

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **NORR's Michael G. Degroote Centre for Learning & Discovery at McMaster University wins Masonry Award**

**TORONTO, Ontario – November 22, 2010** - The 2010 Ontario Masonry Design Award, Ontario West, has been awarded to the Michael G. DeGroote Centre for Learning and Discovery Atrium, an addition to the 300,000 square-foot, five-storey expansion on the north side of the McMaster University Medical Centre.

Completed in 2007, the Atrium facility provides a green interior oasis for the University as well as a dramatic hanging boardroom. It marks the entrance to the building as well as honours the generous donation to the Medical programme by Michael G. Degroote.

NORR's Design Principal, David Clusiau said, "In addition to providing highly functional interior spaces, our design created an elegant and sculptural campus landmark".

The original building was also designed by NORR and was the largest building added to the campus since the initial hospital project.

The first floor includes six classrooms and five lecture theatres for classes from across all faculties. One theatre, with 600 seats, is the largest seating space on campus. Altogether, the first floor will seat more than 1,800 students and helps McMaster address the needs created by Ontario's "double cohort".

The second floor is connected to the McMaster University Medical Centre and will be used by Hamilton Health Sciences for patient care wards. Plans are still being finalized, but the hospital may use the space for intensive care facilities.

The third floor is dedicated to the needs of the Faculty of Health Sciences for classrooms, tutorial rooms, postgraduate offices and laboratories. A rounds room has state-of-the-art teleconferencing facilities, allowing students at hospitals across the city or throughout the province to join in discussions as if they were sitting in the room.

The fourth and most of the fifth floors showcase the Institute for Molecular Medicine and Health, which includes the Centre for Gene Therapeutics and is a prototype for the University's new revolution in health sciences education and research. The two floors contain a variety of offices, wet laboratories and business incubator space for biotechnology start-up companies.

The rest of the fifth floor is used for biotechnology space. An interior atrium adds a dramatic design statement, flooding the top floors with natural light.

The building was previously recognized with a Cast-In-Place Concrete – Material Development and Innovation Award.

More...

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**NORR's Degroote Centre wins Masonry Award, 2**

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- 30 -

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