

# University briefs

## McMASTER UNIVERSITY



Dr. Hertzell Gerstein, professor of medicine at McMaster University, has been named lead investigator on 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 people in Canada, will determine the role of intensive glucose, blood pressure, and lipid control as a way to safely reduce the consequences of Type 2 diabetes.

## McGILL UNIVERSITY



Dr. Andrew Bateman, a McGill University researcher and professor of experimental medicine, has discovered that a naturally occurring protein may one day yield treatments for skin trauma. Dr. Bateman said the discovery may one day be applied therapeutically to treat not only wounds and burns, but also large skin ulcers related to diabetes. It may also help treat wounds in the elderly, whose wound response may not work as efficiently as a young person's response.

## UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA



The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) has announced that University of Ottawa researcher, Juan Cesar Sciano, has been awarded the 2002 NSERC Gerhard Herzberg Gold Medal for Science and Engineering. The award guarantees Sciano \$1.25 million over the next five years for his research on the interaction of light with molecules and the chemical reactions that result. Sciano, nicknamed the "Global Dean of photochemistry", has authored over 500 scientific papers, has contributed to more than 20 articles in

## MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND



Three Memorial University medical researchers have received Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) 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, and Dr. George Carayanniotis was awarded for his work on

## 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. 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

## UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



A group of University of British Columbia researchers are working to ensure that Canada will never again face the tragedy of a tainted blood scandal. The newly-created Centre for Blood Research is looking to improve methods of storing and using donated blood, to identify new therapeutic agents in blood, and to create artificial blood components. The centre, supported by a \$15.1 million Canadian Foundation for Innovation grant, is unique in the world because it brings together not only clinical and basic scientists, but also ethicists, engineers, and sociologists.