

INITIATIVES

Institutional Costs of Research Revised

As of May 1st, 100% of the **Institutional Costs of Research** (ICR) will begin to be allocated to colleges/schools. Previously, the 25% ICR fee was allocated 50% to a college/school and 50% to a central fund. All ICR-related policies and procedures will be updated to reflect this change. If you have questions, please contact susan.blum@usask.ca.

Suicide Prevention Event Held

On March 20th, the **Department of Psychiatry** hosted an Academic Research Day entitled "Suicide: An update on assessment and prevention." Nearly 200 registrants heard talks by speakers such as Dr. Shawn Shea (Training Institute for Suicide Assessment and Clinical Interviewing, New Hampshire) and Dr. Jitender Sareen (Director of Research and Anxiety Services, Health Sciences Centre, U of Manitoba).

Three Minute Thesis Competition

2015 marks the first year the U of S has been involved in the international **Three Minute Thesis** network, a unique competition held on hundreds of campuses worldwide. The knowledge translation competition asks participants to condense and translate their theses into a straightforward and widely accessible three minute presentation. The inaugural event saw 48 competitors, with first place going to Agriculture and Bioresources student **Erika Bachman** for her presentation on *Fertilizer microdosing for improved agricultural production in northwest Benin*.

Joint Office Evaluates Health Region Initiative

The Joint Health Office recently completed an evaluation of the **Better Every Day 14-Day Challenge** launched by the Saskatoon Health Region. Following comprehensive evaluation, the patient flow improvement initiative was deemed a success as it provided system-wide insights to help guide future strategic planning and implementation.

Images of Research Selected

The winners of the inaugural U of S **Images of Research** competition were announced in April. Following careful deliberation by a number of multidisciplinary judging panels, 11 images were selected for their visual appeal and clearly written research descriptions. The competition resulted in significant media interest with the research of the winners being publicized via venues from CBC Radio to Global TV. View the winners at: <http://research.usask.ca/images-of-research.php>.

First Research Café Hosted

The Office of the Vice-President Research hosted its first **Research Connections Café** on April 14th. This new series of cafés will focus on informing and connecting members of our diverse research community with the aim of collaboratively developing our research to be nationally and internationally competitive. The first café focused on the Canada First Research Excellence Fund and the following Expression of Interest form was disseminated: <http://goo.gl/1cd74x>. Any researchers leading a research group with the potential to succeed on the national and international stage are invited to submit this EOI.

SCPOR Milestone

The **Saskatchewan Centre for Patient-Oriented Research** (SCPOR) vision, mission and core values were approved by provincial stakeholders on April 17th. The plan outlines a Saskatchewan vision for a respectful and effective way of working together to build capacity and engage collaborative teams in conducting responsive, equitable, innovative, and patient-oriented research that continuously improves the care and health of Saskatchewan residents. The finalized SCPOR business plan will be submitted to the CIHR International Review Panel at the end of June, 2015.

RESEARCH SUCCESSES

New Industrial Research Chair

Steven Siciliano (Soil Science) has been awarded a \$2 million **Industrial Research Chair** to further develop sustainable ways of cleaning underground sites contaminated with diesel or gasoline. Funding comes from NSERC and industry partner Federated Co-operatives Limited and follows a successful relationship formed through the NSERC-College-University I2I award. For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/gQReJ2>.

Professor Named to Fulbright Arctic Initiative

Greg Poelzer (Political Studies) was named one of 17 international scholars chosen to participate in the **Fulbright Arctic Initiative**, a collaborative research venture aimed at addressing questions relevant to challenges faced by Arctic nations. Poelzer will receive \$40,000 USD in funding and will participate in a residency at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/2JKZao>.

FUNDING SUCCESSES

Contract Funding Secured

Three U of S researchers have secured over \$600,000 through contracts with partners:

- ❖ **Adam Bourassa** (Physics & Engineering Physics) has received \$328,770 from the Canadian Space Agency for the project "*Science Support, Algorithm Development and Data Analysis for the SHOW Balloon Flight.*"
- ❖ **John Harding** (Large Animal Clinical Sciences) has received \$158,100 from Genome Alberta for the project "*Enhanced Molecular Diagnostics and Validating Genetic Resistance to PEDV in Pigs.*"
- ❖ **Supratim Ghosh** (Food and Bioproduct Sciences) has received \$123,750 from Concept Capital Management ("Botaneco") for the project "*A Mechanistic Understanding of Oleosome Stability and Loading Applications.*" This project has also been approved for funding under the NSERC Engage program.

NSERC Selects Engage Recipients

The following six researchers were each awarded approximately \$25,000 from the **NSERC Engage** program:

- ❖ **Regan Mandryk** (Computer Science) for the project "*Using Computer Vision to Enhance Sports Broadcasting Technologies.*"
- ❖ **Shafiq Alam** (Chemical and Biological Engineering) for the project "*BioChoice Lignin as a Potential Source of Biomaterials for Gold Mining Industry.*"
- ❖ **Lope Tabil** (Chemical and Biological Engineering) for the project "*Investigation on Biocomposites from Oat Hull and Biodegradable Polymers.*"
- ❖ **Julita Vassileva** (Computer Science) for the project "*User Engagement in English as a Second Language Online Course.*"
- ❖ **Ralph Deters** (Computer Science) for the project "*A Toolbox for Creating Mobile Cloud-Computing Apps.*"
- ❖ **Supratim Ghosh** (Food and Bioproduct Sciences) for the project "*Improving Aroma Loading and Release Behaviour in Oleosomes.*"

Agricultural Funding Update

Agricultural Development Fund agreements from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture have been completed for the current year. The university received funding for 44 projects, which will provide a total of more than **\$8 million** over the next five years. The projects are led by researchers from the colleges of: Agriculture and Bioresources (27), Veterinary Medicine (8), Engineering (3), the Pharmacy and Nutrition (1), Arts and Science(1), and VIDO (4).

Funding for Community-Based Research

Dr. Ryan Meili (Community Health and Epidemiology) was awarded \$33,000 for *"Building research capacity through community assessment and engagement with the Saskatoon Indian and Metis Friendship Centre."* Funding comes from the **CIHR Catalyst Grant: HIV/AIDS Community Based Research Program - Aboriginal Stream** and includes co-investigator Michael Schwandt.

\$200,000 for Health Intervention Research

Rachel Engler-Stringer (Community Health and Epidemiology) has been awarded \$200,000 for the project *"Changing Inner City Food Environments: Interventions to address nutritional health inequities"* with co-investigators Sylvia Abonyi, Philip Loring (SENS), Nazeem Muhajarine, and Priscilla Settee (Native Studies). Funding comes from **CIHR/ SHRF Operating Grant: Population Health Intervention Research.**