

INITIATIVES

U of S Community Submit “Images of Research”

The inaugural U of S **Images of Research** photography and imaging competition underwent public voting in mid-March. Nearly 90 images were submitted to the OVPR’s competition by researchers in 10 different U of S colleges. During the public vote for the Viewers’ Choice award, **more than 3,000 viewers from more than 40 countries** visited the images gallery. The full competition winners will be announced in April following a judging period.

International Delegations Visit the U of S

The U of S recently hosted three international delegations:

- ❖ A delegation from the **Wuhan Conservatory of Music** in China visited from Feb 13th to 16th. Activities included a Chinese New Year performance at TCU Place, a lecture on Chinese folksong skills, and the presentation of an adjunct professorship to Wuhan’s Voice Department Head.
- ❖ A delegation from **Iwate University** in Japan visited from March 3rd to 8th. Discussions centred around the Dual Ph.D. program and a potential faculty and administrative staff training program.
- ❖ A delegation of **five Ukrainian agricultural** universities visited on March 19th and 20th. The delegation included senior leadership from universities such as Sumy National Agrarian University, and the National Agrarian University.

OVPR Funds Synchrotron Social Science

Jennifer Poudrier (Sociology) and **Ulrich Teucher** (Psychology) are currently serving as the first social scientists in residence at the Canadian Light Source (CLS) synchrotron. Each supported by a \$7,500 grant from the Office of the Vice-President Research and a teaching release from the Division of Social Science, Poudrier and Teucher are exploring the unique scientific society in place at the CLS. For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/uYvHj6>.

Provincial SPOR Workshop Coming in May

The second provincial workshop showcasing Saskatchewan’s approach to the CIHR **Strategy for Patient Oriented Research** (SPOR) is being planned. The May workshop will answer questions about existing provincial SPOR Networks, Saskatchewan’s forthcoming SPOR SUPPORT Unit, and how individuals (advisors, providers, policy-makers, researchers and students) may get involved. More information will be posted at <http://goo.gl/MOz884>.

International Agreements

The U of S recently signed agreements with partner universities in Finland, Croatia, and Ecuador:

- ❖ A new agreement was signed with the **University of Helsinki (Finland)** to expand upon the current north2north student exchange & mobility program.
- ❖ An MOU with **University of Zagreb (Croatia)** has been renewed for another five years to continue Lawrence Martz’s Geography course “Karst and Coastal Landscapes of the Dinaric Alps in Croatia”.
- ❖ An agreement was signed with the **Escuela Superior Politécnica de Chimborazo (ESPOCH), Ecuador**, including commitments to collaborate on student exchange, faculty/researcher exchange, and admission of ESPOCH graduate students interested in conducting research. Five such Ecuadorian agreements have been signed since 2014.

College of Medicine’s Research Day

The **College of Medicine’s** 22nd annual **Life and Health Sciences Research Day** was held on March 13th, 2015. Jane Alcorn (Pharmacy) was the keynote speaker with a talk for graduate students on how she discovered her first research question and how events led her to today. Over 150 students from each of the Health Sciences colleges submitted research abstracts online and created poster presentations. Their work was judged by 40 faculty volunteers and winning students were chosen in 19 theme areas.

REPUTATIONAL SUCCESSES

Peng Recognized for Influential Discovery

Ding Yu (D.Y.) Peng (Chemical Engineering) has been elected as a **Fellow of the Engineering Institute of Canada**. Early in his career, Dr. Peng co-discovered a new theory that led to a more accurate Equation of State for predicting the phase behaviour of mixtures of chemicals as they transformed between gaseous and liquid states. Over the past 37 years, the Peng-Robinson equation has been used abundantly in chemical engineering literature and in industrial practice. The original paper on this equation has also been cited nearly 7,000 times.

Lentil Industrial Research Chair Renewed

Albert Vandenberg (Crop Development Centre) has been renewed for a second term as the **NSERC Industrial Research Chair (IRC)** in Genetic Improvement of Lentils. The IRC is co-funded by a \$2.8 M commitment from NSERC and \$3.5 M contribution from industry partner Saskatchewan Pulse Growers, both over five years. Canada is the world's largest exporter of lentils, the vast majority of which are grown in Saskatchewan.

FUNDING SUCCESSES

\$1M in SPOR Funding

The Saskatchewan branch of the Pan-Canadian **Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR)** in Primary and Integrated Health Care Innovations (PIHCI) has received \$1 million in grant funding for five years. PIHCI will focus on primary health care, improving access and utilization of front-line services, and addressing health needs in their earliest stages. Saskatchewan's SPOR PIHCI is led by Nazeem Muhajarine, Cory Neudorf, Margaret Baker, Gary Teare and Beth Horsburgh.

U of S Provided Promoscience Awards

Three U of S staff were awarded **NSERC Promoscience Awards** for a total amount of \$104,200:

- ❖ **Lana Elias** (Science) received \$29,700 for one year for "*Kamskenow*."
- ❖ **Sandy Bonny** (Science) received \$66,000 over three years for the "*Science Ambassador Program*."
- ❖ **Evan Nordquist** (Engineering) received \$8,500 over three years for "*Science Camps in Rural Communities*."

Research Contracts Signed

The following researchers secured funding through contracts with partners:

- ❖ **Alexander Zakhartchouk** (VIDO) has received \$249,750 from **Genome Alberta** for "*Development of a New Generation of Modified Live Virus Vaccine for PEDV Using Reverse Genetics System*."
- ❖ **Andrew Van Kessel** (Animal and Poultry Sciences) has received \$256,071 from the **Canadian Swine Research and Development Cluster** under the Growing Forward 2 program for "*Innovative Piglet Management Strategies for Optimum Performance up to Slaughter Weight and Profitable Pork Production*."
- ❖ **Howard Wheeler** (Global Institute for Water Security) has received \$419,360 from **Environment Canada** for the project "*Water Cycle Prediction in Western and Northern Canada*."

Multiple Sclerosis Funding Awarded

Valerie Verge (Anatomy and Cell Biology) was awarded an operating grant of \$297,783 over three years from the **Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada** for the project "*Novel strategies to enhance intrinsic repair following demyelination*."

International Exchange Program Supported

Adil Nazarali (Pharmacy and Nutrition) and co-investigators Claire Card, Carol Henry, Bruce Reeder, and Ryan Meili received a \$443,268 **Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships Program Award** for the project "*Community Partnership for Food Security and Health*". This unique international exchange program between the U of S and partners in Uganda connects students with community and industry, while providing leadership development and campus engagement opportunities.

18 Researchers Secure SHRF Funding

The U of S was awarded 18 **SHRF Collaboration and Innovation Development** Grants for a total awarded amount of \$675,295. The U of S success rate of 34.6% exceeded the provincial rate of 32%. The successful applicants were:

- ❖ **Ildiko Badea** (Pharmacy and Nutrition) was awarded \$40,000 for "*Development of Theranostic Agents for Melanoma*."
- ❖ **Veronica Campanucci** (Physiology) was awarded \$40,000 for "*RAGE Mediates Neurogenic Airway Hypersensitivity in Asthma*."
- ❖ **Brian Chartier** (Psychology) was awarded \$28,668 for "*Assessing the Healing Needs of Former Students of Indian Residential Schools and their Families*."
- ❖ **Jo-Anne Dillon** (VIDO-Intervac) was awarded \$40,000 for "*Developing a Point-of-Care Diagnostic Platform for Antibiotic Resistant Bacterial Infections in Saskatchewan*."
- ❖ **Rachel Engler-Stringer** (Community Health and Epidemiology) was awarded \$40,000 for "*Nutrition Inequity in the Inner City: Using Smartphones to Study Diet and Food Access*."
- ❖ **Thomas Fisher** (Physiology) was awarded \$40,000 for "*The Role of the PLC Delta1 Isoform in The Osmotic Regulation of Vasopressin Release from Supraoptic Neurons*."
- ❖ **John Gordon** (Medicine) was awarded \$40,000 for "*Optimizing Dendritic Cell Immunotherapy for Asthma*."
- ❖ **Gary Groot** (Community Health and Epidemiology) was awarded \$40,000 for "*Shared Decision Making in Early Stage Breast Cancer: The Development of a Culturally Competent Conceptual Framework Applicable for Aboriginal Patients*."
- ❖ **Troy Harkness** (Anatomy and Cell Biology) was awarded \$40,000 for "*In Vivo and In Vitro Evaluation of Patient-Derived Breast Cancer Cells for Early Detection and Treatment of Drug Resistant Tumors*."
- ❖ **Richard Huntsman** (Pediatrics) was awarded \$28,600 for "*Cannabidiol in Children with Refractory Epileptic Encephalopathy: A Phase 1 Open Label Dose Escalation Study*."
- ❖ **Joshua Lawson** (Medicine) was awarded \$40,000 for "*An Investigation of Personal Exposure Monitoring and Environmental Exposures in Relation to Rural Areas and Asthma Among Children*."
- ❖ **Anne Leis** (Community Health and Epidemiology) was awarded \$40,000 for "*Breast Health Care in Saskatoon and Saskatchewan: Developing a Cutting-Edge Research Base Infrastructure to Assess Reach, Appropriateness and Outcomes*."
- ❖ **Yigang Luo** (Surgery) was awarded \$40,000 for "*Ex Vivo Kidney Perfusion under Normothermic Condition for Graft Preservation and Assessment before Implantation*."
- ❖ **Adil Nazarali** (Pharmacy and Nutrition) was awarded \$40,000 for "*Role of Long-Chain Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids (Pufas) In Myelination: Multidisciplinary Approach that Combines Histological, Molecular and Synchrotron Techniques*."
- ❖ **David Palmer** (Chemistry) was awarded \$40,000 for "*Development of Novel Antimicrobial Agents Based on Inhibitors of Diaminopimelate Biosynthesis*."
- ❖ **Caroline Tait** (Psychiatry) was awarded \$39,969 for "*Transforming Métis Health Services Together: Development of Research Governance Partnerships between Métis Peoples and the Saskatoon Health Region*."
- ❖ **Cheryl Waldner** (Large Animal Clinical Sci.) was awarded \$39,800 for "*Exploring New Technologies to Support Investigation of Foodborne Disease*."
- ❖ **Philip Woods** (Nursing) was awarded \$18,258 for "*Interprofessional Pathways for Safe, Healthy Communities*."

