Endowed chairs set gold standard in research and innovation

Kaleidoscope Curriculum: A new vision for nursing education

B.H.Sc. program to celebrate 10 years of excellence
The hallways in the Health Sciences Centre have become decidedly quieter in the last month as many of our students begin to make the transition from classroom to clinical practice. This time every year, our nursing graduates are welcomed into their profession with a traditional pinning ceremony and medical graduates trade clerks’ jackets for long white coats. Spring is always an exciting period of growth and achievement for the Faculty of Health Sciences.

In May, 378 students graduated from our Faculty, including 145 new doctors, 171 Bachelor of Health Sciences students and more than 30 graduate students who earned PhD or Master’s degrees. In June, 370 nursing students of the McMaster-Mohawk-Conestoga Collaborative B.Sc.N. program received their degrees.

Now we have set our sights on new initiatives coming this fall. The School of Nursing will launch its Kaleidoscope Curriculum, a revamped model of nursing education rolling out to our first-year students in September. The curriculum maintains the tenets of problem-based learning, but adds the idea of being person-based.

At the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine, we are preparing for another increase in enrolment following the successful expansion of the school to two regional campuses. By the fall 2010, the medical school will admit 203 medical students each year, more than double its enrolment before 2000.

As you enjoy this issue of Network, I encourage you to spend a few minutes reading about some of our valued faculty and rising stars in the School of Rehabilitation Science. Helen Saarinen-Rahikka, who pioneered the problem-based learning curriculum for the physiotherapy program, was honoured posthumously as one of three inductees into the Faculty’s Community of Distinction. Danielle Levac, a PhD candidate in the School of Rehabilitation Science, is currently exploring whether the Nintendo Wii and WiiFit could help kids with disabilities regain functional skills.

This issue also includes a profile of our Bachelor of Health Sciences (B.H.Sc.) program. Launched in 2000, the program led by Del Harnish is one of the most popular at McMaster, attracting more than 3,000 applicants each year. B.H.Sc. students work in small groups and develop skills to ask and answer questions on their own. It’s an innovative approach to education – and certainly one built on a McMaster tradition.

Much of this issue of Network is dedicated to our cover story about the endowed chairs in the Faculty of Health Sciences. Currently, there are 53 faculty members appointed to endowed chairs and professorships, prestigious research positions supported through the generosity of McMaster donors. I appreciated that most were able to attend a reception where we snapped the cover picture.

Some of the Faculty’s most notable benefactors – Michael G. DeGroote, David Braley and Nancy Gordon and the Farncombe family – have contributed to endowed chairs in the Faculty. Their vision, as well as the vision of our corporate and non-profit donors, has already led to improved understanding of critical medical issues and disease, and will allow us to make important contributions to improve patient care for many generations to come.

I hope that you, the alumni, feel the same sense of pride I feel when I consider the remarkable work of our endowed chairs and professorships, as well as the many other accomplishments of the Faculty of Health Sciences. With so many successes, it’s no wonder McMaster University continues to be recognized as an international leader in health sciences research and education.
Tucked behind the windowed corridors of the Michael G. DeGroote Centre for Learning and Discovery, researchers clad in white lab coats steady their hands as they prepare samples for testing.

Some are investigating the potential clinical applications of stem cells while others are researching how to fight cancer at the molecular level. Nearby, in the McMaster Health Sciences Centre, patients take part in clinical research aimed at improving understanding and treatment of gastrointestinal disease.

In the Faculty of Health Sciences, research spans a broad continuum of basic science in the laboratory to clinical research in the community and at the patient’s bedside. It is led by world-class investigators who help to save lives and improve quality of life by advancing health sciences research and education.

One way McMaster University recognizes these contributions is through its endowed chairs and professorships, coveted positions held by distinguished researchers at the University.

The University’s program began in the mid-90s, supported through the generosity of McMaster donors, which has included individuals, non-profit organizations and corporate partners. They set up endowed chairs with gifts of $2 to $3 million and professorships with a $1-million contribution. The funds are endowed in perpetuity with a portion of the annual return on the endowment used to support the activities of the chair or professorship, which include research, scholarship and teaching.

Endowed chairs and professorships carry a high level of academic distinction. Both focus on areas of research excellence at McMaster and allow the university to recruit and retain top talent. These positions ensure students learn from the best in the world and develop the knowledge and skills necessary to become the top researchers of tomorrow.

John Kelton, dean and vice-president of the Faculty, agreed: “The holders of our endowed chairs and professorships demonstrate extraordinary leadership and are inspirational mentors in the Faculty of Health Sciences. As part of their role, they help to cultivate research talent and nurture promising young minds at McMaster.”

Reflecting the collaborative interprofessional nature of research at McMaster, the Faculty of Health Sciences shares endowed chairs with the Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Social Sciences. As well, several chairs and professorships are held in partnership with the Faculty’s affiliated teaching partners St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton and Hamilton Health Sciences.

The economic downturn has impacted these endowments, but each position is being assessed. Solid, long-term solutions are expected.

Alexandra Papaionannou stands with her mentor Rick Adachi, a fellow professor in the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine, at the April 2009 announcement of the Eli Lilly Canada Chair in Osteoporosis. Papaioannou has been named to the endowed chair for a five-year term. Adachi holds the Alliance for Better Bone Health Chair in Rheumatology.
Faculty of Health Sciences Endowed Chairs

**Chair in Minimally Invasive Surgery and Surgical Innovation**

*Holder:* Mehran Anvari, professor of surgery  
*Donor:* Johnson & Johnson Medical Products, a division of Johnson & Johnson  
*Research focus:* Minimally invasive surgery and robotic surgery; use of laparoscopic techniques in the treatment of upper and lower gastrointestinal tract disorders

**Chedoke Health Chair in Child Psychiatry**

*Holder:* Peter Szatmari, professor of psychiatry and behavioral neurosciences  
*Donor:* Chedoke Health Corporation  
*Research focus:* The genetics of autism; the development of children and youth with autism spectrum disorders

**Chair in Health Care Ethics**

*Holder:* Lisa Schwartz, associate professor of clinical epidemiology and biostatistics  
*Donor:* Arnold L. Johnson, professor emeritus, Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics  
*Research focus:* The teaching of ethics in health-care education; patient advocacy; research ethics; global health ethics

**Chair in Neurology**

*Holder:* Sandra Witelson, professor emeritus of psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences  
*Donor:* Irving Zucker (1920-2003), Hamilton-based businessman and philanthropist  
*Named for:* The donor, along with Albert Einstein, a preeminent scientist of the 20th century  
*Research focus:* Neuroanatomical basis of thinking and brain lateralization; neurological factors in dyslexia—the differences between men and women; an examination of Albert Einstein’s brain and its differences from those of normal intelligence

**Chair in Rheumatology**

*Holder:* Rick Adachi, professor of medicine  
*Donor:* The Alliance for Better Bone Health, a partnership between P&G Pharmaceuticals and Sanofi-aventis  
*Research focus:* Education and research in osteoporosis and arthritis

**Chair in Nephrology**

*Holder:* Richard Austin, professor of medicine  
*Donor:* Amgen Canada, a leading human therapeutics company in the biotechnology industry  
*Research focus:* Pathogenesis of kidney and associated diseases; prevention and management strategies for kidney and related diseases

**Chair in Family Medicine**

*Holder:* Cathy Risdon, associate professor of family medicine  
*Donor:* David Braley, president of Hamilton-based Orlick Industries Ltd., and his wife Nancy Gordon, a registered nurse who trained and practiced in Hamilton hospitals  
*Research focus:* New ways to educate family doctors; improved patient education; improving interprofessional teams

**Beamish Family Chair in Peripheral Vascular Surgery**

*Holder:* Jacques Tittley, associate professor of surgery  
*Donor:* The Beamish family, along with Canadian businessman and philanthropist Michael G. DeGroote  
*Research focus:* Advanced vascular surgery; endovascular management of complex aortic reconstructions; metabolic and physiologic response to chronic mesenteric ischemia; systematic challenges facing modern vascular surgery and care delivery; applications of non-invasive to endovascular reconstruction followup

**Buffett Taylor Chair in Breast Cancer Research**

*Holder:* Jeffrey Ginsberg, professor of oncology  
*Donor:* Buffett Taylor, a leading provider of employee benefits consulting services, and Anthony Fell, past CEO of RBC Dominion Securities and past chair of RBC Capital Markets  
*Research focus:* Independent research and clinical trials in breast cancer therapy; evaluation of methods to improve communication between physicians and women with breast cancer; research on evaluation of new technologies (e.g., biomarkers, new imaging modalities and novel radiation)

**Andrew Bruce Douglas Chair in Neurology**

*Holder:* John Turnbull, professor of medicine  
*Donor:* Bartek Ingredients Inc.  
*Named for:* Andrew Bruce Douglas, founder of Bartek Ingredients  
*Research focus:* Development of treatment strategies for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS); clinical interests are in the development and maintenance of clinical services for ALS patients

**Chair in Child Psychiatry**

*Holder:* Peter Szatmari, professor of psychiatry and behavioral neurosciences  
*Donor:* Chedoke Health Corporation  
*Research focus:* The genetics of autism; the development of children and youth with autism spectrum disorders
women's health

Research focus: Epidemiological research and clinical trials that address the sex and gender determinants of women’s health problems as they relate to vascular diseases; developing policy recommendations from the research findings; educating the public and health-care professionals on women’s health.

Holder: Paul Whelan, associate professor of surgery
Donors: David Braley, president of Hamilton-based Orlick Industries Ltd., and his wife Nancy Gordon, a registered nurse who trained and practiced in Hamilton hospitals
Research focus: Laser prostate surgery; treatment of prostate and kidney cancer; laparoscopic surgery of the kidney and prostate.

Eli Lilly Canada/May Cohen Chair in Women’s Health

Holder: Sonia Anand, professor of medicine
Donor: Eli Lilly Canada, a global research-based pharmaceutical developer and manufacturer
Named for: The donor and May Cohen, professor emeritus of the Department of Family Medicine
Research focus: Epidemiological research and clinical trials that address the sex and gender determinants of women’s health problems as they relate to vascular diseases; developing policy recommendations from the research findings; educating the public and health-care professionals on women’s health.

McMaster Health Sciences Foundation/Jack Sinclair Chair in Neonatology

Holder: Christoph Fusch, professor of pediatrics
Donor: McMaster Health Sciences Foundation
Named for: The donor, along with Jack Sinclair, a pioneer in care and treatment in neonatology
Research focus: Enhancement of McMaster Children’s Hospital as a centre of excellence in care of the newborn; research in innovation and clinical care.

David Braley and Nancy Gordon Chair in Urology

Holder: Harriet MacMillan, professor of psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences and pediatrics
Donor: Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation
Named for: David R. (Dan) Offord, Canada’s most renowned child psychiatrist who spent his life working to better the lives of young persons at risk
Research focus: Epidemiology of violence against children and women; interventions to prevent child maltreatment and violence against women; epidemiology of Aboriginal health; psychiatric disorder and child maltreatment.

Farncombe Family Chair in Digestive Health Research

Holder: John Wallace, professor of medicine
Donor: The Farncombe family
Research focus: Understanding the causes of common gastroenterology conditions, particularly inflammatory and other bowel diseases; the role of the intestinal microbial environment in bowel diseases.

David R. (Dan) Offord Chair in Child Studies

Holder: Stephen Collins, Distinguished University Professor of medicine
Donor: GlaxoSmithKline, a global research-based pharmaceutical manufacturer
Research focus: The role of gut flora in functional and inflammatory gastrointestinal disorders; interactions between the gut, the brain and intestinal flora.

Eli Lilly Canada Chair in Osteoporosis

Holder: Alexandra Papaioannou, professor of medicine
Donor: Eli Lilly Canada, a global research-based pharmaceutical developer and manufacturer, in recognition of the organization’s contribution to research in osteoporosis
Research focus: Osteoporosis and fracture prevention; medication optimization in long-term care.

Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation/Jack Sinclair Chair in Neonatology

Holder: David Wright, associate professor of psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences and history
Donor: Associated Medical Services Inc. (AMS), a registered charity that supports medical education and research
Named for: Jason A. Hannah, founder of AMS
Research focus: The social history of medicine; the history of psychiatry.

Hannah Chair in the History of Medicine

Holder: Ruta Valaitis, associate professor of nursing
Donors: Dorothy C. Hall, a pioneer in primary health care nursing and long-time international nursing consultant with the World Health Organization, and Henrietta Alderson, a founder of the School of Nursing
Research focus: Research and education in primary health care; collaborations between primary health care and public health.

Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario Chair in Cardiovascular Disease

Holder: Salim Yusuf, professor of medicine
Donor: Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario
Research focus: Prevention and treatment of Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) and understanding the causes of risk factors for CVD globally.

Government of Ontario/Children’s Secretariat Chair in Early Childhood Development

Holder: Magdalena Janus, associate professor of psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences
Donor: Ontario Children’s Secretariat
Research focus: Population-level measurement of children’s developmental health at school entry; methodology, outcomes and correlates; transition to school for children with special needs.

Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario Chair in Cardiovascular Nursing

Holder: Heather Arthur, professor, School of Nursing
Donor: Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation, Population Health Research Institute and the Jack Hirsh, Fraser Mustard Thrombosis Research Institute
Research focus: Education and training of cardiovascular nurse-scientists; clinical research in improving cardiovascular health.
Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario/J. Fraser Mustard Chair in Cardiovascular Research

**Holder:** Jeffrey Weitz, professor of medicine  
**Donor:** Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario  
**Named for:** The donor and J. Fraser Mustard, a founding member of McMaster's medical school and past dean and vice-president of the Faculty of Health Sciences  
**Research focus:** Drugs that interfere with the blood-clotting mechanism; clinical tests of both new and existing drugs to devise a better means of treating clotting disorders

Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario/Michael G. DeGroote Chair in Population Health Research

**Holder:** Charles Cunningham, professor of psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences  
**Donor:** The Young Foundation, founded by Bill and Joyce Young  
**Named for:** Jack C. Laidlaw, former dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences and past chair of the Department of Medicine, as well as a leading scientist in the field of endocrinology  
**Research focus:** Research that will improve communication between health providers, patients and their families; increasing accessibility to health care for families

Jack C. Laidlaw Chair in Patient-Centred Health

**Holder:** William Orovan, professor and chair of surgery  
**Donor:** The Bauer Trust  
**Research focus:** Research into surgical innovations; surgical education enhancements

John A. Bauer Chair in Medicine (Surgery)

**Holder:** Anthony Levinson, associate professor of psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences  
**Donor:** Alcan Inc. (now Rio Tinto Alcan), aluminum and packaging solutions provider  
**Named for:** John R. Evans, founding dean of McMaster’s medical school  
**Research focus:** The design and evaluation of computer-based technologies (e-learning) to enhance health care professional training; technology-enhanced knowledge translation for public and professional health education

McMaster University GlaxoSmithKline Chair in Lung Immunology at St. Joseph’s Healthcare

**Holder:** Mark Larché, professor of medicine  
**Donor:** GlaxoSmithKline, a global research-based pharmaceutical manufacturer  
**Research focus:** Development of peptide immunotherapies for immunological diseases

Michael G. DeGroote Chair in Infection and Anti-Infective Research

**Holder:** Gerry Wright, professor of biochemistry and biomedical sciences  
**Donor:** Canadian businessman and philanthropist Michael G. DeGroote, as a part of his $105 million gift to McMaster University  
**Research focus:** Research on the chemical biology of antibiotic resistance; seeking new solutions to treat infectious disease

McMaster University/ St. Joseph’s Healthcare Regional Academic Chair in Critical Care Medicine

**Holder:** Deborah Cook, professor of medicine and clinical epidemiology and biostatistics  
**Donor:** McMaster University Faculty of Health Sciences and St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton  
**Research focus:** To improve the process of care and clinical outcomes of critically ill patients and their families; to foster multidisciplinary investigator-initiated, peer-review funded clinical and health services research in the intensive care unit
means of randomized controlled trials for heart rhythm disorders, particularly by Research focus: Evaluation of treatments McMaster and Hamilton Health Sciences Population Health Research Institute at Donor: Salim Yusuf, director of the medicine Holder: Stuart Connolly, professor of oncology access thoracic surgery and thoracic and surgery for asthma research, minimal volume-reduction surgery for patients with advanced emphysema, thermoplasty and surgery for asthma research, minimal access thoracic surgery and thoracic oncology Research focus: Investigations of surgery for benign lung disease including lung-volume-reduction surgery for patients with advanced emphysema, th Research focus: Understanding the molecular mechanisms that orchestrate somatic and human stem cell development; using human stem cells to understand how cancer begins and how treatment may be revolutionized based on this new knowledge.

Mortgage Intelligence/ GMAC Residential Funding of Canada Chair in Thoracic Surgery Holder: John Miller, associate professor of surgery Donor: Mortgage Intelligence/GMAC Residential Funding of Canada Research focus: Investigations of surgery for benign lung disease including lung-volume-reduction surgery for patients with advanced emphysema, thoracic and surgery for asthma research, minimal access thoracic surgery and thoracic oncology Research focus: Risk factors for diabetes; prevention of diabetes, its progression and consequences Research focus: Epidemiology of aging including dementia, disability, injuries and optimal aging; interdisciplinary research; longitudinal research and methodology; population health research; knowledge synthesis; knowledge transfer.

Population Health Institute Chair in Diabetes Research
Holder: Hertz Gerstein, professor of medicine Donor: Sanofi-aventis (formerly Aventis Pharma Inc.), a world leader in pharmaceuticals and agriculture Research focus: Risk factors for diabetes; prevention of diabetes, its progression and consequences

Raymond and Margaret Labarge Chair in Research and Knowledge Application for Optimal Aging
Holder: Parminder Raina, professor of clinical epidemiology and biostatistics Donor: McMaster alumna Suzanne Labarge Named for: The parents of Suzanne Labarge Research focus: Epidemiology of aging including dementia, disability, injuries and optimal aging; interdisciplinary research; longitudinal research and methodology; population health research; knowledge synthesis; knowledge transfer

St. Peter’s/ McMaster Chair in Aging
Holder: William Molloy, professor of medicine Donor: St. Peter’s Hospital Foundation Research focus: The development of academic programs related to aging; advance health-care directives and end-of-life decision-making; Alzheimer’s disease

Richard Hunt — AstraZeneca Chair in Gastroenterology Holder: Paul Moayyedi, professor of medicine Donors: AstraZeneca, a global research-based pharmaceutical manufacturer and Richard Hunt, a professor of medicine at McMaster Research focus: Population-based research into common gastrointestinal disorders, health services delivery and the evaluation of decision making strategies around gastrointestinal disease; systematic reviews of healthcare interventions

McMaster network | Spring ‘09 7
FHS Endowed Professorships

MCMASTER UNIVERSITY

**Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis (CHEPA) Professorship**

**Holder:** Julia Abelson, associate professor of clinical epidemiology and biostatistics
**Donor:** Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis (CHEPA)
**Research focus:** Implementation research and health services research

**Hamilton Hospitals Assessment Centre Endowed Professorship in Neuromuscular Disease**

**Holder:** Steven Baker, assistant professor of medicine
**Donor:** Hamilton Hospitals Assessment Centre of the Hamilton Health Sciences Research focus: Neuromuscular rehabilitation; neuromuscular disorders

**McLaughlin Foundation Professorship in Public Health**

**Holder:** Mark Oremus, assistant professor of clinical epidemiology and biostatistics
**Donor:** R.S. McLaughlin Foundation
**Research focus:** Determinants of health; population and public health from a life-course perspective; chronic diseases and injuries; aging; knowledge transfer and education

**McMaster Family Medicine Professorship in Child Health Research**

**Holder:** John Cairney, associate professor of family medicine and psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences
**Donor:** McMaster University’s Department of Family Medicine
**Research focus:** Epidemiology of mental health problems across the lifespan; impact of childhood physical disability on psychosocial and physical development in children

**Michael G. DeGroote Professorship in Stroke Management**

**Holder:** Demetrios Sahlas, associate professor of medicine
**Donor:** Canadian businessman and philanthropist Michael G. DeGroote, as a part of his $105 million gift to McMaster
**Research focus:** Research to enhance the delivery of stroke care and increase the use Transcranial Doppler in the management of stroke; knowledge translation across the continuum of stroke care; neuroimaging of stroke and vascular cognitive impairment; clinical trials in the treatment and prevention of stroke

**William J. Walsh Professorship in General Internal Medicine**

**Holder:** Judah Denburg, professor of medicine
**Donor:** The DeGroote family
**Named after:** William Walsh, a founding father of McMaster’s Faculty of Health Sciences and an active and trusted physician in Hamilton for many years
**Research focus:** Examination of the mechanisms of allergic inflammation; the development of allergic disease and asthma through the study of cord blood stem cells

**McMaster University to enhance learning and make a difference in people’s lives.**

The following potential chairs have been identified as emerging priorities:
- Chair in Advanced Practice Nursing
- Chair in Family and Child Health
- Chair in Aging, Function and Community Participation
- Chair in Knowledge Translation in Childhood Disability
- Chair in the Evaluation of Health Technology
- Chair in the Biology of Aging

**Forthcoming chairs and professorships**

**Recruitment efforts are on track for the following endowed chairs and professorships:**

**Dofasco Chair in Experimental Cancer Therapeutics**

**Holder:** Forthcoming
**Donor:** Dofasco (now ArcelorMittal Dofasco), Canada’s largest steel producer
**Research focus:** Establishing a world-class centre of excellence in education and research related to experimental cancer therapeutics

**Farncombe Family Chair in Inflammatory Bowel Disease**

**Holder:** Forthcoming
**Donor:** The Farncombe family
**Research focus:** Research into Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis; establishing and maintaining a world-class research program in inflammatory bowel disease

**Gilbrea Chair in Aging and Mental Health**

**Holder:** Forthcoming
**Donor:** McMaster alumni Alex and Vera Wilson, philanthropists concerned about quality of life for seniors
**Named for:** The Wilson family’s ancestral home in England’s Lake District
**Research focus:** Research into the social aspects of aging and mental health; development of the Gilbrea Centre for Studies in Aging

**John D. Cameron Endowed Chair in the Genetic Determinants of Chronic Disease**

**Holder:** Forthcoming
**Donor:** Estate of Marjorie Ruth Cameron Foucar from Ancaster
**Named for:** The donor’s father, John D. Cameron
**Research focus:** Research to improve understanding of the genetic determinants of chronic diseases such as diabetes, cancer and stroke

**Juravinski Thoracic Surgery Professorship**

**Holder:** Forthcoming
**Donor:** Charles and Margaret Juravinski, Hamilton-based philanthropists
**Research focus:** Thoracic oncology surgery and evidence-based care in thoracic surgery

**Michael G. DeGroote Professorship in Stroke Prevention**

**Holder:** Forthcoming
**Donor:** Canadian businessman and philanthropist Michael G. DeGroote, as a part of his $105 million gift to McMaster University
**Research focus:** Research into innovations in stroke prevention

**Research chair priorities**

The Faculty of Health Sciences has built an international reputation for its contributions to research and education including the development of problem-based learning and evidence-based medicine.

Continuing that tradition of excellence is a priority for the Faculty. The addition of new endowed chairs in specializations that pair the Faculty’s research strengths with critical health and medical issues, will help McMaster University to enhance learning and make a difference in people’s lives.

- Chair in Breast Cancer
- Chair in Childhood Brain Injuries
- Chair in Human Stem Cell Biology for Catastrophic Disease
- Chair in Palliative Care
- Chair in Social Inequities in Health
- Chair in the Evaluation of Health Technology
- Chair in the Biology of Aging
The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario gave the funds to establish the first endowed chair at the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS). Since then it has helped to nurture and recognize the talent of top McMaster scientists who are working to advance understanding of cardiovascular disease and stroke with a total of four endowed chairs.

Over the course of a decade, the Foundation has provided support of $5 million to establish the research chairs. The first, The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario Chair in Cardiovascular Disease, was created in 1997. Salim Yusuf, professor of medicine, was named to the position.

“The Heart and Stroke Foundation’s research enterprise is built on the concept of funding research excellence,” said Marco Di Buono, director of research for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario (HSFO). “There’s nothing more senior, from a personnel awards standpoint, than an endowed chair. It really does acknowledge a substantial career contribution to advancements in cardiovascular disease and stroke in Ontario.”

In addition to the inaugural chair, the foundation has also funded:

- The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario/J. Fraser Mustard Chair in Cardiovascular Research. Jeffrey Weitz, a professor of medicine, was appointed the inaugural chairholder in 2000.
- The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario Chair in Cardiovascular Nursing. Heather Arthur, a professor in the School of Nursing, was named to the position in 2003.
- The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario/Michael G. DeGroote Chair in Population Health Research. Sonia Anand, a professor of medicine, became the most recent HSFO chairholder when she was appointed in 2008.

Across the province, there are eight endowed chairs supported by the HSFO. Half have been established at McMaster.

“Clearly McMaster has cultivated individuals who are committed to creating sustainable and nurturing environments for future generations of really, really talented people,” Di Buono said. “We do think that it’s important to look to the next generation of bright health sciences researchers who can help us make as many inroads into alleviating the dangers of heart disease and stroke as the four existing chairholders at McMaster already have.”

Suzanne Labarge credits her parents with instilling in her a lifelong commitment to education.

The McMaster alumna, who earned her BA in economics from McMaster in 1967 and a MBA from Harvard in 1971, donated $2 million to establish the Raymond and Margaret Labarge Chair in Research and Knowledge Application for Optimal Aging. The endowed chair is named in tribute to her mother and father.

“I come from a family that believes very strongly that if you have been successful in life, you owe something back to the community,” says Labarge, who held various senior executive positions with the Royal Bank until her retirement in 2004.

“There’s a tradition that you donate what you can, whether it be time or money. I knew wanted to make a donation. I knew I wanted to contribute to McMaster.”

The Raymond and Margaret Labarge Chair in Research and Knowledge Application for Optimal Aging is shared between the Faculty of Health Sciences and the Faculty of Social Sciences. The inaugural chairholder is Parminder Raina, a professor of clinical epidemiology and biostatistics.

“I’m very comfortable and interested in the kinds of things that the university is doing and the kind of people and the quality of people it’s been able to attract,” said Labarge, who is a member of the McMaster University Board of Governors, the supervisory board of Deutsche Bank AG and a director of Coca-Cola Enterprises.

“I’m watching the aging process among my mother and her friends and realizing that, as far as I’m concerned, this is going to be one of the greatest critical issues facing society. I don’t think we do enough looking at the links between the health sciences field and the social sciences field. That’s why my chair is one that is shared jointly.”

Suzanne Labarge and Parminder Raina
Improving child health one ‘smile’ at a time

When Scotiabank and its employees pledged $2 million to endow the Scotiabank Chair in Child Health Research, they took the first step in creating a research institute dedicated to understanding how children and their families can meet the challenges of long-term illness and disability.

Launched in 2007, the McMaster Child Health Research Institute has brought a group of internationally recognized child health research programs under a common umbrella.

The institute is led by Peter Rosenbaum, a professor of pediatrics and rehabilitation science, and the inaugural holder of the Scotiabank chair.

The position was endowed as part of Scotiabank’s ‘Smiles’ campaign, which has raised more than $4.5 million for the McMaster Children’s Hospital since 1993.

“We’ve always featured poster children during our Smiles Campaign,” said Steve Varey, district vice-president of Scotiabank for Hamilton and Niagara. “They were kids who had received care or gone through treatment. But over the last several years, the poster children have all been kids of Scotiabankers. There’s a mom at most every branch that has been touched by McMaster Children’s Hospital.”

The Scotiabank Chair in Child Health Research is supported with $500,000 from the bank and an additional $1.5 million from employees who have raised the funds through the sale of buttons, stuffed animals and with barbeques, bake sales and so on.

“It’s the commitment of our staff, and through the staff, the commitment of our terrific customers that make it happen,” Varey said.

In addition to supporting McMaster Children’s Hospital and child health research, Scotiabank has also given more than $1.7 million to McMaster University for student scholarships and bursaries since 1999.

Creating a lasting legacy of research excellence

Many donors of the Faculty of Health Sciences show their generosity by establishing endowed research chairs in specific diseases that impact human health. But to achieve improvements in the diagnosis and treatment of illness, it is also crucial to invest in the way health-care research is conducted and how results are translated into better care.

For 34 years, Michael Gent, a professor emeritus and past chair of the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CE&B), worked to establish a model of excellence in medical research, and in the process, transformed McMaster University into a hub for clinical trials.

When he retired from the university in 2003, he established an endowed professorship in CE&B in recognition of an outstanding department that now had an even greater incentive to attract and retain top scientists.

But five years later, in May 2008, Gent hastened the process when he demonstrated his support of CE&B again by giving a second significant contribution that created the Michael Gent Chair in Healthcare Research.

Haynes became the first chairholder – a particularly important distinction – as he had played a vital role in spearheading the chair and ensuring that Gent’s name remained associated with CE&B in perpetuity. The chair is now held by Holger Schünemann, who was appointed department chair in February.

For Gent, the decision to give back to the institution where he built his career was an easy one.

“I joined McMaster in 1969 because of the vision and innovative ideas of the Faculty of Health Sciences,” said the celebrated researcher. “Now 40 years later, the opportunities are even more exciting.”
A champion of McMaster’s fledging medical school, an internationally renowned investigator of deep-vein thrombosis and a physiotherapist who brought problem-based learning to her field are being honoured by McMaster University’s Faculty of Health Sciences.

Arthur N. Bourns, Jack Hirsh and Helen Saarinen-Rahikka were inducted into the Faculty’s Community of Distinction in a ceremony on Nov. 7, 2008. The biographies and portraits of the three inductees have been added to the newly renovated gallery, now located in the Ewart Angus Centre within the Health Sciences Centre.

The Community of Distinction honours alumni, faculty and staff of the Faculty of Health Sciences who have brought distinction and recognition to McMaster University and the Faculty through innovative scholarship and outstanding research.

Up to five individuals are selected annually to join the Community of Distinction, which now includes 29 members. The gallery was established in 2003.

Arthur N. Bourns, PhD

Arthur Bourns played an integral role in the founding of McMaster’s medical school by translating McMaster President Harry Thode’s vision into a plan of action. In 1963, the chemistry professor wrote the detailed briefs to the provincial government advocating for a McMaster medical school and a unique university hospital. He continued his active support of the fledgling school during his tenure as president of McMaster University 1972 to 1980. Bourns has been recognized internationally for his research in physical organic chemistry and for contributions to science policy. The recipient of five honorary degrees, he was appointed to the Order of Canada in 1982.

Jack Hirsh, MD

Jack Hirsh is an internationally renowned medical researcher who pioneered the investigation and treatment of deep-vein thrombosis, and his basic and clinical research has led to safer, more effective anticoagulants. He joined McMaster in 1970 and served as chair of the Department of Medicine from 1981 to 1988. A tireless mentor, his students have become health care leaders throughout Canada and around the world. Since becoming a professor emeritus in 1994, he has been named a member of the Order of Canada, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, been inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame and won the Gairdner Foundation International Award for Achievement.

Helen Saarinen-Rahikka, MHSc

Helen Saarinen-Rahikka was a physiotherapist and educator with an international reputation as a leader in physiotherapy. As inaugural chair of the Physiotherapy BHSc program (1989-1992), she pioneered an innovative, problem-based curriculum, the first of its kind in the world. She taught for 24 years (1972-1996) as the program evolved from a diploma at Mohawk College to a master’s degree at McMaster University. Known for her ability to recognize potential and facilitate excellence, she encouraged and mentored two generations of students and physiotherapy clinicians. The Helen Saarinen Lectureship is held annually in her honour in the School of Rehabilitation Science.

Two members of the Faculty of Health Sciences who have left an indelible mark on their community were inducted in the Hamilton Gallery of Distinction in November:

Peter Dent, a professor emeritus of pediatrics and past chair of the Department of Pediatrics, was honoured for his role in building Hamilton’s reputation as an international leader in children’s health. Dent, a pediatric immunologist and rheumatologist, was instrumental in establishing the McMaster Children’s Hospital and bringing the Ronald McDonald House to Hamilton. He is currently serving his second term as associate vice-president, clinical services, Faculty of Health Sciences.

Leila Ryan (BA ’77, MA ’83, PhD ’90), a professor and McMaster alumna, has improved the health and well being of Hamilton’s citizens through her dedicated and active volunteerism. She has had a varied career as a nurse, director of a family-owned engineering business and a professor in McMaster’s School of Nursing. She has also served as a mentor, educator and a leader in the areas of feminism, health and human rights.
While serious illness is rarely the first chapter in a person’s life, it’s often the most critical. The type of care a patient receives, and the timing of it, can mean the difference between recovery and further complications.

But helping patients return to wellness goes beyond diagnosis and treatment. It also involves listening to their story; understanding who they are as people and helping them learn to live with new challenges.

That approach – emphasizing persons first, then the problem or diagnosis – is the cornerstone of the new Kaleidoscope Curriculum, a revamped model of nursing education that will launch this fall at McMaster University.

“With a kaleidoscope, you turn it and you get a different picture every time,” said Catherine Tompkins, associate dean, health sciences (nursing). “It’s a great analogy for thinking about this curriculum. It’s still going to maintain what has brought McMaster recognition around the world – the problem-based, small-group, self-directed learning – but adds to that the idea that PBL is problem-based learning, but also person-based learning.”

By offering a holistic and patient-centred approach to nursing education, the Kaleidoscope Curriculum has built upon the traditional McMaster nursing model and evolved into “person-based learning within a problem-based approach,” said Janet Landeen, assistant dean of undergraduate nursing education programs and chair of the Curriculum Innovation Committee.

“In nursing, we’re not about finding a problem and diagnosing it. We’re about working with a person and helping them live with or prevent an illness,” she said. “In the learning process, that involves focusing on the person and starting with some kind of narrative – some kind of story – to pull the student into the situation to change their frame of reference.”

In the Kaleidoscope Curriculum, students learn from a person’s story first before moving through the traditional steps of problem-based learning. This provides students with an opportunity to explore the context of illness and to focus care based on the individual needs. The person can also be the family, group or community and their story becomes the starting point of learning.

The revised curriculum also focuses on multiple ways of knowing, multiple ways of engaging people and multiple exposures to concepts. Students engage in learning through “care scenarios,” which are shorter and more frequent than the “health-care problems” of the previous education model.

This fall, the School of Nursing will also introduce a new service learning course as part of the Kaleidoscope Curriculum. Called Health and Well-being of Diverse Populations, it is aimed at connecting first and second-year

continued on page 13
students with community agencies to demonstrate the need for commitment to service in nursing. “They are not going out needing prerequisite nursing skills, nor are they expected to do nursing assessments or interventions or anything like that while they are in those settings,” Landeen said. “But what they will bring back are experiences of what impacts the health of diverse groups of people.”

“It’s helping them to see a person first. But it’s also trying to build on the commitment of this generation to service.”

In addition to updated course requirements, the revised nursing curriculum will make greater use of evidence-based e-learning technologies and enhanced clinical simulation.

Building on the work on the Curriculum Innovation Committee, an implementation team has been formed to ensure a smooth transition to the Kaleidoscope Curriculum. The team has been working to coordinate new courses and course material, as well as educate faculty across all three sites of the program – Mohawk College, Conestoga College and McMaster University.

The Kaleidoscope Curriculum will be rolled out for all first-year undergraduate nursing students this fall. Upper year students will also make the shift to person-based learning, but other changes will be incremental as the first-year class progresses through the program.

The curriculum renewal process was initiated in 2000 following the launch of the McMaster-Mohawk-Conestoga Collaborative B.Sc.N. program. A committee was formed to review the data on curriculum development and revamp the existing model of nursing and nursing education, which was last revised in 1989. More recently, a program evaluation committee has been formed to assess the outcomes of the Kaleidoscope Curriculum.

McMaster renews ties with AKU

McMaster University has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Aga Khan University to continue a 25-year partnership that has resulted in stronger nursing programs and more leaders in nursing internationally.

Under the new agreement, the two universities will work together to expand an outreach program in select countries of Africa and Asia where the nursing profession has been neglected. Until now, the partnership had focused on the development of academic programs and leaders in nursing within Pakistan.

The agreement was authorized in November by McMaster University President Peter George and President Firoz Rasul of the Aga Khan University (AKU), in the presence of Canada’s Minister of International Cooperation, Beverley J. Oda, and His Highness the Aga Khan, the Imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslims. His Highness the Aga Khan is the founder and chair of the Aga Khan Development Network and Chancellor of AKU.

OAPN research centre launched

The first national research centre dedicated to improving the use of advanced practice nursing roles in cancer care has opened at the Juravinski Cancer Centre at Hamilton Health Sciences.

The Canadian Centre of Excellence in Oncology Advance Practice Nursing (OAPN) launched in April under the leadership of Denise Bryant-Lukosius, an advanced practice nurse in oncology and an assistant professor with appointments at McMaster University and the Juravinski Cancer Centre.

Oncology advanced practice nurses have masters or PhD training that allows them to work with cancer patients and their families to manage treatment, side effects and the overall impact of the disease.

Amgen Canada Inc., a leading human therapeutics company in the biotechnology industry, has supported the first three years of the Centre of Excellence with a $500,000 grant. The centre’s research will focus on developing new models of patient care and defining the APN role in cancer care.

Improving addiction services for women

Improving understanding of how best to share knowledge between researchers and those who work with women with substance use issues is the focus of Connections, a new program being led by researchers in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Wendy Sword and Maureen Dobbins, associate professors in the School of Nursing, along with Alison Niccols, associate professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences, are co-leading this five-year, $1.4 million research program. Funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Connections involves collaboration with researchers across Canada to improve how research evidence is shared and translated into improved addiction services.
Jennifer Nash was looking for a different kind of university experience when she enrolled as one of the first students in the Bachelor of Health Sciences program. Instead of encountering stadium-sized classrooms and professors who didn’t know her name, she found her place among small groups of peers who were as bright and interested as she was in the study of health and illness.

“One thing that I always tell people who aren’t familiar with the health sciences program is that you’re not always sitting in lectures or trying to memorize content for your exam,” said the 27-year-old, who is now a chiropractor.

“You’re taking different types of courses where you develop skill sets rather than just learn content. That makes more sense to me, because you can use those skill sets throughout your whole life. You just continue to refine them.”

Launched in 2000, the Bachelor of Health Sciences program has become a magnet for promising young minds who want to pursue their undergraduate education in an environment geared to developing critical thinking, problem solving and communication skills. Self-directed, small-group learning is the hallmark of the program, which receives more than 3,000 applications for 160 spots each year.

Jagger Smith, who graduated with Nash in 2004, said he was drawn to the program for its unique teaching style and emphasis on developing lifelong learners.

“The program offered an approach to education that resonated with how I wanted to learn,” said the 28-year-old, who now works as a patient relations and risk management consultant at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre.

“It was what I imagined university to be: the freedom to explore your own curiosity; small group learning that was unstructured but mentored. The program was attracting smart people from across the country, and I wanted to work with those peers.”

In addition to the 90 per cent average required to be considered for the pro-
gram, health sciences hopefuls need to complete a supplementary application which asks some unusual questions: What non-academic aspect of your life is important to your sense of self and why? If there were one question which should not be asked, what would the question be and why?

Del Harnish, assistant dean of the program, said the supplementary applications help to provide insight into the students. “Really, what we’re interested in is whether or not they can think and how they think and what they think about,” said Harnish, a professor of pathology and molecular medicine.

“There aren’t any right or wrong answers. There’s only their thoughts on the issues.”

For successful applicants, the program includes some traditional lecture-style courses, but for the most part involves small groups and learning through the inquiry method.

“In the inquiry course, we give them a trigger and they have to ask questions,” Harnish said.

As a group, the students work with a facilitator – usually a professor, but sometimes a community member or former student – who helps guide them to work collaboratively, manage their time and answer questions on their own.

The students spend a semester investigating a health sciences topic and then at the end of the class may be called upon to present the findings of their research.

In one inquiry class a few years ago, the students decided to undertake an investigation of the inquiry method itself. After gathering both qualitative and quantitative data and grounding the research in educational literature, the results were published as a book entitled Choose your own Inquiry!

This fall, the health sciences program will launch a biomedical specialization for second-year students who are interested in biochemistry. Harnish said it will provide a more formal opportunity for students to explore their research interests in that area.

On average, about half the students in the Bachelor of Health Sciences program go into medicine after graduation. The remaining students are likely to pursue postgraduate education, often in law, science or health policy.

However, Harnish says the success of grads has little to do with their grades. “I think part of the reason they’re so successful is that they can say what they know and what they can do. They have so much practice at it,” he said.

“Health sciences has a language. They have to practice that and speak it. So when they leave here, they have pretty strong communication skills, pretty strong group skills and a pretty strong ability to ask questions and find answers.”

For Nash, the four years she spent in the program put her on a career path to chiropractic medicine that has led to countless opportunities, including a recent internship at the World Health Organization. Harnish especially, helped her develop the skills she needed to realize her goals.

“I learned that if you want to do something, if you’re passionate about something, you just have to make it happen. You don’t sit around and say, ‘I don’t think I can do it. I don’t think there’s a way.’ You find a way. That’s definitely stuck with me.”

Facilitator Margaret Secord (centre), the inquiry coordinator for the Bachelor of Health Sciences (B.H.Sc.) program, discusses the inquiry method with a small group of first-year B.H.Sc. students.
Faculty of Health Sciences celebrates authors

Researchers and clinicians in the Faculty of Health Sciences gathered in February for FHS Writes, an inaugural event recognizing the publishing achievements of this community.

The celebration, held in the Jan and Mien Heersink Reading Pavilion of the Health Sciences Library, featured a poster exhibition and reception for the authors.

Liz Bayley, director of the Health Sciences Library, said nearly 700 authors – including faculty, staff, students and alumni – published works in 2008.

“By bringing together these authors, we can help to encourage greater collaboration and foster new knowledge within the Faculty of Health Sciences,” she said.

Nabeel Ghayur, a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Medicine who studies the physiology of kidney vasculature, was one of the authors in attendance. He published 11 peer-reviewed articles in 2008 and wrote two book chapters on the role of medicinal plants in combating disease.

MD alumna pens book on medical education

McMaster alumna Anne Berndl (MD ’05) is hoping to shed light on the process of becoming a physician in Canada with her first book, So You Want to be a Doctor, Eh? The career guide is aimed at preparing would-be doctors for the journey through medical school and beyond.

“I think medical education is still a bit of a mystery to some people,” said the 29-year-old physician, who is now based in Halifax.

“I’m really hoping that the people who read the book are contemplating a medical career. I think that what they will get out of it is a clear sense of what is ahead of them.”

Berndl earned her medical degree from McMaster in 2005. She is now pursuing specialty training as a resident in obstetrics and gynecology at Dalhousie University.

During her first year of residency, she started a website, www.drstarter.ca, after a friend of a friend asked for her advice about medical school. When a publisher stumbled upon her website, she was asked to write a book.

“I was totally thrilled for a couple weeks, and then I suddenly realized how much work it was going to be,” she said. “I was doing a residency at the same time, but I managed to get both done. It was a real honour.”

Coming of age in Cambodia

As the founder of the Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) Canada, Richard Heinzl (MD ’87) has worked to alleviate human suffering by providing medical relief to people caught in catastrophic situations.

In his recent autobiography, Cambodia Calling: A Memoir from the Frontlines of Humanitarian Aid, the physician chronicles his humanitarian dream in a coming-of-age tale that spans his seminal time at McMaster to his first experience in a war-ravaged town.

“The story really is about a young person who goes to the faraway world and falls in love with it,” said Heinzl, who lives in Oakville. “On a factual level, it’s about my early travels and the first year of work I did with MSF in Cambodia. But on a deeper level, it’s a story about experiencing the profound beauty and struggles of that faraway world and coming to terms with it.”

Heinzl, who now focuses his time on developing e-health technologies and speaking to audiences around the world, said his hope in writing Cambodia Calling was to create a work of literary non-fiction and through a story point to the issues confronting humanity.

“The problems that people face in countries like Cambodia, and many, many others, are devastating in terms of their human toll. But the strongest memories I have are about the richness and resilience of the people and the wonder of those places.”
Celebrity cartoonist lends talent

Medical student Tiffaney Krushel always appreciates learning from patients who are good-natured about allowing students to do an extra exam or ask extra questions to aid their education. Many of her fellow students agree they’d like to be able to show their appreciation with more than a quick thanks and cheerio.

So they have developed a thank-you card, thanks to an internationally renowned cartoonist who was involved in the medical school when it began.

Lynn Johnston was a medical artist for the fledgling Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine in the late ‘60s, working on illustrations for the first medical students. It was her joking with Murray Enkin, her obstetrician and a medical school founder, which led her to drawing cartoons that became the famous comic strip For Better or For Worse which now appears in more than 2,000 newspapers in 22 countries.

Lynn has drawn up a thank-you card featuring a collection of enthusiastic and diverse McMaster medical students in their white clerks’ jackets.

Inside, the students crafted a message by modifying a quote from Sir William Osler, who grew up in Dundas before making his reputation as a humanist physician in the U.S. and Britain at the turn of the 20th century. Following the McMaster philosophy of having medical students interact with patients early in their training, the message is: “We are taught that medicine is learned by the bedside, not in the classroom. Thank you for being a teacher.”

“So many wonderful patients have volunteered to be reassessed by medical students, and that often means being poked, prodded and asked 101 questions, not for their own benefit but to help us develop our skills and to improve patient care down the road,” Krushel said. “We designed a card to let them know how important and valued their role is in our education; it takes a special kind of person to give of oneself like that.”

Lynn Johnston said working on the project took her back to her days with the medical school, working with Enkin and other founding faculty members including David Sackett and Fraser Mustard.

“It was refreshing to think back at my days at McMaster, it holds a special place for me,” she said.

Lecture named for medical school pioneer

A founding member of McMaster University’s medical school who is known internationally for his leadership in education and research was recognized in March with the inaugural Dr. J. Fraser Mustard Lecture on the Social Determinants of Health.

Fraser Mustard joined McMaster University in 1966 as the founding chair of the pathology department. He was recruited by his friend and former colleague, John Evans, the first dean of the medical school, to help develop an innovative medical curriculum and shape the fledging medical school’s research program.

At the time, Mustard was already a renowned investigator of the role of blood platelets in cardiovascular disease. His research would later confirm the inhibitory effect of aspirin on blood clots.

Through his work on the original education committee, Mustard played a key role in developing McMaster’s signature problem-based learning curriculum.

In 1972, he was appointed dean and vice-president of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

In 1982, his research interests led him down a different path and he established the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research and later the Founders’ Network.

In 1999, he co-authored The Early Years, a landmark study that advocated the importance of early brain development for learning, behavior and health throughout the life course.

The inaugural J. Fraser Mustard Lecture was delivered by Clyde Hertzman (MD ’79, M.Sc. ’81), director of the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at the University of British Columbia. He is a former student of Mustard’s who later became his colleague on research into early child development.
Lavis, McMaster alum lead global project

As the Canada Research Chair in Knowledge Transfer and Exchange, John Lavis has worked to understand how policymakers in federal and provincial governments use research knowledge to make policy decisions about health and health care.

Now the associate professor, who holds appointments in the departments of clinical epidemiology and biostatistics and political science, will take that research to a new level as he partners with a McMaster alumnus in Africa on an international study about turning health research into policy.

The project is part of the International Research Chairs Initiative (IRCI), a program sponsored by Canada’s International Development Research Centre in collaboration with the Canada Research Chairs Program.

Lavis has partnered with Nelson Sewankambo (LLD ’07 (Hon.), M.Sc. ’90), principal of the College of Health Sciences at Makerere University and a global leader in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa. Sewankambo holds a M.Sc. in clinical epidemiology and an honorary doctorate of laws from McMaster University.

As a team, Lavis and Sewankambo will receive up to $1 million over five years to study “knowledge translation platforms” developed by the World Health Organization. These platforms seek to convert research knowledge into programs and policy to improve the effectiveness of the health system. Of the 28 platforms, 11 are based in African countries.

“Whether it’s addressing the adherence to tuberculosis medications in Cameroon or the implications of male circumcision in Kenya as an HIV prevention strategy, we hope to address the top concerns in each of the eleven countries,” Lavis said.

Ottawa funds centre for surgical robotics

McMaster University has received $14.8 million in federal funding to develop and commercialize novel surgical robotic systems as part of the national Centres of Excellence for Commercialization and Research initiative.

McMaster’s Centre for Surgical Innovation and Innovation (CSII), based at St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton, will develop and commercialize a new class of robotic platforms for targeted, less invasive surgical and medical interventions. Patients who receive these surgical treatments will experience shorter hospital stays and recovery times, allowing them to resume normal activity far more quickly than if they received conventional surgical procedures.

Mehran Anvari, an international leader in remote and minimal access surgery and a professor of surgery in the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine, has been named director of the CSII.

“Bridging the gap between research and commercialization is critical if we want to capture the true economic, social and health benefits of our work,” said Peter George, president of McMaster University, at the announcement.

“This program allows for that to happen, creating a culture of innovation by bringing together those with the business know-how, the scientific excellence and the creative abilities to ensure this knowledge translation happens at an unprecedented pace.”

To develop the new technology, the CSII will work with corporate partner MDA, the world leader in space robotics and developers of the famous Canadarm.

McMaster to lead clinical trials in breast cancer

Two physicians in the Faculty of Health Sciences are part of an interprofessional group of McMaster researchers leading the development and evaluation of new technologies for detecting breast cancer.

Mark Levine and Karen Gulenchyn, together with John Valliant, a McMaster associate professor and scientific director and CEO of the Centre for Probe Development and Commercialization, are working to design and lead clinical trials to evaluate new technologies which use molecular imaging probes that target breast cancer.

Levine is professor and chair of the Department of Oncology at the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine. Gulenchyn is an associate clinical professor of medicine and chief of nuclear medicine for Hamilton Health Sciences and St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton.

The prototype technologies, developed and brought to Hamilton by GE Healthcare, have the potential to find very small tumours, leading to early intervention. Trials will be geared towards high-risk women who are not currently well served by current mammography technology.

The Ministry of Research and Innovation has committed $450,000 toward the project through the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research (OICR).

Clinical trials using the new technologies are expected to start in 2010.
Sackett wins Gairdner Wightman Award

David Sackett

A McMaster University professor emeritus who is one of the world’s leading authorities on evidence-based medicine has been awarded Canada’s top prize for outstanding leadership in medicine.

David Sackett, a founder of McMaster’s medical school, has been named the winner of the 2009 Gairdner Wightman Award.

Sackett was 32 and a physician with training in internal medicine, nephrology and epidemiology when he became chair of Canada’s first department of clinical epidemiology and biostatistics. From 1967 to 1994, he developed and mentored a new breed of applied clinician-scientists and worked with them to create and disseminate evidence-based medicine throughout the world.

McMaster University’s development of evidence-based medicine has been ranked by the British Medical Journal as one of the most important medical breakthroughs of the past 150 years, alongside development of vaccines and antibiotics and the introduction of the importance of sanitation.

The Gairdner Wightman Award is given to a Canadian who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in medicine and medical science. The award comes with a $100,000 prize. The Gairdner awards are known as the “baby Nobels” because many winners have later been awarded Nobel prizes.

Fitzgerald named president of MCH

Peter Fitzgerald, a professor of pediatric surgery in the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine, has been appointed president of McMaster Children’s Hospital. Fitzgerald has held a variety of positions at the children’s hospital including medical director, chief of pediatric surgery and co-principal investigator of the Pediatric Oncology Group. He is recognized internationally for his innovative work in minimal access surgery and reconstructive chest wall surgery.

Peter Rosenbaum has been appointed the acting chair of the Department of Pediatrics. The professor holds appointments in the Department of Pediatrics and the School of Rehabilitation Science. He is the co-founder of the Can Child Centre for Disability Research and the inaugural director of the McMaster Child Health Research Institute. As well, he holds a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Childhood Disability Research, Dissemination and Mentoring.

Holger Schünemann, a leader in evidence-based clinical practice and guideline development, has been appointed chair of the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CE&B). The professor was recruited from the Italian National Cancer Institute where he was chief of the Clinical Research Development and Information Translation Unit. As the chair of CE&B, Schünemann also holds the Michael Gent Chair in Healthcare Research.

Other faculty members have received reappointments:

- John Bienenstock has been reappointed to serve a second term as director of the Brain-Body Institute. Bienenstock is a Distinguished University Professor of pathology and molecular medicine, a professor emeritus of medicine and a past dean and vice-president of the Faculty of Health Sciences.
- Akbar Panju, medical director of the Michael G. DeGroote Institute for Pain Research and Care, has been reappointed to a second term as the Medard DeGroote Chair in Medicine. The professor of medicine has focused his research on cardiovascular disease, chronic pain and general internal medicine, with particular emphasis on evidence-based health care.
- Jeffrey Weitz, a professor in the Department of Medicine, has been reappointed the Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Thrombosis. He is developing new techniques for the identification and treatment of underlying causes of blood clot formation. Weitz has held the chair since 2001.

Family medicine reaps awards

The Department of Family Medicine was recognized by the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) with several awards last fall:

- Frank Martino, an assistant clinical professor, was named Ontario’s 2008 Family Physician of the Year and received the Reg L. Perkin Award.
- Dale Guenter, an associate professor, was presented with the Geeta Gupta Equity and Diversity Award for his leadership in fostering respect and understanding of minority or underserviced communities.
- Juan Munoz, Jon Miklea, Michelle Howard, Russ Springate and Janusz Kaczorowski won the CFPC Outstanding Family Medicine Research Article Award.
- Several faculty members in the department won Awards of Excellence including: David Chan, Denise Marshall, Lynn Nash, Kanwal Shankardass and Jennifer Everson.

Professors emeriti Brian Hutchison and May Cohen were honoured with CFPC Lifetime Achievement Awards in Family Medicine Research.
FHS faculty, staff receive top honours

Mohit Bhandari, an associate professor in the Department of Surgery, has been named the 2009 recipient of the Royal College Medal Award in Surgery. The prestigious award, given by the Royal College Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, recognizes clinical investigators who have demonstrated excellence in the advancement of surgical knowledge and practice in Canada. Bhandari has been recognized for his work investigating optimal surgical techniques for tibial shaft fractures and advancing the methodology of orthopedic surgical trials.

Gina Browne, a professor in the School of Nursing and an associate member of the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, receives an honorary doctorate from Ryerson University at the Faculty of Community Services convocation in June. Browne is the founder and director of the System-Linked Research Unit on Health and Social Service Utilization and the director of Community-Linked Evaluation AIDS Resource (CLEAR). Her primary research interest is economic evaluation of comprehensive service intervention for vulnerable children, adults and seniors.

Jean Chamberlain, an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, has won the Teasdale-Corti Humanitarian Award from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. This important award acknowledges Canadian physicians who go beyond the norms of routine practice and exemplify altruism, integrity, courage and perseverance in the alleviation of human suffering. Chamberlain is the founding director of Save the Mothers, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to reducing maternal mortality.

Jean Clinton, an associate clinical professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences, was awarded the Naomi Rae-Grant Award by the Canadian Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (CACAP). The award is presented annually to a resident, fellow, or consultant member of CACAP who has done creative, innovative or seminal work on an aspect of community intervention, consultation or prevention.

Stephen Collins, Distinguished University Professor of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine and associate dean, research, Faculty of Health Sciences, is the recipient of the 2008 Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of Canada (CCFC) Research Leadership Award. The award is presented to an individual who has participated in the development and delivery of CCFC programs.

Mohamed Karmali, a professor of pathology and molecular medicine and an investigator of the Michael G. DeGroote Institute for Infectious Disease Research, has been named the recipient of the 2009 BD Award for Research in Clinical Microbiology by the American Society for Microbiology. The award recognizes a distinguished scientist for research accomplishments that form the foundation for important applications in clinical microbiology.

Patty Solomon, a professor in the School of Rehabilitation Science and director of interprofessional education for the Faculty of Health Sciences, has been awarded the Enid Graham Memorial Lecture from the Canadian Physiotherapy Association (CPA). The award is the highest honour the CPA can give to a member. It honours outstanding leadership and distinguished contributions to the profession. Solomon will deliver her lecture at the Canadian Physiotherapy Association Congress this spring.

Tammy Villeneuve, an administrative assistant at the Farncombe Family Digestive Health Research Institute, has been named the inaugural recipient of the Dr. Richard Hunt Award for Outstanding Service by the Canadian Digestive Health Foundation (CDHF). Villeneuve played a key role in organizing a team of scientists, students and staff from McMaster in a national fundraiser for CDHF that raised more than $30,000 in support of gastrointestinal research. The award is named in honour of Dr. Richard Hunt, a professor of medicine at McMaster and a founder of the CDHF.

Haslam chaired FHS graduate programs

Richard Haslam, a professor emeritus of the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine, has died at the age of 71. A renowned biomedical scientist, Haslam’s research focused on signal transduction pathways that regulate cells involved in cardiovascular disease, in particular blood platelets. He joined McMaster in 1972 and during the next 30 years he received many significant grants from provincial and national funding agencies, including MRC/CIHR and the Heart and Stroke Foundation. He served as chair of the Faculty of Health Sciences Graduate Programs from 1994 to 1998.

Winn had passion for McMaster

Stuart Winn (BA ’72), a long-serving staff member who was actively involved in the establishment and operation of McMaster’s MD program, has died. He was 84. During his 21 years at McMaster, Winn held appointments in the School of Nursing, Education Services and was the coordinator of special projects for the Faculty when he retired in 1989. A passionate supporter of McMaster, Winn became a member of the Alumni Council and was president of the Alumni Association. He was awarded the association’s highest honour, the Distinguished Service Award, in 1982.
FHS alumni: Where are they now?

1970s

Candace Barber, B.Sc.N. ’70

Candace Barber’s career in psychiatric nursing spanned 18 years and several provinces. In 1980, she and her husband settled in British Columbia, developing a therapeutic group home for teenage girls with psychopathology. This experience, along with her upbringing in India, inspired Barber to help trauma victims. She completed her master of theological studies in counselling and her doctor of ministry, in which her thesis examined the effects of trauma exposure on the spirituality of adult children of missionaries. Following ordination in 1991 with Canadian Baptists of Western Canada, Barber became a chaplain in the prison system, Edgewood Treatment Centre and currently with Mental Health and Addiction Services, Northern Health Authority. Barber considers pastoral care and counselling to be a continuation of her nursing.

Bonita Porter, MD ’78

Bonita Porter, Ontario’s deputy chief coroner for inquests, has been named by the Women’s Executive Network as one of Canada’s top 100 women for 2008. A graduate of University of Toronto’s Faculty of Pharmacy, Porter went on to complete her medical education and family medicine residency at McMaster before being appointed an investigating coroner for the City of Hamilton in 1982. She later headed clinical research for two pharmaceutical companies, practiced family medicine and then served as regional supervising coroner for the Niagara Region until she was promoted to her current role in 1996. From September 2007 to June 2008, she served as chief coroner for Ontario, and was recently honoured for her work in that role with a Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services Ovation Award for Leadership.

1980s

Louis Lamontagne, PhD (Immunology) ’82

Louis Lamontagne has been appointed to the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, a federal agency that fosters innovation by funding research at Canadian universities. Since 2003, Lamontagne has been president and CEO of PainCaptor Pharma Corporation, a biopharmaceutical company focused on the development of drugs to treat chronic pain. Prior to that, he held senior research positions in government, academia and the private sector. From 1995 to 2002, he was president and CEO of Neurochem Inc., a publicly-traded pharmaceutical firm that he and his team developed from a university spinoff. Lamontagne earned his undergraduate degree from Queen’s University and completed his post-doctoral studies at Harvard University’s School of Public Health.

Leslie Viets, B.H.Sc. (Midwifery) ’96

As a graduate of the first class of midwives in Ontario, Leslie Viets has been an ambassador for her profession and the education program since earning her degree from McMaster. Continuing her long-time involvement in the birthing community, Viets was one of seven students to enroll in the midwifery education program at a time when she was raising four children and juggling a long-distance commute. After graduation, she completed a year as a new registrar before opening Ottawa Valley Midwives in Carleton Place, Ont., with fellow midwifery grad Anne-Marie Carter-McAuslan. Since then, the practice has tripled in size, and now has hospital privileges for six midwives. Viets’s daughter, Emily, has also followed in her mother’s footsteps. The 25-year-old is entering her final year of midwifery at McMaster.

2000s

Tania Burton, B.H.Sc. (PT) ’01

When Tania Burton and Trina Tessaro Kolar met during their physiotherapy studies, they discovered they had a lot in common: a passion for sports, the same hometown and even flag football games. After graduating from McMaster in 2001, the pair put their problem-based learning skills into action when they returned to Sudbury and joined separate physiotherapy practices. In September 2008 they realized a professional goal when they opened the Pro Physio Rehabilitation Center. The clinic’s main focus is providing individualized hands-on treatment using primarily manual therapy techniques, combined with exercise, taping, acupuncture and other modalities. Both Burton and Tessaro Kolar credit their McMaster education with teaching them to be self-directed and resourceful in launching their own business.

Jagger Smith, B.H.Sc. (Hon.) ’04

As the patient relations and risk management consultant at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre, Jagger Smith is working to improve the health of individuals by addressing patient concerns and developing best practices to prevent hospital errors. A graduate of the inaugural B.H.Sc. class, Smith earned his master’s degree in health administration from the University of Ottawa before moving to Peterborough in 2007. In his current position, he consistently uses the inquiry and problem-based learning skills he developed at McMaster to understand and resolve critical hospital issues. Smith has held positions with the MICs Group of Health Services in Cochrane, Ont., and the Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research in Ottawa. His long-range career goal is to lead a hospital in Ontario.
Nursing grad shared her skills with the world
Clara Elman now supports students following her footsteps

Whether it was in her work or her travels, Clara Elman (BA ’46) was always ready for adventure.

As one of the first nursing graduates from McMaster University, she exemplified the values of her profession by providing person-based care as a bedside nurse, McMaster faculty member and foreign aid worker at a time when international development was just emerging.

The daughter of a dairy farmer, Clara Elman (née Graham) became the first member of her family to attend university when she enrolled at McMaster in 1941. She had planned to study science and then nursing, but her plans changed when she enrolled at McMaster in 1941. She had planned to study science and then nursing, but her plans changed when a new collaborative Arts and Nursing course was announced by McMaster and Hamilton General Hospital.

Clara, who grew up near Fenelon Falls, Ont., transferred into the program in her final year. She and two other McMaster students graduated in 1946, making them the first Mac grads to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree and a nursing diploma.

“Personally, we felt very satisfied with what was happening, but we felt obligated to make a success of ourselves when the University was pioneering something new,” she told the Hamilton Spectator in February 1954.

In 1946, good bedside nursing was essential,” Clara has said. “We were really patient-oriented and that was my approach to teaching, too.”

After graduation, Clara worked at Hamilton General Hospital. She left after being awarded a Kellogg Foundation fellowship to pursue her master’s degree in nursing education at Columbia University.

A specialist in medical and surgical nursing, Clara was hired as the fifth faculty member of the newly established School of Nursing at McMaster. From 1949 to 1953, she taught clinical skills in her discipline and helped with curriculum development while based at the Hamilton General site.

In 1954, she added foreign aid worker to her resumé when she was appointed by the Canadian government to serve under the Colombo Plan. The program, established in 1950, provided economic and social aid to Commonwealth countries in Southeast Asia. She was posted as an instructor in surgical nursing at teaching hospital in Colombo (now Sri Lanka).

“I went because it was a challenge, a way to see the world,” Clara told members of the School of Nursing in 2002. Clara spent nearly six years teaching in Ceylon, and during that time travelled on her own to Japan, Hong Kong, Australia and India.

In February 1959, Russell Elman, a Canadian journalist travelling around the Commonwealth, arrived at Colombo General Hospital to interview a young Canadian nurse about her posting. The chance encounter developed into a two-year courtship between Russell and Clara that would take them from mountains of Ceylon to the shores of Australasia and finally home to Canada.

After returning in 1960, they were wed on a snowy New Year’s Eve. Their six-month honeymoon included travel overland in South America before sailing from Brazil to Portugal, where they settled briefly for Russell to complete Asian Experiment, a book exploring Canadian foreign aid.

“Only people who were somewhat fearless and rather naïve would have taken the trip that we took for our honeymoon,” Russell said recently.

As newlyweds, the couple moved to Ottawa. Russell was hired by The Canadian Press and Clara was appointed a lecturer in nursing curriculum construction at the University of Ottawa.

It didn’t take long for the travel bug to bite again. By the mid-1960s, they were back in Europe, but never with the intention of staying for good.

“I didn’t want to become a permanent expatriate,” said Russell, who was a freelance journalist at the time. “So we came back to Canada, settled in Burlington to begin with, and then Mohawk College opened up and I became the head of the Communications Arts (now Media Studies) program there.”

Clara returned to teaching as the second-year team chair at the Hamilton General Hospital’s School of Nursing. However, she decided to retire when, five years into the post, the area’s hospital schools of nursing merged with Mohawk College.

In her retirement, Clara pursued interests in interior design, remained active in the community and her church, as well as travelled widely.

She also renewed her ties with McMaster University. Together, she and her husband established three endowments in the School of Nursing: the Clara I. Elman Scholarships, Clara I. Elman Travel Scholarships and the Clara and Russell Elman Fund for the School of Nursing.

Established in 2002 with a gift of $100,000, the Clara I. Elman Scholarships are awarded to upper-year nursing students who demonstrate academic excellence and a commitment to the
Faculty of Health Sciences alumni reconnected with old friends and faculty during reunion celebrations this spring.

The MD class of ’79 marked three decades since graduation with an April reunion in Scottsdale, Ariz. Forty-one alumni attended the three-day event, which was organized by Paul Steinberg, Lisa Rosenkrantz, Susan Wilansky, Judy Maynard and Jamie Russell. The reunion kicked off with a hike through South Mountain Park in Phoenix, and was followed by a half day of continuing medical education and social events in the evenings. The next MD class of ’79 reunion is being planned for Vancouver in three to five years.

The Bachelor of Health Sciences (B.H.Sc.) Program hosted its first reunion in April. The inaugural B.H.Sc. class of ’04 celebrated five years following graduation by reconnecting with former classmates and faculty during a cocktail reception at Alumni House.

The School of Nursing welcomed back the class of ’79 for its 30-year reunion during Alumni Weekend in May. Tours of the School of Nursing were held in celebration of the homecoming, followed by a luncheon at Alumni House.

Alma Altitonante (B.Sc. ’04, B.Sc.N. ’08) was the first recipient of the travel grant. During the summer of 2007, she completed a three-month placement in Sioux Lookout, located about 300 km northwest of Thunder Bay. Altitonante worked on the labour-and-delivery floor of Meno Ya Win Health Centre, a small hospital serving several Aboriginal communities.

“I feel very grateful knowing that these two individuals were there, and that they helped me to discover my career and future,” Altitonante said of the Elmans.

The 27-year-old nurse now works at St. Michael’s Hospital in downtown Toronto, an inner-city hospital that treats vulnerable populations that face many barriers to health care.

“Going up North opened my eyes to these issues and to the work I do down here, as well,” Altitonante said.

Catherine Tompkins, associate dean, health sciences (nursing), said the Elmans have played an important role in furthering the mission and mandate of the nursing school. In particular, the latest gift, the Clara and Russell Elman Fund, will help the school move forward with its goal of strengthening ties between nursing students and the Hamilton community.

“In a number of ways, they’ve really contributed,” Tompkins said. “With Clara having been in our first graduating class, it just made it that much more special when she and Russell were interested in giving back.”

Alma Altitonante (B.Sc. ’04, B.Sc.N. ’08) was the first recipient of the travel grant. During the summer of 2007, she completed a three-month placement in Sioux Lookout, located about 300 km northwest of Thunder Bay. Altitonante worked on the labour-and-delivery floor of Meno Ya Win Health Centre, a small hospital serving several Aboriginal communities.

“I feel very grateful knowing that these two individuals were there, and that they helped me to discovery my career and future,” Altitonante said of the Elmans.

The 27-year-old nurse now works at St. Michael’s Hospital in downtown Toronto, an inner-city hospital that treats vulnerable populations that face many barriers to health care.

“Going up North opened my eyes to these issues and to the work I do down here, as well,” Altitonante said.

Catherine Tompkins, associate dean, health sciences (nursing), said the Elmans have played an important role in furthering the mission and mandate of the nursing school. In particular, the latest gift, the Clara and Russell Elman Fund, will help the school move forward with its goal of strengthening ties between nursing students and the Hamilton community.

“In a number of ways, they’ve really contributed,” Tompkins said. “With Clara having been in our first graduating class, it just made it that much more special when she and Russell were interested in giving back.”
Video gaming may be good therapy

A student researcher in the School of Rehabilitation Science is investigating how a popular video game system could improve balance and movement in children with disabilities.

Danielle Levac, (M.Sc. ’07) a pediatric physiotherapist and PhD candidate at McMaster’s CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research, is exploring the use of the Nintendo Wii and WiiFit within physiotherapy treatment for children.

Her upcoming research will take place at Bloorview Kids Rehab, a Toronto-based rehabilitation teaching hospital. Recently, she has been studying the components of interactive video game play in healthy children aged 7 to 12.

Levac earned her B.Sc. in physiotherapy from the University of Ottawa and her M.Sc. in Rehabilitation Science from McMaster University. She has recently been named the recipient of a doctoral award from the Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientist Program. Her research is also supported by the McMaster Child Health Research Institute.

“The Wii/WiiFit games are definitely fun and motivating; they may encourage kids to practice skills for longer amounts of time, and they may promote other elements related to motivation, such as competition against other kids or against the therapist,” Levac said.

“Ultimately, it is important to investigate whether using these games in therapy is effective in helping kids regain functional skills that are useful in their daily environments.”

Space medicine seminar

The Space, Exploration and Remote Care Medicine series explores the challenges of providing medical care in extreme conditions.

David Musson, director of the Clinical Learning Centre and Simulation Centre at McMaster, will speak about behavior and performance issues in remote environments during the next seminar on September 15, 2009.

The lecture will be held in the Health Sciences Centre, room HSC 1A1, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. For more information, call (905) 522-1155, ext. 34399 or e-mail spacemed@mcmaster.ca.

2009 Class Reunions

School of Nursing Class of 1974 – 35th reunion
Date: June 19-21, 2009
Location: McMaster University and locations around Hamilton
Reunion Committee: Deborah Kyle

MD Class of 1989 – 20th Reunion
Date: October 2-4, 2009
Location: Briars Resort, Jackson’s Point, Ont.
Reunion Committee: Joan Don, Nancy White, Maureen Harriman and Sharon Fisher

MD Class of 1984
Date: October 16-18, 2009
Location: McMaster University
Reunion Committee: Don Milne

MD Class of 1974
Date: October 24, 2009
Location: McMaster University
Reunion Committee: Richard Denton and Bob James

Nursing Class of 1989
Date: October 24, 2009
Location: McMaster University
Reunion Committee: Lori Healey and Jillian D’Sylva Barlow

MD Class of 1994
If you are interested in assisting in the plans for a reunion in fall 2009, please contact Jenny Thomson in the Office of Alumni Advancement at jthoms@mcmaster.ca

Stay Connected

To RSVP for your reunion or for more information, contact 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 or visit our website where you can log on to your alumni web community at www.mcmaster.ca/ua/alumni