



THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU PUT YOUR HEART INTO IT.

May 2009

Upcoming Events

[ICRH's Young Investigators \(YI\) Forum](#),
Ottawa, May 21-23, 2009

[Café Scientifique – Get the 9-1-1 on stroke!](#),
Ottawa, June 1, 2009

[HSFO Ride for Heart](#) –
Toronto, June 7, 2009

[Eastern Canada Health Outcomes \(ECHO\)](#)
Meeting, Montreal, June 8-9, 2009

HSFO offers over \$10 million in new grant-in-aid funding

The results of the 2009 grant-in-aid (GIA) competition were recently announced and the Foundation is pleased to be offering more than \$10 million in new funding (first year) to Ontario investigators.

This most recent GIA competition surpassed HSFO records for the largest number of applications received – nearly 240 – and the highest overall dollar request from the research community - 20 per cent higher than last year.

HSFO was able to offer funding to 104 researchers and the overall five-year investment is nearly \$36 million.

We extend special thanks to our Grant Allocation Committee's 16 dedicated members, including Chair, Dr. Geoffrey Pickering (University of Western Ontario), and Vice-Chair, Dr. David Lillicrap (Queen's University), for their leadership.

Special awards to be announced soon

Each year the Foundation confers several special awards on Ontario-based investigators.

- The **Maureen Andrew Award** is a \$10,000 award given each year to the highest rated Ontario scientist in the HSFC New Investigator competition.
- Annually, the five highest rated Ontario GIA recipients are invited to submit innovative research proposals for the \$50,000 **Rick Gallop Award**. This award was established in 2002 to commemorate a long-serving Foundation CEO. This mini-competition strives to recognize out-of-the-box thinking.
- 2009 will mark the inaugural offering of the **Dr. Sheela Basrur Fellowship in Population Health Research**. This award will go to the highest rated Fellow engaged in population health research in HSFO's Post-Doctoral Fellowship competition.

Research, Advocacy and Health Promotion Department

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HSFO launches healthy kids initiative

Today, 28% of Ontario's children are facing a dark future. They are overweight or obese, putting them at higher risk of developing heart disease, high blood pressure and type 2 diabetes.

Inactivity and unhealthy foods are two significant lifestyle factors that have led to this current crisis, causing the numbers of children affected to triple in just 25 years.

The good news is the trend can be stopped.

HSFO is investing in **Spark Together for Healthy Kids™**, an Ontario-wide initiative to inspire individuals, families, communities, businesses, industry and government to spark collective change – in how they live, act and think – to ignite a brighter future for Ontario's children.



The cornerstone of the HSFO campaign is the *Spark Promise to our Children*. HSFO is asking Ontarians to sign the *Promise* and, in doing so, add their voice to others who believe that the time to act is now. HSFO's goal is to collect as many signatures as possible – from individuals, groups, organizations, corporations – to be able to

demonstrate that across the province, there is commitment to making a healthy future for children.

In addition, the Foundation has created the *Spark Community Advocacy Fund* which provides financial support to groups to advocate for and implement increased opportunities for physical activity and ensure better access to nutritious foods for children. The Fund offers awards of up to \$25,000 with the goal of empowering change within Ontario's diverse communities.

As well, the Foundation has 13 dedicated Community Mission Specialists across Ontario working in partnership with Foundation staff and leadership volunteers to develop, deliver and support activities to engage communities in this new vision for Ontario's children.

Further, HSFO is building a network of organizations who share this vision for, and are committed to, the future health of children. Spark partners play a key role, as their networks and respective stakeholders help spread the word, are advocates for policy change and are directly involved in facilitating, leading and participating in activities for change.

To learn more about Spark Together for Healthy Kids™, and sign the Promise, visit the [Spark Together for Healthy Kids](#) website.

2009 lectureship announced

Every year, the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario sponsors the **William L. MacDonald Lectureship**, through which a distinguished clinician/researcher in the field of cardiovascular disease addresses the clinical and/or research aspects of their particular endeavours with physicians, scientists, and other healthcare providers.

This year, the recipient is Dr. John Webb, Director of Cardiac Catheterization, St. Paul's Hospital and McLeod Professor of Heart Valve Intervention, University of British Columbia. Dr. Webb will speak at the Hamilton General Hospital on Transcatheter Valve Replacement from 8-9am on May 29, 2009.

Please refer to www.heartandstroke.ca/profed >conference>Lectureship section for details.

The lectureship was established in 1970 by the Foundation's Board of Directors in memory of William L. MacDonald, who at the time of his death in January, 1968, was Chair of the Board.



HEART & STROKE
FOUNDATION

Finding answers. For life.