

\$15.6M for new medical school

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May 22, 2009 09:03 AM - University of Toronto Mississauga is receiving \$15.6 million from Queen's Park to help build a \$36-million medical academy.

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities made the announcement yesterday. The capital funding will be delivered over three years and UTM has already dedicated \$15 million to the project. Fundraising efforts will help pick up the rest of the tab.

The new facility, to be housed in a four-storey structure on the Mississauga Rd. campus, will open in September 2011 to 54 first-year students.

It will focus on general family practice. Students will study at UTM and learn at partner hospitals, Trillium Health Centre and Credit Valley Hospital.

In the first two years, students will spend about half their time at the school and the remainder at hospitals and community doctors' offices. In their third and fourth years, they'll spend nearly all of their time at the hospitals.

The medical facility will be located on what is now vacant land between the Communications, Culture and Technology and South buildings.

"The Mississauga Academy of Medicine, with its focus on community-based medical education, is an ideal fit for Mississauga and the surrounding communities," said Mayor Hazel McCallion. "We are delighted this new academy will benefit the well-being of everyone who lives and works here."

The provincial funding is part of the government's commitment to improve access to doctors by creating 100 new spaces at five medical schools over the next three years.

Mississauga-Erindale MPP Harinder Takhar called it, "great news for Mississauga. By training more medical students in our community, we're helping to ensure we will have the doctors we need for the future."

"Access to healthcare professionals is a growing challenge for Canadians," said Catharine Whiteside, dean of University of Toronto's faculty of medicine. "In 2007, the University of Toronto educated half the practicing doctors who graduated from Ontario medical schools two years earlier, and a higher percentage of our post-graduates and undergraduate MDs remain in Ontario to practice."