MAKING THE CONNECTION YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAM

Health Research Under the Microscope

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2008
McMASTER UNIVERSITY STUDENT CENTRE, 3RD FLOOR, CIBC HALL
1280 MAIN STREET • HAMILTON, ON L8S 4S4

OBJECTIVES
Hosted by Hamilton Health Sciences in partnership with St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton and McMaster University, this annual event is aimed at attracting youth, in grades 10 through 12, from across Ontario toward a career in science and technology.

Through face-to-face interactions with research mentors from a wide range of professional careers, youth will be given hands-on experience in the field of sciences and technology.

HOST INSTITUTION
Hamilton Health Sciences
Office of Integrated Research Services
1057 Main Street West

Phone: (905) 521-2100, ext. 74604
Fax: (905) 521-7902
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Supported by:
Health Research Under the Microscope (HRUM)
McMaster University, Student Learning Centre
"CIBC Hall"

8:45 – 9:30  Arrival and Continental Buffet Breakfast
9:30 – 9:45  Opening Remarks
9:45 – 10:15 Icebreaker Contest
10:15 – 10:45 Part I – Mentor Roundtable Discussion

10:45 – 11:00  Morning Break
11:00 – 12:00 Part II – Mentor Roundtable Discussion

12:00 – 1:00  Lunch Break
Prizes & Networking
1:00 – 1:30  Mentor Presentations
1:30 – 2:30  Open Plenary – Sunjay Nath

2:30 – 3:00  Contest Awards
Evaluations and Wrap-up Draw
3:00  Adjournment
Kim Alvarado, RN, PhD
Registered Nurse
Chief of Nursing Practice
Hamilton Health Sciences

Dr. Alvarado completed her graduate studies in the Clinical Health Sciences Program at McMaster University. Her thesis focused on the response of a hospital to the implementation of medical directives. Dr. Alvarado is known for her work in the area of transfer of accountability between care providers at shift change. Her current research explores the decision-making process related to determining the appropriate category of care provider in the hospital setting.

Dr. Alvarado is an assistant professor in the School of Nursing at McMaster University. She supervises both clinical and research practicums within the undergraduate nursing program.

Dr. Alvarado has an extensive clinical and administrative background and has held nursing positions in Canada and the United States of America. She currently holds the position of Chief of Nursing Practice for the Henderson and Chedoke Mountain Sites of Hamilton Health Sciences.

Dr. Alvarado was a member of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO) board of directors, and past co-chair of the Hamilton Chapter RNAO executive. She has recently been nominated to the role of director of education for the Nursing Leadership Network of Ontario.

Judy Baxter Foreman, BASc
Registered Dietitian
Acting Dietetic Education Coordinator
Hamilton Health Sciences

Judy is a graduate of the University of Guelph and completed her dietetic internship at the Grand River Hospital. She has worked in a number of areas including clinical dietetics, clinical trials, community case management, industry and teaching.

As the Dietetic Education Coordinator, Judy works in the Clinical Practice and Education Service. Her primary responsibilities are to facilitate and evaluate competency attainment for the dietetic interns who are training at Hamilton Health Sciences. She is also a part time instructor for the Dietetic Technician program at Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning.
Duane Boychuk, MLT, MBA
Medical Laboratory Technologist
Regional Manager, Transfusion Medicine Service and Stem Cell Laboratory
Regional Manager, Special Hematology Service
Coordinator, Bone Bank
Hamilton Regional Laboratory Medicine Program
Hamilton Health Sciences / St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton

Duane graduated from Mohawk College in 1988 with a Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology. In 1995 he completed his undergraduate work at the University of Waterloo, Bachelor of Arts degree. In 2002 Duane completed a Modern Management Course through the Canadian Healthcare Association and then went on to complete his Graduate Diploma in Management, through Athabasca University, 2004. In 2006 Duane completed his Masters degree in Business Administration, Athabasca University.

In his current role, Duane oversees the management of four Transfusion Medicine Laboratories, a Regional STEM Cell laboratory, Red Cell Disorders, Special Coagulation, Molecular Hematology, Flow Cytometry, Malignant Hematology and Bone Bank. Duane is an invited speaker both nationally and internationally.

Duane is active in both clinical research and operational research. Duane's passion is for operational advancement within the Transfusion Medicine Program, with a desire to move to a more efficient and effective delivery of Transfusion Services for the Hamilton Region, then the overall area of LHIN (Local Health Integration Network) 4 and then look to transporting Hamilton's processes across Canada and Internationally.

Duane is a member of the College of Medical Laboratory Technologists of Ontario, Canadian Society of Medical Laboratory Science, Canadian Society for Transfusion Medicine and a founding member of the Canadian Association of Eye and Tissue Banks.

Janice Chaplin, MSW
Social Worker
Hamilton Health Sciences

Janice Chaplin completed her BA in Psychology and Sociology at Mount Allison University and both her BSW. and MSW at McMaster University. She has been a Social Worker at Hamilton General since 1993 working in a variety of areas including CCU and ICU. Since 1996 she has been working primarily with hospitalized cardiac and vascular surgery patients and their families. In January of this year she began a new position in the Cardiac Health and Rehabilitation Centre at the General where she facilitates an outpatient stress management program, smoking cessation program, and provides individual counselling. She is a Sessional Lecturer in the School of Social Work at McMaster University where she teaches a core course entitled "The Practice of Social Work" and a course entitled "The Social Aspects of
Health and Illness." She regularly has Social Work students training with her at the General as part of their placement requirements. In addition, she teaches a course for the School of Social Work designed to help new social work field instructors establish and maintain collaborative instructor/student teaching relationships. She is currently working with social work colleagues on research looking into the barriers in accessing medication coverage for Ontario residents and the implications this has on health outcomes.

Oren Cheifetz, MSc PT
Physiotherapist
Clinical Specialist – Physiotherapy
Hamilton Health Sciences

Oren has been working as a physiotherapist at Hamilton Health Sciences since 1996 in a variety of positions including in and out patient orthopaedics, amputee and spinal cord rehabilitation, surgical patients, paediatrics, and in the home care setting. Currently, as a Clinical Specialist in the Oncology program, in addition to direct patient care, Oren conducts Oncology-related research (e.g. investigating the knowledge and interests of people with cancer related to exercise) and educational activities. In addition, Oren has established an Oncology Interest group within the Canadian Physiotherapy Association with the hope of eventually creating an Oncology Division under the umbrella of the CPA. Oren is also a tutor at McMaster University and is currently working on a PhD in the field of Oncology through the School of Rehabilitation Science at McMaster University.

Rena Cornelius, B Eng, M Eng
Professional Engineer
Research Engineer
McMaster University

Rena Cornelius obtained her B Eng (Chemical Engineering) and M Eng from McMaster University. The focus of her M Eng thesis work involved protein adhesion to materials. Since that time, she has continued to work in this area of study as a research engineer at McMaster University with the main focus of her work involving the development of experimental protocol and running of experiments related to the study of artificial materials (e.g. catheters, contact lenses, artificial kidney, novel polymers) in contact with biological fluids (e.g. protein solutions, plasma, blood). An important aspect of her job includes the writing of technical papers and reports for publication, and technical presentations. In the last few years she has also been involved in the setting up and coordination of the new bioengineering labs including design of experiments (e.g. stem cells, drug delivery, artificial kidney, bioreactors) for 3rd and 4th year undergraduate courses.
Tracey Doyle, BSc Health Science (MSc Medical Science Candidate)
Graduate Student
McMaster University

In 2001 Tracey Doyle graduated from St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School in Tottenham, Ontario. There, she succeeded in achieving top honours in English, Philosophy, Calculus, and Drama. She was also voted Valedictorian of her graduating class and was awarded the prestigious F&P award that acknowledges the student with the highest overall average. From there Tracey took a year off and volunteered with NET Ministries, an organization dedicated to working with and teaching youth. With NET she traveled for 10 months coast to coast across Canada working in schools and communities teaching youth of their endless potential and allowing them to have hope in their future. After NET, Tracey attended the University of Waterloo where she successfully obtained her undergraduate degree, Summa cum Laude, in Honours Health Science with a minor in biology. Tracey then decided to again volunteer for another year with NET Ministries, this time she was asked to lead a team who traveled across the whole of Ireland, again, working with youth. This past fall Tracey enrolled into the first year of her Masters degree in Medical Science. She is focusing in the field of Immunology and Infection and currently is conducting experiments to evaluate the effect of angiogenesis on airway remodelling in asthmatic disease.

Russ Ellis, MSc
Medical Laboratory Technologist
McMaster University
Research Lab Coordinator, Firestone Institute for Respiratory Health
St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton

Russ completed his undergraduate degree in the Biology Program at McMaster University in 1987 and began working as a research technician at McMaster afterwards. After a year of working full time in the Department of Biology he returned to school and completed his Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology at Mohawk College in 1991. Russ was able to combine the skills from both levels of education as a research technician in the Department of Medicine at McMaster where he has worked for the past 15 years. During this period he returned to school part-time and earned his Masters Degree in Health Research Methodology from the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at McMaster University.

Russ is currently a Research Lab Coordinator in an off-site facility at St. Joseph’s Hospital. His area of research focuses on animal models of airway disease and Russ is responsible for the daily running of the lab and teaching both graduate and undergraduate students.

Russ has sat on various committees over the years including Redevelopment, Technical, and Safety Committees and was a member of the Animal Research Ethics Board at McMaster for 3 years. He is currently a member of the Administrative Technical Support Team at the hospital.
Jane A. Foster, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Psychiatry & Behavioural Neurosciences  
McMaster University  
Brain-Body Institute  
St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton  

Dr. Jane Foster is a member of the Brain-Body Institute and a faculty member in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences at McMaster University. Following completion of her doctoral work at the University of Toronto, Dr. Foster was a postdoctoral fellow at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, MI, and then a research fellow at the National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda, MD. Dr. Foster’s lab is housed in the new Juravinski Innovation Tower at St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton where they strive to understand more about the neurobiological mechanisms that underlie mental illness. Clinical work has demonstrated that altered immune function exists in many patients with psychiatric illnesses. The role of crosstalk between the immune system and the brain in these diseases is not clear. Dr. Foster’s approach combines genetics, molecular biology, functional neuroanatomy, and pharmacology to understand the role of immune gene regulation in normal brain function and its role in psychiatric disorders. Molecules originally thought to be unique to the immune system are present and functional in the brain. What is exciting and novel is the emerging evidence that these molecules also have functional roles in the CNS, in particular in neurons, that are distinct from their established immune function; roles that include synaptic plasticity, learning, and memory.

Alison Fox-Robichaud, BSc, MSc, MD, FRCPC (Int Med, Crit Care)  
Medical Doctor  
Associate Professor, Intensivist  
McMaster University  

Dr. Fox-Robichaud completed her undergraduate training in Biology and Chemistry at the University of New Brunswick, and her graduate degree in Medical Sciences at McMaster University, before going on to medical school at the University of Ottawa. She then completed postgraduate training in Internal Medicine and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Calgary. While in Calgary she also did post doctoral training in Biochemistry and Immunology. In 2000 she returned to Hamilton and joined the faculty in the Department of Medicine and the Intestinal Disease Research Programme. Her current research focuses on the immunological response to intravenous fluids and the effect of infection on the bladder and liver microcirculation.

Dr. Fox-Robichaud is also an Intensivist at Hamilton Health Sciences General Site, where she works in the intensive care units as well as on the Critical Care Response or RACE team. At HHS, she is the Educational Lead for RACE, responsible for the education of the nurses and respiratory therapists on the team. One of her education interests is in multidisciplinary training and the use of medical simulation. She is a Master Instructor with the Canadian Resuscitation Institute Education Network. She is on the organizing committee for the International Conference on Rapid Response Systems, to be held in Toronto in May 2008.
Jim Fredenburgh, PhD  
Scientist  
Research Associate  
McMaster University

Dr. Fredenburgh is a graduate of Queen's University, obtaining a PhD in Biochemistry in 1992. He joined McMaster Department of Medicine as a Heart and Stroke Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow and has remained in the department as a Research Associate in the lab of Dr. Jeffrey Weitz at Henderson Hospital.

Dr. Fredenburgh's research interests involve blood coagulation. This is the biological healing process where blood responds to injury. With age and in certain diseases, the coagulation system becomes overactive, which results in blood clots that can cause strokes or heart attacks. Many drugs have been developed to treat clots but they are not always effective. Dr. Fredenburgh is investigating why drugs fail by understanding the molecular mechanisms by which they work. This involves testing current and new drugs in enzyme assays in test tubes. Computers are used to view the structures of the drugs and enzymes to see how they interact.

Dr. Fredenburgh performs experiments and helps manage the lab. His responsibilities include supervising technicians and undergraduate and graduate students. This involves designing experiments, analyzing data, and editing research reports. He attends and makes presentations at local and international scientific meetings. Findings from the lab are published in international scientific journals for review by other scientists.

Amanda Giesler  
Honours Biology & Pharmacology Co-op Program  
5th year Undergraduate Student  
McMaster University  
Firestone Institute for Respiratory Health  
St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton

Amanda transferred to McMaster for her second year because she feels this University provides her with greater opportunities to succeed in her field of interest: health research. Amanda's specific goal was to apply in third year to the Biology and Pharmacology Co-op program. This program offers the opportunity to work and contribute in a variety of placements, providing valuable hands-on experience. The problem-based pharmacology classes allow for active involvement in the learning process and, with the small class sizes, build relationships that will last a lifetime.

For two of her work terms and her undergraduate thesis, Amanda worked in Dr. Luke Janssen's lab, developing an assay for viewing the migration of pulmonary smooth muscle cells in real-time. During her time in this lab, she was able to attend and present a poster on her research at the annual North East Smooth Muscle Society conference in Rhode Island. At the beginning of March this year, she successfully defended her thesis and expects to graduate this June.
At this time, Amanda plans to begin her Master's degree in September, here at McMaster in the Medical Sciences program. She hopes to return to the Janssen lab and continue her research elucidating the mechanisms of pulmonary smooth muscle migration.

**Charles Goldsmith, BSc, MSc, PhD**  
Emeritus Professor of Biostatistics  
McMaster University  
Senior Biostatistician, Biostatistics Unit  
St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton

Charlie is a biostatistician with a long-standing interest in the evaluation of therapies for musculoskeletal conditions. He is currently an Emeritus Professor of Biostatistics in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics at McMaster University. He has published over 230 peer-reviewed articles including Cochrane reviews and over 275 peer-reviewed abstracts. He has participated as an investigator in many clinical trials and helped to develop a variety of measurement tools. His most recent ventures include conducting randomized trials with peer reviewed funding to evaluate surgical therapies. He is currently mentoring 20 faculty members, and often has been asked to provide career reviews of faculty members at many different North American universities. Of course, he is also interesting in things statistical!

Charlie was born in Flin Flon MB. He is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association and is one of the Past Chairs of its Biopharmaceutical Section. He is an elected member of the International Statistical Institute and a member of various statistical societies around the world. He is a member of the editorial board for four health related journals: Journal of Rheumatology, Palmer Journal of Research, Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety, and the Canadian Journal of Chiropractic and just finished a term as one of the Statistical Consultants for papers being considered for publication in the Canadian Medical Association Journal.

**Karen Gourlay, BSc, RMLAT**  
Assistant Director, Central Animal Facility  
McMaster University

Karen graduated with a BSc (Major Biology, Minor Psychology) from the University of Guelph and was hired at McMaster University more than 25 years ago. She began her career at McMaster as a Health Technician and she moved through the ranks to her current position as Assistant Director. She's responsible for the oversight of the animal care and use program at the University, which involves 11 different facilities. She is also responsible for the planning of new facilities or renovating existing ones as the research focus changes. She’s a member of the Canadian Association of Laboratory Animal Science (CALAS) and has served in various capacities on the local chapter committee and well as the National Board of Directors. She is also involved with continuing education, such as becoming a Certified Manager of Animal Resources (CMAR). Karen has a very active home life and being mom to four boys and a house full of animals is another full-time job.
Gary Hasey, MD, MSc
Medical Doctor
Psychiatrist
Director of Electroconvulsive Therapy Program
Clozapine Clinic and Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Laboratory
St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences
McMaster University

Dr. Hasey is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences at McMaster University. He directs the ECT program, the Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation laboratory and the Mood Disorders Clozapine Clinic. Dr Hasey received his medical degree from the University of Alberta, trained in psychiatry at the Universities of Alberta and Toronto and conducted graduate studies in the neuroendocrinology of Depressive Disorder at the University of Toronto. At the University of Pittsburgh he did post-doctoral research examining cholinergic regulation of the hypothalamic pituitary adrenal axis in animals. After returning to Canada he served as Chief of Service of the Mood and Anxiety Disorders Unit at the Centre for Addictions and Mental Health at the University of Toronto. He subsequently moved to McMaster University where he established Canada’s first therapeutic Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) Laboratory in 1998. The TMS lab has strong linkages with St Joseph’s QEEG lab and Imaging Research Centre, McMaster’s Brain Body Institute and the Department of Electrical Engineering. Dr Hasey’s research studies focus upon optimizing the efficacy of TMS, antidepressant and antipsychotic medications through technical refinement and the identification of biological subtypes of major depression using neuroendocrinological, EEG and neuro-imaging techniques.

Joseph E. Hayward, PhD
Medical Physicist
Juravinski Cancer Centre
Hamilton Health Sciences

Joseph Hayward obtained his PhD from the Department of Engineering Physics at McMaster University in 1993 in the area of semiconductor laser physics. After successfully completing residency requirements in 1998, Joseph joined the Juravinski Cancer Centre as a Medical Physicist. He is actively involved in research in the area of biomedical optics. Dr. Hayward is an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Radiology and Medical Physics and Applied Radiation Sciences at McMaster University and is a Member of the Canadian College of Physicists in Medicine.
Jennifer Henderson, BHSc OT, OT Reg. (Ont.)
Occupational Therapist
Chief of Occupational Therapy Practice
Hamilton Health Sciences

Jennifer Henderson is the Chief of Occupational Therapy Practice at Hamilton Health Sciences. She is responsible for ensuring competent professional practice within the profession of Occupational Therapy across the organization.

Jennifer obtained her BHSc in Occupational Therapy from McMaster University in 1988 and has begun some graduate studies work. Throughout her career, Jennifer has been active in the School of Rehabilitation Science at McMaster University and holds a Professional Associate faculty appointment within the Occupational Therapy Program. In the clinical world, Jennifer is very passionate about enhancing care for those individuals having hip and knee arthroplasty and has completed research regarding the effectiveness of pre-operative education for this population.

Jennifer is also involved in various projects within the Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists and is Treasurer for a Hamilton sub-committee of the Canadian Orthopaedic Foundation.

Deidre L. Henne, CA, Hons BComm
Director of Research and Internal Audit, Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS)
Chief Operating Officer, Population Health Research Institute (PHRI), a Joint Institute of McMaster University and Hamilton Health Sciences

Deidre graduated from McMaster University, Hamilton, in 1999 and completed her certification as a Chartered Accountant in 2001. She is currently completing her Master’s in the IVEY Executive MBA program through Western University, London. Deidre leads three areas in her portfolio: (1) Internal Audit: overseeing a team of four full time employees to conduct both value for money audits and internal control audits on activities across multiple HHS sites; (2) Director of Research: overseeing the central administration of all health research activities conducted within HHS or, by contract, offsite in over 77 countries and over 1,100 centres. This role includes financial and projects management, research ethics administration, legal contract review, publications, intellectual property, and outreach activities. (3) Chief Operating Officer for PHRI: overseeing the coordination of operations for the Population Health Research Institute (PHRI), including information technology, statistics, finance, contracts, and project managers. Deidre’s overall focus is on strategic priorities and team collaboration and communication to effectively manage activities across multiple areas. Deidre is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario and the Association of Healthcare Internal Auditors.
Alison Holloway, PhD  
Scientist  
Assistant Professor  
McMaster University  

Dr. Holloway received her BSc in Zoology from the University of Toronto in 1992. She then obtained her PhD in Zoology from the University of Guelph in 1996. She worked as a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Physiology at the University of Toronto and then in 2003 was hired as an Assistant Professor in Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at McMaster University.

Dr. Holloway's current research studies how exposure to various chemicals during pregnancy can cause damage to the baby while it is still in the womb. She is also interested in the long-term health consequences of these chemical exposures for the exposed children. The chemicals that are of interest to her laboratory include: chemicals we may intentionally expose ourselves to through lifestyle choices such as cigarette smoking or the use of over-the-counter natural health products; man-made chemicals present in the environment; and naturally occurring chemicals in our diet (e.g. plant phytoestrogens). The majority of the work in her lab at this time focuses on whether children born to women who smoke are more likely to get certain diseases including diabetes and obesity.

Neil Johnston, MSc  
Epidemiologist  
Firestone Institute for Respiratory Health  
St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton  
Department of Medicine  
McMaster University  

Neil Johnston is an epidemiologist at the Firestone Institute for Respiratory Health. He had previously worked as a consultant in many areas of health system development including physician human resource planning, health information system design and the development of market segmentation systems for health sector application. Current research interests include the design and implementation of technologies for serial monitoring of people with asthma and COPD; the role of respiratory viral infections (RVI) in asthma and COPD exacerbation and the evaluation of therapies that may prevent or reduce the effect of RVI related exacerbations of both diseases. As principal investigator, his current studies include the evaluation of BlackBerry devices for symptom monitoring and the early detection of COPD and asthma exacerbations; international variation in epidemic cycles of COPD and asthma, factors associated with them and the evaluation of therapies during epidemic periods for these. Collaborators include Doctors Malcolm Sears at the Firestone; Sebastian Johnston at Imperial College, London, England; Anna Hansell of Imperial; and Maria Gerhardsson de Verdier of AstraZeneca PLC and the University of Lund. Neil Johnston founded and directs the Ontario Physician Human Resources Data Centre which supports physician human resource planning in Ontario in partnership with the Ministry
of Health and Long-Term Care, the Ontario Medical Association, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario and the Council of Ontario Faculties of Medicine. He acts as a consultant in health facility location, physician human resource planning, and the design of information systems for chronic disease monitoring.

**Joan Krepinsky, MD, MSc**  
Medical Doctor  
St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton  
Assistant Professor  
McMaster University

After completing an undergraduate degree at the University of Toronto in biology and computer science, Dr. Krepinsky completed her undergraduate medical training, followed by residency training in internal medicine, at McMaster University. She sub-specialized in nephrology at the University of Western Ontario, after which she completed a Master of Science degree at the University of Toronto. This was in basic science research focusing on the cell signaling pathways, which lead to injury of kidney (mesangial) cells after being exposed to mechanical stress, a model of hypertension. She completed an extra year of training at McMaster University in basic science after her MSc as a Research Fellow.

Dr. Krepinsky was hired as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine (Nephrology) as a clinician scientist in July 2004. She spends 25% of her time seeing patients with problems in nephrology, and 75% of her time running a basic science research laboratory. This involves submission of grant applications to ensure adequate funding for her research, which focuses on investigating the mechanisms of kidney scarring that occurs with hypertension and diabetes. She and her lab present their work at both national and international meetings.

Dr. Krepinsky is also involved in teaching at all levels in both the clinical and basic science programs. She sits on local committees for lab administration and participates in the review of grants for national granting agencies.

**Lori Linkins, MD, MSc(Epid)**  
Medical Doctor  
Clinician Researcher  
Hamilton Health Sciences  
Assistant Professor  
McMaster University

Dr. Linkins received her medical degree from McMaster University in 1995. After completing her residency in Internal Medicine at McMaster University in 1998, she completed Specialty Certification in Hematology at McMaster University. In 2000, she began a research fellowship in Thromboembolism at the Henderson Hospital in Hamilton. In 2004, she joined the Faculty of
Medicine at McMaster as an Assistant Professor and consultant in venous thromboembolism for the Division of Hematology and Thromboembolism.

Dr. Linkins obtained her Masters degree in Health Research Methodology at McMaster in 2005. She has been the recipient of Research Fellowship awards from the Thrombosis Interest Group of Canada, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, and the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada.

Dr. Linkins’ research interests include the diagnosis of deep vein thrombosis, bleeding on anticoagulant therapy, and diagnosis of heparin induced thrombocytopenia. She is currently the principal investigator on two clinical trials funded by the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada. Dr. Linkins serves on the Peer Review Committee for the Randomized Controlled Trials Group at the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. She is presently supported by an internal career research award from the Department of Medicine at McMaster University.

Joseph Macri, PhD, FCACB
Clinical Biochemist
Laboratory Scientist
Hamilton Health Sciences

Dr. Macri obtained honours degrees in Psychology and Biochemistry, a PhD in Biochemistry, and a Post-doctoral Diploma in Clinical Chemistry from the University of Windsor. Following a postdoctoral fellowship at Pfizer Pharmaceutical where he used proteomics to identify novel therapeutic targets for heart failure, he accepted the position of Laboratory Scientist for Hamilton Health Sciences. As a laboratory scientist, he is involved with the operations of the hospital clinical chemistry laboratories located in Hamilton.

Dr. Macri is a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Clinical Biochemistry and an Associate Professor at McMaster University. He is involved with teaching undergraduate and graduate students as well as medical students, residents and postdoctoral fellows.

He is also the Head of the Clinical Proteomics Facility located at the Hamilton General Hospital. Dr. Macri’s research is focused on using proteomics to investigate the molecular mechanisms underlying dyslipidemia, diabetes, and obesity, as well as identifying novel diagnostic markers and therapeutic targets to detect, monitor, and treat these disorders.
Jennifer Melo, HBSc, BEd
Microscope Representative
Nikon Technical Representative and Imaging Specialist
Nikon Canada Instruments

Jennifer Melo completed her Honours Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Western and her Bachelor of Education at Ottawa University. She has worked at Nikon Canada Instruments Division for the past 7 years. Her current responsibilities include building, selling, and training clients on microscope systems which range from simple clinical setups to complex research systems including digital cameras, motorized peripherals, and imaging software. Aside from the continuous learning curve to stay on top of modern research techniques, microscope advancements, evolution of optics and imaging equipment, she is the primary contact for Nikon’s NIS Imaging Software package for acquisition and analysis.

Caroline Parkin, PhD Candidate
Graduate Student
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences
McMaster University
Mood Disorders Program
St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton

Caroline Parkin completed her undergraduate degree in Honours Biology and Psychology at McMaster University, and is currently completing her PhD in the Medical Sciences Program- Health Sciences (Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences) at McMaster University. Her current research has focused on examining the vulnerability markers for depression in adolescent girls (12-16 years old) who are at high risk for depression based on family history. The research focuses on both the psychological (symptom, cognition, personality) and physiological (neuroendocrine, autonomic nervous system and electrophysiological) markers of risk.

In addition to her current research, Caroline has also worked at the Mood Disorders Program at St. Joseph’s Healthcare. She worked on the First Episode Project where she was involved with the cognitive testing of individuals with Depression and Bipolar Disorder and a comparison group. The goal of the First Episode Project is to examine the course and outcome of illness in individuals with depression and bipolar disorder over time.
Jody Powdrill, BSc, MSc Candidate
Graduate Student
McMaster University
Firestone Institute for Respiratory Health
St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton

Jody completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Guelph with a major in Biomedical Toxicology Co-op. Her co-op work placements included a term at the University of Washington conducting research on the hepatitis C virus, as well as a placement at McNeil Consumer Healthcare in Quality Sciences and Compliance.

Jody is currently completing her first year of a Master’s degree in the Faculty of Health Sciences McMaster University. Her research focuses on asthma modeling in mice.

Sandeep Raha, MSc, PhD
Biomedical Scientist
Assistant Professor
McMaster University

Dr. Raha completed his PhD from the University of Toronto in the field of Biochemistry. Following this, he spent four years working in a laboratory at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, studying how problems with your cells’ ability to produce energy can lead to a variety of diseases.

Dr. Raha has also worked in industry developing strategies for rapid point of care DNA diagnostic testing. Since 2004, Dr. Raha has been an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at McMaster University and is interested in studying how problems in cellular energy production can affect the development of disease in aging, as well as obesity. Dr. Raha is involved in teaching and supervising undergraduates, as well as graduate students who are working towards obtaining their MSc or PhD.

Dr. Raha’s research is focused on understanding how obesity can affect the biological systems that are involved with producing cellular energy. When people become obese, we believe that their "energy factories" can also produce damaging free radicals. This can lead to a number of other diseases. We are trying to understand this process and develop therapies for treating this condition. We routinely work with human samples, animal models, as well as isolated cells to understand how protein and genes interact as a result of these metabolic disturbances.
**Suzette Salama, PhD**  
Pharmacist  
Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Medicine  
McMaster University

Dr. Salama is an Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Medicine at McMaster University. Her undergraduate degree is in Pharmacy and she obtained her PhD in Pharmacology from the University of Montreal. She is currently the Vice-Chair of the Medical Research Ethics Board at McMaster University/Hamilton Health Sciences. Starting in a basic research career, Suzette proceeded to do clinical research in the fields of infectious diseases and pharmacoconomics. In the last two decades she has been very involved in teaching, administration, and promoting research ethics to researchers.

**Mary Jane Sayles, RN**  
Registered Nurse  
Research Officer  
St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton

Mary Jane completed her training at the Owen Sound Regional School of Nursing and practiced as a registered nurse in critical care settings in London, Burlington, and Hamilton. She began her research career as a clinical research coordinator assisting with studies of different treatments for patients who were critically ill. Mary Jane went on to assist with studies investigating new treatments for such illnesses as heart failure, heart attack and hypertension as well as secondary prevention studies. Continuing education has always been an important part of Mary Jane's career and as such she became a Certified Clinical Research Coordinator through the Association of Clinical Research Professionals. She is actively involved in research education and is a member of the St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton's Research Ethics Board. In her current role as the Research Officer at SJHH, she is responsible for the review of research contracts, conducts research audits and is a regulatory resource to researchers.
Terri Schnurr, RN, CCRC  
Registered Nurse  
Clinical Research Coordinator in Thromboembolism  
St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton

Terri completed her studies in the Registered Nursing Program at Mohawk College in 1997. Upon graduation, Terri accepted a position in Clinical Research at St. Joseph's HealthCare in Hamilton. Her current research projects are done for two physicians, Dr. Mark Crowther and Dr. James Douketis.

Currently, Terri has seven studies under her direction in the field of Thromboembolism. These studies involve the diagnosis and treatment of blood clots.

In September 2007, Terri also received certification from ACRP, the Association of Clinical Research Professionals.

Jennifer Thomson, BSc, MSc Candidate  
Graduate Student  
McMaster University  
Firestone Institute of Respiratory Health  
St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton

Jennifer completed her undergraduate degree in the Honours Biology and Pharmacology Co-operative education program at McMaster University. She is currently in the second year of her Master’s of Science (Infection and Immunology) degree in the Faculty of Health Sciences at McMaster University and conducts her research at the Firestone Institute of Respiratory Health at St. Joseph’s Healthcare. Her current research project focuses on the cellular responses in asthma. Jennifer is also a tutorial assistant (TA) for a 3rd year Pharmacology course at McMaster University and holds an Ontario Graduate Scholarship.

Professor (Medical Radiation Sciences) - School of Health Sciences  
Mohawk-McMaster Institute for Applied Health Sciences

Greg’s background in Medical Radiation Sciences started as a Medical Radiation Technologist at Credit Valley Hospital and McMaster Medical Center. From there he moved to Sioux Lookout Ontario where he held the position Director of Diagnostic and Rehabilitation Services. Over the past seven years, Greg has been involved in an x-ray training program for remote First Nation, Inuit, and Denne northern communities across Canada with McMaster University and Mohawk College.
Diana Velikonja, BA, MA, PhD, CPsych
Psychologist
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioural Neurosciences
McMaster University
Neuropsychologist, Acquired Brain Injury Program
Acting Chief of Psychology
Hamilton Health Sciences

Dr. Velikonja completed her graduate studies in the Biological Psychology Program at the University of Waterloo and obtained clinical training in pediatric and adult populations. She completed her internship training at Chedoke-McMaster Hospitals and has been conducting clinical work and research at the Acquired Brain Injury Program at Hamilton Health Sciences since 1996. Her current research has focused on examining the efficacy of medication in cognitive recovery, evaluation of affective subtypes and cognitive outcomes following brain injury sequelae, as well as visual memory.

Dr. Velikonja is also an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences at McMaster University and holds an adjunct appointment in the Department of Psychology. Dr. Velikonja is involved in active teaching, supervision of thesis and practicum students, and heads the neuropsychology adult internship program at Hamilton Health Sciences.

Dr. Velikonja has also headed psychology practice as acting chief of psychology at the amalgamated hospitals of Hamilton Health Sciences for the past seven years. She is currently the past-president of the Hospital Psychology Association of Ontario and is a member of the board of directors of the Hamilton Brain Injury Association. She also sits on the advisory board for the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation.
Sunjay Nath
Inspirational Speaker

Sunjay Nath (www.sunjaynath.com) exemplifies true leadership and was a founding Vice President of an e-learning company based in Toronto that has gone on to become a multimillion-dollar company. Prior to that position, he worked as an engineer for a distribution company in New York and served as a camp director for several years at a camp that focuses on developing leadership skills in students. He has also held positions with H&R Block and Bank of Montreal.

Sunjay started an international speaking business when he was 19, an age when he wasn’t even old enough to rent a car! He has travelled throughout North America addressing people of various ages about leadership. In 2005, Sunjay became the third youngest person in the world to earn his Certified Speaking Professional designation, which is the highest Internationally recognized designation a speaker can achieve. Sunjay also holds an undergraduate degree in Mathematical Engineering and a Masters in Business Administration. Sunjay has earned a Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do, has run a full 26-mile marathon and has even gone skydiving. He is a magician, a comedian, and a professional actor; he can juggle, and he was rated as one of the country’s top debaters.
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