

September 2018 - Issue #9

Discovery Digest

Highlights of U of S research news

In this issue: CIHR Institute of Indigenous Peoples' Health moves to USask, Groundbreaking MS discovery, SSO-USask team up to ask if brains synch-up during performance, Royal Society accolades abound, even more research news...

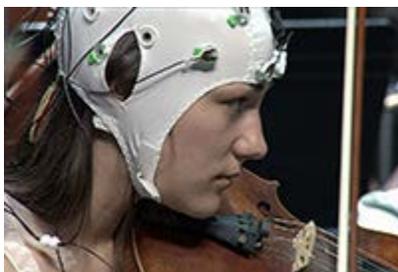
Every month, USask Research Profile and Impact highlights research from across campus. *Discovery Digest* is a glimpse into how U of S research, scholarly and artistic work is making a difference for Saskatchewan, Canada, and the world.

[U of S to host CIHR Institute of Indigenous Peoples' Health](#)



Starting Oct. 1, University of Saskatchewan (USask) will be the new home of the Institute of Indigenous Peoples' Health (IIPH)—one of 13 institutes of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)—under the leadership of the institute's scientific director, **Carrie Bourassa**, who is joining the USask College of Medicine. [Read more here.](#)

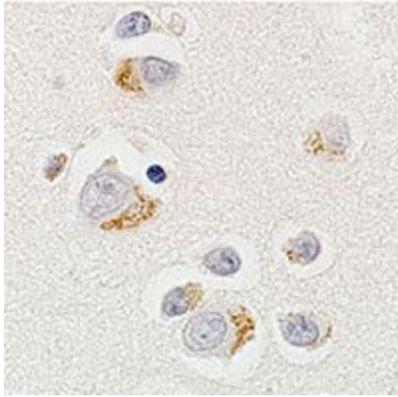
[USask and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra conduct joint research: "Do brains play the same tune?"](#)



USask researchers **Janeen Loehr** and **Jennifer Nicol** are working with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra (SSO), harnessing new mobile EEG technology to learn what happens in the brains of symphony orchestra musicians when performing together. The experiment will be shared in a unique way with patrons -- brain wave images previously recorded will be projected above the orchestra at the SSO season opening concert **on Saturday, Sept. 22.**

[Read more here.](#) [Watch a video about the research.](#)

[Ground-breaking MS discovery could lead to better treatment](#)



A USask research team led by **Michael Levin**, Saskatchewan Chair in Multiple Sclerosis Clinical Research at the USask College of Medicine, has discovered that nerve cells in the brains of MS patients contain stress granules that appear to contribute to nerve cell death. The finding could lead to improved treatment of the disease. Levin announced the discovery at the 2018 International Society of Neuroimmunology Meeting in Brisbane, Australia. [Read more here.](#)

[USask historian awarded Royal Society's Tyrrell](#)



Bill Waiser, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, has been awarded the prestigious J.B. Tyrrell Historical Medal by the Royal Society of Canada for outstanding contributions to the field of Canadian history.

[Royal Society of Canada awards record number of fellowships to USask researchers](#)



USask researchers **Ingrid Pickering**, **Howard Wheeler**, **John Pomeroy** and **Doug Chivers** have been named Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada (RSC). It's the largest number elected in a single year from USask to the national fellowship of distinguished men and women from all branches of learning. **Maud Ferrari** was named as a member of RSC's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists, which celebrates research excellence of early career stage researchers. [Read the details.](#) [Watch videos about each of the winners.](#)

[USask researcher honoured for contributions to synchrotron science](#)



Canada Research Chair in X-ray Absorption Spectroscopy **Graham George** has been chosen to receive the 2018 *Farrel W. Lytle Award* for his outstanding contributions to synchrotron science at the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, a Stanford University-operated multi-program laboratory exploring frontier questions in photon science, astrophysics, particle physics, and accelerator research. The award promotes technical or scientific accomplishments in synchrotron radiation-based science. [Read more here.](#)

Recent visits to USask by cabinet ministers



As part of the federal Liberal party caucus meetings in Saskatoon Sept. 11-13, several ministers visited the USask campus:

- Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Navdeep Bains toured VIDO-InterVac (photo left - President Peter Stoicheff and Minister Bains).
- Fisheries and Oceans Minister Jonathan Wilkinson toured the Aquatic Research Facility at the Toxicology Centre and met with students to learn about their research projects (photo right)
- Both Minister of Science Kirsty Duncan and Minister of the Status of Women Maryam Monsef visited chemistry professor Eric Price's lab and participated in events organized by the Women in Chemistry student group on campus.
- Treasury Board Minister Scott Brison did a class presentation at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (JSGS).
- Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould gave a public lecture in the Houston Lecture Series hosted by JSGS and also spoke with students and faculty at the law school.

Synchrotron Sciences Research

[Lead poisoning not main culprit in Franklin Expedition fate, say USask researchers](#)



Synchrotron studies of bone and teeth have led a multi-institution team of scientists to conclude that lead poisoning did not play a pivotal role in the deaths of crew members of the ill-fated Franklin Expedition of 1845, according to a paper published in the journal PLOS ONE.

[Read the details.](#)

Indigenous Research

[50 years of USask Archeology and Anthropology: lecture series focuses on Indigenous roots](#)



On Sept. 27 at 4:30 p.m., Prof. **Jim Waldram** will present a lecture entitled, [An Imperative to a Cure: Engaging Indigenous “Medicine” Through Collaborative Ethnographic Research with O’eqchi’ Maya Healers in Belize.](#) It’s the first in a series of lectures celebrating the 50th anniversary of the USask Department of Archeology and Anthropology. The archeology and anthropology department was among the first at USask to undertake research in Indigenous communities.



Prof. Jim Waldram

[Read about the lecture series here.](#)

Health Research

[USask researcher receives prestigious award for post-transplant education](#)



Holly Mansell, associate professor of pharmacy, has won a prestigious international award from the American Society of Transplantation (AST). Mansell is developing educational videos that help kidney transplant patients follow a post-surgical medication regimen. [Read the details.](#)

[New Health Sciences Building video](#)



[Watch a new video](#) showcasing the state-of-the-art integrated Health Sciences Building.

In **THE CONVERSATION**

[Sign up now for an Oct.1 writing workshop with *The Conversation Canada* Editor-in-Chief](#)



Come learn about how best to pitch a story idea and write for *The Conversation Canada* from Scott White, Editor-in-Chief.

Organized by the Research Profile and Impact unit in the Office of the Vice-President Research, three 90-minute workshops are offered, open to faculty, graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. [Limited space remaining, so sign up today!](#)

Campus communicators are also [invited to attend a separate workshop on “Building USask Research Profile through The Conversation,” Oct. 1, 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sign-up](#)

[here.](#)

What is *The Conversation Canada*? It's a new national academic newswire for researchers to write short articles in their areas of expertise, working with experienced journalists as editors. The worldwide Conversation network, which includes *The Conversation Canada*, attracts **10.7 million users per month** and reaches **35 million readers** through free republication. Over **22,000 media outlets** use content from The Conversation sites, among them The Washington Post, Maclean's and The Guardian.

Since the joining *The Conversation Canada* in June 2017, 43 articles by 42 USask authors have been read more than 623,000 times.

[How Africa can up its game on water management for agriculture -- *The Conversation Canada*](#)



Andrew Slaughter, visiting professor in the Global Institute for Water Security, proposes a number of solutions such as improved irrigation, better use of technology, and information sharing for better water management and more efficient agriculture.

[How naming poison frogs helps fight their illegal trade -- *The Conversation Canada*](#)



Biologists **Jose Andres** and **Andres Posso-Terranova** write that naming species of Columbian dart frog may help protect the species or make them a target for trophy hunters.

[Everyone needs to take a deep breath after the Trans Mountain ruling -- *The Conversation Canada*](#)



Ken Coates, Canada Research Chair in Regional Innovation and professor in the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, argues that the recent court decision halting

construction of the Trans Mountain pipeline has made clear that Canadian society needs to find a better, faster, and more effective way to consult with Indigenous communities and other Canadians on major resource projects.

[How parents could revolutionize education and boost results -- The Conversation Canada](#)



Education professor **Debbie Pushor** says engaging parents is a way to improve public school education across Canada where other initiatives attempted have failed.

[Reconciliation requires more than symbolic gestures -- The Conversation Canada](#)



Historian **Jim Miller** argues that true and effective reconciliation must go beyond apologizing and renaming buildings to remedying some of the gross injustices from which Indigenous peoples in Canada suffer.

[Write about your own research in The Conversation](#)

Want to reach a broad audience with your research? Consider submitting an item to the Conversation, an academic journalism hub of which USask is a founding member. [Read more here](#) and [get in touch with Sarah Peiris](#).

Young Innovators

[Dreaded “freshman five” weight gain not a myth](#)



USask kinesiology PhD student **Erin Barbour-Tuck** and her supervisor **Adam Baxter-Jones**

have conducted a unique study showing the “freshman five” — the pounds students are thought to gain within their first year of university — is not a myth, but a real phenomenon. The researchers developed a model that predicts males between ages 18 to 28 gain between two and 17 pounds as young adults, while females gain between four and 26 pounds. The phenomenon happens even if a student’s weight was normal as a teenager. The piece by Federica Giannelli was published in *The StarPhoenix* as part [The Young Innovators](#) series.

Barbour-Tuck [also wrote an op-ed for *The Conversation Canada*](#) where she argues that even the best preventive measures, healthy body weight and physical activity during childhood, may not be sufficient without consistent physical activity until adulthood.

[Rocks tell story of Saskatchewan’s tropical past](#)



USask geology PhD student **Meagan Gilbert** has unearthed thousands of fossils to reveal Saskatchewan had a persistent hot climate millions of years ago. The aim of her research is to understand the future of the climate. Gilbert’s research was featured in *The Young Innovators* series, a USask partnership with *The StarPhoenix*.

[U of S launches device into near-space to track climate change](#)



USask physics and engineering physics PhD student **Matt Kozun**, supervised by Prof. **Adam Bourassa** and working with the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), has just launched a novel device into the edge of space to study the cooling effects of aerosol particles on a warming climate. The story was featured in *The Young Innovators* series, a partnership with *The StarPhoenix*.

Commercialization

[Will their pitch be golden? Tune in Sept. 20th to *Dragon’s Den*](#)



USask chemistry professor **Stephen Foley**, accompanied by business partner **Graham Fritz** and Foley's former students and now business partners **Hiwa Salimi** and **Loghman Moradi**, will pitch *CBC's Dragon's Den* program about their innovative method for extracting gold from electronic waste. See how they fare: [CBC Television, Sept. 20, at 8 p.m.](#)

USask Innovation Enterprise signs agreement with Co.Labs



On September 17, USask's Innovation Enterprise (IE) and Co.labs signed a Memorandum of Understanding outlining a three-year commitment to work together to foster entrepreneurship both on campus and in the province and region.

Co.labs is Saskatchewan's first technology incubator, providing mentorship, programming and community for software and hardware focused startups.

Under the MOU, IE will fund prizes for two cohorts per year of the Co.labs accelerator program, Co.launch, which helps very new ventures test and advance their businesses within a focused, three-month time frame. Half the prize money provided by IE will be earmarked for the top USask-led venture in each cohort.

Co.labs will provide entrepreneurship bootcamps for students participating in any of IE's student engagement programs. These bootcamps will provide an opportunity for students to hear from young entrepreneurs and gain valuable insight into the challenges of turning ideas into solutions in a startup setting.

A Green and White Globe

[International students gain research experience at USask](#)



Students from three continents came to USask to work on a variety of research projects this summer under the sponsorship of Mitacs, a national not-for-profit organization. In 2018, the Mitacs Globalink internship program brought a total of 38 students to USask. On Aug. 22, eight of the students met with Saskatchewan Minister of Advanced Education Tina Beaudry-Mellor to share the outcomes of those internships. [Read the whole story here.](#)

Delegation from University of Waikato visits



During the *Wahkotowina E Osihtahk/Creating Relationships Knowledge Sharing Summit* August 28-September 2, 2018, USask was honoured to host Maori delegates from the University of Waikato, Hamilton, N.Z., including Prof. Linda Tuhiwai Smith and several Indigenous doctoral students.

This global Indigenous summit included engagement with USask graduate students, faculty and staff, as well as Indigenous community presentations at the Remai Modern, Station 20 West and the Beaudry's and Okemasis' Cree Nation.

The summit was supported by the Indigenous studies department, and other units across campus.

Discussions were started regarding a memorandum of understanding between USask and the University of Waikato. Future partnerships will aim to support community-engaged research among Indigenous populations and other related areas of interest, and to increase collaborations in research, teaching and student mobility.

Upcoming events

[New Collaborations concert – Sept. 28](#)



Department of Music performance faculty including **Veronique Mathieu**, the faculty's newest member and David L. Kaplan Chair in Music, and select members of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra will perform on Friday, Sept. 28 a concert featuring works by Kaplan, former music department head, and by Claude Debussy. The concert will conclude with a

performance of the suite version of Stravinsky's *L'histoire du soldat*— which premiered 100 years earlier to the day. [The concert is free and open to the public at 7:30 p.m. in Convocation Hall.](#)

[School of Public Health hosts poster day](#)



USask School of Public Health graduate students will present their research in poster format on important issues affecting the health of people and communities on [Friday, September 28, 2018 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., D-Wing Atrium, Health Sciences Building](#). Public health professionals and the wider U of S campus community are invited.

We want your feedback! [What do you think of Discovery Digest?](#)

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For more information, visit Research.usask.ca or contact research.communications@usask.ca

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