

University briefs

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA



Seven University of Ottawa Heart Institute researchers were recently awarded more than \$460,000 by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

Under the direction of Dr. Yves Marcel, the team of Dr. Heidi McBride, Dr. Ruth McPherson, Dr. Ross Milne, Dr. Dan Sparks, Dr. Stewart Whitman, and Dr. Zemin Yao will be combining each of their areas of expertise to better understand the effects of cholesterol, and how it is managed by the body. This funding will assist the Atherosclerosis and Lipoprotein team in studying heart disease at a cellular level.

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND



A new gene in psoriatic arthritis has been discovered by a research team led by Dr. Proton Rahman, a rheumatologist with the faculty of medicine at Memorial University, and the Health Care Corporation of St. John's; and Dr. Dafna Gladman of the University of Toronto.

Memorial has filed for a U.S. patent for the novel gene, which focuses on the use of the gene to diagnose psoriatic arthritis. This long-lasting form of arthritis is associated with psoriasis, causes skin rashes, and produces painful joint inflammation.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY



A common pregnancy disorder that may carry long-term health risks for mothers and babies is the focus of a new multidisciplinary study led by Graeme Smith, an expert in high-risk obstetrics, of Queen's University.

The team has received a five-year, \$1.8 million New Emerging Team grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health, and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada.

Dr. Smith is also a professor in anatomy and cell biology, and pharmacology and toxicology.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA



Researchers at the University of Alberta have discovered a genetic flaw in a family suffering with schizophrenia that may help explain an important biochemical process implicated in the onset of the disease.

Studying a mother and daughter, researchers discovered both had a "break" in a large gene human chromosome 14 that is due to a rearranged chromosome.

Under the supervision of Dr. Cox, research was conducted by PhD graduate student Deepak Kamnasaran and is published in the May issue of *The Journal of Medical Genetics*.

MCGILL UNIVERSITY



A pathway which triggers the immune system's response to virus infection was recently discovered by McGill University professors and researchers at the Sir Mortimer B. Davis - Jewish

General Hospital's Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research.

The laboratory of Dr. John Hiscott and Dr. Rongtuan Lin has characterized the essential role of two cellular proteins that trigger the immune system antiviral response. The study, entitled *Triggering the Interferon Antiviral Response through an IKK-related Pathway*, was published online by *Science* magazine on April 17, 2003.

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO



Academic physicians in the faculty of medicine and dentistry at the university welcomed news of an \$18.75 million commitment from the Ontario government for an Alternative Funding Plan at

London hospitals, and the university.

The Alternative Funding Plan will see doctors compensated differently for both their patient care services, and activities in research and teaching.