

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO
McMASTER UNIVERSITY'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS
APRIL 16, 2015**

On May 15, the University will celebrate the formal opening of the Downtown Health Campus. Situated at the corner of Main Street West and Bay Street South, in the heart of the City, the Health Campus symbolizes McMaster's commitment to Hamilton, as well as the benefits to members of the local community that collaboration between the City and the University can provide. The Health Campus is unique within Canada in co-locating McMaster's Department of Family Medicine with the headquarters of the City's Public Health Services, and several education programs of the Faculty of Health Sciences, to facilitate ongoing collaboration between researchers, educators and staff. The Health Campus will also be home to the McMaster Family Practice, an integrated primary health clinic that will provide access to family doctors, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, occupational therapists and physiotherapists for 15,000 Hamiltonians, with a focus on serving those from the lower City.

In addition to the provision of integrated health care, the building also includes the Maternity Centre of Hamilton, which provides care for approximately 700 women each year, as well as community-focused space, including a multi-purpose auditorium that can be used for a variety of public and community events and activities. A range of teaching spaces and meeting rooms provide space for the 4,000 students who will attend the site to study and engage in clinical work alongside health care providers. At our meeting on April 16, Dr. John Kelton, Dean and Vice-President (Health Sciences), and Dr. David Price, Chair, Department of Family Medicine, will be joining us to explain in more detail the many interesting and innovative features of the building, as well as the philosophy that underpins the Health Campus.

McMaster has, of course, had a presence in downtown Hamilton for many years, with the Centre for Continuing Education and staff from a number of administrative units having occupied the former courthouse building at 50 Main Street East since 2001. The recent move of these units to the new One James North location provides a further opportunity for the University to cement and expand its connections with the City and the community, with more than 4,000 students enrolled in Continuing Education courses at the new location. The University has a presence in a variety of other locations across the City too, which allows for outreach as varied as the School of Nursing's clinical teaching facility at the Perkins Centre in the east end, which provides health care for refugees and new immigrants to Canada in partnership with the Refuge Centre for Hamilton Newcomer Health and Homestead Christian Care, and the Action Research Commons Hamilton (ARCH), run by the School of Graduate Studies, which was established as a gathering place for researchers, students, area residents, and others to engage with each other while conducting or preparing for community-engaged research.

As the University's recent capacity expansion proposal made clear, amplifying McMaster's presence in downtown Hamilton, and building upon the successful partnerships already established within the City, are a priority for the institution. Not only does such expansion support the continued economic development of the City, it also promotes civic engagement within the McMaster community, provides valuable academic programming and experiential

learning opportunities for our students and enables critical research to be undertaken, which has the potential to enhance the quality of life enjoyed by the citizens of Hamilton and beyond.

The opening of the Downtown Health Campus provides an important opportunity to highlight McMaster's contributions to the City and reflect upon the even greater role that we can play in building upon the strengths of the region and the City as a centre of quality health care, research innovation and knowledge creation. Beginning soon after the opening, and continuing over the 2015/16 academic year, the University is planning a Research Showcase, a series of high-profile clusters of events focused around the notion of healthy, smart and creative cities and including speakers, discussions and events relating to topics as diverse as the impact of environmental and climate change, the creation of healthy neighbourhoods, the importance of optimal aging and the many opportunities and challenges presented by the growth of big data. These important discussions are intended to be collaborative, engaging and accessible and will highlight the important academic research underway at the University, as well as providing a means to expand partnerships and connections more broadly across the community.

CAMPUS UPDATE

Research

World experts gather to plot strategy in war against superbugs

The world's top infectious disease researchers gathered in California recently to map out their next moves in the battle against antimicrobial resistant bacteria. The Keystone Symposium, an important international conference for those searching for the next generation of medical treatments, was co-chaired by McMaster's Eric Brown, Canada Research Chair in Microbial Chemical Biology. Gerry Wright, Director of the Michael G. DeGroote Institute for Infectious Disease Research, and Lori Burrows, a Professor of Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences, were featured speakers at the conference.

\$41.6M boost for Aging Study led by Parminder Raina

The Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA) has received a \$41.6 million grant through the Government of Canada to continue its work for the next five years. The most comprehensive study of aging ever undertaken in Canada began in 2010 and is led by Parminder Raina - a McMaster Professor and holder of both the Canada Research Chair in Geroscience and the Raymond and Margaret Labarge Chair in Research and Knowledge Application for Optimal Aging.

A new bird flu threat?

A new strain of avian flu, known as H7N9, is causing concern among health officials because it exhibits different characteristics from other strains and has the potential to mutate further. McMaster's Matthew Miller, an Assistant Professor based in the Michael G. DeGroote Institute for Infectious Disease Research, is working on a universal flu vaccine that would provide multiple years of protection against the virus. The vaccine will undergo several clinical trials in 2015 and 2016.

Routine clot removal after heart attack not beneficial

The largest study ever of its kind, led by researchers from McMaster and the University of Toronto, has found that a routine strategy of blood clot removal during treatment for heart attacks was associated with an increased risk of stroke. It showed there was no benefit from the routine use of thrombectomy, or blood clot removal, and that heart attack patients receiving this were more likely to have a stroke compared to those undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) alone. PCI, also known as angioplasty, is a common procedure that involves opening up a blocked artery in the heart usually with a balloon followed by a stent.

Inkjet printer could produce simple tool to ID infectious disease and food contaminants

Consumers are one step closer to benefiting from packaging that could give simple text warnings when food is contaminated with deadly pathogens like E. coli and Salmonella, and patients could soon receive real-time diagnoses of infections such as C. difficile in their doctors' offices, saving critical time and trips to the lab. Researchers in the Biointerfaces Institute have developed a new way to print paper biosensors, simplifying the diagnosis of many bacterial and respiratory infections. The new platform is the latest in a progression of paper-based screening technologies, which enable users to generate a clear, simple answer in the form of letters and symbols that appear on the test paper to indicate the presence of infection or contamination in people, food or the environment.

Study finds HIV not as infectious soon after transmission as previously thought

People who only recently contracted HIV may not be as highly infectious as previously believed, a new analysis conducted by researchers at McMaster, the University of Texas at Austin and Yale University has found. The finding has implications for public health approaches to controlling the spread of HIV, including decisions about giving more patients antiretroviral drugs before the onset of AIDS.

Community Engagement

Celebrating 90 years of Community Impact

The Canadian Federation of University Women – Hamilton celebrated 90 years of work in March. The organization supports four scholarships at McMaster, benefitting at least 130 students.

McMaster grad first to receive national Indigenous Health Award

Dr. Karen Hill has received the inaugural Royal College Dr. Thomas Dignan Indigenous Health Award for her dedication to bridging the gap between Indigenous health values and the practice of western medicine. The Mohawk Nation physician graduated from the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine in 2003, and has been the faculty lead in Aboriginal peoples health for the Department of Family Medicine since 2007. In this position she advises on the integration of cultural safety and competence in the education and clinical training of residents.

Student and alumni artists re-define 'archive' with Science Centre exhibition

The Archive and Everyday Life, curated by English and Cultural Studies Professor Mary O'Connor, opened at the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto on March 7. The exhibition stems from student work produced over five years in a graduate studies course of the same name.

Students were asked to create an archive using objects and experiences in their everyday lives, and then to critically reflect on the process. Their works are intended as experiments that expose aspects of everyday life that may otherwise go unnoticed.

EFRT student volunteers quietly celebrate 10,000 calls

Last November, McMaster's Emergency First Response Team (EFRT) hit a major milestone by fielding its 10,000th call. It's taken a little longer than expected to mark the occasion, due to the demanding nature of the unique student service. EFRT is staffed by approximately 30 student volunteers who provide emergency medical services to the McMaster community 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Its members, who come from all faculties and departments, are trained First Responders and Emergency Medical Responders. They have also taken additional International Trauma Life Support (ITLS) training at Toronto EMS facilities.

Aboriginal languages celebrated with Beatles tunes sung in Mohawk

The Indigenous Studies Program celebrated National Aboriginal Languages Day with a special performance of Beatles songs sung in the Mohawk language. The concert was part of a day-long open house held in Celebration Hall, which also featured language lessons and presentations.

Student Success

Undergrads feted at Student Recognition Night

High-achieving undergrads were celebrated at the 35th annual Student Recognition Night. Recipients of MSU Awards include:

The Honour M Award: Naomi Pullen and Sara Halawa.

The Rudy Heinzl Award of Excellence: Jimmy Long.

The MSU Merit Scholarship Award: Michael Gill and Dana Swarbrick.

The J. Lynn Watson Award for Community Service: McMaster Arts for Children.

The MSU Spirit Award: MacBEAT.

Part-Time Manager of the Year: Jimmy Long, MSU Spark.

SRA Member of the Year: Daniel D'Angela (finance commissioner/executive board member).

Marauders honoured with Athletic Awards

McMaster Athletics & Recreation celebrated its 91st annual Athletic Awards ceremony on April 1. Topping the list of major award recipients were Danielle Boiago of the women's basketball team (Female Athlete of the Year) and Chris Garneau from the wrestling team (Male Athlete of the Year).

Student start-up Comikka earns top prize at Spectrum competition

The student start-up Comikka earned itself \$25,000 at the recent Spectrum Start-up Competition. Comikka allows artists to revise and fine-tune their work after publishing, providing a dynamic platform for artists to hone their craft and cultivate a following. To date, Comikka has attracted 27 artists from around the globe. By this time next year, its founders expect to have more than 500 international artists on board, producing work in a number of different genres and languages.