

Thank you for the kind introduction.

I would like to express my gratitude to Bayer for supporting the establishment of this endowed chair. Bayer's investment shows the confidence they have in McMaster University and McMaster Children's Hospital to use "**Science for a better Life**".

I would also like to thank McMaster for **entrusting me as the inaugural chair** in the area of Pediatric Thrombosis and Hemostasis. I am **both honoured and humbled** and I will use this resource properly to **discover, communicate and preserve knowledge in the field**. With **McMaster being the most innovative University and the Hospital providing family centered care**, I have been provided with an **environment to grow and literally have had them look after my family as my son has seen many of the specialists** within this Hospital.

The endowed chair is a significant resource conferred on my team and me for research so we can ultimately advance care in children with bleeding and clotting disorders.

Research is indeed a great tool to provide educational opportunities for the next generation. A good example is my past and present graduate students, who are in the audience.

Research generates knowledge, which we can use to treat our patients and maintain our clinical care at the cutting edge.

Research for clinicians like me produces experts, which gives patients and parents confidence that they are getting the best care.

However, at times, doing research can be very lonely because you are venturing into **unchartered territories**. Despite the challenges, I can always rely on the members of my research team such as **Les Berry** to support the research, my **clinical team** to deliver the best care and my family (especially my wife Cindy) to support me in literally anything else. Without my teams' and my family's support, I would have accomplished little.

I started my higher education at Queen's University in Engineering in 1980 and some of my colleagues were surprised by my jump from engineering physics into medicine. In truth, both disciplines solve problems but in different systems. Medicine solves problems in the human body and mind. My first brush with research and thrombosis resulted in a paper titled "Fetal and neonatal outcome of exposure to anticoagulants during pregnancy" published in 1993. In that same year, I met **Dr Andrew**, my mentor. I then had the good fortune to learn about research and pediatric thrombosis from her. Thanks to her training and mentoring, I am now told that I am an expert in pediatric thrombosis. I presume this may also be the reason that I was even confident enough to make treatment decisions when my son developed a blood clot. I am also glad that I was able to join the ranks of

the world-renown teams of thrombosis experts working at McMaster.

The next thing that happened after I joined McMaster was that I got to learn about bleeding problems from **Dr Mohan Pai and Dr Irwin Walker**. Together, they provided me with more than 60 years of their experience in treating patients with hemophilia. They taught me much and also introduced me to the world of bleeding disorders. **By 2005, 25 years from the time I started my higher education, I became a professor in pediatrics at McMaster University.** This was quite a long road but I am convinced it was worth the effort because I got to appreciate what research can do for the lives of my patients, including that of my own son.

I have been deeply inspired and I would like to inspire others as I continue to do research and provide education for others.

My team will continue our research with the immediate goal of finishing the **development of our novel anticoagulant that may improve outcomes in children undergoing cardiopulmonary bypass** and be used to treat a very rare coagulation disorder. I am also looking at developing teams to further investigate problems in bleeding disorders and thrombosis. The intention is for these teams to be international and go beyond the four walls of McMaster.

In 2011, McMaster University won their first Vanier Cup and established possibly the first endowed chair in pediatric thrombosis and hemostasis in Canada. While my team will continue research for enhancing care in children with clotting and bleeding problems and be the champion for the care of children, may I ask you to continue supporting the establishment of research chairs in different areas of children's health, such as for children with cancer **because it is very important for our future.**

In conclusion, I would like to thank the senior management team at McMaster and Hamilton Health Sciences for supporting this endowed chair to be established, Dr Barr to bring me back to McMaster, all the children and family that taught me about their life, all the physicians calling the 1800NOCLOTS service that taught me so much about thrombosis, and **all the other unsung heros that have helped me throughout the years.**