

FSE Appoints Inaugural McLaughlin Research Chair

It brings me great pleasure to announce the appointment of Dr. John Charles McDermott from the Department of Biology as the inaugural McLaughlin Research Chair, effective May 1, 2012. Professor McDermott will serve in this new capacity for an initial period of five years.

The creation of this new Research Chair was possible thanks to the previously obtained donation of \$1 million from the McLaughlin Foundation. The McLaughlin Chair builds on the Department's leadership in research in the general area of Genomics and Proteomics. In his new role, Professor McDermott will continue his highly successful interdisciplinary research enterprise and stimulate activities focused on expanding research partnerships with a variety of stakeholders. John's research as McLaughlin Chair will focus on the discovery of the molecular genetic circuitry underlying cardiac, skeletal and smooth muscle gene expression with the aim of preventing, treating and curing muscle disease.

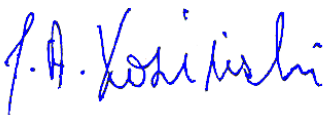


Along with his extensive research, organizational and teaching experience, Professor McDermott brings with him to the McLaughlin Chair a personal philosophy built on a strong foundation to treat all people with whom he interacts with respect and compassion. Position, rank, ethnicity, age or gender have no relevance or bearing on his personal commitment. The development of human potential is a major priority of both his professional and personal life. It is his belief that people with commitment to a particular goal and talent can excel if provided with appropriate conditions and resources. In summary, an ethos of respect, hard work, honesty and lifestyle balance is what he personally strives for. These qualities symbolize the ideals of the McLaughlin Chair.

A star researcher, Professor McDermott's areas of interest include effects of β blockers on cardiac gene expression, the role of AP-1 in skeletal myogenesis, and the regulation of MEF2 by signaling pathways. He has published over 90 research papers in international journals and conference proceedings, has contributed to several national peer review grant selection panels for CIHR and NSERC funding agencies, and has presented over 75 papers including 12 invited papers at national and international conferences. Dr. McDermott has supervised (or co-supervised) over 30 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. He has also contributed to the editorial boards of several international journals and received national and international awards including prestigious awards from the American Physiological Society, and a Fellowship from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. He was Visiting Professor at King's College London, obtained a Visiting Readership in Biological Sciences at the University of Durham, UK, was Visiting Honorary Scientist at the University of Manchester, UK, and held a Research Fellow position in the Department of Cell and Molecular Physiology at Harvard Medical School. John was a Member of the Institute Advisory Board for the CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis.

The appointment of John McDermott to the McLaughlin Chair strengthens the ties we have already developed with other universities and supports our Department of Biology's efforts to encourage an interdisciplinary approach to research. I am especially delighted to welcome Professor McDermott into this new role at a time when broad-based collaboration in life sciences is of the utmost importance in the continued evolution of an interdisciplinary culture across our campus, linking research being conducted in various Departments and Faculties.

I wish John all the best as he embarks on this prolific research venture.



— **Janusz A. Kozinski**
Dean, Faculty of Science and Engineering