

University briefs

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



The University of British Columbia (UBC) is one of five partners receiving \$12.7 million in funding for prostate cancer research from the U.S.-based National Cancer Institute. UBC will be part of a five-year, multi-centre investigation of the genetic mechanisms of prostate cancer progression.

Led by Director of Clinical Research Martin Gleave and Senior Scientist Colleen Nelson from the Prostate Centre in Vancouver, the project will focus on developing new treatment for men with advanced cancer who no longer respond to androgen deprivation.

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA



The University of Ottawa will receive \$40.7 million from the Ontario provincial government to conduct research and development in human disease detection and treatment, information technology and environmental sciences.

Projects receiving provincial funding include a centre for advanced research into kidney disease, research into new treatments for viral infections, advancements in early detection and treatment for cancer, Alzheimer's disease and schizophrenia.

McMASTER UNIVERSITY



The Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation has contributed \$1 million to create a research chair in honour of Dr. Jack Sinclair, renowned for establishing neonatal intensive care in Hamilton, ON, and recognized internationally as an expert in evidence-based neonatology. McMaster University will match the endowment.

Dr. Sinclair is a professor emeritus of pediatrics. He co-edited the 1992 research text on neonatology, *Effective Care of the Newborn Infant*, which was considered a seminal work in this field.

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UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO



Dr. John W. McDonald, a gastroenterologist and professor of medicine at the University of Western Ontario is the new president of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) for 2002-2004.

McDonald was elected president in 2001 at the College's annual conference in Ottawa.

The RCPSC ensures that the training and evaluation of medical and surgical specialists in 58 specialties and specialty programs attain the highest standards.

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



The University of British Columbia (UBC) is developing a computer-based virtual reality simulator to help medical students master the art of needle insertion in a safe and realistic environment.

The simulator has two components: an on-screen computer model of tissue and a robotic arm no bigger than a shoebox.

The model allows the student to see where the needle is going, while the robotic arm replicates the sensation of moving the needle through tissue.

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY



Dr. Norman Wong, a medical scientist with the faculty of medicine at the University of Calgary, and Dr. Haipeng Xiao from Sun Yat-Sen University in Guangzhou, China, have developed a fourth

treatment option for Graves' disease and hyperthyroidism.

The new treatment, arterial embolization, is less invasive than the standard thyroid surgical procedure and works by cutting off the blood flow in the arteries that feed the thyroid gland.

Arterial embolization is the first alternative treatment developed in almost 60 years.