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Laurier Brantford to host international mental health researcher

BRANTFORD – Laurier Brantford will welcome Dr. Vikram Patel, professor of international mental health and Wellcome Trust senior clinical research fellow from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Patel will deliver his lecture, *The Movement for Global Mental Health; Why You Should Join*, on March 4.

Laurier Brantford's contemporary studies and health studies programs, as well as the Tshepo Institute for the Study of Contemporary Africa, are sponsoring the event.

"We are delighted to have a speaker of Dr. Patel's calibre coming to Laurier Brantford," said Dr. Peter Farrugia, Laurier contemporary studies program coordinator and Tshepo Institute co-chair. "Given the recent interest in Canada's mental health system, we feel that Dr. Patel's lecture will prove interesting and instructive."

Patel is based in Goa, India, where he serves on the boards of three community-based non-governmental organizations (NGOs) including Sangath, a community mental health NGO (www.sangath.com) which he founded and which won the MacArthur Foundation's International Prize for Creative and Effective Institutions in 2008.

Patel also serves on a number of international and national committees including the World Health Organization expert advisory group for mental health and the guideline development group for the Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP). He led the efforts to set up the Movement for Global Mental Health network, launched on October 10th, 2008 (www.globalmentalhealth.org).

The Tshepo Institute was established in 2008, and was the first research centre at Laurier Brantford. The Tshepo Institute has a number of interconnected objectives, including raising awareness of African issues, promoting research partnerships between academics, and increasing opportunities for students.

The lecture will take place **Wednesday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m. in Grand River Hall, Room 207**. The lecture is free and open to the public. No advance registration is necessary.