

INITIATIVES

Images of Research Competition Launched

The first U of S **Images of Research** competition was launched in February. The aim of the competition is to provide researchers with an artistic avenue to showcase their work and to celebrate the great diversity of research, scholarly, and artistic work taking place across the U of S and by its alumni. Submissions will be accepted until **March 8th**, after which a public voting period will open. For more information, visit: <http://research.usask.ca>.

UnivRS Launched to Facilitators

The **University Research System** (UnivRS) launched to Research Facilitators on January 15th for testing purposes. Feedback from this group will ensure the system is ready for a pilot release to select colleges in preparation for university-wide implementation. For more information on UnivRS, visit: <http://goo.gl/eztQli>.

Tech Venture Challenge Finalists Selected

The top 11 U of S technology-based business ideas have been selected in the 2015 **Tech Venture Challenge**. The entrepreneurial teams will now receive mentorship before the top three teams are selected by jury. The competition's grand prize includes \$50,000 from the U of S Industry Liaison Office, office space at Innovation Place, as well as mentoring, banking, and web-application services from partner organizations. To see the full list of projects, visit: <http://goo.gl/O0DnXY>.

Research Policies Approved

The Board of Governors approved two research policies and procedures at their December meeting. "Research Administration" and "Eligibility to Apply for and Administer Research Funding" and their associated procedures are now available at <http://policies.usask.ca/index.php>.

PARTNERSHIPS

Agreements Signed with Chinese Partners

Two agreements were signed during President Barnhart's trip to China in December, including:

- ❖ A general collaboration agreement with **Shantou University**.
- ❖ An agreement regarding our International Flagship Partner Research Grants (IFPRG) program with the **Beijing Institute of Technology** (BIT). The IFPRG will involve funding from both institutions for joint development of research projects.

Additional International Agreements

The U of S also recently signed the following agreements:

- ❖ A student exchange agreement with the **University of Oldenburg** in Germany.
- ❖ A student exchange agreement with **Ernst Moritz Arndt Universität Greifswald** in Germany.
- ❖ A non-binding commitment to explore research and academic programming opportunities in the area of professional development in teaching and learning with **Beijing Jiaotong University**.

FUNDING SUCCESSES

Engineering Research Chair Announced

The College of Engineering announced the inaugural chairholder of the SaskPower Research Chair in Power Systems Engineering in December.

Tony Chung (Electrical and Computer Engineering) was appointed to the position which includes \$3.5 million to support the chair, laboratory improvements, scholarships, research, and curriculum development related to power systems engineering. For more information, visit:

<http://goo.gl/0VZJLT>.

Researchers up to the Grand Challenge

Two University of Saskatchewan research teams have each been awarded \$112,000 by **Grand Challenges Canada** to support their efforts in developing solutions to contaminated drinking water in the developing world.

- ❖ **Lee Wilson** and **Mohamed H. Mohamed** (Chemistry) have received \$112,000 for their project "*Modular Biomaterial Technology for Water Security & Health in Developing Nations*."
- ❖ **Graham George** and **Ingrid Pickering** (Geological Sciences) have received \$112,000 for their project "*Selenium Fortified Table Salt to Treat Arsenic Poisoning in Bangladesh*."
- ❖ For more information, visit <http://goo.gl/xD1QWW>.

IMII Awards Funding

The International Mining Innovation Institute (IMII) has awarded **Won Jae Chang** (Civil & Geological Engineering) \$365,000 for his project "*Salinity Mitigation for Potash Mine Effluent*." Participating IMII members are Agrium, Mosaic and Potash Corporation, with the project expected to benefit all IMII members.

CFI Announces National Awards at U of S

Minister of State for Science and Technology Ed Holder delivered a national funding announcement on the U of S campus on January 20th. Four U of S researchers were among the successful applicants to the **Canada Foundation for Innovation's** (CFI) John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF). For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/ERiuPu>. The U of S projects were awarded a total of \$844,000, including:

- ❖ **Catherine Niu** (Chemical & Biological Engineering) was awarded \$67,092 for the project "*A biosorption system for separation of targeted species from gaseous mixtures*."
- ❖ **Jafar Soltan** (Chemical & Biological Engineering) was awarded \$101,684 for the project "*Analytical Infrastructure for the Catalytic Ozonation Laboratory (COL)*."
- ❖ **Franco Vizeacoumar** (Oncology) and **Brian Eames** (Anatomy & Cell Biology) were awarded \$503,729 for the project "*High throughput Molecular Imaging Platform*."
- ❖ **Lynn Weber** and **Jaswant Singh** (Veterinary Biomedical Sciences) were awarded \$171,766 for the project "*High resolution ultrasound to improve detection of dietary influences on cardiovascular and reproductive health*."

Internal Funding Awarded

The U of S **President's SSHRC** fund provides financial support to assist researchers in preparing competitive SSHRC applications. During the December competition, 11 applications were submitted and eight applications were awarded up to \$7,000 each for a total of \$55,725 awarded.

Vaccine to Benefit Farmers in Africa

A newly funded project at VIDO-Intervac stands to benefit the approximately 24 million Africans whose livelihood has been affected by the cattle disease known as CBPP. **Andrew Potter** and **Volker Gerdt**s were awarded more than \$1.7M from the **Canadian International Food Security Research Fund** (CIFSRF) for the project "*Development of a Subunit Vaccine for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia in Africa (Phase 2)*" with co-investigator Jose Perez-Casal. The funding is part of a partnership with the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization. For more information on this project, visit: <http://goo.gl/5ZD04b>.

Support for Flax Research and Development

Helen Booker (Crop Development Centre) has received an additional \$600,000 from **SeCan Association** to support the flax research and development program within the Crop Development Centre.

Support for U of S Space Weather Research

Kathryn McWilliams and **Jean-Pierre Maurice** (Physics and Engineering Physics) were awarded \$461,680 for "*SuperDARN Canada: The Canadian Component of the Super Dual Auroral Radar Network, A Global Space Weather Collaboration.*" Funding comes from the **Canada Foundation for Innovation's** Major Science Initiatives program and will support the operation and maintenance costs of the Canadian portion of the international SuperDARN. For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/YELTIJ>.

CIHR Supports National Symposium

Joyce Wilson (Microbiology and Immunology) was awarded \$10,000 from **CIHR's** Planning and Dissemination Grant program to support the "*Fourth Canadian Symposium on Hepatitis C*" to be held on February 27th.