

**President's Report to
McMaster University's Board of Governors
March 3, 2011**

Study named top paper of 2010

A McMaster research study showing the community benefit of child vaccination has been chosen as the 2010 research paper of the year by the prestigious science journal The Lancet.

Dr. Mark Loeb, division director of infectious diseases in the Department of Medicine within the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine, led a study of Alberta's Hutterite community investigating the benefits of vaccinating children and adolescents in rural areas against influenza.

The study named The Lancet paper of the year was originally published in March 2010. Loeb and his research team found that giving the flu shot to children and adolescents reduced the incidence of influenza by about 60 per cent in individuals who did not receive the vaccine. They also found that when they looked at the whole community, including the children who were immunized, the overall benefit was about the same.

Three other McMaster studies were also among the six papers nominated as the international journal's top paper as voted on by readers.

Eight projects awarded more than \$2-million

Eight research projects at McMaster got a boost from some state-of-the-art equipment as a result of funding announced by the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI).

More than \$2-million has been awarded through the organization's Leaders Opportunity Fund, supporting projects ranging from cancer cell analysis to the monitoring of greenhouse gases and climate change.

McMaster's recipients and their funded projects, totaling \$2,063,189, are:

- David Andrews, \$200,00 for Lentiviral-Mediated RNAi Technology and High-Content Screening to Systematically Analyze Programmed Cell Death in Cancer Cells
- Altaf Arain, \$155,147 for Climate Impacts on Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Forested Landscape of Southern Ontario
- Nicholas Bock, \$120,000 for a Brain Metal Imaging Laboratory

- Jim Dunn, \$207,423 for State-of-the-Art Measurement Systems to Transform the Health and Well-Being of Urban Neighbourhoods
- Tim Gilberger, \$308,099 for Molecular Dissection of the Invasion Machinery Required for Entry into Human Red Blood Cells of the Malaria Parasite
- Alba Guarné and Murray Junop, \$800,000 for a Macromolecular Crystallization and X-Ray Diffraction Facility
- Monica Maly, \$172,520 for a Biomechanical Approach to Physical Activity Guidelines for Knee Osteoarthritis
- Elizabeth Weretilnyk, \$100,000 for a Plant Growth and Molecular Profiling Facility

Five projects receive NSERC funding

Five research projects at McMaster University have received nearly \$1,560,000 in funding from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada's (NSERC) Strategic Project Grants program.

The grants support early-stage project research led by at least one researcher and a supporting organization. The goal of the program is to increase research and training in areas that could strongly influence Canada's economy, society or environment in the next ten years.

The recipients are:

- Raymond LaPierre, associate professor of engineering physics, for the development of nanowire infrared photodetectors, in collaboration with Dalsa Corporation and Lockheed Martin Corporation
- Michael Brook, professor of chemistry, and Kalaichelvi Saravanamuttu, associate professor of chemistry, for research into flexible silicone microstructured lenses, in collaboration with Custom Contact Lenses and Kerber Applied Research Inc.
- Anthony Petric, professor of materials science and engineering, for research into interconnect coatings for solid oxide fuel cells, in collaboration with Gates Canada Inc.
- Igor Zhitomirsky, professor of materials science and engineering, for research of advanced supercapacitor modules for energy storage, in collaboration with Tavrma Canada Ltd.

- Natalia Nikolova, professor, John Bandler, professor emeritus, and Mohamed Bakr, associate professor, in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, for research into concealed weapon detection with microwave radar, in collaboration with Acceleware Corp., A.U.G. Signals Ltd, Defence R&D Canada, and Industry Canada

Researcher awarded \$100,000 to study pneumonia in the elderly

Dawn Bowdish, assistant professor of pathology and molecular medicine, has been awarded a \$100,000 Young Investigator Grant from Pfizer Canada to study the effects of pneumonia and influenza on the elderly.

The grant will support the study of why the elderly are at increased risk of pneumonia and how a co-infection with the influenza virus is particularly dangerous for them. It will also allow Bowdish to test a novel prophylactic therapy, using an antibiotic developed by Pfizer Canada, that may protect this at-risk group from both pneumonia caused by bacteria directly and also pneumonia that arises after an influenza infection.

WHO calls on professor

A McMaster University professor has joined the committee helping the World Health Organization (WHO) decide on priorities for health research world-wide.

Dr. Holger Schünemann, professor and chair of the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, has agreed to serve for a four-year term on the WHO's Global Advisory Committee on Health Research.

As part of the 18-person committee he will be advising the Director-General of the World Health Organization on global health research, monitoring research activities and evaluating the research from a scientific and technical policy point of view.

Humboldt award for chemist

Gary Schrobilgen, professor of chemistry, has received a Humboldt Research Award in recognition of the significant impact his work has had on the field of fundamental inorganic fluorine chemistry - and in the expectation that he will continue to produce cutting-edge achievements in the future.

The prestigious award, granted by Germany's Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, is valued at 60,000 Euros and winners are invited to spend up to one year cooperating on long-term research projects with colleagues in Germany.

Schrobilgen's research focuses on inorganic fluorine compounds, which are necessary for nuclear power generation, photovoltaic and semiconductor materials, refrigerants and advanced optics. They are also used in medical imaging and microelectronics.

CANMET opens doors at McMaster Innovation Park

The Government of Canada opened the new, state-of-the-art CANMET Materials Laboratory (CANMET-MTL) Feb. 23, which will provide key technology and innovation support to industries that manufacture mineral and metal products in southwestern Ontario and across the country.

The new facility at the McMaster Innovation Park will enhance CANMET-MTL's ability to support industry by contributing to the development and commercialization of new materials and products.

The \$57-million complex, 12 years in the planning, will be home to 110 federal employees, most of them scientists and technicians. Of that number, 37 have come from the old CANMET lab in Ottawa and the rest are moving from elsewhere or have yet to be hired. At any given time the research facility is expected to be a temporary home to another 20 visiting researchers.

Staff, student challenged by CBC's The National

McMaster was recently featured on CBC television's The National. Lori Diamond, Jennifer Middleton, Christal Levy and engineering student Shariq Wani were challenged by the program to take 10,000 steps a day for six weeks while being monitored by Gianni Parise, an assistant professor of kinesiology, and Kathleen Martin Ginis, a professor of kinesiology.

The faculty members designed special programs for the subjects, which detailed how often and how far they should walk and tested them before, during and after the six-week period.

The National featured two segments with the four, both before and after their exercise program.

Engineers Without Borders tops in country

McMaster's chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB) was named Chapter of the Year by the national organization at its annual conference in Toronto.

The McMaster chapter was selected based on its membership growth and the introduction of several innovative projects supporting international development and sustainability efforts.

It is the first time McMaster has received this recognition. Last year, it was acknowledged as Most Improved Chapter by EWB Canada.

The Next 36

Two McMaster students have been accepted into The Next 36 national program, designed to launch the careers of 36 of Canada's most promising undergraduates.

Prateek Gupta, in the Integrated Science Program, and Shahob Hosseinpour, in health sciences, will work with students from universities across the country to develop a mobile application for smartphones. They have been given \$50,000 and guidance from some of Canada's top business leaders in order to complete the project.

Jamaican icon's archives given to McMaster

Approximately 40 boxes of materials belonging to poet, folklorist and entertainer Louise Bennett Coverley - better known as "Miss Lou" - were turned over to McMaster at an event held at the Ron Joyce Centre.

A lifelong champion of Jamaica's cultural heritage and language, Miss Lou is a household name on her native island. Born in Kingston, Jamaica in 1919, the multitalented Miss Lou was best known for her poetry, singing and acting. She also lectured extensively in the United States and United Kingdom on Jamaican folklore, music and culture, and is credited with raising the Jamaican patois dialect to new levels.

The collection, consisting of papers, photos, news clippings, awards and personal mementos, will be housed at and digitized by the William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections at Mills Library.

Alumnus wins CBC's Canada Reads

Alumnus and former McMaster Students Union president Terry Fallis' book *The Best Laid Plans* has won CBC Radio's Canada Reads contest.

The annual "battle of the books" features five Canadian novels defended by celebrities whose job it is to convince the public that their book should be the winner. Fallis' book was championed by Canadian-raised CNN personality Ali Velshi.

Fallis earned his bachelor of engineering from McMaster in 1983. His professional career includes time spent working in both provincial and federal politics.