

Dear Colleagues and Students:

With the opening of the Michael G. DeGroot Centre for Learning and Discovery, we at the Faculty of Health Sciences will have a significant expansion of our space for classrooms, offices and wet and dry labs. This new space will also allow us to grow our mission. We do so with a renewed focus on our purpose and vision.

■ DEGROOTE CENTRE

The last six months have been busy ones for all us within the Faculty of Health Sciences. Besides the day-to-day business of teaching students, caring for patients, and participating in research, the spring was highlighted by graduation of our Health Sciences students and the granting of honorary degrees to Dr. Jack Laidlaw, our former Dean, and His Highness Shaikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al-Qassimi, the Ruler of Sharjah.

Throughout this interval, activity continued to complete the University's new Michael G. DeGroot Centre for Learning and Discovery (MDCL). This beautiful new building has 300,000 square feet of classrooms, offices, research laboratories, and meeting spaces. The first floor contains large classrooms, including the University's largest lecture theatre for 600. Hamilton Health Sciences will occupy the second floor, with a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit developed in part through a gift of \$10 million from Michael DeGroot. The third floor is the new home for our programs for midwifery and Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) as well as the Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine. This building will also have dry labs for several key groups including a rapidly developing infectious disease/public health group, again funded through Mr. DeGroot's generosity. The fourth and fifth floor has basic science laboratories with the largest group being the Institute for Molecular Medicine and Health. Moves into this building will continue across the fall and into the winter as the building's offices, classrooms and laboratories are completed.

The Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine has developed an icon to represent the school. This followed a competition where many designs were evaluated and the final one, illustrated here, is simultaneously clean, yet subtle and complex. The first and last letters (MD) are linked with a stylized version of DNA, which is the building block of life. This will represent our medical school's status as innovative and world-class.

The building will be completed by a stunning four-storey atrium which will house a winter garden and waterfall fountain. This beautiful structure will serve as a place for quiet reflection for Health Sciences' students, staff and faculty, but will freely open to members of the McMaster community as well as for patients and their families.

We're planning a grand opening for the building once the atrium is complete next spring.



RESEARCH

Congratulations to the Faculty's excellent researchers on their recent awards and research funding.

In June **Brian Haynes**, chair and professor of clinical epidemiology and biostatistics (CE&B), received the Senior Investigator Award for 2004 from the Canadian Society for Internal Medicine.

Brian Hutchison, of CE&B and Family Medicine, and director of the McMaster Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis (CHEPA), is the 2004 recipient of the Health Services Research Advancement Award by the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation (CHSRF).

The Society of Healthcare Epidemiology of America has awarded **Mark Loeb**, of CE&B and pathology and molecular medicine, the SHEA Investigator Award.

Kathy Bennett, also of CE&B, has been awarded an Intermediate Research Fellowship, a renewable career award from the Ontario Mental Health Foundation.

Sujata Persad of biochemistry and biomedical sciences and **Gail Gauvreau** of medicine both recently received grants from the Canada Foundation for Innovation's (CFI) New Opportunities Fund, which allows universities to provide research infrastructure for newly-recruited faculty members.

Last fall the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) gave new grants to five Faculty professors.

Koon Teo of medicine was awarded a five-year grant, while **Rick Austin** and **Ali Ashkar** of pathology and molecular medicine and **Alba Guarne** of biochemistry and biomedical sciences received three-year grants. **Harry Shannon** of CE&B received a two-year grant.

At that time CIHR also announced renewal grants for **Steve Collins**, University Professor in the department of medicine; **Yonghong Wan** of pathology and molecular medicine and **Glenda MacQueen**, of psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences.

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■ OUR MISSION AND STRATEGIC PLAN

In health sciences education, research and practice, we are here to question, to learn, to discover and to communicate.

That is the Faculty of Health Sciences' guiding statement of purpose. The new mission was drafted, discussed and revised by a group of more than 60 FHS leaders, including chairs, faculty, staff and students.

During the same interdisciplinary process, the vision for the Faculty was delineated:

Within a culture of innovation, exploration and collaboration, we lead by challenging what is and embracing what could be.

We want to celebrate our successes and learn from our failures, but always strive higher to expand the knowledge of medical science from the basic understanding of cells to the optimum in patient care. We must always ask the next question.

We work towards these goals, this statement of purpose and vision, with several specific tenets. McMaster has always been proud of our uniqueness in providing a collaborative environment for both the training of a wide range of health care professionals and for our research endeavors. This Faculty has also been exceptional in our outspoken commitment to our communities, and our recognition of the need to reflect changing requirements of society. Our tenets are:

Interdisciplinary collaboration, commitment to our communities, excellence, accountability, responsibility, integrity, respect and optimism.

I am quite proud of this new mission statement that has been collaboratively created to reflect the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) in 2004. Copies of a plaque were distributed throughout FHS this summer and will be soon be on a wall near you for easy reference. But the leadership group did not stop there.

Four themes for our strategic planning were also drawn up, with accompanying goals.

Our clinical and administrative departments have already begun to draft their action plans to answer the goals of these themes:

- To invest in continued innovation in our core business of learning and discovery.
- To influence the health agenda through strategic alliances, to strengthen the clinical base and grow the academic mission.
- To establish and maintain fiscal strength in the Faculty of Health Sciences.
- To create an enabling culture to support FHS tenets.

This autumn, the department plans will be developed, reviewed and the work initiated.

This mission statement is in concert with the University's new Refining Directions strategic planning document that sets out McMaster's mission, vision, highest-level goals and critical success factors. The Faculty's initiatives are done under the scope of the University's vision, which is: To achieve international distinction for creativity, innovation and excellence.

Strategic planning keeps our eyes on our goal; on the horizon; and it will move us forward and enable us to travel a straighter, more efficient and satisfying road.

RESEARCH

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In the spring CIHR announced another round of awards. New grants were given to nine FHS researchers. **Andrew MacPherson** of medicine received a five-year award. The aforementioned **Mark Loeb**; **Alison Holloway** of obstetrics and gynecology and **Chris Rabbat** of medicine received four-year awards. **Paul Krueger** of CE&B, **Chengsheng Zhang** of pathology and molecular medicine and **Joan Krepensky** of medicine took three-year awards: **Patty Solomon** of rehabilitation science and **Janet Pinelli** of nursing received two-year awards.

CIHR renewal grants were awarded to **Gerry Wright** and **Justin Nodwell** of biochemistry and biomedical sciences and **John Brash** of pathology and molecular medicine.

In addition, CIHR funds were also awarded to **Mary Law** of rehabilitation science; **Ken Rosenthal** of pathology and molecular medicine and **Hertzel Gerstein** of medicine.

Sharon Kaasalainen of nursing received a grant from the RFA Institute of Aging's Pilot Projects Competition, while **Fiona Miller** of CE&B received a grant from RFA Staying Ahead of the Wave: Genetics, Health Services and Health Policy Competition.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario (HSFO) has given a five-year career investigator award to **Mark Crowther** of medicine.

Rick Austin of pathology and molecular medicine was awarded both a new project grant and a four-year renewal grant by HSFO.

The foundation also issued new project grants to **Koon Teo**, **Clive Kearon** and **Sonia Anand** of medicine and **Yu-jing Gao** of anaesthesia.

A four-year HSFO renewal grant was given to **Jeffrey Weitz** of medicine, while three-year grants were awarded to **Ashok K. Grover**, **Luke J. Janssen** of medicine; **Ted Warkentin** of pathology and molecular medicine; **Radhey Gupta**, **Vettai S. Ananthanarayanan** and **Bernardo Trigatti** of biochemistry and **Anthony Chan** of pediatrics. **Ed Young** of pathology and molecular medicine received a two-year renewal grant.

McMaster has done particularly well in the grants competition of the Canadian Coordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment (CCOHTA). McMaster researchers picked up five of the 21 grants, even though only about one quarter of the overall proposals were funded.

Jacob Rullo, a third-year student of the Bachelor of Health Sciences program, has been selected one of the four North American winners of the David S. Bruce Excellence in Undergraduate Research Award from the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB).

EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION

McMaster is building on its leadership position as an innovator in medical education.

The problem-based learning (PBL) curriculum for the medical program is currently being completely redesigned by a team of dedicated faculty led by Alan Neville and Geoff Norman. Charting a new educational course for the future, the COMPASS curriculum emphasizes the mastery of the fundamental concepts of medicine in a PBL setting. We will integrate these basic concepts with a continuous curriculum of professional development.

The new curriculum adopts research findings from cognitive psychology that emphasize the importance of mastering basic concepts. It will include opportunities for practicing with these concepts to consolidate learning. These academic themes will be continued into the clerkship, and the whole curriculum will be augmented with well-designed electronic resources and simulations.

We now have three groups working on these curriculum changes. The curriculum co-ordination group members have met with specialty departments to develop the conceptual content and its organization, including the health care problems to illustrate the concepts. The professional competencies working group has a focus on learning and skill development in areas critical to the practicing physician, including communication skills, ethics and professionalism. The clerkship working group is examining the current rotations and the opportunities for innovative practice arrangements and improved evaluation.

This fall we will be:

- Launching a website devoted to the new curriculum development;
- Beginning an interdisciplinary lecture series highlighting components of the curriculum. The first lecture on the integration of the art and science of medicine, with Dr. Anthony Suchman, will be held Sept. 22 at 4 p.m. in the Ewart Angus Centre, 1A1.
- Developing a series of faculty development initiatives to prepare our teachers for the new curriculum.

This is our first opportunity in many years to significantly revamp our trendsetting curriculum. I encourage you to become actively involved.

Our innovations are continuing to keep McMaster in the forefront. Earlier this year our MD admissions team, lead by Harold Reiter, won national media attention and acclaim from medical school candidates when it implemented a radical change to the way we select medical student candidates.

Instead of the traditional panel, the multi-mini interview has applicants attend individual 10-minute stations with a consecutive series of observers over two hours, as in an OSCE. Each observer asks the same questions of each candidate on a topic in the areas of ethics, communications, collaborative work or critical thinking. This result of three years of study on ways to improve the student selection process is a better way to differentiate between candidates on the basis of their personal qualities. As we traditionally have more applicants than any other Canadian medical school (4,150 this year for 138 seats), we need to know we are selecting the best. Dr. Reiter has been giving presentations on this methodology, and our School of Rehabilitation Science has also used the process for its candidates this spring.

HEADLINERS

We have had outstanding Faculty members step into roles of responsibility recently.

Andrea Baumann has been appointed to a new position as the associate vice-president (international health) for the Faculty of Health Sciences. In this role, Dr. Baumann will lead the Faculty in establishing international health partnerships in education, research and health care, both within FHS and the University. During her 13 years as our associate dean of the School of Nursing, she grew the school's enrolment exponentially, with a focus on innovative community health. At the same time, she had exemplary success in widening the Faculty's reputation internationally.

Mark Walton has taken on a term as assistant dean of the Postgraduate Medical Education Program. A good communicator with a consultative management style, Dr. Walton had been the postgraduate program director for the general surgery program for the past five years.

I would also like to thank **Brian Steele** for his excellence in the assistant dean's role for two terms, taking the program through significant growth and two accreditation surveys.

Fiona Smail, a microbiologist and infectious disease specialist, known for her leadership when Hamilton was facing the SARS crisis, has taken on the role as acting chair for the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine.

Craig Coblentz, an enthusiastic educator, is our acting chair of the Department of Radiology.

We're very proud of our excellent educators.

Deborah Cook, professor of critical care medicine, received a McMaster University President's Award for Excellence in Educational Leadership at this spring's convocation. Dr. Cook has been an influential leader in the movement to encourage evidence-based decision-making among clinicians.

Our important John C. Sibley Award for part-time faculty has been awarded to **Joanne Santa Barbara** of psychiatry and behavioural neurosciences. During 25 years with FHS, she has been noted for her numerous accomplishments in education, peace studies and as a child psychiatrist.

Bruce Wainman of obstetrics and gynecology, who teaches in midwifery, was named one of this year's McMaster Students Union Faculty Teaching Award winners.

John Rawlinson of diagnostic radiology has been chosen as McMaster's winner of the 2004 PAIRO Excellence in Clinical Teaching Award from Professional Association of Internes and Residents of Ontario (PAIRO).

And resident **Peter Leong-Sit** of internal medicine has received the PAIRO Trust Fund Resident Teaching Award for McMaster for providing an outstanding clinical teaching experience for junior house staff and clinical clerks.

As well, **Arnie Cullimore** of obstetrics and gynecology and **Kathryn Macdonald** of psychiatry have taken both of the PAIRO's Trust Fund Travel Awards.

During this year's oath ceremony, the David Carr Teaching Award

■ ENDOWED CHAIRS

It's as simple as this: Through the generosity of our donors and McMaster University's support, endowed professorial chairs allow us to attract and retain world-renowned researchers and clinician scientists, keeping this Faculty on the leading edge of medical developments.

This past spring we've been fortunate to announce a top flight list of new endowed chairs.

Malcolm Sears became the first holder of the AstraZeneca Chair in Respiratory Epidemiology at McMaster University, sponsored by AstraZeneca Canada, Inc. and McMaster. His research focuses on the rapid increase in asthma cases, particularly in children. Dr. Sears is a professor in the Department of Medicine, and he is research director of the Firestone Institute for Respiratory Health at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton. He was recruited to McMaster from New Zealand in 1990.

Peter Szatmari is the first to be named to the Chedoke Health Chair in Child Psychiatry at McMaster University. Within the Faculty, Dr. Szatmari is a professor of psychiatry and vice-chair of research and head of the division of Child Psychiatry. He is also the acting director of the Offord Centre for Child Studies and a world-renowned expert in the study of autism and pervasive developmental disorders. A McMaster alumni, Szatmari has been a member of the Faculty since 1988.

Paul Moayyedi has been named as the first holder of the Richard Hunt – AstraZeneca Chair in Gastroenterology. Dr.

Moayyedi arrived this spring from England to continue his population-based research into common gastrointestinal disorders. His chair resulted from two generous gifts: one from AstraZeneca and the other from McMaster professor Richard Hunt, who was the first director of our Intestinal Disease Research Unit and of the Division of Gastroenterology.

John Miller, head of the Division of Thoracic Surgery, is the first recipient of the Mortgage Intelligence/GMAC Residential Funding of Canada Chair in Thoracic Surgery. His research spans from benign lung disease to minimal access thoracic surgery and thoracic oncology. He joined McMaster in 1993.

Mehran Anvari, director of surgical research, became the first to hold the Chair in Minimally Invasive Surgery and Surgical Innovation, which was made available through Johnson & Johnson Medical Products. His clinical research has focused on the use of laparoscopic techniques in the treatment of upper and lower gastrointestinal tract disorders. He has been with McMaster since 1999.

I also want to note Heather Arthur's taking the first Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario Chair in Cardiovascular Nursing. Dr. Arthur, a professor of nursing, is also director of the FUTURE Program for Cardiovascular Nurse Scientists, a national program to train PhD-prepared cardiovascular nurses as career researchers. Her own research program is related to health behaviour and its relationship to the risk for and recovery from heart disease. She joined McMaster's faculty in 1981.

BRIEFS

■ NEW NAME

In recognition of the changing scope of its research and education, our Department of Biochemistry is now known as the Department of Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences. Its research spans structural biology to leading edge cell biology and from molecular mechanisms of diseases to the development of therapeutics. This multi-talented faculty is fast becoming first in the field of biomedical research.

■ RECRUITMENT CD-ROM

We have the goal of recruiting the best in faculty, staff and students. To welcome the best, you need to get your message to the correct audience in a way they understand. This spring our School of Rehabilitation Science developed a CD-ROM that was sent to all prospective students for fall admission. It's an edgy, interactive piece on a theme of exploration (aka Indiana Jones), which highlights Hamilton, McMaster University, the Faculty and its programs.

HEADLINERS

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was presented to **Ari Shali**. The graduating medical students also presented Outstanding Clerkship Preceptor Awards to faculty members **Leo Farrauto, Tonia Seli, Karen Raymer, Desigen Reddy, Karl Stobbe, Allyn Walsh, Ameen Patel, Margot Loosley-Millman, David Small, Moyez Ladhani, Rod Lough** and **Surianarayan Rammohan**.

It was **Bert Visheau's** dedication and innovation that brought him to the attention of McMaster University President Dr. Peter George. The manager of the prototype workshop for the Committee on Scientific Development has been presented a President's Award for Outstanding Service.

McMaster University President's Awards for Excellence in Student Leadership awarded to medical graduate **Gregory Athlaide** and to Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) graduate **Sean Park**, who was also this year's convocation valedictorian.

These are exciting times for the Faculty; your contributions are much appreciated.

Sincerely,



John G. Kelton, MD
Dean and Vice-President

