

in **Focus**



McGill

MEDICINE

FALL'10

**MCGILL IN
QUEBEC
AND
BEYOND**

**Anthony Albers
Story on page 19**

Photo by Owen Egan

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News from **the Schools**

Nursing

Working Upstream For Community Health

Spring 2010 found McGill nursing students carrying out community health projects in a wide range of non-traditional settings. One of the most exciting was a partnership between the four CSSS [health and social service centres] in Montreal East and the English Montreal School Board (EMSB). Six teams of two McGill nursing students worked directly in EMSB schools, partnering with principals and teachers, to implement health promotion projects.

"We shape each project ourselves to best fit the community," Professor Cheryl Armistead explains. "Each McGill team does a community health assessment first, incorporating progressive inquiry. The projects grow out of their qualitative analysis." One team, for instance, addressed the issue of body image. Inviting children to use art to portray their thoughts and feelings, they created modules to explore media manipulation (for primary 5-6), messages about bodies (secondary 1-2) and social expectations (secondary 3-4). Another team initiated vermicomposting, a form of composting that uses various species of worms, in three EMSB schools, in partnership with Eco-Quartier.

All McGill baccalaureate nursing students complete the four-unit Community Health Nursing (CHN) program during their final year. "Our program has been called the 'gold standard' by the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing because it's comprehensive," Armistead says. "They assess the community situation, identify the priorities, and then design, implement and evaluate a health promotion project." In 2010, 25 student teams conducted health promotion projects, most in partnership with community organizations. This year, further expansion is planned. Project material, including French, English and bilingual modules created by student teams, is available on CDs for community organizations and the CSSS.

Communication Sciences and Disorders

Planning for the Future: SCSD Charts Bold New Course

Over the last 20 months, the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders (SCSD) has been playing an active role in the Faculty of Medicine's "Think Dangerously" strategic planning process (see also story on page 5). Building on its scientific strengths, the SCSD will bolster research in bilingualism, human communication neuroscience and applied/translational research in communication disorders, as well as increase the visibility of outcomes for its academic, professional and general publics. The SCSD aims to boost the number of students in its doctoral program by 50 per cent, and in its applied master's program by 25 per cent, over the next five years. Plans include expanding recruitment activities, increasing funding for doctoral students and acquiring more high-quality placements for students in the applied master's program.

The SCSD will continue to enhance the quality and breadth of clinical training by increasing oversight of placements, exploring

specialization options, using state-of-the-art technology, and ensuring that students and clinical educators are kept abreast of the latest research findings.

The School welcomes Marc Pell in his new role of Interim Director and wishes Shari Baum great success as she temporarily assumes the position of Associate Dean of McGill's Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. Also, Meghan Clayards, who conducts research on speech perception and is jointly appointed with Linguistics, joins the School as a new Assistant Professor. Find out more in the next issue of *In Focus*.

Physical and Occupational Therapy

Introducing New Interim Director

Annette Majnemer, BSc(OT)'80, MSc'85, PhD'90, brings considerable experience as a researcher, teacher and academic to her new role of Interim Director of the School of Physical and Occupational Therapy. She is a professor in the School, associate member of the Departments of Pediatrics and Neurology and Neurosurgery at McGill, research associate in the Division of Pediatric Neurology at the Montreal Children's Hospital, as well as an



Annette Majnemer

adjunct full professor in the Sackler School of Medicine at Tel Aviv University in Israel.

"This is an exciting period of renewal and growth at our School," says Majnemer, "and I am privileged to be able to participate in promoting that growth and to enhance our relationships and collaborations with the Faculty of Medicine and the University at large."

Having received her training in occupational therapy at McGill, Majnemer has authored close to 100 publications in peer-reviewed journals and has been asked to speak at scientific symposia internationally. She has dedicated much of her exemplary career to advancing current knowledge on outcomes for children with developmental disabilities and high-risk neonates.

"Over the coming year, I will support the Faculty's commitment to ensuring excellence in education, supporting ongoing Faculty development, modifying and improving our website and seeking realistic solutions to enhance our learning environment," she says.

Fond farewell to Maureen Simmonds

Annette Majnemer is taking over the helm of the School from Maureen Simmonds. In her five years as Director and Associate Dean, Maureen Simmonds has introduced significant change, expanding programs and capacity, while raising the School's profile in the health sciences community. "It has been a really rich and wonderful experience on many levels," says Simmonds of her time at McGill. "I gained an awful lot of friends and colleagues and acquired a new set of skills and experiences that are unique to the McGill culture."

Simmonds achieved much in her time at the School through her tremendous energy and commitment, and the Faculty wishes her tremendous success in her new role as Head of School at the Faculty of Health Sciences at Curtin University in Perth, Western Australia.

Message from the Dean

Making a Difference in Quebec and the World

Dean Levin in the McGill University Life Sciences Complex.

The American philosopher and psychologist, William James, in a quiet call to action said, "Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does." These words could aptly serve to describe the dedication of Medical McGillians to enact positive change for almost two centuries. Our Faculty of Medicine – the first in Canada – was born out of real human needs in the early part of the 19th century. Now in the early 21st, we find our students, researchers, teachers and alumni making a difference on a huge stage – in Quebec and, indeed, the world.

It's almost dizzying to consider the transformational power of our Faculty and the literally thousands of people associated with it. This issue of *In Focus* is a celebration of just some of those people and of projects that are changing lives from Montreal to Gatineau, from Haiti to Ethiopia.

One of the projects closest to home is so big it's actually being called "mega." Many of you will have heard by now the long-awaited news that the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) Glen Campus is at last under construction. A glimpse here at what the future holds in 2014, the year slated for completion, shows how even this megaproject is going to make a difference on a very human scale. The state-of-the-art facility will better include families in the healing process, use mobile technology that is less disruptive, and create radiant, spacious areas that are conducive to patients' recovery and well-being. Bear in mind also that the Glen Campus is just part of a bigger renewal process underway within our teaching hospital network.

Also new this year is McGill's Integrated Clerkship program in Gatineau, where nine MD students will spend almost a year learning family medicine and other specializations. This is the latest in a series of successes forged out of our partnership in the Outaouais and an example of how McGill is tightly woven into the fabric of life in Quebec. Earlier this year, along with many of my

colleagues, I had the pleasure of discussing our unique contributions to this province for the purpose of a special supplement that was published about our Faculty in the newspaper, *Le Devoir*. Through efforts like these and many more, McGill continues to cement its reputation not only as an internationally acclaimed medical school but also as a dynamic player in responding to the immediate and pressing needs of Quebec residents.

When we turn from Quebec to the world, we find ourselves in a context of health needs that are sometimes difficult to comprehend in their sheer scale. While here we face a serious shortage of doctors, devastated communities in Haiti face chronic shortages of practically everything – housing, clean water, food and medical supplies. In the wake of the brutal earthquake that killed 300,000 Haitians, Herculean efforts were the bare minimum required to help restore, over time, some semblance of normalcy. As you'll read, H el ene Rousseau and other dedicated McGillians have been on the front lines of this noble cause.

In so many other parts of the world, you'll see McGill in very tangible ways, pitching in and improving people's lives. It is inspiring to be part of an institution that is such a force for good.

At McGill, we act as if what we do makes a difference. Because it does.



RICHARD I. LEVIN, MD
Vice-Principal (Health Affairs)
Dean, Faculty of Medicine

PS: To see the *Le Devoir* supplement for yourself, go to www.mcgill.ca/medicine and look for the link in the Features box.

News Highlights



Renowned musician Bobby McFerrin and McGill psychology professor Daniel Levitin share a laugh at the Laboratory for Music Perception, Cognition and Expertise.

It's All in the Brain@McGill

Neuroscience research took another great step forward this spring as McGill University and Imperial College London signed an agreement to work more closely in this crucial field. A similar partnership was struck between McGill and the University of Oxford at the same time last year. Both aim to take leading-edge research at these institutions even further to broaden our collective understanding of the human brain.

The collaborations represent one of three major foci for The Brain@McGill, an initiative launched in 2009 to promote the strength of McGill's neuroscience network. Brain research is one of McGill's priorities, with an outstanding history written by world-renowned institutions like the Neuro, the Douglas Mental Health University Institute and more than a dozen other organizations, centres and departments across its network. McGill's Integrated Program in Neurosciences is one of the largest of its kind in North America.

"Research into the brain has exploded in recent years and we are seeing exciting breakthroughs one after the other," says Rémi Quirion, Vice-Dean for Science and Strategic Initiatives at the Faculty of Medicine, who heads up The Brain@McGill project. "By drawing on the many areas of expertise in our community and abroad, this initiative will help us to accelerate progress in areas of neuroscience research that are constantly evolving."

Another exciting pursuit of the initiative revolves around interdisciplinary teamwork conducted to study brain functions in everyday life, for example, the fascinating work by psychology professor Daniel Levitin on why we love the music we love and why certain songs are inextricably linked to times and places in our lives. Another initiative, "Brain to Society," by researchers from the faculties of management, law and medicine, explores the links between mental health and the economy.

The Brain@McGill also entails projects that will allow scientists to take advantage of popular events on the Montreal cultural scene to help educate the public about its workings and the science taking place to address the debilitating neurological and psychiatric conditions that afflict society. Through these venues, scientists will have the opportunity to communicate information concerning their research work and to collaborate with key sectors of the local economy.

"The brain is at the very core of human activity," said Quirion. "With The Brain@McGill, we hope to reach out to the general public and raise awareness of our most fascinating discoveries. Our research finds many applications in the cultural and economic domains that sometimes go unrecognized." Talks are underway with organizers of major events in the Montreal area to publicly promote greater awareness of the brain's function.

Private Victories:

Twenty Years of Progress for Cancer Patients

When the Marjorie and Gerald B. Bronfman family gave McGill the means to help create a leading centre for clinical research in oncology and give birth to a truly unique department of oncology in 1991, work in the impressive grey stone building on Pine Avenue focused chiefly on patients who already had cancer.

"Our first clinical trial involved a drug that's now standard-of-care – and we've had many since then," says Penny Chipman, manager of Clinical Trials. Today, patients, physicians and pharmaceutical developers recognize the Gerald B. Bronfman Centre for Clinical Research in Oncology as the engine driving a wide range of clinical research in oncology, in Montreal and far beyond.

While patients are now seen by their own physicians in local hospitals, the care they receive is still being transformed by hundreds of doctors, nurses, social workers, epidemiologists, psychologists, geneticists, and men and women from many other disciplines working together and conducting clinical oncology research. "It's important to have a home where we can meet," says Gerald Batist, MDCM '77, Chair of the Department of Oncology at McGill. "Our work here is adding to cancer knowledge and bending the curve."

Twenty-four different interdisciplinary programs extend outwards from this hub. Some, like the Division of Cancer Epidemiology headed by Eduardo Franco, whose vaccine to prevent cervical cancer is now in use, are having an impact worldwide. Research, education and clinical work all meet here. About a thousand patients a year take part in clinical trials. Referrals are received from as far away as Newfoundland. In this way, "big science" impacts many families. As Chipman says, "It's our work, but it's a passion as well."

The 20th anniversary of the Gerald B. Bronfman Centre, now being organized for 2011, will include a reunion celebration highlighting two decades of accomplishments as well as the launch of a new lecture series. Stay tuned for more news over the coming year!

Exceptional Efforts Recognized

This June, Vice-Principal of Health Affairs and Dean of Medicine Richard I. Levin was honoured by the McGill Alumni Association with the David Johnston Award for his exemplary work in fundraising on behalf of the University's Annual Fund. The citation noted that "since coming to Montreal and McGill, Dean Levin has made it a priority to reach out and engage McGill alumni." Some of the programs he has initiated include the Dean's Leadership Council, the Medicine Alumni Global Awards and the international Dean's Rounds program.

For Levin, being an envoy has taken him from coast to coast, across borders, to conferences and dinners, and to award banquets and student pizza nights as part of his ambitious Medicine Alumni Global outreach. These endeavours have helped raise an impressive \$119-million for Faculty priorities as part of Campaign McGill.

"It is in our universities that students crystallize their understanding of good citizenship," notes Dean Levin. "By supporting institutions like McGill, we are ensuring the success of the future."

Claudio Calligaris



Dean Levin with Dean of Arts Christopher Manfredi, who also won a David Johnston Award this year.

The Alumni Association prize is named for former McGill Principal David Johnston, who was recently named Canada's new Governor General.

Faculty Thinks Dangerously

Launched by Richard I. Levin, the Faculty's strategic planning process, entitled "Think Dangerously," reached a major milestone this summer. At the Faculty of Medicine Town Hall, the Design Groups, each tasked with mapping the future in a key area – Education, Research and the Faculty Lifecycle – publicly presented their draft recommendations.

Already, the Think Dangerously initiative has reaped dividends. The Faculty Lifecycle Design Group was successful in achieving a landmark change in the definition of "full-time" professor to include GFT(H)s – Geographical Full-Time (Hospital) staff – regardless of source of income. These are Faculty members who have a University appointment but are practising doctors, typically at one of McGill's affiliated teaching hospitals. The University has committed to extending access to benefits to this group and is currently studying the means by which this can best be done.

Once the Think Dangerously strategic plan has been implemented, McGill's Faculty of Medicine will have helped prepare itself for the 21st Century, just as one hundred years ago, the Flexner Report ensured that medical schools were ready for the demands of the last century. *To find out more: www.mcgill.ca/medicine/about/strategic_planning/*

Celebrating 55 Years by Giving Back

"I am indebted to McGill for my medical education," says William Bentham, MDCM '55, GradDipMed '59, who has given back to McGill since 1956. Recently, Bentham and his wife Christie have established the Dr. William H. and Mrs. Christie J. Bentham McGill Medical Research Fund to support Parkinson's research at the McGill Centre for Studies in Aging (MCSA). This outstanding gift of \$100,000 is in addition to the Benthams' previous contributions of \$200,000 to McGill for the study of aging.

The retired physician has fond memories of his medical education and anesthesia training at McGill. Bentham paid his way through medical school by working as a night lab technician and ambulance driver at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, where he was inspired by the pioneering work in anesthesia of Harold Griffith, BA '14, MDCM '22, director of the hospital. After interning at the Hamilton General Hospital where he met his wife Christie, a speech/language pathologist, Bentham returned to McGill for his anesthesia specialty training. He then went on to have a successful career as an anesthesiologist in Toronto, including cosmetic anesthesia and pain control as sub-specialties. The Benthams adopted six children and now have 14 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Supporters of many causes over the course of their lives, the Benthams are deeply aware of the importance of Parkinson's research, as Bentham himself was diagnosed with the disease eight years ago.



William Bentham

Plans for their new research fund are underway at the MCSA, which continues to be involved in the many facets of Parkinson's research, from clinical trials of new medications to studies of genetics and prevention. Jens Pruessner, the Centre's director, is excited by the possibilities. "We hope to use this endowment to fund important long-term needs," he says. Potential projects include longitudinal studies to assess the risk and incidence of the disease in the Montreal community.

This year marks the 55th anniversary of Bentham's graduation, and the class of 1955 will be celebrating at Homecoming. Says Bentham of his generous giving: "I welcome the opportunity to express my gratitude for the excellent education I received. It's important to give to those who follow."





Building the Future

The New MUHC Glen Campus

The McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) Glen Campus signals a giant leap into a new era of “personalized medicine,” which will be of enormous benefit to Montreal, Quebec, and indeed, the world. The long-awaited project, in development since 1997, was finally announced in April 2010. Construction began in June and is slated to finish in 2014. It will be home to the best clinical care, innovative education and cutting-edge research.

“I can’t wait to see the extraordinary promise unleashed by these new facilities on our quest to become a centre of excellence in personalized medicine,” says Dean Richard I. Levin. “It offers so much in terms of how we can improve the care we give our patients, the learning experience we can offer our students and residents, and the vital research work we will be able to do here to take on and defeat the world’s most serious diseases.”

Implementing private rooms for all patients – a first in Canada – will be one of many major improvements in the health care experience at the MUHC Glen Campus. This will ensure privacy and confidentiality, limit the spread of infections, allow loved ones to participate in treatment, as well as help staff in their work thanks to new and improved ergonomic designs. An investment of over \$190-million in medical equipment, much of it mobile, gives caregivers the latest, most effective tools.

Each floor will have 36 private rooms, organized in clusters of 12, so that the multi-disciplinary teams of caregivers have practically everything they need close at hand. This will reduce time spent travelling, meaning more time with each patient. Inside every patient room will be a flat screen TV, so that doctors can consult the patient’s schedule and show videos that explain how an operation will proceed; patients, for their part, will be able to check on the cafeteria menu or simply enjoy a variety of entertainment options. Imma Franco, associate director of planning, programming and services for the new MUHC, points out that the private rooms will be built in order to be adaptable to emerging technologies – telemetry, for example, which enables the remote monitoring of patient progress.

Linked to the hospital will be the MUHC Research Institute, housing over 600 researchers, 1,200 graduate students and 250 post-doctoral students. The scientific research will be structured to promote areas of excellence and will



courtesy MUHC



complement investigations taking place across McGill's life sciences research community to advance discoveries and foster collaboration in translational research. "The objective is to link clinical care, research and teaching for specific disciplines," says Franco. And so while many investigators and clinicians will move to the MUHC Glen Campus, some will stay where existing teams continue to flourish – Orthopedics research, for example, will stay at the MUHC Mountain Campus (Montreal General Hospital).

Between the MUHC Glen Campus hospital proper and the Research Institute will be the Centre for Innovative Medicine, where the "bench to bedside" ethos also will be exemplified. This will enable physicians to better communicate directly to researchers the kind of questions to which they need answers. It's another example of the MUHC's culture of integration and collaboration that will unleash further breakthroughs in medicine and health care.

In the next issue of *In Focus*, explore in-depth the redevelopment projects underway within McGill's affiliated teaching hospital network from the perspective of educators, researchers, clinicians, nurses and developers.

The MUHC Glen Campus is a public-private partnership led by SNC-Lavalin. The project's total cost is \$1.3-billion and will meet the highest in sustainable environmental practices as approved by LEED™ (Leadership in Energy and Environment Design).

The public can actually watch the MUHC Glen Campus take shape in real time by watching the MUHC webcam. The MUHC Glen Campus is one of several projects underway at the affiliated hospital network that is paving the way for the 21st century of health care. Visit www.muhc.ca for more information.

Bringing together leading medical institutions

Located next to the Vendôme intermodal train station between the streets de Maisonneuve and Saint-Jacques (near the Decarie Boulevard), the MUHC Glen Campus will combine the Royal Victoria Hospital, the Montreal Children's Hospital, the Montreal Chest Institute, the Research Institute of the MUHC and a Cancer Centre for clinical care. The Shriners Hospitals for Children also confirmed this summer its plans to construct a new hospital on the Glen Campus, adjacent to the Montreal Children's Hospital.

Private patient rooms

154 for children and another 346 for adults. This will ensure privacy and confidentiality, limit the spread of infections, allow loved ones to participate in treatment, as well as helping staff in their work thanks to new and improved ergonomic designs.

Calming, healing environment

The facility has been designed to offer the maximum of natural light, vibrant and uplifting interior colours, as well as gardens and green spaces – all chosen to help patient recovery.

McGill in Quebec



Members of the Regional Initiative organizing committee. From left to right: Ling Yuan Kong, Kyrie Yujing Wang, Lauren Hamlin-Douglas, Larry Wai Kiu Cheung.



McGill Med-1 student Marina Ibrahim (left) shows high school student Kelsey Abbott the techniques of drawing blood.

Med Students Take Regional Initiative

“There are only five practising Aboriginal physicians in Quebec,” says Lauren Hamlin-Douglas, BSc’06, MSc’08. “And while 20 per cent of Canadians live in rural areas, only 10 per cent of doctors practise in those regions.”

It was to address these stark realities that McGill’s student-run Regional Initiative was born. The program, which Lauren Hamlin-Douglas helped coordinate this year, encourages high school students from rural and Aboriginal communities to consider careers in medicine by offering them hands-on experience at McGill.

“Simply increasing the number of doctors we produce won’t necessarily change the balance,” says Lauren. “It’s been shown that you need to train people from the areas you want to serve.”

This conviction motivated the McGill students to shoehorn a hectic round of project meetings into their already busy clinic and lecture schedules. They obtained sponsors, enlisted their fellow students as mentors, organized a full day of activities, and worked with Admissions, First Peoples’ House and

high school guidance counsellors to invite students from Kahnawake, Drummondville, Gatineau, Rosemere and Chateaugay to McGill. Sessions were scheduled in both English and in French.

When the high school students arrived on May 17, they immediately plunged into the core experiences of medical education. First, they visited the McGill Simulation Centre, where they learned to draw blood and how to administer CPR. Then, still guided by med student mentors, they were introduced to the Anatomy Lab, a rite of passage that most students only experience in their first year of medical school.

This year’s group included 60 enthusiastic students. One week later, high school students attending McGill’s highly selective Eagle Spirit High Performance Camp were treated to a shortened version of the pro-

gram. Thirty students from Quebec, New Brunswick, Ontario and Alberta took part.

“This year – our second – was a turning point,” says Lauren. “The Admissions office took a real interest in the fact that we are a student-initiated project and are encouraging diversity in medical admissions and recruitment.” For the future, Hamlin-Douglas says, “The idea is to get the most interested students very involved, not stopping with a single exposure. Maybe we can bring them to classes for a day, so they can really find out what med school is like.”

The Regional Initiative organizing committee is comprised entirely of medical students. Kyrie Yujing Wang and Larry Wai Kiu Cheung, who worked with Lauren Hamlin-Douglas and Ling Yuan Kong to run the 2010 Student Initiative, will be the coordinators next year.

Leading the Way in Community Health

It all began with a group of McGill medical students looking for a way to further connect their education to the Montreal health community. They understood that as physicians they would have an essential responsibility not only to their patients, but also to the communities in which they lived. The student initiative has blossomed into the McGill Community Health Alliance Project (CHAP), a year-long, three-phase program that places first-year students with partnering health-related community organizations.

The aim of the program is to expose medical students at the outset of their career to the social, environmental, economic and historical determinants of the health of populations in Montreal. The students also learn about the importance and complexity of primary care in a community setting, and the relevance of community health in a national and international healthcare context.

This year, for the first time since the program began, participating students who exhibit leadership and excellence are receiving the new CHAP Award. "It's very important to recognize physician skills and leadership," says McGill alumnus and former astronaut Dave Williams, BSc'76, MDCM'83, MSc'83, DSc'07, who is sponsoring the CHAP Award. Williams is passionate about the importance of leadership skills in health care. "I think it's critical," he says. "Citizens in the community look to health-care leaders for guidance and advice."

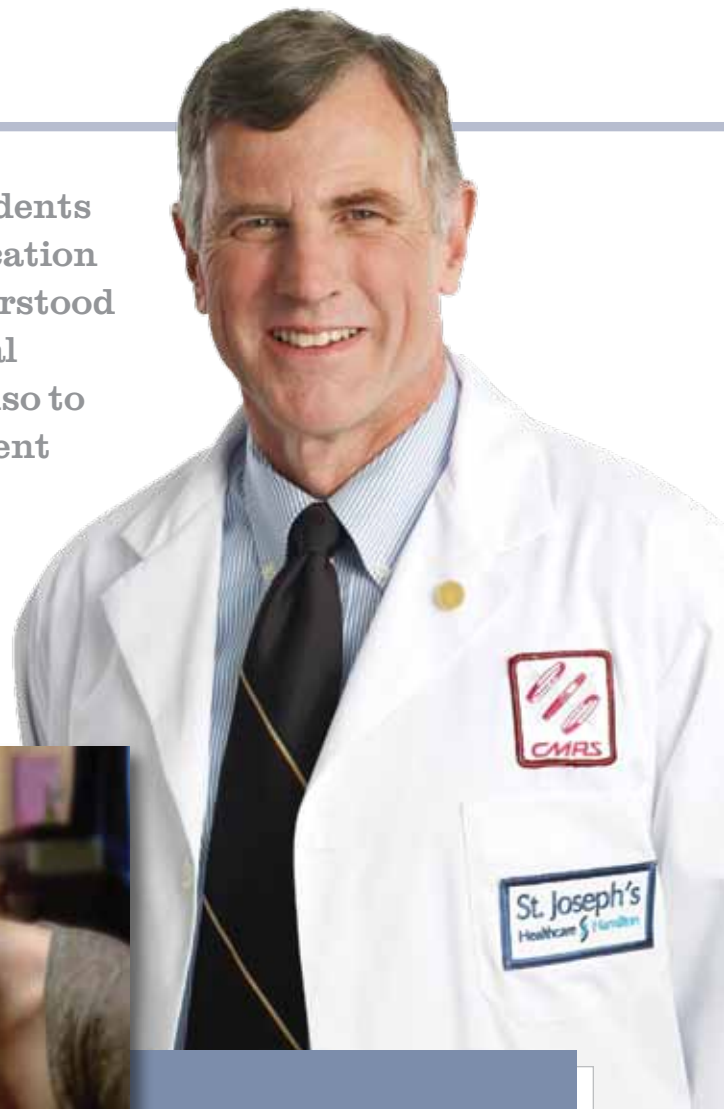
CHAP Award winners for 2010 are MDCM students Jennifer Hulme and Zoë Thomas. *In Focus* had a chance to catch up with Zoë mere days before she resumed her full-time medical studies. Her year in the CHAP program was spent at the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal where she oversaw weekly arts and crafts workshops. With an enthusiasm that is contagious, she describes her work with the women, making masks, collages, quilts, Halloween costumes, gingerbread cookies and Christmas decorations. Surprisingly, for that entire year, none of the women at the shelter knew she was a medical student.

"In the shelter, people just are," says Zoë. "The essence is not your achievement."

Zoë enjoyed her CHAP experience at the shelter so much that she stayed on after the end of the program for another year, becoming a part-time employee, taking on major new responsibilities and getting to know the clientele even better. "I feel I really gained concrete skills in communication and trust building," she says. "That is going to be so wonderful for me as a future doctor."



Kerry Tannahill



"It's very important to recognize physician skills and leadership. Citizens in the community look to health care leaders for guidance and advice."

Dave Williams, former astronaut.

Left: Zoë Thomas, with a gingerbread house made by women at the Native Women's Shelter.

McGill in Quebec



Owen Egan

Gilles Brousseau describes the advantages of UMF-Gatineau.

“Since the family health centre’s affiliation with McGill University in 1988, over 100 family doctors have been trained here, and over 81 are still practising locally.”

A Growing Family in Gatineau

There is a palpable passion for family medicine at UMF-Gatineau. Since 1988, when the Unité de Médecine Familiale (Family Medicine Unit) was founded in affiliation with McGill, local doctors and educators have focused on one critical goal: to create more general practitioners. Over 20 years later, with more students than expected coming to train in the region, with the exciting new Campus santé Outaouais partnership yielding results, and with more doctors choosing to stay and practise, it’s easy to understand the reason behind so many enthusiastic smiles at the health centre.

How to explain the success?

“There is no big pyramid,” explains Gilles Brousseau, director of medical education for Campus santé, as well as assistant dean of medical education for the Campus santé Outaouais at McGill’s Faculty of Medicine. “The student is close to the patient and to the specialist or family doctor.”

The proximity that students enjoy with patients and professionals in their field was one of the foreseen advantages of Campus santé – now entering its third year. Campus santé Outaouais is a partnership of 12 health, social services and educational institutions (including McGill, Cégep de l’Outaouais, Collège Heritage, Université du Québec, among others) working cohesively to improve the region’s capacity to meet its local health needs. A new flagship program of Campus santé is the Integrated Clerkship, under development for a year and now welcoming its first cohort of medical students.

“The first year was a year of promotion and of explaining how the program would work,” says Brousseau.

These efforts have paid off. The program has recruited nine McGill students for the 2010/2011 year. The health centre, which is both a family medicine clinic and instructional centre, buzzes with purposeful and positive activity.

Suzanne Bouchard, medical director of UMF-Gatineau, as well as a practising doctor, explains her job as a leader and guide for the students who train in the region, as well as the liaison back to McGill. “In essence, we share with them our passion, because this is the best job in the world,” she says.

Guylaine Proulx and Véronique Lapointe, young doctors who have chosen to stay in the region since finishing their residencies, are just two of several front line mentors that can encourage and help guide residents along their career paths. They take time away from their full-time clinical work to listen and respond to concerns and questions. “It’s very varied work,” say Lapointe.

Over 250,000 Quebecers – a mixture of urban and rural dwellers – call the Gatineau region home. The graduates of the family medicine residency program at UMF-Gatineau have been retained in the region at a rate of over 80 per cent. Since the family health centre’s affiliation with McGill University in 1988, over 100 family doctors have been trained here, and over 81 are still practising locally. As well as being a popular destination for residents in family medicine, the health centre also oversees 10 residents per month in other disciplines such as Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Surgery, Anesthesia, Obstetrics and Gynecology and Psychiatry.

According to Guylaine Thériault, a doctor as well as the instructor of a course on evidence-based medicine, the attraction of staying in Gatineau can be explained by that one all-important word: *family*. “It’s a region that’s made for families,” she says. “There’s everything here – bike trails, parks, activities for children, activities for families.”

Numerous new doctors have already discovered for themselves the truth in these words, and with the ongoing success in Gatineau, many more are set to join them in the years to come.



From top left:
Arvisais does a check-up on local patient, Mme Berard Larose;
Suzanne Bouchard is the medical director of UMF-Gatineau;
Véronique Lapointe and Guylaine Proulx, in addition to their clinical work, also mentor residents;
Guylène Thériault delivers a course on Evidence-Based Medicine to residents;
Gilles Brousseau with resident Karine Lemyre, training in UMF-Gatineau's multimedia room.

McGillians to Gatineau

MDCM students embarking on the first-ever Integrated Clerkship in Gatineau voice their anticipation of the road ahead.

Majenta Whyte Potter-Mäl

What clinched the decision to go out to Gatineau for your clerkship?

"Visiting the site heavily tipped the balance. The explanation of the longitudinal program, the geniality of the staff, and the possibility of completing an entire year in French through McGill as an anglophone all enticed me."



Brian Lee

How do you anticipate the Gatineau experience will be different from the other options you might have considered?

"I think that working at a single family medicine clinic regularly over the course of an entire year will give me a better opportunity to follow up regularly with patients... I also look forward to the opportunity to see how medicine is practised outside of large academic centres..."



Nicholas Chadi

What interested you in going to Gatineau?

"It's hard for me to name a specific thing... I was very interested in the Integrated Clerkship concept... It was presented in a very appealing way... I was interested in working in French."



Marie-Ève Robinson

What are you most looking forward to in going to Gatineau?

"To have fun and to be with people who want to work with us... We really feel the enthusiasm they have..."



Nino Gauthier

Anabel Cossette Civitella

... and **beyond**

As a Faculty with a truly international presence, our professors, students and researchers participate in research, education and clinical care internationally. Here are just some of our health efforts that are directly helping to improve the well-being of citizens around the world.



Haiti (from left): Marie-Rose Kavanagh, nurse at the Jewish General Hospital, H el ene Rousseau; on far right, Emmanuella Morency, nurse at the CSSS de la Montagne, Montreal, with a Haitian patient who just delivered a baby.

Lessons From Haiti

For health care professionals like H el ene Rousseau, Rural Program Director at McGill's Faculty of Medicine, the devastating earthquake in Haiti in January 2010 was a call to action. "I had this urge to go and do something," she says. Prior to the quake, Rousseau was scheduled to go to Haiti and teach a course in Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics. The course was cancelled, but Rousseau saw her scheduled time as an opportunity to help those who were suffering from the earthquake's aftermath.

As a family physician specializing in obstetrics, Rousseau was especially concerned about the plight of women and children. "It has been clearly demonstrated that after natural disasters or wars, women and children are the most vulnerable," says Rousseau. "In Haiti there were lineups a few kilometres long for food. A pregnant woman or a woman with a small child wouldn't have the strength to wait that long." Rousseau, together with Vania Jimenez, BSc '67, MDCM '71, director of the CSSS de la Montagne and professor at McGill's Department of Medicine, organized a team with two Haitian-born nurses and a Haitian social worker from Montreal. The group spent nearly three weeks in Haiti at the end of February 2010 working with the Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI).

Rousseau's voice still catches when she talks about the experience. "The destruction was beyond what we expected," she says. "Some districts were literally in ruins." One of the most difficult things for Rousseau was seeing women who had lost their husbands and had no resources to feed their children. "It's difficult to deal with because it's not just the consequences of the earthquake, it's the consequence of a very poor country with few resources," explains Rousseau.

The family physician is no stranger to practising medicine in challenging conditions. As Rural Program director, Rousseau has worked and taught medicine in rural areas of Quebec where there are few specialists and a lack of facilities. "It's given me a different vision of what medicine can be like," she says. "Often you don't have access to a surgeon or to anesthesia, for example, so you're teaching people to deal with emergencies as they arrive and giving them the tools to do simple interventions." Her experience in Haiti confirmed to her the need for health care to go back to the basics. "A lot of our work [in Haiti] was doing things like promoting breast feeding and just talking to women," she says. "Such basic interventions can save lives."

In Haiti, Rousseau also sees a need to better focus medical and humanitarian interventions. "We have to empower [the Haitians] and give them the training, not just do the work



Ethiopia (left to right): doctor Tolera Woldeyes, Addis Ababa University; Makeda Semret, McGill University, leader of the Infectious Diseases Training Program; doctor Admasu Tenna, Addis Ababa University



Tanzania: nurses Evangelista Kayombo and Betty Liduke visit McGill's School of Nursing

2

3

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ourselves," she says. Rousseau doesn't know yet when she will be back in Haiti, but she knows she will return. "After three weeks we were really sad to leave. Our hearts were torn," she says. "It felt like an unfinished mission. We have to go back and keep working at it."

A Global Impact

1. McGill Humanitarian Studies Initiative for Residents, Haiti (2010)

This multidisciplinary program trains resident-physicians to be ready to respond to disasters and refugee crises. Training is provided at McGill as well as at Harvard University in Boston. Trainees go on to a one to three month supervised placement in a humanitarian setting. This year, trainees went to Haiti in the wake of the earthquake that killed 300,000 and injured many more. They were part of a huge global relief effort, that included the separate McGill team headed up by H el ene Rousseau. (See story opposite).

2. Infectious Diseases Training Program, Ethiopia

Since 2009, McGill has been working with the University of Addis Ababa to develop a program that will empower local doctors to respond to infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, respiratory tract illnesses, HIV/AIDS and diarrhea. Infectious diseases account for 75 per cent of all deaths in Ethiopia. Training is provided primarily in Ethiopia, but also in laboratory settings at McGill.

3. Kibale Health and Conservation Centre, Uganda

This program seeks to build a medical clinic inside the main gates of Kibale National Park in order to provide desperately needed health care for the local community.

4. McGill Nurses for Highlands Hope, Tanzania

This organization is working toward establishing a Centre for Nursing Excellence in rural Tanzania, providing resources to support sustainable nursing projects of the Highlands Hope Nursing Consortium, helping Highlands Hope nurses to disseminate their skills and experience, as well as providing education and research opportunities for McGill's nursing students.

Homecoming 2010

McGill University Archives



Helen Smeja



David Murphy



Sonia Salisbury

“During medical school, we shared some intense moments. I am most looking forward to seeing old friends and reminiscing about our time at McGill while sharing news on our personal and professional lives since.”

– Helen Smeja, BSc’81, MDCM’85

Don’t miss the opportunity to see your old classmates and relive some of your fondest moments as a McGill student. Be part of this year’s Faculty of Medicine Homecoming festivities taking place from September 30 to October 3.

The Faculty of Medicine’s events kick off on Friday, October 1, at 8 a.m. with the Class of 1985 25th Anniversary Reunion Medical Seminar, “Wired: It’s All About the Connections.” Take in lectures by selected members of the 25th anniversary class as they share their wisdom on a distinctive mix of “wired” topics, including deep-brain stimulation, a pianist who doesn’t understand pianos, the circus environment and the success of a living donor-paired kidney exchange.

Join us in the afternoon for the always much anticipated Dean’s Reception from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Bellini Atrium of the impressive McGill University Life Sciences Complex. Share a cocktail with the Faculty of Medicine’s academics, researchers, alumni and friends, and hear about McGill’s latest and greatest news. It’s an exciting year as the Faculty is turning a page in its history

“We look forward to being back on campus, enjoying the buzz of student activity and renewing old friendships with former classmates.”

– Sonia Salisbury-Murphy, BSc’55, MDCM’59, and David A. Murphy, MDCM’60

book with the groundbreaking of the new McGill University Health Centre at the Glen Campus, the mapping of the Faculty’s future for the 21st century and the development of many other projects. Don’t miss the opportunity to witness the 2nd annual McGill Medicine Alumni Global Awards ceremony, recognizing young alumni, community service and lifetime achievement.

On Saturday, October 2, tours of the Arnold and Blema Steinberg Medical Simulation Centre will be offered to interested reunion classes. Here’s your chance to see first-hand how technology is revolutionizing medical education. To cap off a truly memorable weekend, class reunion gatherings are being organized for alumni who graduated in the following years: 1945, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1980 and 1985. If any individuals from other graduating classes would like a tour of the Simulation Centre, please call Mercedes Delacroix at 514-398-5924.

In addition to the Medicine-exclusive events, there is a plethora of University-wide Homecoming happenings, including the annual Leacock Luncheon, the Classes Without Quizzes lecture series and the Martlet, Jubilee and James McGill dinners for classes celebrating milestone anniversaries.

The 2010 Homecoming brochure has been mailed to you and provides full details on the weekend’s many events as well as registration information. Be sure to book early as space for certain activities is limited. For more information on Faculty of Medicine-specific events, please visit www.medicine.mcgill.ca/alumnicorner or contact Mercedes Delacroix at 514-398-5924 or mercedes.delacroix@mcgill.ca.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

Medicine Class Representatives and Reunion Committees

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Class of 1945 | William H. Feindel, MDCM’45, DSc’84 |
| Class of 1955 | Charles R. Scriver, BA’51, MDCM’55, DSc’07, Arthur B. Leith, BSc’51, MDCM’55 |
| Class of 1960 | David A. Murphy, MDCM’60 |
| Class of 1965 | Marvin J. Wexler, BSc’61, MDCM’65, MSc’71, Peter Szego BSc’61, MDCM’65 |
| Class of 1970 | Gordon L. Crelinsten, BSc’68, MDCM’70 |
| Class of 1975 | Kevin Watters, BSc’70, MDCM’75 |
| Class of 1980 | Leo Plouffe, MDCM’80, Jacques Genest, MDCM’80, Jacquetta Trasler, MDCM’80, PhD’87 |
| Class of 1985 | Robert Primavesi, BSc’81, MDCM’85, Helen Smeja, BSc’81, MDCM’85, Susan Dale Porter, MDCM’85 |

Alumni Moments



Robert Thirsk aboard the International Space Station. Inset: Thirsk celebrates his birthday in space with crew mates (front row, left to right) Gennady Padalka, Roman Romanenko (back row, left to right) Mike Barratt, Frank De Winne, Tim Kopra.

A View From Above

Astronaut Robert Thirsk, MDCM'82, spent his 56th birthday far from home. *Really far.* He was one of six astronauts aboard the International Space Station (ISS), and so he was happily surprised when his fellow passengers presented him with a birthday cake. Since baked goods were in short supply, his creative crew mates decorated two tortillas, mixing up icing sugar and spelling out "Happy Birthday Bob" in Russian Cyrillic script.

On this ISS mission, Thirsk became the first Canadian to take part in a long-duration spaceflight. He and two of his crewmates boarded a Soyuz spacecraft in Kazakhstan on May 27, 2009, and docked with the space station two days later. "Greeting us at the hatch were our three crewmates, who are all friends of mine," says Thirsk. "It was surreal." It took Thirsk about a week to get his "space legs" and to fly about the station without crashing into things. "It's very easy to spot the rookies on board," he laughs.

During his six months aboard the ISS, Thirsk and his colleagues conducted a wide variety of research projects, from biological experiments to materials processing. The astronauts themselves were also medical guinea pigs. Being in a gravity-free environment causes physiological changes, including bone density and mineral loss that mimics osteoporosis. The astronauts are also exposed to higher levels of ionizing radiation. "We're good research models," says Thirsk. Equally important to the Canadian was the level of international cooperation aboard the space station. "There are five different nations or regions working together on the space station with great success," he says. "I think it could be a model for cooperation in other areas."

Thirsk's journey to space began in his grade-three classroom, when a radio broadcast of a Mercury/Atlas launch caught his imagination. At the time, there was no Canadian astronaut program so Thirsk grew up satisfying his curiosity and drive for exploration by learning how things work. He has bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering, a doctorate of medicine from McGill University, and an MBA, which he completed in 1998. He has been in the Canadian Astronaut Program since 1984 and made his first voyage into space in 1996 on a 17-day flight aboard the Space Shuttle *Columbia*.

"It's very easy to spot the rookies on board."

His time in space has made Thirsk a confirmed environmentalist. He vividly remembers the overwhelming beauty of the earth seen from in orbit. "A chill went down my spine," he says of his first sighting of his home planet. The perspective from space also showed him the fragility of our ecosystem. "The earth has a very thin atmosphere," says Thirsk. "[From space], you can see evidence of human activities, like topsoil erosion and forest fires, that are harming the earth's environment."

Now that his mission on the ISS is over, Thirsk is slowly adjusting to conditions back on earth. He spent 45 days in rehabilitation, regaining coordination, stability and muscle strength, and it will take up to a year for his bone density to return to normal. He is also preparing for his next adventure. But it won't be in space: this was Thirsk's final voyage. The astronaut doesn't mind. He is, he says, ready for a new challenge.

Alumni Moments

Looking Back: Where It All Began for Marla Shapiro

McGill's Goodman Cancer Research Gala was a journey back to the University that helped launch a remarkable career in medicine – and media – for Marla Shapiro, MDCM'79. The Toronto physician – probably Canada's most famous doctor – was Honorary Chair of the Gala, lending her celebrity to an event that surpassed even the most ambitious fundraising targets.

For Shapiro, the gala was a chance to remember a galvanizing moment in her career.

"I can remember to this day getting my letter of acceptance from McGill, and that letter changed my life," reflects Shapiro, on the phone from her busy Toronto medical office. "I am very proud of the fact that I went to McGill medical school."

It's not often a doctor becomes a household name to millions, but that has been the destiny of Shapiro. She hosted the highly-rated show *Balance: Television for Living Well* and continues as health and medical contributor for CTV's *Canada AM* and the *CTV National News*. The Goodman Gala was a particularly personal cause for Shapiro. In 2004, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Her book *Life in the Balance* recounts her battle and eventual recovery from the disease.

Earlier this year, Shapiro won the prestigious May Cohen Award from the Federation of Medical Women of Canada in recognition of her commitment to advancing the professional, social and personal well-being of women physicians. As a practising physician, an associate professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto and a public luminary, Shapiro brought both alumni pride and star power to the Gala.

"The Goodman Gala was spectacular," says Shapiro, looking back at the night. "It was just amazing to see the incredible support that the Montreal community has for this Centre."



Goodman Gala: Feel-good Hit of the Summer

With over 750 guests, \$2.5-million raised, a small army of serving staff, and the talent of jazz singer Carol Welsman, the inaugural Goodman Cancer Research Gala on June 5 was about the biggest event of its kind in McGill history. The guest list included the Hon. Irwin Cotler, BA'61, BCL'64, Senator Michael Meighen, BA'60, Quebec Minister of Health and Social Services Yves Bolduc, the Hon. Lawrence Bergman, Principal Heather Munroe-Blum, Marla Shapiro, MDCM'79, Vice-Principal of Health Affairs and Dean of Medicine Richard I. Levin, Goodman Cancer Research Centre Director Michel Tremblay and renowned cancer researcher Phil Gold, BSc'57, MSc'61, PhD'65, who was recognized with a special tribute.

"I'm still overwhelmed," says Rosalind Goodman, recalling the event over a month afterwards. Morris Goodman wholeheartedly agrees. "It went beyond our expectations," he says.

The couple's generosity is no secret at McGill. They helped make it possible to house McGill's cancer research activities in unique, collaborative facilities – the Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Research Centre – which benefitted from all Gala proceeds. The brand new facilities build on McGill's long history of success in cancer research, dating back to Gold's discovery of the carcinoembryonic antigen. Gold – also the first director of McGill's cancer centre – was the evening's guest of honour. Attendees were treated to a video about his legacy and a laudatory speech by Dean Levin.

For Rosalind Goodman, that was the highlight of an evening that had so many inspiring moments. Having spearheaded the planning of the Gala, an event that was 13 months in the making, she claims inspiration for the event came from her daughter, Shawna Goodman, who inaugurated the Annual McGill Cancer Ball. And Rosalind Goodman's work is far from over. She says that plans for the Goodman Cancer Research Centre's future include a lecture series, a corporate wellness program and another gala in 2012.



Gala Photos: Ryan Blau, PBL Photography



Clockwise from upper left: Jazz vocalist Carol Welsman entertains the crowd; Principal Heather Munroe-Blum welcomes guests; Noriko Uetani (wife of Cancer Centre Director Michel Tremblay), Morris Goodman, Michel Tremblay and Rosalind Goodman; Phil Gold, Evelyn Gold, Jane Levin, Dean Richard I. Levin.

Morris Goodman is convinced of the transformative power of philanthropy and knows it can have far-reaching benefits. "I believe in supporting research that's going to help everybody. It's for humanity," he says simply.

The Goodman Cancer Research Gala was a remarkable and inspiring evening, bringing together McGill scientists engaged in the battle against the disease and some of their most dedicated supporters.

Smooth Sailing

When David Hall, BSc '69, MDCM '77, retired from his family medicine practice in coastal Maine, he was finally able to fulfil a lifelong dream. He and his wife Sydney, BA '72, boarded their 25-year-old, 42-foot fibreglass sloop and set off for Bermuda. Both avid sailors, Hall and his wife were taking advantage of retirement to go long-distance sailing. They sailed first to Bermuda, and then to the Caribbean and South America. Back in Maine, however, Hall found that he missed practising medicine. "My retirement lasted about a week," he laughs now. He joined the local hospital he had been admitting patients to for 30 years and now divides his time between his two passions, spending five to six months of the year as a hospitalist and the rest of the time sailing.

Travelling is not new for Hall who, together with other physicians, surgeons, EMS workers, translators and his wife Sydney, has spent one to two weeks a year, starting in the mid-90s, volunteering in Honduras. "We have so much and we are so privileged," says Hall. "I felt that the right thing to do was to take what we have to people who don't have so much."

Volunteer work is not just about giving for a family practitioner. "I personally get so much out of it," he says. "People are so appreciative. I remember treating a woman who told me it was the first time she had ever been touched by a doctor." Hall also admits to a healthy dose of the adventure bug. Last year he worked in the highlands of Guatemala, where he says he learned a great deal about running medical clinics. He plans to continue his overseas volunteer work and hopes to expand it to three to four weeks at a time. And, come winter, Hall and his wife will be heading back to the coast of Panama, where they have spent quite a bit of their time. From there, they are hoping to sail on to the Galapagos and Ecuador.

"I give McGill credit for giving me the skills and privilege to enjoy this wonderful life," says Hall. "I have a marriage of 40 years to the woman I met at McGill. It couldn't have worked out better."



David Hall (left) with Jenn Conover, medic and translator, running a clinic in Betulia, a remote village along the Caribbean coast of Honduras.



Dr. Victor Lui

INSPIRING GIFTS

"I want to be useful to researchers," says Victor K.S. Lui, BSc '67, MDCM '71, whose gift of \$500,000 to student fellowships in cancer research, as well as a new oncology research fund, highlights a long career of giving to his alma mater. "I am deeply indebted for the fine education that McGill gave me. I enjoyed every minute of my seven years, even the cold winter months!"

Lui has been giving to McGill since 1969, in particular, to the Faculty of Medicine. "No amount is too small," says Lui. "If the whole world gives a penny, there will be mountains of pennies."

Lui's gift is one of several outstanding contributions made on the occasion of the inaugural Goodman Cancer Research Gala. The CURE Foundation for Breast Cancer and the Cedars Cancer Institute each donated \$240,000, and a \$700,000 trust was established by the estate of the late Michael D'Avirro to support doctoral or post-doctoral molecular oncology research in perpetuity.

Alumni Moments



Jack Gurevich, Jack in the Box Photography

The 2010 Head and Neck Gala. From left to right: Saul Frenkiel, Chair, Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Martin Black, Sheldon Elman, BSc'72, MDCM'74, Founder and Chairman, Medisys Medical Group.

Honouring an Extraordinary Colleague, Physician and Teacher

Martin Black, BSc'63, MDCM'67, has been inspiring his colleagues since he arrived at the Jewish General Hospital (JGH) in 1973. Currently director of the McGill Program in Head and Neck Oncology, Black was named to the Honour List for Educational Excellence in the Faculty of Medicine in 1998, received the outstanding teacher award from McGill's Department of Otolaryngology, and also won the Prix d'Excellence from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in 2008. In 2001, he was elected President of the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery. Earlier this year, in honour of his many accomplishments, the JGH Foundation established the Martin J. Black Endowment Fund for Fellowship Training in Head and Neck Oncology. The \$1.5-million fund will support training and research in the field.

Black was also the guest of honour at the 2010 Head and Neck Gala (an annual event he co-founded 16 years ago), which helped raise funds for the endowment. "Martin Black has had a profound impact on how our department developed," says Saul Frenkiel, BSc'67, MDCM'71, who hosted the event. "He's a superb educator and a terrific doctor. His patients love him."

Michael Hier, BSc'86, MDCM'90, a fellow surgeon who was once a student of Black's, paid homage to his former teacher at the Gala. "Dr. Black has operated on and treated thousands of patients," he told the crowd of over 500. "But through his tireless teaching of students, residents and fellows, he has impacted and healed tens of thousands of patients all over the world."

Developing Professional Ties Between Nations

On May 25, 2010, American Edward J. Burger, BSc'54, MDCM'58, was named a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the latest accolade in what he refers to as an "unorthodox but rewarding career." Burger's unconventional career includes working for the office of the President's Science Adviser under former Presidents Nixon and Ford; a stint in the Medical Corps of the US Navy; establishing the Institute for Health Policy Analysis at the Georgetown University Medical Center; and, currently, overseeing the Eurasian Medical Education Program of the American College of Physicians.

It was in this latest capacity that Burger was appointed to the prestigious Russian Academy. The Eurasian Medical Education Program was established in 1997 with the goal of contributing to continuing medical education for Russian physicians. "Medical professionals in Russia have been isolated from Western medicine for 70 years," explains Burger. Through the program, American and European physicians, who operate on a volunteer basis, travel to Russia to work with physicians in academic medical centres across the Russian Federation. To date, the program has been a huge success. "We have interacted with nearly 10,000 Russian practitioners in Russia and have brought 13 groups of physicians and health leaders to centres in the United States," Burger says.

"We have an interest that Russia be politically and socially stable," says the physician, who believes that helping Russia



Edward J. Burger presents a certificate to a physician student in Vladivostok, Russia.

meet its health care challenges is a positive instrument for foreign policy. Burger has previous experience building international ties through professional associations: he helped develop cooperative programs in science, medicine and the

environment with the Soviet Union during the period of détente, and was appointed senior scientific adviser to the Economic Commission for Europe in the United Nations in 1975.

Despite his many accomplishments, Burger is not one to rest on his laurels. The 77-year-old continues to travel to Russia two to three times a year, and will be there again this fall.



Owen Egan

Anthony Albers is on track for a career in Quebec.

CLASS OF 2010

Anthony Albers was one of 179 graduates of McGill's MDCM program in 2010. This class size represents an increase of over 60 per cent compared to 2000. The class of 2010 have already begun their residencies in fields ranging from pediatrics and family medicine through to psychology and surgery.

At Home in Quebec

For Anthony Albers, MDCM'10, choosing to pursue his medical degree and residency at McGill is a dream come true. As a Quebecer, he wants to stay close to his roots and help people in the place where he feels most at home.

"I enjoy the McGill community," he shares. "In my opinion, the medical program here is the best in Canada. McGill trains top-quality residents and allows for great fellowship opportunities afterwards. And it's wonderful to be able to be close to family and friends and stay in my home province."

Raised as an athlete, Albers dabbled in every sport imaginable, but counts golf, volleyball, football and skiing as favourites. Last year, he won the Strachan Alexander Hartley Memorial Prize, which recognizes a student who demonstrates athletic leadership and academic excellence. Ergo, it comes as no surprise that he has chosen to pursue a residency in orthopedics, a five-year program that will prepare him for many facets of the specialty, including sports, arthroplasty, trauma, pediatrics and oncology. "As an athlete, you become keenly interested in how the body functions in order to become faster, more efficient and more agile," he says. "I like that I can touch a patient's arm or leg and really imagine how the bones need to be aligned and then make the necessary adjustment."

Albers' childhood growing up in St. Jovite in the heart of the Laurentians granted him a unique perspective on his chosen specialty. While a golf instructor, he helped students attain a perfect golf swing by developing a sense of 3-D thinking to visualize and improve movements, an essential skill for understanding the physics of the human body in orthopedics. He also compares his days working on construction sites with his father, who is a contractor, with his career as a surgeon, noting how these early hands-on experiences helped him acquire an eye for building structures and fixing things, something he finds himself doing every day in the hospital wards.

Like a typical junior resident, Albers' day begins early at 5:00 a.m. After a quick breakfast and cycle to the hospital, he launches into his rounds, which are currently in general surgery. Some days, he goes to the operating room to assist a surgeon; other days he stays in one of the hospital clinics or remains on the floor to obtain or follow up on patients' tests and fill out ER consults. He may even be asked to perform minor procedures, like biopsies or catheter insertions and removals. Four to six times a month, he is a resident on call working a long overnight shift, overseeing the care of up to 60 to 70 patients during that time.

In addition to the fundamental curriculum that McGill imparts on its students, Albers feels that time spent in the hospital during clerkship in the third and fourth years is invaluable. "Our teachers, who are most often medical staff or residents, are very dedicated towards teaching students," he says. "This is part of the reason why McGill's program was so appealing to me. As a student, I looked up to residents and often thought: I want to be like them."

If he has his say, Albers wants to stay in Quebec. "I like the culture, the mix of two languages. I like the proximity between the city and the wilderness and the change in season. But, most of all, I like the fact that I am at home, doing work that feels very rewarding and makes a difference in people's lives."



Family Medicine

The Future Holds Promise for Family Medicine

When Vania Jimenez, BSc'67, MDCM'71, thinks of family medicine in Quebec, it is with considerable optimism for the field's future. "The family physician needs to be recognized at all levels as the 'fundamental' physician," explains the family practitioner, medical director of the CSSS de la Montagne in Montreal and keynote speaker for the 2nd Family Medicine Student Symposium, to be hosted at McGill. "This field is like an untapped well, a hidden treasure, full of promise."

It is with this same positive motivation that the student organizers of the Symposium have worked for nearly nine months to put together this event, slated for September 25. Bringing together some 600 medical students from across Quebec and the Outaouais, the Symposium features an array of conferences and workshops, as well as information booths from partner organizations in the field. "These students will hopefully appreciate the breadth and diversity that family medicine has to offer," says Anthony Rizzuto, MDCM '10, co-chair of this year's student organizing committee.

Last year's Symposium was the brainchild of two medical students from Université Laval's family medicine interest group (FMIG) – Evelyne Bourdua-Roy and Louis-Philippe Gagnon. With support from the Quebec Ministry of Health and Social Services and working with a committee that included student representatives from the four Quebec medical faculties, they wanted to create a day-long event to share the passion they felt for the field and that would showcase family medicine as a specialty. "This initiative demonstrates that the will to be involved is alive and well amongst youth," notes Jimenez.

The overwhelmingly positive feedback from the 2009 event spurred FMIGs to turn the Symposium into an annual event, with the intent to have it hosted each year by a different university in order to showcase local aspects of family medicine. "This variety in carrying out a common message among our fellow students is what will make these symposia worthwhile and fresh year after year," says Gagnon.



Left to right: keynote speaker Vania Jimenez; Anthony Rizzuto and Hallie Coltin, co-chairs of this year's Family Medicine Symposium.

Key Dates

Homecoming

September 30 - October 3
Information: 514-398-5924

Centre for Continuing Health Professional Education (CCHPE)

Thursday Evening Learning Series
McIntyre Medical Sciences Building, and streamed online
September 9, 2010 – April 7, 2011

Rural Multimedia Series (Webinar)
September 15, 2010 – March 30, 2011,

Information and registration:
<http://cme.mcgill.ca>

The Marilyn Jones-Gotman Symposium

Epilepsy and Cognition, Smell and Taste
Oct. 4, 2010, 7:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Montreal Neurological Institute
Jeanne Timmins Amphitheatre
3801 University Street, Montreal
Information: 514-398-6047

The 2010 Mini-Psych School at the Douglas

October 14, 2010 - November 4, 2010
With the Mini-Psych School entering its fifth year, the Douglas Mental Health University Institute will be offering a series of classes in French and another in English. Both series will explore child and youth mental health.
Information: 514-761-6131, ext. 2788

Medical Education Rounds

Combining Career & Personal Life: What We Model, What We Teach
by Wendy Levinson
November 18, 2010

Innovations in Medical Education
December 2, 2010

Jonathan C. Meakins Amphitheatre
McIntyre Medical Sciences Building (5th floor)
3655 Promenade Sir William Osler
Information: 514-398-2698

Medicine Alumni Global Awards

Nomination deadline, Summer 2011
Information: 514-398-5924

Faculty Kudos

- **Albert J. Aguayo**
McGill University Medal (to honour exemplary retiring professors)
- **John Bergeron, BSc'66**
HUPO 2010 Discovery Award in Proteomics Science
2010 Canadian National Proteomics Network's Award for Outstanding Contribution and Leadership to the Canadian Proteomics Community
- **Alan Bernstein**
Frank Clarke Fraser, MSc'41, PhD'45, MDCM'55
Doctors of Science, McGill honorary degrees
- **Radan Capek, Thomas Maniatis, Celia Rodd**
Canadian Association of Medical Education Certificate of Merit Award 2010
- **Claudio Cuello** (Officer),
Alice Chan-Yip, MDCM'62 (Member),
Mary Ellen Jeans, BN'67, MSc(a)'69, PhD'76 (Member),
Ernesto L. Schiffrin, PhD'80 (Member) and **Nahum Sonenberg** (Officer)
Order of Canada honorees
- **Eduardo Franco**
Lifetime Achievement Award from the
American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology
- **Patty O'Connor, BScN'76, MSc(A)'82**
Neuro's Lifetime Achievement Award
- **Thomas Maniatis, MDCM'96, Medical Resident'01, MSc'03, Medicine,**
Jeffrey Minuk, MSc'96, Neurology & Neurosurgery,
Robert Primavesi, BSc'81, MDCM'85, Family Medicine & Pediatrics,
Gilles Thériault, Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health
2010–2011 Faculty Honour List for Educational Excellence
- **Lynne McVey, BSc'81, MSc(A)'85**
Prix Florence for Leadership
- **Brenda Milner, PhD'52, DSc'91** (honorary degree)
Finalist for NSERC Herzberg Gold Medal
- **Ernesto L. Schiffrin**
2010 Bjorn Folkow Award
- **Charles Scriver,**
BA'51, MDCM'55, DSc'07
2010 Pollin Prize
- **Jonathan Spicer**
2010 Resident Leadership Award,
Royal College of Physicians
and Surgeons of Canada
- **Maryam Tabrizian**
Guggenheim Fellowship

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Tell us about a career move, recognition you've received or a contribution you've made to the health field.

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in Focus MEDICINE FALL 2010

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