear from you.

In each issue of Network, we publish a selection of briefs on alumni from the various schools within FHS.

With more than 10,000 alumni living and working in countries around the world, we know there are plenty of you who can share the news in your life with fellow readers of Network.

Send an e-mail including your year of graduation, the degree you obtained, and a few paragraphs about your life to network@mcmaster.ca. Use “alumni up-date” as your subject line.

We look forward to hearing from you!
As we forge ahead with planning this year’s reunions, we invite you to reflect on what an excellent year 2005 was for Health Sciences alumni, as nine classes celebrated their class reunions.

More than 500 alumni and families from the School of Nursing, the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine and the School of Rehabilitation Science got together to reconnect, catch-up, socialize and commemorate good times at McMaster. A special thanks goes out to our dedicated alumni volunteers who made their events a resounding success.

Over the past few years, reunion anniversary gifts have become increasingly popular. Two years ago, to commemorate their 20th reunion, alumni from the MD Class of ’84 collectively raised more than $14,800 for the Leo Cellini, MD Class of ’84 Bursary Fund, set up in honour and memory of classmate Dr. Leo Cellini.

Similarly, the MD Class of ’80 raised over $13,900 in support of the newly established MD Class of ’80 Gyan Ahuja Bursary Fund, creating a permanent legacy in honour of their 25th anniversary, and paying memorial tribute to classmate and friend, Gy Ahuja.

Also in 2005, the MD Class of ’75 successfully surpassed its gift goal by raising more than $10,400 for the MD Class of ’75 Bursary Fund, in celebration of their 30th reunion. Each of these gifts will create permanently endowed funds for medical student awards and are investments in generations of future McMaster students.

We thank our 2005 reunion class participants for their involvement and support, and wish our 2006 anniversary classes equally successful and enjoyable reunions!

2006 Class Reunions
Midwifery 10th Anniversary Celebration
Saturday, June 3, 2006
Location: McMaster University, Hamilton, ON.
All midwifery alumni are invited to attend.

School of Nursing Class of 1986 - 20th Reunion
Date: Saturday, June 3, 2006
Location: McMaster University, Hamilton, ON.
More details will be mailed out to classmates shortly.
Reunion Committee: Cindy MacDonald

School of Nursing Class of 1981 - 25th Reunion
Saturday, September 30, 2006
Location: Hamilton, ON.
More details will be mailed out to classmates shortly.
Reunion Committee: Luanne Hill, Debbie Miller & Joanne Wright

School of Nursing Class of 1966 - 40th Reunion
Weekend of Friday, September 8, 2006
Location: Muskoka, ON.
More details will be sent out soon.

MD Class of 1996 - 10th Reunion
Saturday, September 30, 2006
Location: McMaster University, Hamilton, ON.
More details will be mailed out to classmates shortly.
Reunion Committee: Maala Bhatt, Alyson (Champagne) Charles, Elizabeth Donner & Tim Hillson

MD Class of 1981 - 25th Reunion
Saturday, September 30, 2006
Location: McMaster University, Hamilton, ON.
More details will be mailed out to classmates shortly.
Reunion Committee: Stephen Buchman, Janet Hall, Kim McMillan & Susan Westlake

MD Class of 1976 - 30th Reunion
Date: TBD (likely mid-September to mid-October)
Location: TBD
More details will be mailed out to classmates shortly.
Reunion Committee: Kenneth Babey & Nigel Buis

To RSVP for your reunion or for more information, contact Marisa Lodua in the Alumni Office at 905-525-9140, ext. 23900 or alumni@mcmaster.ca. You may also reach us toll free at 1-888-217-6003.

Stay Connected
Share your news, interests, achievements, hobbies and activity with friends and colleagues! We would like to hear from you! You are welcome to send in your photos too. E-mail us at alumni@mcmaster.ca or visit our website where you can log on to our alumni web community at www.mcmaster.ca/ua/alumni.