

\$20 million investment at McMaster will improve life for people with allergies



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SHARE



The Honourable Tony Valeri, Government House Leader, on behalf of the Honourable David L. Emerson, Minister of Industry, today announced a more than \$20 million investment in a new Network of Centres of Excellence, AllerGen, at McMaster University.

The McMaster-based network, which will focus on allergy and asthma research, will receive \$20,865,000 from 2005 to 2009. It will be led by scientific director Dr. Judah Denburg, Professor of Medicine at the Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine, McMaster University.

Denburg noted, "Allergy and allergic diseases such as hayfever, asthma, and anaphylaxis are affecting children and their families in truly epidemic proportions. This has led to loss of productivity in the school and workplace, and places a tremendous burden on Canada's economy."

Peter George, President and Vice Chancellor of McMaster said, "AllerGen fits well into McMaster's research-intensive culture, particularly sharing its emphasis on innovation and multidisciplinary collaborations. This NCE builds on our existing strengths in allergy/ immunology, infectious disease, pediatrics and genomics, and McMaster University is proud to lead it."

Valeri also announced an additional \$16 million investment for the Canadian Arthritis Network, an established Network of Centres of Excellence hosted by Mt. Sinai Hospital.

□With this major investment, the Government of Canada will enable these Ontario-based Networks of Centres of Excellence to mobilize intellectual and financial resources from across the country and focus them on issues critical to our health, industry and society,□ said Emerson.

Valeri said, "With today's announcement, the Networks of Centres of Excellence are putting the best Canada has to offer into networks that serve as powerful agents for accelerating the commercialization of promising ideas, contributing to national innovation and improved productivity."