



Faculty of Health Sciences

Newsletter #21
April 2008

Queen's University Faculty of Health Sciences

<http://meds.queensu.ca>

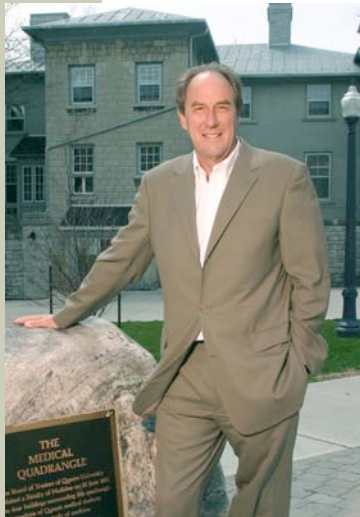


Photo by: Bernard Clark

Dean's Message

Welcome to Newsletter #21. In the few pages that follow, you will read of progress in the various schools and programs of the Faculty. I would like to highlight a few issues in these introductory comments that pertain, in the main, to matters concerning the medical school.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Walker".

David M.C. Walker, MD, FRCPC
Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences

Medical School Size

The Medical School continues to digest the very substantial (33%) recently completed expansion in the MD program and substantial resources, human and otherwise, are being expended on curricular and administrative development in order that we can offer a program of quality that continues to meet accreditation and our own standards of excellence. In these dynamic processes and discussions, being led by Lewis Tomalty and Tony Sanfilippo, we are examining our values and our purpose, ensuring that our ultimate educational objectives are sound and that our curriculum and the selection, progress and evaluation of our students reflect and match those values and goals. In the process, the reorganization and enhancement of our dedicated staff support is a critical component.

There continues to be significant pressure to expand the school yet further. Notwithstanding what you may have read in the press enrolment remains for the moment at 100. The senior administrative team is analyzing the capacity and obstacles applicable to any further expansion and they are considerable. We require new facilities for teaching and learning to meet our current responsibilities; our teaching hospitals are under significant stress, one being assisted by Graham Scott. The medical school has spent considerable time with Mr. Scott and I believe he found that useful in identifying the need for a well functioning and well-resourced tertiary care centre as the laboratory for our academic programs. As important, any growth would require further assistance from our regional partners in capacity building, a process of development that requires much care and attention and quite significant resources.

All Ontario schools are engaged in these considerations. Our colleagues at UWO, McMaster and UoT are adopting satellite models (Windsor, Kitchener, Mississauga) with significant growth.

The post-grad establishment is not immune and discussions with Government seem to occur daily. Queen's has identified the resources required to grow our Family Medicine program further, but so far no additional resources have been forthcoming.

Clinical Education Centre

One of the key elements of our medical school that has been recently reviewed (by Charlie LaBarge) is the Clinical Education Centre, its role, organization and function. As we move to make this faculty-wide and fundamental resource ever more effective, Lewis Tomalty, representing the Dean's office, will be overseeing a needed evolutionary process that will ensure the work of the centre and those wonderfully dedicated individuals within it match the planning and needs of our schools and our educational programs. One of the transitions which is underway acknowledges the work of an individual who has played a vast role within the CEC and the clinical skills program. Over many years Sue Moffat, inaugural holder of the Bracken Chair in Clinical Skills, has led the evolution of the CS program, identified by our accreditors as a program of excellence worthy of emulation. Sue is stepping down from the role of Director of CS this spring and Tony Sanfilippo's plan is to succeed Sue with a number of individuals, each with key responsibilities, while Sue will spend her last year as Bracken Chair concentrating on a well earned mini-sabbatical and academic production related to clinical skills, so that many may benefit from her experience, knowledge and national leadership in this field. We owe Sue much gratitude for her tireless effort and contributions and there will be an opportunity to personally express our thanks announced in the weeks ahead.

Work of the faculty

The dedication and creativity of our faculty remains key to our success, and I wish to publicly acknowledge the work of so many engaged in this exciting journey. Furthermore, it is hard not to be proud of a Faculty that can boast almost 100% participation rate in the education of our students. I also acknowledge recent key policy developments at SEAMO that will serve us well in ensuring that academic resources and time are explicitly acknowledged and supported in our academic enterprise. I congratulate Governors in these initiatives and for the leadership support of the Clinical teachers association in ensuring that the needs of the medical school are met.

The recent ratification of an extension to the SEAMO contract with the Ministry and OMA of up to two years contains within it significant new funds to repair cognate disciplines and to address academic needs and particular recognition is deserved by Paul Rosenbaum (Director, Policy and Planning) and Ken Edwards (President of CTAQ) along with Darrel Weinkauff at the OMA and Carol Marble at the MOHLTC. This is, indeed, an impressive deal. The new academic funds will be used to recognize and support departments and faculty members' contributions to teaching and research; the medical school is looking forward to filling rosters for clinical skills, PBL and other key programs.

Performance Indicators

If the CaRMS match is a performance measure for a medical school, then we have reasons to be pleased. 98% of our students matched out in the first round (only on other school did better!) and all but 8 positions in our post-grad programs filled on the intake. It is our anticipation that our remaining students will match in the next round and our PG positions will fill. I congratulate our students who have competed so capably, our program directors and Leslie Flynn (Associate Dean, postgrad and her staff) for such an impressive performance.

Facilities

On the facility front, the school continues to participate in the planning of a new teaching and learning facility which is desperately needed. As our curriculum evolves, we need more space dedicated to small group teaching; facilities for state of the art simulation; space where faculty and staff can meet and work; areas for programs that are dispersed and require sophisticated communication technology; and space that our students can call their own. Our support staff are scattered through aged buildings and our heritage undergrad and post-grad houses belong to another institution! An added option for the building would be the creation of innovative and integrated basic medical science teaching labs. This would facilitate innovation in the Life Sciences/Biochemistry programs, which as highly attractive programs can play a role in any strategic growth that the University undertakes (and assist with our budget!). An advantageous spin-off of creating such labs would be the release of space within Botterell for research purposes.

Such a building will be expensive and the University is at present undertaking a review of the costs and priorities of capital needs; as this matures, our building continues to be cited as a university priority, and this needed resource continues to be identified as an accreditation issue.

With the assistance of David Mitchell (VP Advancement) and Geoff Flynn, the school is constructing a campaign cabinet of those who can advise on fund-raising with the goal of minimizing the gap between costs and available funds.

Budget

On the budget front, the School has submitted a balanced 2008/09 budget forecast to the University. The budget once again required a 5.25% constriction (4% +1.25% ptr) which we have achieved based on a request for one-time reinvestment funds to offset the effect of the cut on the Basic Science departments which if not mitigated, would result in the demise of the laboratory based teaching programs such as LISC. Meantime, Ken Rose (Associate Dean, LISC) is working hard with the curriculum committee and with the full support of the Deans in both Arts and Science and Health Sciences to produce a renovated and innovative LISC program for consideration of new investment funding from Queen's as a program leader for the future. Such a program, especially with new base funding, could offset in part the effects of repeated future budget cuts to those departments.

On the university wide budget front, discussions are ongoing regarding mechanisms to mitigate the effect of capital development program costs and the pension liability issue on the operating budget. Simultaneously, a committee on which I sit is developing a revenue attribution/local expenses model similar to that now employed at many peer institutions. The University's current budget is essentially based on historic allocations, modified on the margin by various formulae. The new model under consideration would provide to Faculties revenues (such as fees, BIUs) attributable to them, and the Faculty would then pay for generated expenses (hotel functions, costs of central administration, utilities, library, IT etc). The advantages over the current arrangement include absolute budgetary transparency, control over revenue (currently the majority of any revenue increase due to, for example, a fee increase of 4%, benefits the centre, not the Faculty), and incentives to control expenses. There are many complexities to this, such as how one derives the breakdown of revenues in shared programs and or the identification of fair rentals for space.

Strategic Investment

As we husband our resources, there is recognition that we must apply them strategically. In this, the advice of the staffing committee elected to consider such matters has been most useful. As positions become available by one means or another, consideration of how and where best to deploy those resources are obviously in the interest of the school as a whole, initially beyond the more particular interests of a department, program or individual unit.

Faculty Organization and Succession

Vivek Goel (Provost, UoT) and Gavin Stuart (Dean of Medicine, UBC) will be at Queen's this spring reviewing the current MOU that saw the creation of the FHS. This review is necessary prior to the search process for my successor, a process that is planned to begin in 2009 for a start date of July 1, 2010.

Undergraduate Medical Education by: Dr. Tony Sanfilippo

A number of activities are underway intended to address issues that have been identified internally and through the accreditation process last year.

- 1) Faculty Workforce Assessment – The faculty requirements for teaching and administration of the undergraduate program have been quantitated and presented to SEAMO. The concept of workforce quantitation has been accepted and a committee will be formed to address the distribution of these requirements across the clinical and basic science departments. This will provide a more rational and transparent mechanism for distribution of these very necessary activities. The structure and terms of reference of this committee will be reviewed at SEAMO and School of Medicine Council.
 - 2) Curricular Goals and Competencies – An overall curricular goals statement has been reviewed and accepted by the School of Medicine Executive. A copy of that statement is included with this newsletter. This will provide the basis for defining the level and scope of education required within the program. The next step will be to develop from these goals defined competencies. This review is being undertaken by the Curricular Advisory Group and is currently underway. It will require wide review within the faculty.
 - 3) Education Committee – The terms of reference for an Education Committee have been developed. This committee under the leadership of Dr. Elaine Van Melle will provide standards of current educational methodology and suggest mechanisms by which they can be developed within our curriculum. This committee has begun operating and the terms of reference will be under review at the School of Medicine Executive very soon.
 - 4) Evaluation - Our Evaluation Committee which is chaired by Dr. Paul Belliveau organized a very successful workshop on March 19. Dr. Glen Regehr was our invited speaker and facilitator. A number of aspects of our evaluation system were reviewed and recommendations made as to how we can both improve globally and better meet our accreditation standards.
 - 5) Clinical Skills Program- Our clinical skills program is in evolution. Dr. Susan Moffatt has chaired this program for several years and guided its steady improvement to the point that it is now seen as an institutional strength. Dr. Moffatt is approaching the end of her term and new course chairs will be recruited. Dr. Moffatt will continue to hold the Bracken Chair using that position to provide scholarship and dissemination of the many innovations she has brought into this program.
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Undergraduate Medical Education cont..

- 6) Curricular Management – The course chair position is central to the successful delivery of our curriculum. A number of initiatives are underway to strengthen and support those positions including the development of a Curricular Council which will review policy and procedures relevant to all of the courses. Both the Education and Evaluation Committees will inform and support the activities of the course chairs.

- 7) Undergraduate Office- The Undergraduate Office continues to evolve and expand. There are a number of new faces and a number of individuals have taken on new responsibilities. Jacqueline Schutt is serving as the interim office manager. Jennifer Saunders continues as our admissions officer. Denise Jones and Rebecca Jozsa have been recently joined by Zdenka Ko as our curricular coordinators. Ann Richards and Anna Lyn Baxter will work more closely with our staff to provide better integration as they continue with their duties as clinical skills coordinators. Kelly Newlove continues to play an important role in facilitation of our various examinations. Kelly's role has also expanded to involvement in the tracking and designation of our various awards. Corrine Wickham has recently joined our staff and as part of her duties she will work in the admissions system. Finally Hayley Zomer, Jayme Craig and Ginny Langille will be joining our student support services in the renovated main office and student reception area.

Overall Curricular Goals

Our students will acquire an exemplary foundation in medical knowledge, skills and professional attitudes.

Our students will excel in qualifying examinations and successfully compete for postgraduate training programs.

Our students will be ready to serve patients and communities in fulfilling and productive careers.

Our innovative approaches to adult education will foster relevant, integrated and interactive learning experiences.

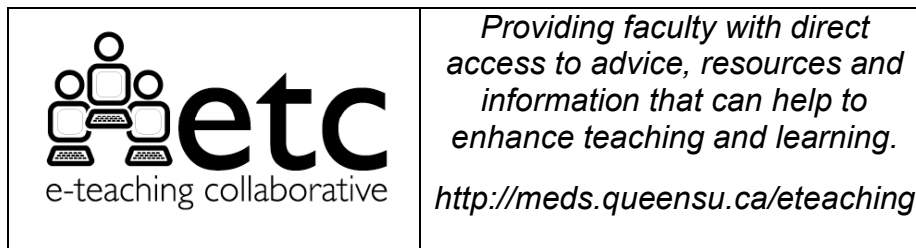
Foundational knowledge and skills are those core competencies that underlie every practicing physician's approach to patient care, are prerequisites to training and practice in any subspecialty, and support the ability to assess patients, manage presenting problems, seek out and critically analyse new information and learn throughout their career.

Foundational attitudes and behaviours are essential to the practice of medicine in all its variations. They are expressed in the Principles of Family Medicine and CanMEDs competencies and include Compassion, Sensitivity, Integrity, Curiosity, Scholarship, Communication, Collaboration, Advocacy, Management.

Office of Health Sciences Education by: Dr. Elaine Van Melle

2006-2007 Highlights

The Office of Health Sciences Education exists to enhance teaching and learning through scholarship and innovation. With respect to innovation, working together with the Bracken Health Sciences Library and the Medical Education Technology Unit, we have created an e-teaching collaborative (etc). The etc supports faculty who wish to try something new in their teaching. Through the website faculty have direct access to advice, resources and information.



With respect to scholarship, we are steadily making progress towards the establishment of a Centre for Studies in Health Sciences Education. In conjunction with department heads, faculty members with an interest in career advancement through educational scholarship have been identified. The next step is to support these faculty with proper resources and protected time to do meaningful educational research and curriculum design. Both the Justus fund and SEAMO Endowment fund will be directed towards this activity. As well, a Research Assistant with expertise in educational research is now available to assist faculty with data collection and analysis.

To complete the year, the Second Annual Celebration of Teaching: Inspiring Change will be held on June 6th in Botterell Hall. On this day we will celebrate the many accomplishments of the teachers in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

School of Nursing by: Dr. Cynthia Baker

The School of Nursing has been getting ready to offer two new graduate programs to be introduced next fall, a PhD in nursing, and a Masters in Nursing for Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioners. The Nurse Practitioner program will be offered in collaboration with nine other Ontario University Schools of Nursing who have formed a consortium to educate primary health care nurse practitioners across the province. There is a great deal of interest in both of the new graduate programs from potential students. Faculty and current graduate students in our existing MSc program are looking forward to having these programs in the School.

The undergraduate nursing program received a seven year accreditation in the Fall term this year. This program includes two tracks – the generic four year program, and an advanced standing track for students with previous university courses which we introduced a year ago. Students in the advanced standing track take courses in the Spring and Summer terms over a 24 month period and the first class will be completing their degree at the end of the summer and graduating at the Fall convocation.

School of Nursing cont..

One of the recent features of the undergraduate programs has been the use of two sophisticated, computerized patient simulators which we installed in the old nursing skills lab. These life like simulators provide students with very realistic learning experiences allowing them to develop their abilities to assess and respond to patients in a safe environment. They can make mistakes and learn from their mistakes without putting a real person at risk. We have just added a third, computerized patient simulator, Noelle, who goes into labour and gives birth, to the lab. We will be using Noelle next year to supplement lecture courses on labour and delivery.

School of Rehabilitation Therapy by: Dr. Elsie Culham

The excellence of the graduate programs offered by the School (MScOT, MScPT and MSc, PhD Rehabilitation Science) was recognized in the appraisal by the Ontario Council of Graduate Studies (OCGS) in 2007. All programs received a ranking of Good Quality which is the top ranking.

The School is proud to announce that Dr. Terry Krupa was awarded the Muriel Driver Memorial Lectureship Award from the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists. This award honours a member of the Association who has made an outstanding contribution to the profession through research, education and the practice of occupational therapy. The School would also like to congratulate Dr. Rosemary Lysaght on her appointment as President of the Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists for a two year term.

Occupational and Physical Therapy programs in Ontario received funding from the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities in 2006/2007 to enhance the quality of clinical education. The School allocated this funding in five key areas: preceptor/site support; student support for travel and accommodation; placement software development; equipment for clinical skills development and capacity building in the Queen's University geographic region. This funding has promoted the diversity and quality of the clinical experience for our students. It is anticipated that this funding will continue through 2009/10.

The School was also fortunate in receiving Renovations and Alterations funding to renovate teaching and student space in the south end of the basement of the Louise D Acton Building. These renovations will improve the classroom experience for clinical teaching and will allow reallocation of the north end of the basement for development of much needed research space. Work is expected to start in May, 2008.

The International Centre for the Advancement of Rehabilitation (ICACBR) currently has projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Sri Lanka. The ICACBR team includes faculty members from the School of Rehabilitation Therapy and other departments at Queen's. ICACBR projects support sustainable development of health and social services in these countries, strengthening their educational and regulatory systems, and ensuring the fulfillment of human rights of vulnerable populations including persons with disabilities. The Project for Governance of Social Care Centers in Post-Tsunami Sri Lanka, is implemented in seven Tsunami affected districts in the East and South of Sri Lanka. The goal is to contribute to community reconstruction and improve the quality of life at a community level through capacity building. The Project team also supports the National Institute for Social Development in implementation of the Master's of Social Work Program.

Bracken Library by: Suzanne Maranda

How the Library has changed!

In this digital world it is very easy to stay at home or in your office to connect to the world of information. Since the 2005 renovation, the library has changed tremendously and plays an important role in bringing people together and fostering learning communities among our students and faculty.

The library is a successful environment for collaboration and interactive learning: users talk, discuss, share, and even eat and drink, but overall, the library is elegant and conducive to serious work. A large number of computers enable virtual access to information resources that go beyond the traditional books and journals: images, videos, interactive software, point-of-care information, evidence-based clinical decision making tools, and more.

The “hot” commodities are laptops which can be borrowed for 3 hours, and of course the small group rooms which can be reserved online via our webpage. The librarians are also very busy conducting literature searches for faculty and hospital staff – over 1000 searches in 2006-07!

Please drop by or visit <http://library.queensu.ca/webmed> . There are many ways to contact the library, even with Instant Messaging... and an 800- number if you are working at a distance. We look forward to helping you meet your information needs.

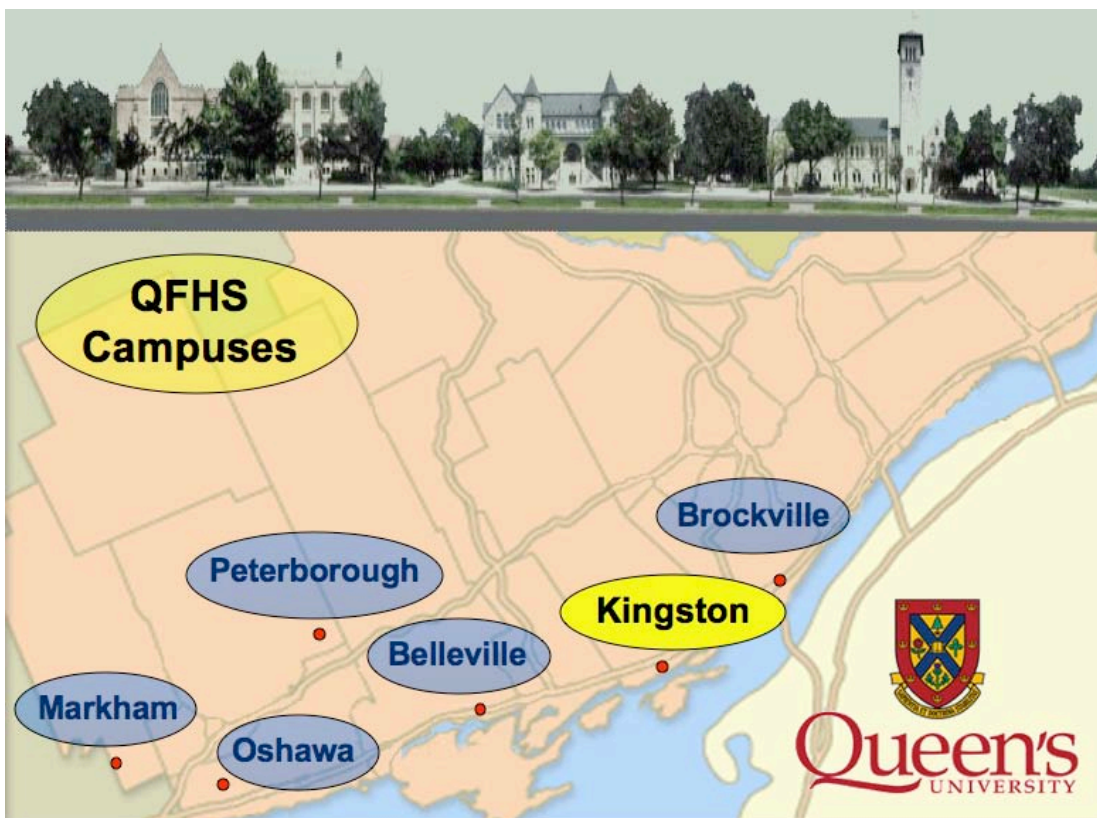


Regional Education by: Dr. Gene Dagnone

There has been a 34% increase in community based learner months with the greatest increase occurring among the Royal College Post Grad Residents, and a substantive continued increase of Family Medicine Residents in the region. Regional Education and the department of Family Medicine combined provides constant accommodation for approximately 60 learners each month and relies upon ROMP (Rural Ontario Medical Program), ERMEP (Eastern Regional Medical Education Program) and individual learner arrangements to accommodate another 25 learners each month. Regional Education currently provides accommodation for learners in Ottawa, Brockville, Belleville, Oshawa, Peterborough and Markham.

Twenty hours of videoconferenced education sessions across all disciplines are facilitated each week. Discipline specific Grand Rounds and Subspecialty rounds are also facilitated with our primary and secondary care regional community physicians. The process of recording educational sessions for asynchronous access to these educational sessions has begun. Discipline specific webpages will provide access information through the guidance and support of MedTech.

The 2008 year has brought a renewed focus of interest on the part of our Regional Community Hospitals to increase their involvement in the teaching mission of the 3 schools within the Faculty of Health Sciences, Schools of Medicine, Nursing and Rehabilitation Therapy. Within the past year two Regional Hubs have initiated a memorandum of agreement to support future expansion of Regional Clinical Education in their communities.



Basic Sciences by: Dr. Kanji Nakatsu

For the Basic Science Departments, 2008 brought notable moments, milestones and memories. Some examples of notable events include-

Education:

- Ron Easteal - Chancellor Baillie Award for Excellence in Interactive Teaching
- Myron Szewczuk and Les MacKenzie - Education Award Faculty of Health Sciences
- Lewis Tomalty - Reddick Award for Excellence in Nursing Education

The Departments of Physiology and Pharmacology & Toxicology have begun to consolidate the laboratory experience for Medical and Life Science students in those two disciplines through new inter-disciplinary laboratory offerings, using state-of-the art data acquisition and analysis systems. A new Master of Public Health program has been approved in the Department of Community Health & Epidemiology with a target date of September 2009 for the inaugural class.

Research:

- Steve Smith- Basmajian Research Award, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Susan Cole and Roger Deeley- National Cancer Institute of Canada, Diamond Jubilee Award for "outstanding impact and contribution to the field of cancer research"
- Keith Poole- Elected as Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology
- Michael Adams- Most Prolific Inventor Award for having the greatest number of different inventions (16) on which PARTEQ has filed patent applications.
- Louise Winn- Society of Toxicology of Canada, Veylien Henderson Award for Contributions to Toxicology in Canada.
- Colin Funk- Killam Research Fellow for research on the cardiovascular effects of COX-2-inhibitors.
- Dr. Martin Pare - Queen's Chancellor Research Award

Service to the community

- Charles Graham and Anne Croy- co-chaired the International Federation of Placenta Associations meeting which was held over five days at Queen's and hosted by the research group in Reproduction, Development and Sexual Function.
- Brian Bennett- elected as Vice President of the Pharmacological Society of Canada
- Thomas Massey- Co-Chair of the Eleventh International Congress of Toxicology Organizing Committee, Montreal, July 2007.

Research News by: Dr. Roger Deeley

The Faculty continues to do relatively well with respect to overall research funding with total revenues last year, somewhat in excess of \$80 million. However, in the last three CIHR competitions, our success rate has fallen below the national average. Notably, in the September 2007 competition our success rate was 17.24% versus a national rate of 23.26%. While many members of Faculty have been successful in obtaining alternate sources of peer-review funding, the decrease in CIHR support will have an impact on a number of programs, federal and provincial, that are 'benchmarked' to CIHR revenues. Consequently, it is essential that we reverse the apparent trend of the last year.

I believe we have a robust internal review system, but unfortunately, it is not succeeding in preventing excellent grants (i.e. ranked 4 and above) from falling below the funding cut off. We have to consider the possibility that we are not taking into account changes in the review process that have occurred over the last few years, one notable example being the shift away from external reviewers. During the Spring and early Summer, we will be holding a forum involving faculty with current or very recent experience serving on CIHR committees to discuss other measures we can take to improve our rates of success and I invite all faculty to contribute suggestions for discussion.

As anticipated in the previous newsletter, last summer was spent preparing a Large Scale Institutional Endeavour proposal for the Canadian Foundation for Innovation Research Hospital Fund. It was indeed a large scale endeavour and I thank those individuals who sacrificed many days (and evenings) working to very tight timelines. We should know the outcome in June 2008. Regardless of whether we are successful, I think the exercise was extremely useful. It pulled together hospital and university based investigators from across the Faculty. In addition to building on existing foci of interdisciplinary research strength, the process revealed the potential for developing collaboration across the four CIHR pillars in other areas. Hopefully, it will serve as a springboard for future research applications.

Finally, I would like to congratulate members of faculty who obtained competitive career awards, including: Dr Curtis Nickel (Tier I Canada Research Chair); Dr. Colin Funk (Killam Research Fellowship); Dr. Ian Gilron (CIHR/Pfizer partnership award), and Dr. Elizabeth VanDen Kerkhof (CIHR/Women's Health Council/IGH Mid-Career Award).

Announcements

Congratulations to:

Dr. Michael Nault - PAIRO Resident Award

Dr. Stephanie Baxter & Dr. Ross Walker - CAME Certificates of Merit Award

Dr. Karen Smith – Ron Wigle Mentorship Award

Staffing Update by: Gail Knutson

Since the last newsletter, the following Heads of Department have been reappointed:

- Glen Jones – Biochemistry
- Bill Mackillop – Community Health & Epidemiology
- John McCans – Medicine
- Iain Young – Pathology & Molecular Medicine
- Jim Wilson – Urology

...the following Heads have been appointed:

- Annette McCallum (Acting) – Diagnostic Radiology
- Glenn Brown – Family Medicine
- Keith Poole – Microbiology & Immunology
- Marlys Koschinsky (Acting) – Physiology
- Roumen Milev – Psychiatry

...and

- Ralph Meyer was officially appointed Director NCIC, Clinical Trials Group and holder of the Edith Eisenhower Chair in Clinical Cancer Research as of Apr 01/07
- Jim Brien reappointed as Director of Research as of Jul 01/07
- Lewis Tomalty reappointed as Associate Dean, Continuing Professional Development as of Jul 01/08

...and

- Cathy Cahill, Pharm & Tox – Tier 2 CRC renewed as of Mar 01/08
- Doug Munoz, Physiology – Tier 1 CRC renewed as of Jan 01/08
- Curtis Nickle – awarded Tier 1 CRC commencing Sep 01/07

...and, we can't forget:

- David Walker – one-year extension of appointment as Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences and Director of the School of Medicine to Jun 30/10

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Faculty of
Health Sciences**

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all while supporting a worthy cause

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Faculty of Health Sciences

OUR MISSION is to educate health professionals and students in the biomedical sciences by conducting research, by generating a spirit of enquiry, and by serving the health needs of the people of Southeastern Ontario, drawing on Queen's learning environment to enable our graduates to become leading health professionals for Canada's rural, northern and urban communities and to provide researchers and educators for the nation's future.