

# The Bulletin

University of Manitoba



## Come inside ...

And have a look at what the School of Art's annual open house had to offer.

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## Time is Muscle

Every second counts when it comes to surviving a heart attack.

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## Bridging the gap

Being president means bringing the university and the external community together.

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## The colour of giving



Photo by Dale Barbour

U of M students Phil Nixon and Brittany Bonish were taking part in College Pro Painters' Wall of Hope Campaign for the Children's Hospital. Along with trying their hand at painting, people have donated over \$1,000 to the campaign so far. The panels are currently on display in University Centre.

# Bolstering research

Eleven health research projects at the University of Manitoba have received close to \$3.4 million in new funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

A total of \$3 million was awarded to nine projects focused on a range of health research topics, while almost \$400,000 was awarded to two new projects aimed at preparing for a possible flu pandemic.

The announcement was made at the Bannatyne Campus on April 5, by Steven Fletcher, MP for Charleswood-St. James-Assiniboia, and Parliamentary Secretary for Health, on behalf of the Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health.

"Promoting ground breaking health research is a crucial component of our government's plan to build a healthy, prosperous and innovative Canada," Fletcher said. "The funding highlighted today is helping to enhance the health research capabilities of the University of Manitoba, which will benefit all Canadians."

The nine new projects that received \$3 million in new CIHR funding will be carried out over periods of one to five years, and will be conducted at the University of Manitoba and partner research institutions, including CancerCare Manitoba, St. Boniface General Hospital, and the Health Sciences Centre.

"These nine projects encompass a broad range of specialized health research, from investigations at the molecular level, to comprehensive studies of population health," said University of Manitoba president Emöke Szathmáry.

"This latest CIHR support is a welcome recognition of both the very high calibre of our health researchers and the importance of their leading-edge work."

The CIHR funded researchers include:

- **Sarah Bowen**, community health sciences, will address major challenges surrounding the communication of research evidence within the health system, and incorporating it into health planning.

- **Judith Chipperfield**, psychology/Physical Education and Recreation Studies, will look at the relationship between everyday physical activity, such as table-setting and stair-climbing, and short and long-term health.

- **Michael Czubryt**, physiology, will examine how genes involved in fuel consumption are controlled, focusing on a family of proteins called MEF2. The study will look at a specific gene involved in fat consumption in the heart, how it is controlled by MEF2, and how this control mechanism is affected by gender.

- **Shyamala Dakshinamurti**, pediatrics and child health/physiology, will examine the effect of low oxygen on the lungs in newborn babies.

See CIHR/P. 2

# United Way success

The University of Manitoba United Way campaign had a record breaking year in 2006. In total the campaign raised \$411,816, up nearly 5 per cent over the previous year.

That total includes \$204,648 from the Fort Garry campus, up 3.6 per cent, \$129,973 from the Bannatyne campus, a 5.4 per cent increase, and \$77,195 from retirees, a 7.8 per cent increase.

"We're really happy with the way things went," Physical Education and Recreation Studies dean

Dennis Hrycaiko said. Hrycaiko chaired the Fort Garry campaign with Rosylyn Howard, director, learning and development services, while Janice Dodd, physiology, chaired the Bannatyne campaign and Irv Gusdal chaired the retirees campaign. Howard will be back next year with new co-chair Education dean John Wiens.

Hrycaiko said the strong core of support in the university for the United Way – from consistent leadership to volunteers willing to pitch in year after year – helps account for the campaign's success.



One University.  
Many Futures.

## Virginia Tech University

The University of Manitoba joins the academic community in expressing its support to Virginia Tech University following the tragic events of April 16.

### Message of Condolence

On behalf of the University of Manitoba I would like to express our deepest condolences to the students, faculty and staff of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia and to the families of the victims of the tragedy that occurred on April 16. The people of the University of Manitoba community have you in our thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time. To have a learning community violated in this way is a tragedy none of us can imagine. I can only hope as the days go on that time will help heal your sorrow.

President Emőke Szathmáry  
University of Manitoba

### Security and Counseling note

In light of the tragedy which took place at Virginia Tech yesterday, the University of Manitoba wishes to assure students, parents, staff and faculty that their safety and security is a top priority. The University has in place an emergency response plan, including a communications component, which is continuously tested and improved to assure the safety of the University community. It is important that students, staff and visitors feel safe and comfortable when on campus. The University of Manitoba enjoys a strong relationship with the Winnipeg Police Service which is immediately available to respond to issues which arise on campus. The university also has its own security officers who patrol the campus 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Those same officers are also available at any time to escort students or staff to their cars or on-campus residences through our SafeWalk program. Additionally, there are red phones located in every building on campus which provide a direct link to security services. Code Blue emergency stations are located outdoors around campus and also provide an immediate link to security personnel. Students who feel the need to speak to someone regarding the Virginia Tech incident are encouraged to take advantage of the student counseling services available on the 4th floor of University Centre. These services are available to all registered students. The counseling office is open from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday.

SafeWalk 474-9312

SafeWalk (from any on-campus phones) 555  
SafeWalk (from any MTS or Rogers cel phones) #555

Student Counseling and Career Centre  
474-7093



Photo by Allen Patterson

Before the CIHR funding announcement, guests toured a new lab in the Brodie Centre. From left, Cindy Ellison, pathology, president Emőke Szathmáry, Kent HayGlass, immunology, Harvey Chochinov, psychiatry, vice-president (research) Joanne Keselman, and others listen to John Gartner, pathology/immunology, at right.

## CIHR helps diverse projects

From Page 1.

• **John Gartner**, pathology/immunology, **Cindy Ellison**, pathology, and **Kent HayGlass**, immunology, are studying the effect of both naturally occurring keratinocyte growth (KGF) and its synthetic form, recombinant human KGF (rHuKGF, also known as palifermin) in mouse models of GVHD. In addition to protecting mice from developing graft-versus-host disease, palifermin, which was developed by Amgen Inc., can also regulate immune responses.

• **Wayne Lutt**, pharmacology and therapeutics, will examine the progression of insulin resistance to determine which metabolic disorders represent the highest risk factors in order to develop effective treatment options.

• **Josee Lavoie**, community health sciences, will study health services of First Nation communities and use the findings to develop and propose a program of improved primary health services for reserves.

• **Susan McClement**, Nursing, will study the experiences of health care aides caring for dying seniors to learn how to better support these important members of the health care team as they care for dying patients.

• **Jitender Sareen**, psychiatry, and **Brenda Elias**, community health sciences, are working to develop culturally sensitive suicide prevention strategies for Aboriginal people, especially those living on reserves.

Two additional projects received close to \$400,000 in new funding under the CIHR Pandemic Preparedness Strategic Research Initiative. They will be carried out over two years in collaboration with the Public Health Agency of Canada National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg. They are:

• Developing an effective Avian Flu vaccine strategy: **Gary Kobinger**, medical microbiology, is leading a three-pronged research program aimed at testing a new conventional flu vaccine against different Avian influenza viruses; testing experimental immunization strategies, including vaccines based on DNA or Adenovirus; and studying which components of the immune response provide the highest levels of protection against the disease.

• Virus to Cell – You've been Hijacked: **Kevin Coombs**, medical microbiology, leads a team studying how flu viruses alter the process by which cells make proteins.

"The University of Manitoba is internationally recognized as a leader in infectious diseases research, and the success of our scientists in this rigorous competition underlines that fact," said Joanne Keselman, vice-president (research) at the University of Manitoba. "By addressing issues at the heart of this global health challenge – how viruses work, and effective vaccine development – these projects will play a key role in Canada's national pandemic preparedness initiative."

## Norrie re-elected as Chancellor

Chancellor William Norrie has been elected to a third three-year term as Chancellor of the University of Manitoba.

A former school trustee, mayor, and a community leader, Norrie has built lasting relationships with various ethnic groups, government officials, professional groups, the private sector and voluntary agencies.

As the titular head of the university, the Chancellor confers all degrees and is a member of the Board of Governors and the Senate. In accordance with past practice, the Chancellor also assists with the

advancement of the university and when appropriate, and acts as a university ambassador.

Norrie's re-election as Chancellor was confirmed at the April 4 Senate meeting to a round of applause from Senators.

"I'm honoured to receive your acknowledgment and will do my very best for the university for the next term," Norrie said.



William Norrie

## The Bulletin

University of Manitoba

The Bulletin is the newspaper of record for the University of Manitoba. It is published by the Public Affairs department every second Thursday from September to June and monthly in December, July and August.

The Bulletin welcomes submissions from members of the university community. Submissions can include letters to the editor, columns, news briefs and story and photo suggestions.

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### Events

The Bulletin publishes notifications on events taking place at the University of Manitoba or events that are of particular interest to the university

community. There is no charge for running notices in the events column. Send events notices to: barbourd@ms.umanitoba.ca

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