The AEDs are here!
Jill Bagwe

Chemistry's Safety Committee has championed this idea for a couple of years now and it has finally come to fruition and that is the installation of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) within our department.

With the donation of one AED by Fisher Scientific and the purchase of two other units offered at a reduced rate, the Department of Chemistry has a total of three units throughout the Gunning/Lemieux Chemistry Centre installed in early 2014. One is located just outside of the 1st floor Chemistry Stores in Chemistry West; a second is outside of the Electronics Shop on the 3rd floor of Chemistry East; and the third is across from the men's washroom on the 5th floor of Chemistry West. The placement of these units were very targeted with equal access to at least one unit from within everywhere in the Chemistry Centre.

In April 2014, the manufacturer of these AEDs, Cardiac Science, will run a training workshop on how to use the AEDs and our own in-house first aid course will train Chemistry personnel on their use too (on a related note, with funding support from Risk Management and EH&S, it is our intent to add a second first aid course, in the spring and autumn of 2014). However, even without training, the unit will literally talk you through the steps! Cardiac Science has a training module on their website: [http://www.cardiacscience.com/cardiacademy](http://www.cardiacscience.com/cardiacademy) Once you’ve signed up, select the orange “Powerheart AED G3” button and skip ahead to Chapter 15 where it instructs you on its use. Most reassuringly for any untrained bystanders, the unit is fully automatic and no shock button is required to be pressed. The unit will not defibrillate if it detects a pulse and so it is not possible to accidently shock someone.

Our heartfelt thanks to Fisher Scientific for their kind donation of the AED and working with Chemistry to manage our health and safety both in, and outside, of our research laboratories.