

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO
McMASTER UNIVERSITY'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS
APRIL 18, 2019**

Student Voices on Sexual Violence Survey: Overview of Campus Supports and Outcomes

As Board Members will have seen, the provincial government recently released a summary report of findings from the [*Student Voices on Sexual Violence Survey*](#) conducted in 2018. The survey was instigated to gather information about how student respondents perceive, understand and respond to sexual violence. The summary provides data about responses to questions around students' experiences of harassment, stalking and non-consensual sexual experiences, both on and off campus. It also includes responses to questions about students' knowledge of sexual violence supports and satisfaction with institutional responses to sexual violence.

Given the importance of this topic and the University's ongoing focus on being responsive and providing the education, supports and services that students need, McMaster worked hard to raise awareness of the provincial survey and encourage participation. In total, almost 164,000 university, college and career college students took part. According to the summary report, 31% of McMaster students participated, as against the average provincial participation rate of 26%.

At this stage, only the summary report is available and, in general, the outcomes for McMaster are broadly consistent with those of peer institutions. Statistics Canada data indicates that although Sexual Violence is a problem across our society, individuals of university age have a greater likelihood of being the victims of sexual assault and harassment, with students and non-students facing similar rates of assault. The University is working to understand the information provided by the summary data and identify key areas that require both immediate and longer-term attention. The release of the summary report was accompanied by increased investment by the province, with the Minister announcing a doubling of the province's investment in the Women's Campus Safety grant. This additional funding is welcome and will be used in support of our ongoing efforts to prevent sexual violence through prevention, education, supports and services.

Sexual Violence Policy and Protocol

McMaster is one of only a few Ontario universities with a [*Sexual Violence Response Protocol*](#), which has been in place since 2015. The Protocol provides detailed information about campus supports available, as well as guidance for campus members on how to provide the best support to individuals who disclose an experience of sexual, intimate partner or family violence.

In addition to the Protocol, the University has a dedicated *Sexual Violence Policy* and *Policy on Discrimination and Harassment: Prevention and Response*. A review of both policies is currently underway and will be completed to meet the deadline specified by the provincial government. This work is being coordinated by the University Secretariat with the engagement of a range of key offices and stakeholders across campus, including the Equity and Inclusion office, Human Resources Services, Student Support and Case Management, the Faculty of Health Sciences Professionalism Office, and members of the President and Vice-Presidents group.

Sexual Violence Education and Training

As prescribed by the *Sexual Violence Policy*, the University has also established a Sexual Violence Education Team made up of students, faculty, staff and community partners, and chaired by the Sexual Violence Response Coordinator. The role of this group is to assist in planning, implementing and evaluating prevention education and response training programs and support the University in its work to address sexual violence on campus. Although established prior to the recent provincial announcement, this group will fulfill the government's requirement for every publicly-assisted college and university in Ontario to create a task force.

Over the past two years more than 8,600 students, staff and faculty across campus have participated in awareness raising, education and training initiatives related to sexual violence. This includes engagement in Welcome Week activities, and annual training of all Welcome Week student leaders, as well as new students, staff and faculty, residence managers, community advisors, MSU clubs executives, student athletes, teaching assistants, security services staff, and student success centre staff, amongst others.

Strategic Approach to Sexual Violence

In the fall of 2018, McMaster's Associate Vice-President (Equity and Inclusion), engaged campus partners and stakeholders in conversations about taking a more strategic approach to addressing campus sexual violence, to ensure we are using best practices for prevention and adequately responding to the needs of our campus community.

As a result of these conversations, a number of new prevention and response initiatives are being undertaken, including planning to develop and pilot new training for campus community members who may be receiving disclosures, developing and piloting new awareness raising and prevention education activities, including bystander intervention workshops, and planning to enhance and centralize the collection and reporting of data on consultations, disclosures and complaints.

Next Steps

The University will continue its focus on strategic sexual violence prevention, education and response over the coming months and the recent summary report from the student survey will assist in our ongoing consideration of how best to enhance these activities. We will also continue to work actively with peer institutions to understand and assess best practices and build community capacity to address campus sexual violence within the broader social context, in order to better foster a culture of consent and an environment that is free from gender-based harassment, discrimination and violence.

CAMPUS UPDATE

McMaster ranked second in the world for Global Impact in Times Higher Education Rankings

McMaster has placed second in the world in a new international ranking that recognizes the impact universities are making in their own countries and on a global scale. The Times Higher Education Impact rankings are based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations, which are designed to address the most serious challenges of our time.

More than 450 institutions from 80 countries participated in the rankings, with McMaster being recognized for its deep commitment to the development goals including good health and well-being, decent work and economic growth, building sustainable cities and communities, achieving gender equity and revitalizing global partnerships. The University of Auckland, New Zealand, was ranked #1 overall in the world, with UBC and the University of Manchester, United Kingdom, being placed joint #3.

While McMaster was ranked second overall, we received specific rankings in certain key development goals, including being ranked #1 for Decent Work and Economic Growth, #2 for Good Health and Well-Being, #14 for Sustainable Cities and Communities, #16 for Partnership for the Goals, and #68 for Gender Equality.

This ranking is a great testament to all the work and focus on community engagement, building international partnerships, expanding our research impact and working to revise our internal policies and approach, and will raise McMaster's profile, both nationally and internationally.

McMaster Professors recognized as Members of the Order of Canada

Mohit Bhandari and Jamal Deen became Members of the Order of Canada on March 14. They join four McMaster alumni who were inducted into the Order earlier this year.

Dr. Bhandari is a Professor and the Academic Chair of the Division of Orthopedic Surgery at McMaster. He serves as the Associate Chair of Research of the Department of Surgery at the University and holds a Canada Research Chair in Evidence-Based Orthopedics. He is recognized as a global leader in the promotion of evidence-based surgery and orthopedic research and is also acknowledged as one of the top 10 most cited orthopedic fracture surgeons in the world.

Dr. Deen is a Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and a Senior Canada Research Chair in Information Technology. He is recognized for his profound impact on the development of optical detection, imaging and sensing systems, and on the development of wireless technologies. He is also the President of the Academy of Science of the Royal Society of Canada.

McMaster Women's Basketball Team claims first National Title

After an exciting season, the Women's Basketball Team overcame Laval Rouge et Or, winning the final 70-58 and claiming the first title in their history. This was also the first time the team had appeared in a national title game.

Research

McMaster Start-Up secures \$105M (USD) to commercialize potential Cancer Treatment

Fusion Pharmaceuticals, a biopharmaceutical company founded at the University and based at McMaster Innovation Park (MIP), has secured \$105M (USD) in private financing to help advance a new approach to cancer therapy based on its ground-breaking research.

The company was spun off from the Centre for Probe Development and Commercialization (CPDC), which is located at McMaster. Fusion's Chief Executive Officer is John Valliant, a

Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at the University. Fusion's lead product is designed to seek out and infiltrate cancer cells, delivering a lethal and highly localized dose of radiation. It is intended for use with drug-resistant tumours that do not respond to traditional therapies, which may include lung, prostate, breast and colorectal cancers.

McMaster receives \$8.45M in Health Research Funding

McMaster is receiving \$8.45 million from the federal government to support 13 health research projects. The results of the 2018 fall Canadian Institutes of Health Research project grants competition – part of a national investment of \$275 million for health research projects – were shared during an announcement at McMaster on March 14. The thirteen projects supported will focus on a diverse range of health-related issues including muscular dystrophy, diabetic kidney disease, prostate cancer, improving palliative care in the home and community, and income inequality and population health.

McMaster receives \$2M for Leading-Edge Facilities

Ten McMaster researchers will receive nearly \$2 million in infrastructure funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation to advance their research in a variety of fields. The funding, which comes from the John R. Evans Leaders Fund, is designed to provide researchers with the foundational equipment and facilities to support them to become leaders in their field.

McMaster Health Forum Celebrates 10th Anniversary

The McMaster Health Forum has celebrated its 10th anniversary with new grants, partners and milestones, as well as an expanded focus on social systems including the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Forum recently led an international group that received a \$2 million grant from the Hewlett Foundation and Canada's International Development Research Centre to better support policymakers in efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. As a result, the Forum has now established Partners for Evidence-driven Rapid Learning in Social Systems to facilitate evidence-informed policymaking around the Sustainable Development Goals in fourteen countries.

In another milestone, the World Health Organization (WHO) and its regional office for the Americas, the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), recently renewed the Forum's designation as the PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre for Evidence-Informed Policy for a third term of four years. In this role, the Forum supports evidence-informed policymaking at WHO headquarters, regional offices and member states.

Teaching and Learning

MSU celebrates Teaching Excellence with 2019 Teaching Awards

Twenty members of the McMaster community received recognition for their dedication to teaching at the annual McMaster Student Union (MSU) Teaching Awards ceremony held in March. The awards, which were established in 1978, recognize outstanding teaching performance, including the ability to communicate, and the approachability and enthusiasm of the instructor. Recipients are determined by the number of nominations as well as class evaluations.

Faculty members, sessional instructors, teaching assistants and staff from every Faculty were honoured at the ceremony, with the MSU Lifetime Achievement Award being presented to Judy Major-Giradin, a Professor in the School of the Arts.

The Forge McMaster announces \$100K Student Startup Competition Winners

Twelve finalists vied for more than \$100,000 in cash prizes in front of a panel of judges and more than 350 attendees at the annual Student Startup Competition held on March 20. The judges for the evening included Jim Orlando, Managing Partner at OMERS Ventures, Sion Balass, Founder and Managing Partner of The Group Investments, and Gay Yuyitung, Executive Director of the McMaster Industry Liaison Office. All finalists received a minimum \$6,000 prize to work on their businesses over the summer and the winning teams also received a place in The Forge's Summer Startup Academy.

Global and Community Engagement

McMaster and University of South-Eastern Norway receive Funding to tackle Global Health issues in Northern Communities

The two institutions have received funding from the Norwegian government to continue their collaborative work in high north regions in both countries. McMaster and USN have been partners since 2015, working together to focus on global health policy related to climate change and mental health in circumpolar populations in both countries.

McMaster Students support people with Parkinson's Disease

The Hamilton Parkinson's Chorus, started by a second-year Arts & Science student, gives people with Parkinson's Disease the chance to experience the therapeutic power of singing. The non-auditioned group meets weekly on the University campus.

McMaster Students team up with City and Community Partners to take action on Climate Change and other Sustainability Issues

Semester@CityLAB is an immersive 15-unit experiential learning course based in downtown Hamilton. Working in interdisciplinary teams, students will have the chance to co-develop sustainability projects with the City of Hamilton and collaborate with members of the community. They will also learn about community engagement through lectures, workshops and field trips that will take them into a range of urban community spaces.

McMaster participates in Cities in Action Climate Change Conference

At the end of March McMaster researchers joined more than 60 speakers and panelists at the Cities in Action: Bay Area Climate Change Summit 2019. The four-day event brought together researchers, community leaders, youth and industry partners to raise awareness about climate change and its impacts on the area. Along with three days of speakers and panels covering topics that included climate and economy, energy and community, and transportation and health, the summit included a one-day youth conference held at McMaster Innovation Park.

The Cities in Action summit was sponsored by the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce and included partnerships with the cities of Hamilton and Burlington, Mohawk College's Centre for Climate Change Management, McMaster and Sustainable Hamilton Burlington.