

INITIATIVES

Mine Reclamation Research Facility Funded

The **Global Institute for Water Security** (GIWS) has been awarded \$1.8 million by **Western Economic Diversification Canada** to establish a research and testing facility to develop and commercialize innovative mine waste cover systems. Funding for the Mine Overlay Site Testing (MOST) facility was announced on May 21st by Saskatoon-Humboldt Member of Parliament Brad Trost. For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/aEpMju>.

\$350,000 for Pharmacist Training

In response to recent changes enabling pharmacists to provide drugs by injection, the Pharmacist Association of Saskatchewan (PAS), with the **College of Pharmacy and Nutrition**, will cover the costs of injection training for all practicing pharmacists. Support comes from a training grant of \$350,000 provided by the PAS to remove any financial barriers in preparation for the 2015 flu vaccination season. For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/16ny3y>.

Improving Health Service

The Joint Health Research Office recently completed:

- ❖ A report comparing hospital length of stay and residence for Non-First Nations and First Nations patients admitted to Royal University Hospital and St. Paul's Hospital. Information obtained from the report can be found at: <http://goo.gl/xXdCfR>.
- ❖ A review to inform the health care system's strategic priority of improving the appropriate use of MRI in patients experiencing low back pain.

Ethics Committee Renamed

The university's animal care and use program is overseen by the University Committee on Animal Care and Supply (UCACS). Effective May 19th, the name of this committee changed to **University Animal Care Committee (UACC)** which is more consistent with the function of the committee.

Research Events Held Across Campus

The colleges of Law and Medicine, as well as the Joint Health Office recently hosted the following research events:

- ❖ On May 21-22, the College of Law hosted the 2014-15 **Sallows Fry Conference**, "*A Canadian Crisis: The Criminalization & Imprisonment of Indigenous Women & Those with Disabling Mental Health Issues*." The event was hosted by the Ariel F. Sallows Chair in Human Rights, Kim Pate, and attended by more than 150 academics, students, lawyers, and representatives from the court system, government, and tribal councils.
- ❖ The Department of Pediatrics held its **Child Health Research Trainee Day** on April 16th 2015. Residents, students and post-doctoral fellows presented their child health-related research to an audience of researchers and faculty. A list of abstracts will be included in the upcoming Pediatrics Research Report, available at: <http://medicine.usask.ca/pediatrics/Research/newsletter.php>
- ❖ The 3rd annual **PSFaM (Protein Structure Function and Malfunction) Symposium** was held on campus and attended by 140 research scientists from across western Canada on May 6-8, 2015. The program was tightly packed with speakers from Canadian and American universities as well as graduate students and post-doctoral fellows.
- ❖ The 2nd **Patient-Oriented Research (POR) Workshop**, jointly hosted by the U of S and the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, took place Monday, May 25th. The workshop focused on POR-related initiatives in Saskatchewan and included presentations and panel discussions on patient engagement and the Saskatchewan Center for Patient Oriented Research (SCPOR) SUPPORT Unit. Video-recordings from the workshop are available at: <http://research.usask.ca/oavpr-health/SCPOR.php>.

Tech Venture Challenge Winners Announced

The Industry Liaison Office announced the winners of its 4th annual **Tech Venture Challenge** on May 20th. The competition is open to all entrepreneurial members of the U of S community who want to turn their technology idea into a business. This year's champion was TrueVation, a team whose first product is a mobile application designed to organize the information of medical patients. TrueVation will receive a \$50,000 prize from the ILO, in addition to office space and professional services provided by partners. For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/38XIGd>.

Baxter-Jones Named Distinguished Researcher

Adam Baxter-Jones (Kinesiology) was selected as this year's recipient of the **University of Saskatchewan Distinguished Researcher Award**. Currently serving as Interim Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research, Baxter-Jones is a world renowned pediatric exercise medicine specialist who has extensively studied the role of physical activity on children's growth and maturation. Since 2000, he has led two of the longest-running studies examining the role of physical activity and exercise in children growing up in the 60's and the 90's.

PARTNERSHIPS

International Delegations Supported

The following delegations both to and from the U of S recently took place:

- ❖ A delegation from U of S flagship partner, the **Beijing Institute of Technology (BIT)**, China, visited the U of S on May 10th and 11th. The delegates met with U of S senior administrators and representatives to discuss faculty and student exchange opportunities, joint degree programs, and research collaborations.
- ❖ From May 10-15th, Professor Reza Dabirian from **Escuela Politécnica del Ejército**, Ecuador visited the U of S and met with faculty in the College of Engineering and the Department of Chemistry to explore research collaboration opportunities.
- ❖ A U of S delegation visited **Ecuador and Colombia** from April 18th to April 26th. The group met with students and faculty from Ecuadorian institutions **Escuela Politécnica del Ejército** and **Escuela Politecnica Nacional**, and faculty and staff from the **Universidad Nacional de Colombia**. In both countries, meetings were held with government officials, individuals from private schools, as well as staff from COLFUTURO, a Colombian non-profit foundation and COLCIENCIAS, a Colombian scholarship granting council.

International Agreements Signed

Student exchange agreements were recently signed with the following institutions, all of which were motivated by the federal Emerging Leaders in the Americas Program (ELAP):

- ❖ **Universidad del Atlántico**, Colombia - The U of S has had an active MOU with this institution since 2013.
- ❖ **Institución Universitaria**, Colombia - This institution participated in the ELAP delegation that visited the U of S in the fall of 2014. An umbrella **memorandum of understanding** agreement was also signed to provide a framework for collaborative activities.
- ❖ **Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo**, Dominican Republic – The U of S has had an active MOU with this institution since 2011.
- ❖ Student exchange agreements were also renewed with the following institutions: **University of Tromsø – The Arctic University of Norway**, Norway; **Aalborg University**, Denmark; and **Stockholm University**, Sweden



FUNDING SUCCESSES

\$2.2 M for Medical Imaging Research

Western Economic Diversification has awarded \$2.2 million to a team led by U of S researcher **Ron Geyer** (Medicine) who are working to develop and commercialize the next-generation of imaging agents for early disease identification. Federal Minister of State Michelle Rempel announced the three-year support at the U of S on May 15th. For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/xhZolp>.

Contract Funding Secured

Four U of S researchers have secured a total of more than \$2 million through contracts with partners:

- ❖ **Yan Zhou** (VIDO) has received \$997,475 from the Public Health Agency of Canada for the project "*Pandemic Influenza Viruses: Applied Research on Vaccine Development to Improve Canadian Preparedness and Response Capacity.*"
- ❖ **Terry Fonstad** (Civil & Geological Engineering) has received \$149,500 for the project "*Technology and Methodology Development for Improved Biosecurity in Livestock Transport Vehicles.*" The project is an initiative of Swine Innovation Porc under the Growing Forward 2 program. Funding was made possible by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and provincial producer organizations.
- ❖ **Bruce Coulman** (Plant Sciences) has received an additional \$402,556 from the Canadian Cattlemen's Association for the project "*Development of Native Plant Material (Grasses, Legumes) and Mixtures for Forage Production in the Prairie Region.*" This funding will be added to previous amount committed under the Growing Forward 2 program and will bring the total project funding to \$848,776.
- ❖ **Bunyamin Tar'an** (Crop Development Centre) has received \$590,488 from the Saskatchewan Pulse Crop Development Board for the project "*Toward Next Generation Chickpea Breeding: Resequencing Diverse Chickpea Accessions.*"

\$1.65 M for Training Program in Water Security

Cherie Westbrook (Geography and Planning) has been awarded **\$1.65 million** from NSERC to lead a program focused on training students for addressing current and future water security issues. The six-year NSERC CREATE for Water Security program is supported by an additional \$2.8 million from participating universities: U of S, Calgary, Manitoba, McMaster, Waterloo as well as various industry collaborators. U of S co-investigators on the project include: Helen Baulch, Jeffrey McDonnell, and Howard Wheeler (SENS); Bram Noble and John Pomeroy (Geography and Planning); and Patricia Gober (Public Policy). For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/ThR5Kg>.

RUH Supports U of S Research

Thirteen U of S applications were submitted for a **Royal University Hospital Research Grant**, five of which were approved. The U of S was awarded a total of \$122,972 in total in this competition. The successful applicants were:

- ❖ **Rudy Bowen** (Psychiatry) received \$25,000 for the project "*Smartphone-enabled assessment of mood instability, depression, and suicidal thoughts among psychiatric inpatients at Royal University Hospital.*"
- ❖ **Sharyle Fowler** (Medicine) received \$23,076 for the project "*Is fecal calprotectin enhanced triage efficacious and cost-effective in patients at risk of inflammatory bowel disease?*"
- ❖ **Geoffrey Johnston** (Medicine) received \$24,896 for the project "*A novel surgical means to stabilize distal radius fractures during bone healing.*"
- ❖ **Jose Tellez-Zenteno** (Medicine) received \$25,000 for the project "*Diagnostic yield of ambulatory EEG in adult patients with single unprovoked seizures.*"
- ❖ **Heather Ward** (Medicine) received \$25,000 for the project "*Interprofessional care and patient/ family engagement: a qualitative analysis of team function.*"