

# University briefs

## McMASTER UNIVERSITY



Dr. Hertzel Gerstein, professor of medicine at McMaster University, has been named lead investigator of a \$20 million international study. The goal of the study is to test and evaluate three promising approaches to lowering the risk of heart disease and stroke in adults with Type 2 diabetes. This large, comprehensive study of 10,000 people, including 1,440 Canadians, will determine the role of intensive glucose, blood pressure, and lipid control as a way to safely reduce the consequences of Type 2 diabetes.

## UNIVERSITÉ DE SHERBROOKE



Université de Sherbrooke and Université de Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue have created a joint research team to study the physiopathology of pain. Dr. Serge Marchand has been named the lead investigator of the collaboration. The effort will combine the clinical and fundamental research interests of both universities. Dr. Marchand hopes to create efficacious treatments for patients, while gaining an understanding of pain mechanisms.

## UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA



The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) has awarded University of Ottawa researcher, Dr. Juan Cesar Scaiano, the 2002 NSERC Gerhard Herzberg Gold Medal for Science and Engineering. The award guarantees Scaiano \$1.25 million over the next five years for his research on the interaction of light with molecules and the resulting chemical reactions. Nicknamed the "Global Dean of Photochemistry", Dr. Scaiano has authored over 500 scientific papers, and is one of the world's top 100 cited chemists.

## MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY



Three Memorial University medical researchers have recently received Canadian Institutes of Health Research awards. Genetics researcher, Dr. Guang Sun, was awarded for his research on human adipose tissue in response to overfeeding in obese and non-obese subjects. Cancer researcher Dr. Kenneth Kao was awarded for his research on the regulation of embryonic cell differentiation by a cancer causing gene. Dr. George Carayanniotis was awarded for his work on immunoregulation.

## UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA



Dr. Bill Colmers, a University of Alberta pharmacology researcher, has helped to uncover a link between obesity and a chemical produced in the brain. Dr. Colmers and his co-researchers discovered that ghrelin, a chemical messenger previously thought to exist only in the stomach, is also produced in the brain, and plays a key role in creating the desire to eat. This discovery builds on Dr. Colmers' previous research which demonstrated that another brain chemical, called NPY, makes people hungry.

## QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY



Dr. Charles Graham, and his research team at Queen's University, have been awarded a \$300,000 (US) Idea Development Award from the U.S. Army's Prostate Cancer Research Program. The team, which recently discovered a way to make breast cancer cells more responsive to chemotherapy, is investigating whether a similar procedure can effectively treat prostate cancer, the second leading cause of cancer deaths in North America. The team hopes to find a way to increase the sensitivity of prostate cancer to anti-cancer drugs.