

# University briefs

## UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO



A team led by researchers at the University of Western Ontario and the Université de Montréal received a five-year \$1.2 million New Emerging Team grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to study the placebo effect.

The study's goal is to improve research on the understanding of the placebo effect within the context of post-surgical and chronic pain, and in sleep disorders. The team will integrate a wide range of methodologies, including clinical trials, human lab studies, and neuroimaging techniques. The team will also explore the role that patients' expectations, arousal level and motivation play in their response to treatments.

## UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



A new international study found that premature infants fed breast milk made developmental gains equal or greater than those fed formula specially designed for low birth weight infants.

The study, led by nutritional sciences professor Dr. Deborah L. O'Connor, was published in the October issue of the *Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition*.

The study confirmed previous findings that premature infants grow more slowly on human milk than on nutrient-enriched premature formula.

## UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA



Dr. Naranjan Dhalla, internationally recognized researcher in cardiovascular research and education, received the Winnipeg RH Institute Foundation Medal.

Dr. Dhalla, of the faculty of medicine and director of the Institute of Cardiovascular Science at the St. Boniface General Hospital Research Centre, has published almost 600 papers in peer-reviewed journals.

## UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA



The ethical and social issues surrounding organ and tissue donation will become matters of academic inquiry because of an \$800,000 donation by the Bertram

Loeb Organ-Tissue Donation Institute.

The donation will create Bertram Loeb Chair in Organ and Tissue Donation, which will concentrate on teaching and research in areas relevant to the ethical, social, and public policy dimensions of organ and tissue donation.

The university will continue raising funds to increase the endowment for this Chair to \$3 million.

## McMASTER UNIVERSITY



Osteocalcin, a small bone-specific protein that influences bone formation, may facilitate the development of drugs to combat bone-related diseases, such as osteoporosis and bone metastases, say McMaster University researchers.

The study's results provide essential tools to rationally design drugs that modulate the activity of osteocalcin and bone turnover.

As well, when bound to bone, part of the osteocalcin acts as a magnet to recruit bone-processing cells to the bone surface for bone resorption and formation.

## QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY



Testing of a new drug by Queen's University's National Cancer Institute of Canada (NCIC) Clinical Trials Group to reduce the risk of breast cancer recurrence has been halted early, due to positive results.

The study of more than 5,000 women worldwide shows that post-menopausal survivors of early stage breast cancer taking letrozole after five years of tamozifen therapy have a significantly reduced risk of recurrence compared to women taking a placebo.

Overall, letrozole was found to reduce the risk of recurrence by 43%.