

University briefs



UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

A researcher whose work may help solve the mysteries of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases has been recognized as an outstanding young researcher by the University of Ottawa.

Dr. David Park, of the university's faculty of medicine, has won the 2003 Young Researcher Award and the accompanying research grant of \$10,000. This award acknowledges excellence and fosters leadership and innovation among the university's young researchers.



UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

A UBC researcher specializing in maternal and newborn health wants to change the way prenatal exams are conducted, to include assessments of domestic violence.

Dr. Patricia Janssen, an assistant professor of health care and epidemiology, has completed a study of 4,700 pregnant women—the largest study of its kind ever published—to measure the prevalence of physical abuse by an intimate partner during pregnancy.

"This research confirms common beliefs and gives us the scientific evidence we need to leverage practice and policy change in the area of prenatal care," said Janssen.



UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

First-year medical students at the UWO have learned first-hand what it's like to be a doctor in a small town or a regional health centre.

In total, 134 students fanned out to rural and community hospitals and medical centres in 34 southwestern Ontario communities from June 2 to 6, during the faculty of medicine and dentistry's annual Rural Regional Medicine Discovery Week. The program is designed to encourage new doctors to practice in rural and regional areas upon completion of their training. These areas, in southwestern Ontario, are known to be underserved by approximately 350 physicians.



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

University of Alberta administrators and health researchers have been celebrating the announcement of provincial funding for two new health research buildings on campus. Recently, at the university's Timms Centre, university government and health officials gathered to unveil the drawings of the first of the two buildings.

The buildings received final approval for construction in April, when \$210 million was set aside in the provincial government budget for new health research buildings at the Universities of Alberta and Calgary. The expected completion date is in 2006.



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Provincial funding of \$130,000 will help two new University of Saskatchewan research projects by providing a new laboratory and custom-built equipment.

A plant biochemistry and biotechnology laboratory is being established to develop technologies for regulating plant growth and structure, and an ultrasonic biomicroscope will be built for use by the reproductive science and medicine program.



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

The Medical Council of Canada announced that Dr. Arthur Rothman, professor of medicine at the University of Toronto, will receive the council's award for outstanding achievement in the evaluation of clinical competence.

Dr. Rothman has spent almost his entire career investigating issues in medical education, particularly relating to the assessment of clinical competence. The author of hundreds of peer-reviewed publications, he is currently a consultant to the Ministry of Health and heavily involved with the development of approaches to physician assessment programs, such as CanMeds.

For more information, go to www.mcc.ca, or call (613) 521-6012.