

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO
McMASTER UNIVERSITY'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS
MARCH 10, 2016**

As Board Members know, one of the major institutional areas of focus this year is the *Big Ideas, Better Cities* Research Showcase. Involving more than sixty researchers from all Faculties, the four clusters of public events focus on issues as diverse as aging, big data, building healthy communities and climate change. The Showcase was specifically designed to draw attention to the excellence and relevance of the research being conducted on McMaster's campus, and promote our researchers to a broad audience.

In addition to highlighting the variety and importance of the research underway here, the Showcase has also functioned as a means of building relationships with the local community. Community members have been invited to attend events on campus, and at other locations in the city, to experience first-hand the resources and support that McMaster can bring to the creation of healthy, vibrant neighbourhoods, both in Canada and around the world. The "Health Crawl" which formed part of last month's "Building Healthy Communities" series of events is an excellent example of this direct community engagement. McMaster researchers provided guided tours through a number of unique labs and spaces on campus, including the Department of Kinesiology, the Student Wellness Centre and the LiveLab, demonstrating the equipment and facilities, and highlighting some of the research being undertaken. The Showcase also included a Health Fair, held at the David Braley Health Sciences Centre in downtown Hamilton, and open to all interested members of the public, which included presentations, posters and displays from students, faculty members and Departments, and provided a snapshot of the wide variety of health and wellness focused research activities currently underway.

In addition to promoting and extending relations between the University as an entity and the people and civic institutions of our communities, our community engagement activities are intended to encourage the growth and vitality of mutually beneficial community-based research and education. The Network for Community-Campus Partnerships has been leading this important work and has taken up the challenge of fostering ongoing collaboration with community partners, understanding the issues identified as priorities by local and global communities, and coordinating research, teaching and service with community members and partners for the public good. The Network has recently undertaken a detailed planning process, which will inform the development of a 2016-2020 strategic plan for community engagement, and ensure that we are working towards a common vision that supports a long-term approach to mutually-beneficial community-campus partnerships.

To this end, the Network recently released the enclosed "PATHS to Research Collaboration" document, which was produced in collaboration with the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton and other community partners, and establishes in practical terms the options for engagement with researchers, the types of services and partnerships available, as well as outlining a number of issues for consideration. I regard the development of this guide as a major step forward in our community engagement activities and in our ability to support individuals, organizations, and businesses in mutually beneficial collaborations and partnerships. Such partnerships serve to demonstrate the value of our institution, raise the profiles of our researchers and most importantly, enable critical research to be undertaken which has the potential to

enhance the quality of life enjoyed by the citizens of Hamilton and beyond. I congratulate the members of the Network on the extraordinary progress they have made and look forward to the development of the longer-term strategic plan.

The final event in the *Big Ideas, Better Cities Showcase* is the “Climate Change and Environment: Navigating from Risk to Resilience” series of events, which will take place from April 18 – 22, 2016. Focused on exploring the effects of climate change, its impact on community building and health, and the ways in which cities can respond, McMaster researchers will host public lectures and events at field research sites across Hamilton, and bring together city managers, members of the business community, government and non-governmental organizations to exchange innovative ideas and establish collaborations and partnerships. Given the urgency of the need to find ways to address climate change, protect our precious natural resources, and develop smart, sustainable transportation for future generations, I anticipate that these events will be of great interest to members of our local community. Dr. Carolyn Eyles and Dr. Dustin Garrick, two of the lead researchers organizing the Showcase, will be our guest speakers at the Board meeting and I look forward to welcoming them and hearing more about the engaging and interesting events they have planned.

CAMPUS UPDATE

Bruce Wainman named 3M National Teaching Fellow

Bruce Wainman, the Director of the Anatomy Education Program at McMaster, has been named the winner of a prestigious 3M National Teaching Fellowship. Wainman, an Associate Professor of Pathology and Molecular Medicine for the Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine, is one of 10 winners across Canada named by the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education in recognition of excellence in university teaching and educational leadership.

McMaster receives provincial funding to create Advanced Manufacturing Consortium

The Ontario government announced in its provincial budget that it is investing \$35M towards a unique \$50M Advanced Manufacturing Consortium involving McMaster and two other top research-intensive and industrially collaborative universities. The Consortium includes McMaster, University of Waterloo and Western University. It aims to lead Ontario in advanced manufacturing across a variety of sectors, including in emerging areas such as next-generation additive manufacturing, digital components and devices, and has the potential to make significant impact on a global scale.

Nine McMaster researchers among most influential in the world

Nine McMaster researchers are among the world’s most influential scientists according to an analysis by Thomson Reuters. Under clinical medicine, Stuart Connolly, John Eikelboom, Koon Teo and Salim Yusuf from the Department of Medicine and Gord Guyatt and Janice Pogue from the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics were named. For social sciences, Jan Brozek, Gord Guyatt and Holger Schünemann from the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics and Roman Jaeschke from the Department of Medicine were listed. Guyatt is the only Canadian researcher whose name appears under both clinical medicine and social sciences.

McMaster awarded more than \$2.3M for projects that support the economy

Seven McMaster researchers have been awarded more than \$2.3 million from the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) to work with industry to help develop the economy and create jobs. The researchers are:

Todd Hoare and David Latulippe, Chemical Engineering

Michael Brook and Gillian Goward, Chemistry and Chemical Biology

Bartosz Protas, Mathematics and Statistics

Ravi Selvaganapathy, Mechanical Engineering

Ray LaPierre, Engineering Physics

McMaster ranked second greenest university in province

The GreenMetric World University Ranking places McMaster second in the province after University of Ottawa and third in the country, after Universite de Sherbrooke and Ottawa University, in terms of its campus sustainability and environmentally friendly university management. Overall, McMaster was ranked 42nd in the world, up from 66th in 2014.

Research

Canada Research Chairs program

Six McMaster researchers have been awarded new Canada Research Chairs:

Todd Hoare, Canada Research Chair in Engineered Smart Materials

Paul Nicholas, Canada Research Chair in Computational Statistics

Stuart Phillips, Canada Research Chair in Human Skeletal Muscle Health in Aging

Brian Timmons, Canada Research Chair in Child Health and Exercise Medicine

Hsein Seow, Canada Research Chair in Palliative Care and Health System Innovation

Leyla Soleymani, Canada Research Chair in Miniaturized Biomedical Devices

Multi-university clean energy project awarded \$4-million NSERC grant

An international research project based at Queen's University that is focused on developing new clean energy technologies has received a \$4-million grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. The Engineered Nickel Catalysts for Electrochemical Clean Energy (Ni Electro Can) research team, led by Queen's researcher Gregory Jerkiewicz (Chemistry), in partnership with McMaster's Gianluigi Botton and others, will use the NSERC Discovery Frontiers grant to develop the next generation of nickel-based materials, which will give Canada's energy sector a competitive advantage. The grant is only given to one project once every two years.

Team of experts to investigate death of Nobel winner Pablo Neruda

An international team of genomics experts and forensic investigators including McMaster's Hendrik Poinar, will conduct a scientific and historical analysis of the remains of Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, the Nobel Prize winner who mysteriously died in 1973, just days after the bloody coup by General Augusto Pinochet.

Scientists map genome of giant, shelled mammal known as the 'glyptodont'

Scientists have sequenced the entire mitochondrial genome of the ancient glyptodont, a giant, strange mammal and ancestor of the modern-day armadillo, which first appeared approximately

4 million years ago, roaming the Earth until its extinction during the Ice Age. Its mysterious evolution and remarkable skeletal adaptations have long fascinated and perplexed biologists and geneticists. Though it had been apparent the mammals must be related, it was not clear until now that their ancestral connections were much more recent than previously thought.

McMaster Researchers reveal predictive staircase to Leukemia

McMaster researchers have taken a giant leap in identifying the early stages of a deadly cancer and predicting how it will develop in individuals. Mick Bhatia and his team found that the transition from healthy to cancerous blood stem cells happens in clear, compartmentalized steps. The study demonstrates that early and accurate prediction of this aggressive cancer is possible.

New Infectious Disease Test promises quick Diagnosis

McMaster researchers have come up with a way for inventing molecule probes to quickly identify deadly bacterial strains of infectious disease. The find, published as a “hot paper” by a German scientific journal because of its importance, shows promise for detecting specific strains of bacteria and tracking their specific trail of illness. The test can be done in less than an hour, compared to the current 48 hours, allowing for rapid, more accurate treatment of patients.

Physicists solve 40-year mystery, proving that the elusive “spin liquid” does exist

Takashi Imai has managed to crack a mystery of matter that has eluded other top physicists for decades. The physics professor and a talented graduate student, Mingxuan Fu, have established that an elusive form of matter, known as “spin liquid”, previously known only in theory, does actually exist.

Student Success

McMaster to launch new series of Mental Health programs

A group session on mindfulness. A walk in the woods. A co-operative game of scavenger hunt. McMaster is rolling out a series of pilot programs aimed at building positive and healthy coping and discouraging unhealthy coping and addictions, and assessing what works best for the University community. The 18-month Arrive and Thrive pilot project is supported by the province’s Mental Health Innovation Fund, which supports new and innovative approaches to student mental health and addictions.

New Associate Director, Indigenous Services appointed

James Knibb-Lamouche has accepted the role of Associate Director, Indigenous Services in the Student Affairs department. The position is intended to be a leader and champion who will work collaboratively to increase McMaster’s engagement with and support for Indigenous learners.

Nobel Peace Prize nominee Lloyd Axworthy addresses model UN conference

Hundreds of students got a taste of real-life international relations recently at the University’s first model United Nations conference (MACMUN). Organized as part of the *Perspectives on Peace* campaign, the weekend-long event saw delegates debate issues and negotiate agreements on behalf of one of the UN’s 193 member countries. Former Minister of Foreign Affairs Lloyd Axworthy was a special guest speaker.

Engineering students take plans for Jetsons-style travel tube to SpaceX competition

A team of McMaster engineering students presented their design for a futuristic high-speed transportation system dubbed Hyperloop in Texas recently. The group of 10 Engineering students and one Bachelor of Technology student offered their take on the conceptual high-speed transit system designed to send passengers careening through a vacuum-sealed tube in pods at supersonic speeds. More than 700 teams entered the contest. Of those, only 120 teams, including McMaster, were selected to participate in the SpaceX Hyperloop Pod Competition's Design Competition at Texas A&M University in January.

Community Engagement

McMaster helps launch Hamilton's new Anti-Racism Resource Centre

McMaster is partnering with the City of Hamilton and the Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion to help address racism and provide support, information and referrals to persons impacted by racism and race-related oppression. The new Anti-Racism Resource Centre will be located at the street level offices of the Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion at 267 King Street East and will include confidential intake space, meeting rooms, a community meeting hall and a resource library.

McMaster community members recognized at Holland Awards

Three McMaster students and a faculty member were honoured recently at the 20th annual John C. Holland Awards. The awards recognize the contributions of African-Canadians to the Hamilton community, and are named for Reverend John Christie Holland, who served as pastor of the city's Stewart Memorial Church. Students Kayonne Christy and Kermeisha Williams were honoured with the first Evelyn Myrie Political Action Award, and Rebecca Petinella received a Youth Achievement Award. Daniel Coleman, a professor of English and Cultural Studies, was recognized with an Ally Award. Additionally, two alumni received Holland Awards: Health Sciences grad Ruth Rodney, in the business category, and Social Sciences grad Edward Lartey, in the community service category.

McMaster helps Science Centre dive deep into the Ice Age

McMaster's Hendrik Poinar has helped the Ontario Science Centre open a new exhibition on the woolly mammoth. The director of the University's Ancient DNA Centre took part in a special panel session last week to launch *Mammoths and Mastodons: Titans of the Ice Age*. Through hands-on displays, the exhibition shows how researchers use cutting-edge science to excavate and analyze tusks, teeth, skin, hair and stomach contents to learn more about these creatures, uncovering and connecting the factors that contributed to their evolution and extinction.

\$1M gift from Chancellor Labarge supports better care for dementia patients

A unique gift from the University's Chancellor to McMaster and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) will help develop and provide family doctors and caregivers with better ways of identifying and treating seniors with dementia. The \$1M gift from Suzanne Labarge will fund a unique collaboration between two national leaders in healthcare: McMaster and CAMH. Together they will develop protocols for family doctors, nurses and practitioners so they are better able to identify, protect and treat older adults at risk of developing a mental illness.

Faculty, staff, students among 43 nominated for Women of Distinction Awards

Members of the McMaster community are among those nominated for the 40th annual YWCA Women of Distinction Awards.

Psychology Professor Allison Sekuler, Associate Professor of Rehabilitation Science Brenda Vrkljan, and Health Sciences Assistant Clinical Professor Margaret Secord, were nominated in the Business, Education and Mentorship category, as were staff member Irfan Khan and alumnae Erin Dunham, Maggie Cockburn, Sarah Lampson and Joanne McCallum.

Shannon Clark, Sylvia Kajiura, Sarah Glen, Catherine Olaveson and Maroussia Hajdukowski-Ahmed were nominated in the Community Leadership category.

Physical therapist Dianna Moulden and alumna Melissa Sander were nominated in the Health category.

Psychology Professor Laurel Trainor was nominated in the Science, Technology or Trades category.

A number of students and alumnae were nominated in the Young Woman of Distinction category, including Jaskiran Shoker, Audrey Tan, Megan MacLeod, Giuliana Guarna, Rebecca Babcock, Vanessa Raponi and Lisa Bifano.

The awards will be presented at a ceremony on March 10 at the Hamilton Convention Centre.

First Nations artist brings art and storytelling to McMaster

As part of the University's *Perspectives on Peace* initiative, the Museum of Art in partnership with the Indigenous Studies Program is presenting Elizabeth Doxtater's *Art of Peace* exhibition. Born and raised on the Six Nations Grand River Territory, Doxtater uses cornhusk as an artistic medium to express key parts of traditional Haudenosaunee stories and culture. She creates elaborate dioramas of cornhusk dolls to symbolize the ratification of the Great Law as well as the Journey of the Peacemaker. The exhibition is on display in the McMaster Museum of Art until April 2.