

**Speech delivered at Baycrest Annual General Meeting
Thursday, June 21, 2012**

Dr. Sara Diamond, President and Vice-Chancellor, OCAD University

It is with great pleasure that I accept The Baycrest 2012 Chair's Proud Partners Award on behalf of OCAD University. One of OCAD University's core values is health and wellness — and we have identified collaboration with the health community as a principle strategy.

When we began our initiatives to work together a number of years ago, I did not dream that we would have moved so rapidly towards a research and creative collaboration that is at the heart of both of our institution's mandates. I want to thank Bill Reichman, Bianca Strern and all of the Baycrest staff for making the relationship possible.

Baycrest and OCAD University share the belief that the arts and design are instruments for physical and mental health, that these tools can transform our understanding of the world. We have a commitment to evidence based research that reinforces the transformative nature of the arts in building healthy brains.

Not only that, we share a culture. One of my colleagues, Julian Goss is a collaborator of Baycrest's, working on effective video documentation tools. Last week he shared his sense of the Baycrest work environment, where every staff member holds a passionate love for the work that they undertake, where there is fantastic diligence and an openness to new discovery and where the care of the Baycrest resident and outreach community is first and foremost. This describes the very same commitment that characterizes OCAD University faculty and staff in relation to our students. And I have witnessed this first hand — my father participates in Mountainview and he continues to benefit from the dynamic and culturally rich Baycrest environment.

Whether Judith Doyle and her students are building memory scaffolding with Brian Richards and your residents and out patients, using mobile devices and immersive worlds, or exploring the brain through our wonderful *Brain Lane* arts collaboration, this is a wonderful relationship.

Thank you.