

## INITIATIVES

### Water Research Videos Released

The **Global Institute for Water Security**—working with The Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness, EMAP, and the Office of the Vice-President Research—has produced a 10-segment video suite chronicling U of S water research activities taking place throughout the Saskatchewan river basin. The series is being used to train students about water challenges faced across the river basin and expose them to research conducted there. It also serves as a tool to educate the public about some of the issues of water security. The overview video, with a link to the nine research project videos, is available at: <http://www.usask.ca/water/>.

### Canada First Application Submitted

Throughout February, the Office of the Vice-President Research was actively involved in completing the U of S application to the new federal Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF). The U of S's proposal entitled "*Designing Crops for Global Food Security*" was submitted at the beginning of March to the competition which allows one submission per institution. A second competition with nearly \$1 billion available nationwide is due in October. The OVPR will soon release the process to be followed for this second competition.

### Supporting Success in Undergraduate Research

On January 29th, the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) hosted the third annual Undergraduate Project Symposium in conjunction with the Undergraduate Research Initiative and the University Learning Centre. Students showcased research, scholarly, and artistic work from a multitude of disciplines including biology, dentistry, music and drama. \$2,800 in prize money was distributed to six winning students, listed at: <http://goo.gl/ao6u3T>.

### Undergraduate Funding Available

Nearly \$300,000 is available from the Office of the VP Research to fund Undergraduate Student Research Assistantships (USRA) this summer. U of S faculty interested in providing an undergraduate student with a meaningful research experience through a research assistantship can apply for these matching funds through their college or school. Past USRA recipients describe the value of their experiences in the following video: <http://goo.gl/iSNj9V>.

### Undergraduate Research Workshops

Weekly workshops on undergraduate research launched in January and continue to be offered to students from all disciplines. Powered by peer mentors from the University Learning Center under the guidance of the Undergraduate Research Initiative, this series is working towards the goal of "students leading students in academic endeavours." To learn more, visit: <http://goo.gl/orXomj>.

### Improving Care for Aboriginal Patients

The Joint Health Office, in collaboration with the First Nations and Métis Health Service completed a chart audit at the Royal University Hospital (RUH) examining the characteristics of First Nations and Métis patients seeking care. Information was collected for quality improvement around key areas such as length of stay and delay in discharge. For more information, please contact the U of S/SHR Joint Health Office.

### Animal Research Resources

Institutional and guideline standard operating procedures (SOPs) are now accessible to students, staff and faculty for reference in animal use protocols (AUPs). Specialized SOPs from researchers willing to share their procedures are also posted. Visit the sharepoint site at <https://share.usask.ca/go/ethics/>.

## REPUTATIONAL SUCCESSES

### Engineering Researchers Win Synergy Award

**Carey Simonson** and **Robert Besant** (professor and professor emeritus, Mechanical Engineering) have been awarded the *NSERC Synergy Award for Innovation*, along with their industry partner Saskatoon-based Venmar CES. The researchers received this award for their outstanding collaboration with Venmar, a partnership which has resulted in a prototype of a revolutionary heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system that can cut building heating and cooling costs by up to 50 per cent. The award was announced on Feb. 17 during a ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa. The researchers will receive a \$200,000 research grant and Venmar CES will receive a \$30,000 credit toward a future NSERC Collaborative Research and Development grant.

### CLS Selects Acting Science Director

Dean Chapman (Anatomy and Cell Biology), has been appointed as the new Acting Science Director of the Canadian Light Source synchrotron.

### Research Ethics Board Chairs Selected

The Vice-President Research is pleased to announce the following appointments to the Research Ethics Boards (REBs):

- **Ildiko Badea** (Pharmacy and Nutrition) has been appointed as Chair of the Biomedical REB and **Anne Springer** (Nursing) has been appointed Vice-Chair
- **Vivian Ramsden** (Academic Family Medicine) has been appointed Chair of the Behavioural REB and Scott Tunison (Saskatoon Public Schools) has been appointed Vice-Chair
- **Michael Corcoran** (Anatomy and Cell Biology) has been appointed Chair of the Animal REB and **Brenda Allan** (VIDO-Intervac) has been appointed Vice-Chair

### NSERC Advisory Committee Appointment

Susan Blum, Director of the Research Services and Ethics Office, has been appointed to a three-year term on the **NSERC Prairies Regional Office Advisory Committee**. All researchers interested in providing feedback to NSERC, are invited to forward their comments to [susan.blum@usask.ca](mailto:susan.blum@usask.ca).

## FUNDING SUCCESSES

### Research Contracts Signed

The following researchers secured funding through contracts with partners:

- **Ajay Dalai** (Chemical and Biological Engineering) has received \$548,542 from Western Economic Diversification for the project "*Three Novel Technologies to Purify Crude Glycerol Produced During Biofuel Production and Convert the Purified Glycerol into Valuable Biochemicals*."
- **Doug Degenstein** (Physics and Engineering Physics) has received \$623,992 from the Canadian Space Agency for the project "*OSIRIS on Odin Phase E*."
- **Lee Barbour** (Civil and Geological Engineering) has received \$151,819 from Syncrude Canada Ltd. for the project, "*Development of a Local Meteoric Water Line and a Stable Isotope of Water Catalogue for the Aurora North Mine Site*."