Media Release *Communiqué*

University of Windsor Researchers Share Automotive Knowledge at National Conference

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Windsor, ON: Educating parents on the proper use of children's vehicle safety seats, developing better internal combustion engines through the use of alternate fuels, and improving the part design process are the topics University of Windsor professors will discuss at the AUTO21 Scientific Conference, a national automotive research conference taking place in Montreal, Quebec next week. Each professor leads a research project funded by the AUTO21 Network of Centres of Excellence.

Dr. Anne Snowdon, assistant professor in the faculty of nursing, will present her national research team's findings on vehicle safety for children. A recent survey indicated most children were moved from the appropriate restraint system too soon, often leaving the children inadequately protected in an accident. The team has developed an education campaign to address this issue, and are working on the rollout of the campaign with the Government of Ontario and the Canadian Automobile Association.

The team led by Dr. Andrzej Sobiesiak, an associate professor in the department of mechanical, automotive and materials engineering, is investigating how to use an internal combustion engine as an on-board reforming tool to allow the use of both gasoline and hydrogen simultaneously. Initial tests have shown this mixture provides better fuel consumption than regular fuel. Modifying the fuel on-board is a more cost-effective initiative than modifying the actual engine to operate on a dedicated alternative fuel.

Dr. Hoda ElMaraghy, a professor in industrial and manufacturing systems engineering, and Canada Research Chair in Manufacturing Systems, leads a national research team exploring ways to make design for rapid manufacture of automotive parts more efficient. The team is developing a novel approach for manufacturing-driven design of sculptured surfaces common in auto-parts, an innovative rapid prototyping method for components/assemblies and new computer-aided tolerancing techniques to assist in designing and validating new products and shortening the product development cycle.

The AUTO21 2004 Scientific Conference will take place June 15-17, 2004 at Le Centre Sheraton in Montreal, Quebec. The annual conference highlights some of the Network's recent research results while providing a networking opportunity for the Network's 600 university and student researchers and

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additional industry and government representatives. Other conference activities include the final awards ceremony for the DaimlerChrysler Canada Highly Qualified People Poster Competition and an industry speaker series, which includes Ray Tanguay, president of Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada, Jim Gouin, vice-president and controller, Ford Motor Company, and Michael Kelly, vice-president, Alcan Automotive. Additional conference information can be found on www.auto21.ca in the news and events section.

The Government of Canada awarded the AUTO21 Network of Centres of Excellence an initial four-year grant of $23 million in 2001 to help it enhance Canada's position as a world leader in automotive research and development. Researchers at 35 Canadian universities are working on innovative, auto-related projects in the areas of health, safety and injury prevention; societal issues; materials and manufacturing; design processes; powertrains, fuels and emissions; and intelligent systems and sensors. In addition to the federal grant, AUTO21 is supported by industry, government and institutional contributions of $11 million.

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