



# DID YOU KNOW?

**McMaster Ancient DNA Centre's discoveries opening doors for future research**

## Seen and Heard...



McMaster community figures prominently in new appointments to the Order of Canada



More than 100 McMaster researchers awarded total of \$15.7M from federal government



# McMaster Highlights

## Hamilton Edition



Welcome to the July 2016 edition of *McMaster Highlights: Hamilton Edition*, the monthly e-newsletter keeping you up to date on what's happening at McMaster.

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### Gift from Zonta Club of Hamilton to support Physio program at McMaster



A generous gift from the Zonta Club of Hamilton will soon help aspiring physiotherapists study at McMaster. Zonta is an international service organization dedicated to advancing the status of women. It has supported McMaster with various gifts dating back more than 30 years.

The Frances Colter Memorial Bursary, celebrated at a reception Wednesday at Alumni House, will be awarded to grad students enrolled in the School of Rehabilitation Science's Physiotherapy program who demonstrate financial need.

The bursary is in memory, and from the estate, of Zonta member Fran Colter, who was a pioneer in the field of physiotherapy at Chedoke Hospital.

Colter died in 2014 and left a bequest to the Zonta Club of Hamilton which was used to establish the endowed scholarship.

"The Zonta Club of Hamilton 1 Frances Colter Memorial Bursary will not only pay tribute to Frances'

[McMaster Athletes join Team Canada for World University Rowing Championship](#)



[Engineering deans from around the world come together to discuss climate change](#)

professional and volunteer worlds and the vital work of Zonta International, but will also make a significant difference to our program's female students through the provision of critical financial support, allowing them to learn, grow and excel," said Vanina Dal Bello-Haas, associate dean of Physiotherapy.

For more information, click [here](#).

## **New dean and VP of the Faculty of Health Sciences**



Dr. Paul O'Byrne has taken office as the dean and vice-president of the Faculty of Health Sciences at McMaster University and dean of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine.

A practicing respirologist and internationally renowned researcher, O'Byrne has been chair of the Faculty's largest department, the Department of Medicine, for the past 14 years. He was selected for the five-year post as dean and vice-president in December after an international search.

"This is a terrific time to take over the reins of this magnificent Faculty, as we are blessed with world-class researchers, innovative teachers, outstanding staff and exceptional students," he said. "We have an excellent set of education programs that are second to none, and a research program that is impacting the lives of people around the world every day.

"It is a great privilege to be working with members of a team that has helped McMaster University be placed, by several ranking agencies, as one of the top 50 universities in the world for health and medicine."

He thanked Dr. John Kelton for his truly outstanding leadership as the Faculty's dean and vice-president for the past 15 years, noting he led exponential growth of education programs and enrolment; rising research revenues and support for new research institutes, as well as construction of several major buildings including the Michael G. DeGroote Centre for Learning and Discovery on campus; the David Braley Health Sciences Centre in downtown Hamilton, the new Waterloo Regional Campus in Kitchener and Niagara Regional Campus in St. Catharines.

At the time of the appointment announcement, McMaster President Patrick Deane pointed to O'Byrne's many accomplishments advancing both the University's learning and discovery missions. "Paul has a unique ability to lead and inspire others to reach their full potential, and he has earned his place as one of the University's most senior and accomplished researchers," he said.

O'Byrne received his medical training at University College, Dublin, in his native Ireland. He came to McMaster as a resident in internal medicine and respirology in 1977, and joined the faculty in 1984. His research focus is the mechanisms and treatment of asthma, particularly the role of environmental allergens. He has authored more than 400 peer-reviewed articles in high-impact journals, and he is a frequent lecturer at international meetings.

O'Byrne served as the executive director of the Firestone Institute for Respiratory Health based at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, and led the AllerGen NCE Clinical Investigator Collaborative. He is a

named Fellow at several international Colleges of Physicians, was selected to the Royal Society of Canada in 2010 and the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences in 2015. He also received McMaster's top academic award, being named a Distinguished University Professor, last year.

For more information, click [here](#).

### **Rob Baker, McMaster's Vice-President Research**



Rob Baker began his new role as the University's Vice-President Research on July 1st, 2016. Baker has served as Dean of Science since July 2013.

"The Selection Committee made an excellent recommendation following its international search," says University President Patrick Deane. "Rob brings a wealth of experience to the position, as well as an acute understanding of what it will take to maintain McMaster's international standing as a leading research-intensive institution."

Baker will be responsible for supporting, promoting and advancing research at McMaster. He'll oversee a research enterprise consistently ranked among Canada's best, with a research intensity level nearly double the national average.

"McMaster has a great reputation," says Baker. "It's a powerful research institution, and has a culture that facilitates and encourages interdisciplinary teamwork."

For more information, click [here](#).

### **McMaster Optimal Aging Portal, YMCA team up to promote healthy aging**

The McMaster Optimal Aging Portal and the YMCA of Hamilton/ Burlington/ Brantford have partnered to help Canadians stay healthy, active and engaged as they grow older.

The partnership is an extension of the LiveWell Community Health Partnership between Hamilton Health Sciences, the YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford and McMaster University. Livewell designs, delivers and evaluates chronic disease self-management programs and has had over 2,500 participants to date.

"The YMCA works with members across a wide range of ages with various health concerns. Our partnership with the McMaster Optimal Aging Portal will focus on connecting older adults to resources that will help them independently manage their conditions beyond our on-site programs," says Genevieve Hladysh, Senior Manager at the YMCA Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford. "We encourage our members to visit the Portal for credible information to help them age well."

The McMaster Optimal Aging Portal is a website developed by McMaster University to provide public access to evidence-based information about prevalent seniors' conditions and health concerns. The content is presented in a consumer-friendly format and is based on the latest, systematically reviewed research evidence.

For more information, click [here](#).

### Hamilton artists growing the Great Lakes at McMaster

This summer, TH&B, a creative partnership of established Hamilton artists Simon Frank, Dave Hind, Ivan Jurakic and Tor Lukasik-Foss, is producing a new work for the McMaster Museum of Art's Artist Garden.

In this installation, titled Basin, they will install a metal structure with the Great Lakes forms on it. Later on Basin will include a mix of locally sourced aggregates and indigenous plantings to reflect contrasting elements of the geography that we share and occupy.

The Museum launched the Artist Garden project in 2014 with Simon Frank's Untilled - a beautiful living work inspired in large part by a Paul Klee painting in the McMaster Museum of Art collection.

For more information, click [here](#).

### Service of Gratitude by anatomy education program

Every year, a Service of Gratitude is held at McMaster University to express appreciation to donors to McMaster University's Anatomy Education Program and their families. The Rev. Allison Barrett, program director Bruce Wainman, program head of prosection Andrew Palombella and students of several health science programs speak to their gratefulness for "their final gift of kindness" in [this video](#).



### McMaster Ancient DNA Centre's discoveries opening doors for future research

- The [McMaster Ancient DNA Centre](#) uses DNA from archaeological, paleontological, and forensic remains to answer a wide range of questions in molecular and evolutionary biology.
- The Centre uses state-of-the-art techniques to extract and sequence molecules, to discover origins and population histories of a wide range of species, many of which are extinct.
- The Director of the McMaster Ancient DNA Centre is Hendrik Poinar, an evolutionary geneticist recognized world-wide for his research and expertise.
- Poinar has received international acclaim for his research on many fronts - including his important work on identifying the origin of the [Black Death](#) plague.
- This work is critical today as it sheds light on the dynamics of modern infectious diseases. As antibiotic resistance becomes a greater threat, we can learn from experiences in the past.
- An international team including Poinar sequenced the most complete genome ever of the [woolly mammoth](#), offering new information on what may have led to its extinction at the end of the last Ice Age.
- The centre is also investigating the death of [Nobel Prize-winning poet Pablo Neruda](#) through the analysis of bone and teeth remains. Questions have lingered over the cause of Neruda's death for more than four decades.
- Along with an international team of experts, Poinar has sequenced the entire mitochondrial genome of an ancient glyptodont, a mammal and ancestor of the modern-day armadillo.
- Watch Hendrik Poinar discuss his ground breaking research into the woolly mammoth and

the evolution of the Black Death on [TVO's The Agenda](#).

- For more information on the Ancient DNA Centre, click [here](#).

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