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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Hotel Dieu Hospital training centre offers unique opportunity eye care professionals**

(Kingston, ON, May 10, 2011) A unique training program for eye care professionals is recruiting for a second year at Hotel Dieu Hospital.

The Kingston Ophthalmic Training Centre (KOTC) is the first Canadian centre to offer both ophthalmic technician and ophthalmic medical technologist training, programs geared to qualifying individuals to take a patient's optical measurements, perform diagnostic tests and more, all under the supervision of an ophthalmologist.

"Enrolling in this program was the best decision I ever made," says Madison Meier, who is just wrapping up a year of ophthalmic technician training. "I dreamed of working in health care and now I can clearly see a career ahead for me."

Medical personnel in both roles are in high demand, says Dr. Sherif El-Defrawy, head of the ophthalmology department at Hotel Dieu and Queen's University.

"It's well recognized that these technicians and technologists are playing an increasingly valuable role in the field of ophthalmology," he says. "We know we can produce highly qualified personnel at Hotel Dieu. KOTC candidates are part of an expert clinical team, and working in a teaching hospital significantly boosts the quality of their learning."

About 75 per cent of training time is spent in the ophthalmology clinic under the supervision of physicians and experienced ophthalmic staff, says KOTC director Craig Simms. "It's intensive, hands-on work, which is the nature of this profession," he says.

The KOTC is currently recruiting for the Ophthalmic Technician Program. The application deadline is May 27, with interviews scheduled for May 30 to June 7. Class selection is June 15 and the program starts August 2. For more information, visit [www.hoteldieu.com/KOTC.html](http://www.hoteldieu.com/KOTC.html).

*Hotel Dieu Hospital is the ambulatory care teaching and research hospital for Kingston and Southeastern Ontario, affiliated with Queen's University. We provide expert care to more than 500,000 people in the region through specialized programs including pediatrics, medicine, cardiology, surgery, mental health, oncology and urgent care. We deliver quality, safe health care, while advancing innovative research and educating the health care professionals of the future.*

***Leading the transformation of ambulatory care***

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