

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO  
McMASTER UNIVERSITY'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
OCTOBER 22, 2015**

**FORWARD WITH INTEGRITY: THE NEXT PHASE**

My report for this meeting is in a rather different format. At our recent Board Retreat, I reviewed the guiding strategy for the University, as outlined in my *Forward with Integrity* letter and reflected in our Strategic Mandate Agreement signed with the provincial government, and also highlighted a number of the key priorities and areas of focus for the coming years. Following the helpful discussion at the Board Retreat, I prepared “Forward with Integrity: The Next Phase” as a directional document for release to the broader University community. A copy is attached, together with its companion document *McMaster Goals and Priorities 2014-15*, which contains a more detailed account of McMaster’s FWI priorities, as well as the key initiatives and outcomes associated with them.

**Attachment 1:** Forward with Integrity (FWI): The Next Phase

**Attachment 2:** McMaster Goals and Priorities 2014-15 (which forms part of the 2014-15 McMaster Fact Book produced by the Office of Institutional Research and Analysis).

**CAMPUS UPDATE**

**McMaster remains among the Top 100 World Universities in Times Higher Ed Rankings**

McMaster has maintained its position among the top 100 universities in the world according to the latest Times Higher Education rankings. The rankings once again place McMaster 94<sup>th</sup> in the world, making it one of only four Canadian universities in the top 100. For the sixth consecutive year, McMaster is the second highest ranked university in Ontario and the fourth in Canada. Earlier this year, McMaster was ranked 96th by the Shanghai Jiaotong University Academic Ranking of World Universities (one of only four Canadian universities ranked in the top 100) and 149th in the QS World University Rankings (33rd in Medicine).

**McMaster's Laurel Trainor inducted into Royal Society of Canada**

McMaster’s Laurel Trainor will be inducted into the Royal Society of Canada this November. The Professor of Psychology, Neuroscience and Behaviour and Director of the McMaster Institute for Music and the Mind, is one of 87 new Fellows elected from across Canada. Election to the academy of the Royal Society of Canada is the highest honour a scholar can achieve in the Arts, Humanities and Sciences.

**Two Professors named to Medical Hall of Fame**

Dr. May Cohen and Dr. Gordon Guyatt have been named to the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame. Cohen, Professor Emeritus of Family Medicine, worked to promote the equality and well-being of women both as providers and beneficiaries of health care. Guyatt, a Distinguished University Professor of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, has made ground breaking contributions in the measurement of health-related quality of life, and led the initial development of the concept of evidence-based medicine.

### **Two McMaster Professors inducted into the Canadian Academy of Engineering**

Natalia Nikolova, an Electrical & Computer Engineering Professor, and Gu Xu, a Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, were both inducted as Fellows into the Canadian Academy of Engineering during the organization's annual meeting and symposium held in Hamilton in June. The academy is a national institution through which Canada's most distinguished and experienced engineers provide strategic advice on matters of critical importance to Canada.

### **McMaster celebrates 85 years in Hamilton**

McMaster celebrated its 85th anniversary in Hamilton this fall. A number of events were held to mark the occasion, as well as a 24-hour online fundraising campaign in support of student bursaries. McMaster also hoisted its first official flag above University Hall as part of the celebration.

## **Research**

### **McMaster Faculty Awarded more than \$53M in Research Grants and Scholarships**

McMaster health researchers will receive a total of \$37.2M from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research to further their research. The funds will support research ranging from a better understanding of how to combat bacteria to improving critical care, and from studying cardiovascular issues around the world to examining the relationship between the gut and the brain. In addition, dozens of scientists, engineers, post-doctoral fellows and graduate students from McMaster have received significant funding—more than \$16.5M—from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC). Seventy-nine researchers have received Discovery Grants, a total of \$14.3M, to fund long-term operating costs, purchase new lab equipment and research tools. Six of those researchers have each been awarded an additional \$120,000 in recognition of their top-ranked research programs.

### **Global First: McMaster partners in Cancer-Fighting Virus Trial**

Scientists at McMaster are partners in the launch of the world's first clinical trial of a novel investigational therapy that uses a combination of two viruses to attack and kill cancer cells, and stimulate an anti-cancer immune response. Previous research by this team and others suggests that this approach could be very powerful, and could have fewer side effects than conventional chemotherapy and radiation. The therapy was jointly discovered and is being developed by Brian Lichty, Associate Professor of Pathology and Molecular Medicine at the Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine; Dr. David Stojdl of the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario and University of Ottawa; John Bell of the Ottawa Hospital and the University of Ottawa, and their research teams.

### **McMaster Professor Leads International Team in Novel HIV Research**

A group of international researchers led by McMaster's Charu Kaushic has been awarded a \$1.2M CIHR Team Grant to study the mucosal immune response to HIV. With support from the Canadian HIV Vaccine Initiative, and in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Kaushic and her colleagues propose to further explore whether changes in a woman's hormones, genital microflora and immune system increase the risk of HIV infection.

### **New Facilities to Develop Hybrid Car, Harvest Wasted Energy**

Canada Excellence Research Chair Ali Emadi and his team at McMaster's Institute for Automotive Research and Technology (MacAUTO), have been awarded \$4.4M from the Ontario Research Fund for a Virtual Electric and Hybrid Electric Powertrain Integration Lab. The high-tech lab will allow engineers and scientists to research and test the next generation of vehicles and electrified powertrains – the group of car parts that generate power and transfer it to the road.

### **Federal Government recognizes CLSA for reaching 50,000 Participants**

The Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging's (CLSA) milestone of reaching its ambitious recruitment goal of 50,000 Canadian participants was formally recognized by the Government of Canada during a gathering at McMaster Innovation Park. Minister of Labour Kellie Leitch and Member of Parliament David Sweet, representing Minister of Health Rona Ambrose, were on hand to congratulate leaders from the CLSA and McMaster, and to thank the Canadians from coast to coast who are taking part in the national, long-term study that will follow participants for 20 years. The CLSA, the most comprehensive study of aging ever undertaken in Canada, is a strategic initiative of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), which recently provided an additional \$41.6 million to allow the study to continue for the next five years.

### **Twelve McMaster Research Projects receive more than \$2.4-million**

Twelve projects that will include research on the origins of life and new technologies to monitor the elderly were awarded more than \$2.4-million in infrastructure funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation. Among them, Biophysicist Maikel Rheinstädter, Theoretical Astrophysicist Ralph Pudritz and Biochemist Yingfu Li, will work to unravel the mystery of how the earliest form of cellular life emerged more than 3.5 billion years ago. The trio has established the Origins of Life Laboratory, a facility unlike any other in the world.

## **Community**

### **McMaster and McMaster Students Union partner to aid Student Refugees**

The University and the McMaster Students Union have launched a joint partnership to help support student refugees, with a focus over the coming year on refugees from Syria. The initiative builds on the existing student refugee program funded by full-time McMaster undergraduate students.

### **Scholar-in-Community to tackle Child-Welfare issues in Immigrant Communities**

Mirna Carranza, the Faculty of Social Sciences' first Scholar-in-Community, is leading a year-long project that will bring together representatives from St. Joseph Immigrant Women's Centre, the Children's Aid Society and the University. Her goal is to develop strategies to lower the rate at which immigrant families are involved with child-welfare agencies such as the Children's Aid Society.

### **Indigenous Witness Blanket makes stop at Hamilton Public Library**

A large-scale art installation made of hundreds of items reclaimed from Residential Schools, churches and other buildings from across Canada made a stop in Hamilton. McMaster was one of several partners sponsoring the installation's visit to the city. The Witness Blanket was available for viewing at the Hamilton Public Library.

### **'Neighbourhood Hoops' campaign brings Mac Basketball to Beasley Park**

McMaster has launched the Neighbourhood Hoops 3-on-3 basketball league in inner-city Beasley. The league offers barrier-free, accessible basketball programming to players aged 9-14. It follows the success of the winter development program offered at the Beasley Community Centre and Eva Rothwell Centre.

### **Alyssa Lai and Terry Cooke honoured with Community Impact Awards**

Two more members of the McMaster family have been recognized with Alumni Hamilton Community Impact Awards. Alyssa Lai and Terry Cooke were celebrated at a luncheon at the Art Gallery of Hamilton on September 23, along with long-time GSA Softball League commissioners Andy Duncan and Curt Heckaman.

### **McMaster Recognized for ongoing commitment to Hamilton Harbour**

The Bay Area Restoration Council has recognized McMaster for its work in support of Hamilton Harbour and its neighbouring watersheds. The community-based non-profit group, whose mandate includes promoting, monitoring and assessing the Remedial Action Plan for Hamilton Harbour, recognized McMaster with an Implementation Award during its annual general meeting.

## **Teaching and Learning**

### **Pippa Lock named one of Ontario's best University Teachers**

The Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA) has named Pippa Lock as one of the province's most outstanding university teachers. Lock, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry & Chemical Biology, will receive a 2014-2015 OCUFA Teaching Award on October 24 during a ceremony in Toronto.

### **Indigenous Students get taste of Graduate School at McMaster**

Students from across the province, community members, faculty and staff came together to mark the beginning of the Indigenous Undergraduate Summer Research Scholars program this summer. The IUSRS is a collaborative effort between McMaster's Indigenous Studies Program and the School of Graduate Studies, offering Indigenous undergraduate students a glimpse at life as a graduate student researcher at the University. Like other undergraduate research programs, IUS Scholars were matched with supervisors from the Faculties of Health Sciences, Social Sciences, Science, Humanities and Engineering. They worked in labs and libraries across campus, in the field, and in local communities.

### **Business Accelerator opens in Downtown Hamilton**

McMaster University, Innovation Factory and Mohawk College have opened a business accelerator in downtown Hamilton. The partners have secured a location at 245 James St. N., in a commercial block between Robert Street and Barton Street, in the heart of the district that is leading Hamilton's urban renewal. The Forge Downtown, which opened at the beginning of September, will support the growth of tech-related businesses by connecting entrepreneurs with the people, resources and inspiration they need to attain their goals.

### **McMaster welcomes four new Schulich Leaders**

The Schulich Leader scholarship program that supports high-performing students at leading Canadian universities has named four incoming McMaster students as recipients of the prestigious award. The program, founded by philanthropist Seymour Schulich, has been providing undergraduate scholarships in the STEM fields since 2012. It is funded by the Schulich Foundation and co-administered by the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. Schulich Leaders in Engineering each receive \$80,000 to support their undergraduate studies, while students in Science, Technology and Mathematics each receive \$60,000.

### **Niagara Physician and McMaster Alumna wins Sibley Award for Teaching**

Amanda Bell, an Assistant Clinical Professor of the Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine's Niagara Regional Campus, is the 2015 recipient of the John C. Sibley Award for excellence in education by part-time faculty. Bell graduated from McMaster's medical program in 1998, and has been praised for her leadership as a family physician in Port Colborne. She is being honoured for her clinical teaching. A faculty member for the past 15 years while practicing family medicine, Bell has focused on adolescent medicine and women's health.

### **New Labs to be a 'game changer' for Undergraduate Learning**

The Applied Learning Lab for Undergraduate Research Excellence (ALLURE) and the Undergraduate Cell Biology Lab officially opened earlier this year. These labs, created by the Department of Biology, will provide undergraduates with lab spaces where students from all disciplines in the Faculty of Science will gain valuable hands-on skills using research-grade equipment with guidance from faculty members. Each space is designed to provide a unique training opportunity for students. In the ALLURE lab, students participate in authentic, group-based, publishable research projects led by faculty members.

### **Enrolment Increases as English Language Development Diploma enters Second Year**

The McMaster English Language Development Diploma (MELD) has just welcomed its second cohort into the program, with more than double the number of students. A total of 84 students registered to attend the program this year — up from 36 last year. MELD is a transitional or “bridging” program, intended for international students who need to improve their oral and written English language skills prior to beginning their first full year of university.

### **McMaster Students building Satellite to study Space Radiation**

A team of McMaster undergraduates is building a miniature satellite to send into orbit for a project that will help researchers better understand the effects of radiation on astronauts. More than 30 students, led by recent grad Andrei Hanu, now a researcher at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, have been meeting weekly since January to design and build the “CubeSat”. The satellite, about the size of a loaf of bread, will contain specialized equipment that will help researchers measure the amount and type of radiation astronauts face, especially during space walks.