

RESEARCH UPDATE

DISCOVERIES WITH IMPACT

New U of S immunotherapy technique holds promise for curing food allergies

Postdoctoral fellow **Wojciech Dawicki** (Medicine), working under **John Gordon** (Medicine), has developed a new immunotherapy technique that nearly eliminates the allergic response to peanut and egg white proteins in food-allergic mice, reducing the anaphylactic response by up to 90 per cent with only one treatment. The results were just published in the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*. The story has been featured on three global news portals (*Yahoo! Finance*, *Huffington Post*, and *Food&Wine Magazine's* blog), six Canadian news outlets (including spots on Saskatoon radio and television broadcasts), and six medical/biotech news websites. See the original press release: <https://goo.gl/3RtIKc>

U of S team's caffeine research show promise in fight against Parkinson's

Jeremy Lee (Medicine) and **Ed Krol** (Pharmacy and Nutrition) led a team of researchers to discover two new caffeine-based compounds that may prevent a protein involved in dopamine regulation from mis-folding, and slow the progression of the disease. Findings were published in *ACS Chemical Neuroscience*. Read more here: <https://goo.gl/nmbLhr>

U of S researcher aims to save endangered cranes

John Giesy (Toxicology) working with former U of S researcher **Xiaowei Zhang** (now of Nanjing University, China) and former postdoctoral fellow **Miguel Mora** (now of Texas A&M) used genetic sequencing to study the microbiome of endangered red-crown cranes in the wild and in captivity. Cranes in captivity had a significantly different and potentially compromised microbiome versus their wild counterparts – possibly causing infection

when captive cranes are released. Findings were published in *Nature Scientific Reports*. More details here, <https://goo.gl/H1oFdi>

RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

Justice research centre established at the U of S College of Law

The CREATE Justice Research Centre has been established to address key gaps in data and access to justice research in Canada. The centre's research will be oriented towards two general dimensions of access to justice: transforming legal and justice services, and the removal of systemic barriers to justice. The centre was awarded \$500,000 in funding from the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan to assist its development over the next five years. Former Supreme Court of Canada Justice Thomas Cromwell was named as an Honorary Fellow. Read more here: <https://goo.gl/XALVU4>

REPUTATIONAL SUCCESS

Jim Waldram shortlisted for the SSHRC Insight Award

Jim Waldram (Anthropology and Archaeology) was named as one of three finalists for SSHRC's prestigious Insight Award. The award is one of SSHRC's Impact Awards and recognizes exceptional contributions to research in the humanities and social sciences. Prof. Waldram is honoured for his outstanding contributions to understandings of Indigenous health and well-being, most recently with his work with the Q'eqchi' Maya in Belize. The winner of the 2016 Insight Award will be announced in late November.

INITIATIVES

U of S Industry Liaison Office (ILO) successfully hosted first agriculture-focused AUTM partnering forum

On September 28-29th, the ILO hosted the first agriculture-themed industry partnering forum of the *Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM)* in Saskatoon. The forum attracted nearly 70 participants from all over North America: 16 universities, 17 leading agricultural companies and representatives from the provincial government, research organizations, law firms and investment companies. A total of \$10,200 was raised in sponsorship dollars – the largest amount to date for any AUTM partnering forum. The ILO is pursuing six new potential technology licensing and collaboration opportunities which arose directly from the forum.

World researchers gathered to explore food innovations

Researchers from Canada and Africa gathered to explore innovations in crops, vaccines, nutritional supplements in African homes and farms during a two-day conference, *Scaling-Up Innovations for Impact: Meeting the Food Security Challenge - A Canada-Africa Collaboration* (October 12-13) held at VIDO-InterVac. Five projects were featured, all funded by Canadian International Food Security Research Fund (CIFSRF) through Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Global Affairs Canada. Details are available here, <https://goo.gl/r64s8Z>

Undergraduate Research Initiatives

For the first time the **Undergraduate Research Initiative** participated in **U of S Open House**, offering three booked-to-capacity information sessions in a day-long series of events for high school students and adult learners to come to campus and “get to know their future university.” Peer mentors showed prospective students what it

means to do research, what opportunities exist, and how to get involved.

GRANT AND CONTRACT FUNDING SUCCESS

- **Katherine Stewart** (Soil Science) has received \$167,275 from Sask Power for the project *Environmental and Social Risk Assessment to Support Informed Collaborative Decision Making for Vegetation Management of Northern Rights-of-Way*.
- **Mike Nickerson** (Food and Bioproduct Sciences) has received \$115,000 from the Saskatchewan Pulse Crop Development Board for the project *Modification of a Commercial Lentil, Pea and Faba Bean Protein Isolate Production Process for Improved Flavour Profiles*.
- **Christopher Phenix** (Chemistry) received \$45,000 from Parkinson's Society of Canada Grant for the project *In vitro Assessment of Conduritol Aziridines; Towards New PET Probes for GBA1*.

INTERNATIONAL

Grants

Australia

- **Nate Osgood** (Computer Science) and **Roland Dyck** (Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture, College of Medicine) were awarded \$20,500 AUD from the Sax Institute for a research internship in Australia.

Brazil

- **Janna Schurer** (Veterinary Microbiology), postdoctoral fellow, under the mentorship of **Alvin Gajadhar** (Veterinary Microbiology) was

awarded \$10,000 USD under the Collaborative Research Travel Grant program supported by the Burroughs Wellcome Fund for the project *Zoonotic Cryptosporidium Transmission Dynamics in a Brazilian Watershed Area*.

India

Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute

- ❖ **Lee Wilson** (Chemistry) was awarded the \$1,000 CAD Shastri Scholar Travel Subsidy Grant for the project *New Approaches to Green & Sustainable Chemistry*, collaborating with the Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai.
- ❖ **Aaron Mooi, Alexandra Malkowski, Jennifer Pelchat, Julia Wyatt, and Karissa Mitchell** (WCV) each received \$2,000 CAD under the Shastri Student Internship Program for the project *One-Health Initiative in Southern India: Participating to enhance public health, productivity, and animal welfare through veterinary medicine initiatives*, collaborating with the University of Kerala - College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy, Kerala.
- ❖ **Philip Lagace** (Philosophy, Anthropology, and Language Studies) received \$2,000 CAD under the Shastri Student Internship Program for the project *Relationship of Language and Consciousness*, collaborating with Assam University.

International Delegations to U of S

- ❖ **Huazhong Agricultural University, China** – August 10-11. Three delegates met with the Department of Plant Science to discuss potential collaboration, and with ISSAC, IO and the Language Centre to discuss promoting the dual degree program with Sociology and other potential collaboration.
- ❖ **Iwate University, Japan** – September 12-14. Six delegates met with CGSR, IO, the Language Centre, the Gwenna Moss Centre, and the departments of Food & Bioproduct Sciences, Biology, Biochemistry, and Plant Science. Delegates toured campus, the Canadian Light Source (CLS) and Agricultural facilities.
- ❖ **Morinomiya University, Japan** – September 15. Two delegates met with IO and the Language Centre to introduce the institution and to discuss establishing a short-term program.
- ❖ **Osaka University, Japan** – September 28. One delegate met with IO and CGSR to discuss the possibility of a Dual Doctoral Degree Program, with the Department of Physics faculty to discuss research collaborations and later toured the CLS.

International Agreements

MOU Agreements:

- ❖ Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sol, **Brazil** – signed September 2

Student Exchange Agreements:

- ❖ Neoma Business School, **France** – UG – Edwards School of Business – signed August 25

Cooperation Agreements:

- ❖ Tianjin Normal University, **China** – College of Education - signed August 11

RANKINGS

U of S in University Rankings

The U of S has dropped one spot in *MacLean's* magazine rankings – from 13th to 14th position (tied with the University of Manitoba), and two spots in *Research InfoSource Canada's Top 50 Research Universities List* – from 11th to 13th position.

President Stoicheff and his executive team are committed to ensuring that the U of S rises significantly in key rankings, *Maclean's*, *Research InfoSource*, *AWRU Shanghai*, *Times Higher Education*, *QS*, etc. A U of S task force on rankings struck last year has provided a blueprint for change, and there is a commitment to act on these recommendations, which involve looking in depth at how rankings are compiled, how the university can do better, and how it can communicate as a community more effectively about them.

For more info, consult:

- [The Maclean's ranking fact sheet](#)
- [The Research InfoSource ranking fact sheet](#)