

# Cancerlink



The Princess Margaret  
Hospital Foundation

University Health Network

WINTER 2006

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## PMH GAINS PRESTIGIOUS SCIENTIST from Harvard – Dr. Benjamin Neel appointed Director

The Ontario Cancer Institute (OCI), the research arm of Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH), has appointed Dr. Benjamin Neel as its new Director beginning January 2007.

Dr. Neel was recruited from his current positions as Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Director of the Cancer Biology program at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, MA.

He obtained his MD from Cornell University Medical School and his PhD from The Rockefeller University. He is a holder of

many scientific patents and in 2003, he received a National Institute of Health (NIH) MERIT award. In addition to holding multiple grants from the NIH and other private foundations, Dr. Neel is also the author of over 125 original papers, several of which have been published in leading scientific journals.

An internationally recognized expert in the field of cellular signal transduction, Dr. Neel has particular expertise in the biology regulation of Protein Tyrosine Phosphatases (PTPs).



DR. BENJAMIN NEEL

PTPs represent a large family of enzymes that play a very important role in cellular signaling within and between cells.

*His move from Boston to Toronto was a fairly easy decision: “Some of the science that is going on here, in particular the work on stem cells and tumour cells, is potentially going to impact cancer biology substantially over the next 10 years.”*

A charismatic leader, top scientist and experienced doctor, he understands how clinical care and science need to be integrated for the benefit of cancer patients. Dr. Neel is a natural fit with OCI’s mission and he is committed to translating the basic research at OCI into clinical outcomes.

*The Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation is extremely pleased to welcome Dr. Neel to the PMH/OCI family.*

# Dick Grimm

## Lectureship receives golf tourney proceeds

The PMH Foundation was pleased to accept a cheque for \$10,000 from the FAN590 Golf Tournament at Wooden Sticks. Proceeds will be used towards the Dick Grimm Lectureship in Head and Neck Surgery.



DR. RALPH GILBERT, DICK GRIMM AND MR. CRAIG STADLER

# Harry Rosen

## honours The Foundation

Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) is fortunate to have Harry Rosen as part of our Prostate Cancer research team. Mr. Rosen gave The PMH Foundation an honorarium of \$4,000 for speaking at the Moving Business Forward conference in Guelph on September 13, 2006.



HARRY ROSEN AND PMH'S CLARENCE YUE

# PMH appoints a new Chairholder

*Dr. Geoffrey Liu has been appointed the inaugural Chairholder of the Alan B. Brown Chair in Molecular Genomics.*

The Chair was established by Wendy and Wilfred Posluns, Alan B. Brown's wife and father-in-law, to support research in Molecular Genomics to honour Alan's memory.

Dr. Liu completed his medical school training at the University of Toronto and trained as a hematology-oncology fellow at the Dana-Farber Cancer Center in Boston. He later became a Doris Duke Clinician Scientist at the Harvard School of Public Health at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School, specializing in solid molecular epidemiology and genomics.

In this new role at PMH, Dr. Liu will conduct clinical and translational research in molecular epidemiology of solid tumours. His clinical responsibilities will include the management of patients with esophageal and lung cancers.

*Congratulations to Dr. Liu on receiving this honour.*

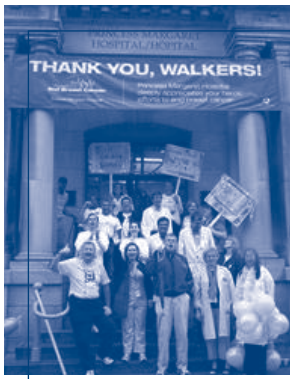
*Lending a helping hand:*

# THE CHEMO BUDDIES PROGRAM

*"Chemo-Buddies" are helping cancer patients at Princess Margaret Hospital cope while undergoing outpatient chemotherapy treatments. These "buddies" are a group of specially trained volunteers who provide support to outpatients awaiting chemotherapy treatment.*

This new initiative is part of the hospital's Healing Beyond the Body program, which helps patients deal with the many emotional and social aspects of cancer. Approximately 100 patients are treated in Princess Margaret Hospital's chemotherapy unit each day.

Thanks to a number of generous donors who support the training and administrative budget for this unique program, the hospital can deliver improved care in a highly accountable fashion without increasing the cost of service.



# The Weekend to End Breast Cancer

# 2006

## Event of courage and hope raises \$17.2 million

*When it comes to raising funds, the Weekend to End Breast Cancer can yet again boast a record-setting year.*

*The 2006 walk – the fourth such event – shattered the previous year's mark, raising \$17.2 million for cancer research.*

Following a moving opening ceremony, almost 5,400 walkers set out from the Exhibition Grounds on the first leg of a 60-kilometre roundtrip walk. Day one saw walkers persevere through early morning rain as – shoes to the pavement and water bottles in hand – they trekked north to Downsview Park.

Meanwhile, hundreds of volunteers manned the route taking on various behind-the-scenes roles from handling the registration desks and providing traffic control to setting up a makeshift campground in Downsview Park where walkers were greeted with hot showers, prepared meals, entertainment, and row-upon-row of two-person

tents. The walkers rested up for day two – and another 30 kilometres winding through Toronto's neighbourhoods.

Kudos to the Weekend's top individual fundraiser – Jack Kay – who raised more than \$96,000 and the top team – Fabienne's Fans – which raised more than \$165,000. Funds will be directed to groundbreaking research at Princess Margaret Hospital's Campbell Family Institute for Breast Cancer Research.

*As for next year - already over 4,000 people have signed up to walk! To participate, register at [www.endcancer.ca](http://www.endcancer.ca).*

*- By Kathie Baggett*

## M. Lau Breast Centre renovation complete



Thanks to the support of walkers in the Weekend to End Breast Cancer (WEBC), the \$3.1 million interior renovation of the M. Lau Breast Centre, including the new WEBC Survivorship Centre, is complete. The project has upgraded the environment of the clinic to embrace the needs of both patients and clinical staff.

The renovation has created high quality clinical spaces, a central area for patient intake and staff, a dedicated and highly visible space for the Survivorship Clinic and Education programs, accommodation for two new digital mammography machines and a picture archiving system.

The strength of the design of the new Breast Centre is attributed to the successful collaboration between the design team and key PMH clinicians, including Drs. David McCreedy and Pamela Catton, who have integrated medical technology with patient care and comfort.

**For more information on these and other stories visit us at [www.pmhf.ca](http://www.pmhf.ca)**

# Dr. Malcolm Moore

APPOINTED HEAD OF THE DIVISION  
OF HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY

With a simultaneous appointment as Head of Medical Services at Princess Margaret Hospital, Dr. Malcolm Moore begins his term as Head of the Division of Hematology/Oncology in the Department of Medicine of University Health Network on October 1st. He replaces Dr. Armand Keating who held both positions for the past 10 years.

*Dr. Moore is a Senior Scientist in the Division of Experimental Therapeutics at the Ontario Cancer Institute and is the Director of the internationally renowned Robert and Maggie Bras and Family New Drug Development Program at PMH. He has opened new fields of research in cancer therapeutics resulting in improved understanding of treatment strategies for cancers of the gastrointestinal and genitourinary tracts. The Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation congratulates Dr. Moore on these two appointments.*

# MaRS

*Designed to support the diverse and ever changing laboratory needs of scientists, the new Toronto Medical Discovery Tower (TMDT) at the Medical and Related Sciences (MaRS) district takes a unique approach by allowing researchers to configure and reconfigure their labs in as little as two or three hours – no tools required.*

## Goes Down Easy

*– the first cookbook of its kind in Canada.*

*Responding to a shortage in cancer treatment nutritional aids, six registered dieticians at PMH, led by Daniela Fierini, developed recipes for Goes Down Easy – the first cookbook of its kind in Canada.*

# Gift of Stock



*– the best return on a donation thus far.*

A gift of stock now provides a significant tax break for our donors and will help bring us one step closer to conquering cancer.

## Toronto Medical Discovery Tower at MaRS houses labs of the future

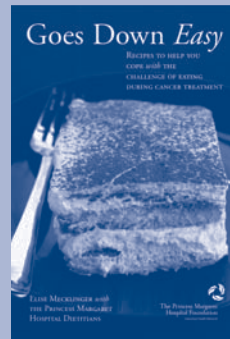
The TMDT is designed using the Flexilab system, which features ceiling mounted outlets across the entire building for laboratory gases, water, computer networks and power. It allows scientists to alter their research facilities as often as needed.

The 15-storey tower, which boasts 400,000 square feet of lab and office space will house some of Toronto's most advanced programs including genomics, proteomics, integrative biology, infectious disease, stem-cell research and drug discovery.



## comes up a winner

*Good nutrition during treatment is key to maintaining strength and energy, as well as aiding in recovery. Goes Down Easy is a practical guide for people living with cancer, their families and caregivers. The book contains over 100 recipes, organized by symptom, and includes advice from dietitians at PMH specializing in cancer, a sample meal plan and suggestions to maintain weight and strength.*



Goes Down Easy is available at The Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation kiosk in the PMH lobby, online at <http://pmhf.uhnstore.ca>, or at Chapters and Indigo bookstores. Nearly 5,000 copies have been sold at press time with proceeds supporting nutrition and patient education programs at PMH.



## THE GIFT OF STOCK CAMPAIGN IS ON A ROLL

The most recent federal budget completely eliminated capital gains tax on donations to charities of publicly-listed securities. This is in addition to already existing tax credits for charitable donations. Initial donor response is positive. Yet we wouldn't realize the success our campaign is achieving so quickly without the support of media outlets. Courtesy of the Globe & Mail and Report on

Business TV (ROBTV), advertisements of our gift of stock campaign are having a national presence leading to greater awareness and support. Look for Paul Alofs, Kevin Sullivan, David Butterfield and Phillip Crawley during ROBTV's commercial segments.

For more information on giving, please call Paul at 1-866-YES-PMHF (1-866-937-7643) or visit [www.giftofstock.ca](http://www.giftofstock.ca).

For more information on these and other stories visit us at [www.pmf.ca](http://www.pmf.ca)

# DR. FRANCES SHEPHERD

WINS THE 2006  
O. HAROLD WARWICK PRIZE

*Dr. Shepherd is a world renowned oncologist and researcher in the field of lung cancer. As a long-time chair of the lung cancer site committee of the National Cancer Institute of Canada Clinical Trials Group, Dr. Shepherd has played a leadership role in numerous significant clinical trials leading to changes in the standard of treatment for lung cancer patients around the world.*

The O. Harold Warwick Prize is given to a scientist whose research has had a major impact on cancer control in Canada. This prize comes with \$1,000 for the recipient and \$20,000 for their research. The Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation congratulates Dr. Frances Shepherd on her award.

# Dr. Patrick Gullane

HONOURED BY FRIENDS, FAMILY AND COLLEAGUES



DR. J. IRISH, PAUL ALOFS, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF PMHF AND DR. P. GULLANE

On September 28, more than 300 guests gathered to pay tribute to Dr. Patrick Gullane, Wharton Chair in Head and Neck Surgery at PMH and Professor and Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at University of Toronto. Internationally renowned for his outstanding contribution to head and neck cancer research and treatment, Dr. Gullane's dedication and commitment to his field is inspiring and admired by all his colleagues, students, patients and their families. In return, the PMH Foundation has established a permanent tribute to Dr. Gullane through the creation of the Dr. Patrick Gullane Fellowship Fund in Surgical Oncology. This endowed fund will facilitate the training of the next generation of oncology surgeons. The Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation is grateful for the support we continue to receive for this initiative.

# Research Breakthroughs at PMH

## GAINING INSIGHT INTO PROSTATE CANCER

Dr. Anthony Joshua is making his mark here at Princess Margaret Hospital. He is the winner of the 2006 Novartis Oncology Young Canadian Investigator Award for his groundbreaking study of telomeres and their role as indicators of the likelihood of an individual developing prostate cancer.

*A telomere is the segment of DNA that occurs at the ends of a chromosome and gives each one a fixed lifespan.*

Through his work, Dr. Joshua is studying the early changes in prostate cancer, discovering the ways in which DNA gets altered and how this leads to prostate cancer. A current theory of aging is that as our telomeres become shorter, our cells are less likely to cope or function as efficiently. This, in turn, can cause cells to turn cancerous.

According to Dr. Joshua, "the changes we see in telomeres seem to be one of the many new and emerging markers that may help us work out which men are at high risk of getting prostate cancer."

# MEET ONE OF OUR RESEARCHERS

## Dr. Thomas Kislinger

### Analytical Chemist, Division of Cancer and Proteomics, Ontario Cancer Institute

Dr. Thomas Kislinger has recently returned from Siena, Italy. A keen traveler, he mapped the world during his studies. Dr. Kislinger completed his undergraduate degree in Munich; he then traveled to New York to complete his PhD through a joint program with Columbia University and the Friedrich-Alexander University in Erlangen, Germany. He chose Canada to complete his post-doctorate at the University of Toronto. Now Dr. Kislinger is charting different territory.

As a recent recruit of OCI/PMH, Dr. Kislinger uses a technology called MudPIT (multidimensional protein identification technology) to take snapshots of the levels of protein molecules present at

different times in different tissues. This method attempts to detect every protein present in a cell and allows his research team to compare the change in protein concentration between healthy cells and cancerous cells.

Currently, Dr. Kislinger is using two-dimensional chromatography to record proteins in his ovarian cancer project. His goal, however, is to reach further. "I want to push the MudPIT technology as far as it can go. I want to integrate analytical chemistry with protein biochemistry to improve diagnostics." Certainly, such an accomplishment would have far-reaching effects for cancer research in Canada and beyond.



DR. THOMAS KISLINGER

*"I came to Toronto because it has very good science. I stayed in Toronto because of my established collaborations. When you have a good network of colleagues you don't want to move and start all over again."*

### PMH SCIENTISTS DISCOVER METHOD OF TARGETING AND DESTROYING CANCER CELLS

Scientists at PMH have found a drug that targets the stem cells responsible for acute myeloid leukemia (bone marrow cancer) and eradicates those cells in mice transplanted with the human disease.

The new drug is a monoclonal antibody that interferes with a protein called CD44 on the surface of the leukemia stem cells. When the protein is blocked the cells die. Scientists observed the drug destroyed the leukemia stem cells and cured many of the infected mice.

"This discovery is exciting because we've devised a new drug that targets a specific property and protein of cancer stem cells

without harming normal stem cells," claims Dr. John Dick, the study's principal investigator and senior scientist at the Ontario Cancer Institute.

Traditional chemotherapy kills cells that grow quickly but not every tumour cell grows uniformly. This means that there could be some cancer stem cells unaffected by chemotherapy agents. The drug is not presently available to humans but its discovery may provide researchers with a way to get rid of cancer stem cells by targeting their unique properties.

*The paper was published online September 24 in the international science journal Nature Medicine.*

# Calendar OF Events



FEB 15/07 Spotlight Tribute at the Four Seasons Hotel, Toronto, in support of Guided Therapeutics at PMH.

*For more information on these and other stories visit us at [www.pmhf.ca](http://www.pmhf.ca)*

## NEW VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBERS JOIN PMHF

*At the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation's Annual General Meeting, Lionel Robins completed his four-year term as Chairman of the Board, and announced the appointments of four new volunteer Board Members and his successor, Neville Kirchmann, President of Kirchmann Holdings Limited. These appointments took effect on September 28, 2006.*



LIONEL ROBINS,  
OUTGOING CHAIR



NEVILLE KIRCHMANN

NEVILLE KIRCHMANN, CHAIR

JOHN BOWEY

DR. LLOYD ATKINSON

DR. BENJAMIN NEEL

DR. CATHERINE ZAHN

**On behalf of the Board, we would like to thank the outgoing Board members, Dr. Michael Baker, Carole Grafstein, David Laidley and Audrey Loeb for their outstanding service.**

## Cancerlink

### A PUBLICATION OF THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

**Our Vision:** To Conquer Cancer.

**Our Purpose:** To raise and steward funds to deliver breakthrough research, exemplary teaching, and compassionate care at Princess Margaret Hospital, Canada's cancer research hospital.

### HOW TO REACH US

The Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation is dedicated to supporting excellence in health care by raising funds for breakthrough research, compassionate care and exemplary teaching at Princess Margaret Hospital. You may request to be removed from our fundraising list at any time by contacting us at 416.946.2114 or at [listremovalpmhf@pmhf.ca](mailto:listremovalpmhf@pmhf.ca)

For more information on story content, please contact Editor, Siobhán Smith at 416.946.4501 ext. 6311 or at [siobhan.smith@pmhf.ca](mailto:siobhan.smith@pmhf.ca)

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