



November 2021 - Issue 46

In this issue: New VIDO funding supports COVID-19 variant vaccine development, USask researchers work to develop new treatments for multiple sclerosis, the Government of Canada invests in Saskatchewan's agri-food sector, USask commemorates the 50th anniversary of Gerhard

Herzberg's Nobel Prize, and much more!

Every month, USask Research Profile and Impact highlights research from across campus. **Discovery Digest** is a glimpse into how USask research, scholarly and artistic work is making a difference for Saskatchewan, Canada, and the world. [Feedback welcome!](#)

Top Stories



New USask research could help to target COVID-19 vaccine holdouts

Saskatchewan has the lowest COVID-19 vaccination rate and currently the highest COVID-19 death rate of Canada's provinces. In research published Friday in the journal **PLOS ONE**, the study led by University of Saskatchewan (USask) community health and epidemiology researcher Dr. Nazeem Muhajarine (PhD) found characteristics including lower education level, financial instability, and Indigenous status, as well as certain key beliefs were associated with an increased

likelihood of vaccine refusal and hesitancy. [The full story.](#)



USask and CLS announce Herzberg Experimental Hall in honour of Nobel Laureate Gerhard Herzberg

As part of a national initiative to mark the 50th anniversary of Gerhard Herzberg's Nobel Prize, USask is naming the main experimental hall of the Canadian Light Source and a prominent physics lecture theatre on campus after the renowned scientist.

Refugees from Nazi persecution in 1935, Herzberg and his wife and fellow scientist Luise spent 10 productive years at USask. Three of Herzberg's books were published during that time and are still considered classic works on atomic and molecular structure, advancing knowledge in chemistry, physics and astronomy.

USask is partnering with the non-profit educational organization Defining Moments Canada, the National Research Council, Canadian Heritage, and other partners on **Herzberg50**, a major digital project that will showcase Herzberg's life and achievements to a wide public audience including high school students. **The full story. Visit the USask Herzberg site.**

COVID-19 Research



CEPI awards USask's VIDO \$6M for vaccine development

The Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) at USask has received approximately \$6 million from the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI). This is CEPI's first ever award to a Canadian university.

VIDO's funding will be used to establish proof of concept for new vaccines that are broadly protective against COVID-19 variants and are suitable for use in low- and middle-income countries. The platform involves identifying vaccine targets, vaccine formulation, manufacturing process development and preclinical testing.

This project builds on COVID-19 research funded by the Government of Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan through Innovation Saskatchewan. VIDO's COVID-19 vaccine, COVAC-2, is currently in clinical trials. **The full story.**



Wearing a surgical face mask as protection from COVID-19 does not affect performance of youth hockey players: USask study

A USask research team has investigated how wearing a surgical face mask impacts the sport performance and physiological function of youth ice hockey players – who cannot currently receive a COVID-19 vaccine in Canada – by analyzing heart rates, oxygen levels and fatigue during play.

Evaluations were conducted both on-ice and off-ice, with one group wearing a normal face mask while the other wore an adapted version with an uncovered nose and mouth. The study found that the mask did not significantly affect any physiological function or overall exercise performance in youth.

Researchers involved with the study include Dr. **Phil Chilibeck** (PhD) of the College of Kinesiology, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition professor Dr. **Gordon Zello** (PhD), and School of Rehabilitation Science associate professor Dr. **Scotty Butcher** (PhD). **The full story.**

WATCH - Preventing the Next Pandemic: A Conversation with Dr. Volker Gerdts

As Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Vaccine and



Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) at USask, Dr. **Volker Gerdts** (DVM) and his team were the first in the country to isolate the COVID-19 virus and to have a vaccine candidate in pre-testing. The team's protein subunit vaccine, COVAC-2, is currently in clinical trials.

A live event with Gerdts, hosted by USask Vice-President of University Relations **Debra Pozega Osburn** and moderated by Vice-President Research **Baljit Singh** was held at USask's Calgary alumni hub for the public and media on Nov. 1 and is now [available for viewing](#).



How COVID-19 changed the delivery of mental health services

When health-care providers turned to telepsychiatry in place of face-to-face service delivery, the impact it would have on those with mental health conditions was unknown.

Drs. **Hua Li** (PhD), **Arlene Kent-Wilkinson** (PhD), **Tracie Risling** (PhD), and **Don Leidl** (EdD) from the USask College of Nursing, and **Manal Kleib** (PhD) from the University of Alberta Faculty of Nursing, were interested in whether the transition of mental health services to telepsychiatry during the pandemic was effective and began a literature review to find the answer.

The research team found, for the most part, the transition of mental health service delivery from face-to-face to telepsychiatry met or exceeded the expectations of patients and health-care providers. [The full story.](#)

COVID-19 Research

USask researchers in a wide range of fields are undertaking critical research to help combat COVID-19. [Read other stories.](#)

Health research



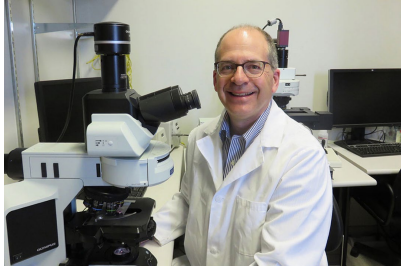
USask researchers explore breast cancer screening access for refugee women in Sask.

An interdisciplinary research team – including researchers from USask – have been exploring breast cancer awareness and preventative screening knowledge among Muslim Syrian newcomers to Saskatchewan.

Non-Western refugee women are particularly vulnerable to late-stage breast cancer diagnoses because the process to access preventative screening through the Western health care system is unclear. The study aims to design culturally appropriate health

promotion tools that increase knowledge about breast cancer and the importance of preventative screening and self-examination.

Researchers involved in the study include Drs. **Louise Racine** (PhD), **Sithokozile Maposa** (PhD), and **Susan Fowler-Kerry** (PhD) from the USask College of Nursing, Dr. **Hassan Vatanparast** (PhD) from the USask School of Public Health, and Dr. **Isil Andsoy** (PhD) of the Department of Nursing at Karabuk University, Turkey. [The full story.](#)



USask researchers take steps to develop new multiple sclerosis medications

Research from a USask College of Medicine team led by Dr. **Michael Levin** (MD) will help develop medications that can inhibit the nerve cell damage that occurs due to diseases such as multiple sclerosis, building on previous USask research that identified cell protein, A1, as being implicated in nerve degeneration.

The researchers demonstrated that A1 protein dysfunction causes a reduction in nerve cell growth. The researchers also identified three factors present in affected nerve cells of MS patients that are integral to address when developing medications to treat multiple sclerosis: compromised nerve cell function, increases in cell toxicity, and compromised stress adaptation of nerve cells.

The team is now focusing on testing medications to reverse neurodegeneration in nerve cells grown in the laboratory that mimic those found in MS patients. [The full story.](#)



USask research aims to increase cervical cancer screenings with at-home HPV testing

USask College of Medicine researcher Dr. **Jennifer Brown Broderick** (MD) has received \$280,000 for a pilot project intended to lower and remove barriers to cervical cancer screening for women living in under-served or remote areas.

Cervical cancer screenings in northern Saskatchewan and underserved populations, including immigrants and Indigenous women, are estimated to be as low as 19 per cent. The research project would bring HPV testing to women in their own homes, where a swab can be easily used to collect a sample for testing.

The project is also partially supported by community funding. Brown Broderick is the recipient of this year's \$100,000 Women Leading Philanthropy Grant presented by Royal University Hospital (RUH) Foundation in Saskatoon. [The full story.](#)

Food security research

USask chickpea research aims to improve important food source for low- and lower-middle income countries



USask researchers are part of a global team that used DNA to track the genetic evolution and migration of the chickpea, offering insights that could lead to more nutritious and adaptable varieties.

Dr. **Bunjamin Tar'an** (PhD) and Dr. **Amit Deokar** (PhD) of the USask College of Agriculture and Bioresources were involved in the overall research, sequencing the genetics of 200 Canadian chickpea plants, as well as performing associated data analyses.

Improvements in this important crop for the majority of the world could help achieve “zero hunger” on earth. An article on the study’s findings was **published in *Nature*** on Nov.

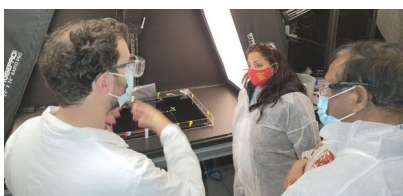
10. **The full story.**



Federal Government of Canada invests in Saskatchewan's agri-food sector

The Government of Canada is investing \$1.5 million to assist the Global Agri-Food Advancement Partnership (GAAP) in fostering innovation and sector growth.

The organization, a partnership between Ag-West Bio, the Global Institute for Food Security at USask, Innovation Place, and the Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre, will provide early stage companies with access to facilities, training, mentorship, concierge services, and investment over a three-year project period. **The full story.**



GIFS partnership with Bangladesh highlights bilateral trade, investment and cooperation opportunities

A recent visit from representatives of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Global Institute for Food Security at the University of Saskatchewan highlighted Saskatchewan's strong agri-food ecosystem, technology transfer and trade opportunities between the province and the country. A follow-on from **GIFS' partnership with the Government of Bangladesh**, the visit provided Mr. Tipu Munshi, Bangladesh Member of Parliament and Honorable Commerce Minister, as well as an accompanying delegation from his government, the opportunity to discuss bilateral cooperation, economic and investment opportunities with federal, provincial and municipal officials, as well as representatives from research and industry. **The full story.**



Coffee ground waste may be a lucrative tool to reduce carbon emissions: USask study

USask chemical engineering PhD candidate **Alivia Mukherjee** from the College of Engineering is investigating how spent coffee grounds can be used to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and add value to an abundant Canadian waste product.

Using USask's Canadian Light Source synchrotron technology and supervised by Dr. **Ajay K. Dalai** (PhD), coffee ground waste was treated with heat to change the surface characteristics of the coffee grounds. Treating the waste in this manner allows it to become more effective at storing carbon.

Mukherjee estimates the physically altered coffee ground waste that results from the thermal treatment could be sold for up to two dollars per pound as a new product for use in high carbon emissive industries. [The full story.](#)



Global Institute for Food Security CEO Steven Webb stepping down on Dec. 31

The Board of Directors of the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) at the University of Saskatchewan regrets to announce the resignation of its Executive Director and Chief

Executive Officer (CEO), Dr. **Steven Webb** (PhD).

Since GIFS, Webb led the launch of its new strategic plan for its second growth including a new vision of a world where everyone has access to safe and nutritious food. Webb joined GIFS in July 2019, following a successful career leading research and development in the agriculture industry. His last day at GIFS will be December 31, 2021. [The full story.](#)



P2IRC program director Andy Sharpe to take new government role

Dr. **Andrew Sharpe** (PhD) is moving on from his role as program director of the USask Plant Phenotyping and Imaging Research Centre (P2IRC) to take on a leadership role in the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) partnership with the Government of Bangladesh.

GIFS Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer Dr. **Steven Webb** (PhD) announced this role change at the P2IRC annual symposium in October 2021, thanking Sharpe for the great work and expertise that he brought to his role. The role of P2IRC program director will be filled by Dr. **Ian Stavness** (PhD).

Water security research

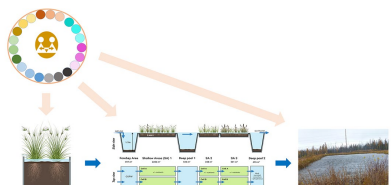


GWF participates in COP26

The COP26 summit brings parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Collaborators Dr. **John Pomeroy** (PhD) from USask, Dr. **Trevor Davies** from the University of East Anglia and Global Water Futures artist-in-residence **Gennadiy Ivanov** and

scientific attended COP26 this past week.



USask researcher participates in national water survey as part of oil sands research

USask School of Environment and Sustainability scientists – including Dr. **Lori Bradford** (PhD) and Dr. **Graham Strickert** (PhD) - are part of a Canada-wide team studying ways for plants and their associated microbes to clean up wastewater from oil sands operations.

The team, guided by Indigenous partners from Alberta and Saskatchewan, is studying how genomics in the system's plants, soils and organisms can be harnessed to biodegrade toxic organic compounds. A section of the team, led by Bradford, is studying the social sciences aspect of the research to explore legal, social and economic gaps in knowledge and practice, as well as public perceptions of the concept.

Both sections of the study will contribute to a sustainable, cost-effective method for remediating wastewater sources that is informed by history and acceptable to the public. [The full story.](#)



USask research aims to identify how 'thirsty' forests affect water availability

USask graduate Dr. **Magali Nehemy** (PhD) and her research team investigated how plants use water — where they get it, when they need it and how these processes impact overall water availability. Understanding the way plants use water can assist farmers in working efficiently and

productively.

The investigation considered how and when trees consume water — a process called transpiration — and worked to identify the age of the available water when it is consumed. The project also analyzed how water-consuming forests impact the water supply available to other plants.

Supervised by Drs. **Jeffrey McDonnell** (PhD) and **Colin Laroque** (PhD) from USask's Global Institute for Water Security, the work is the first of its kind in that it identifies trees constantly change where they are sourcing water from, causing a ripple effect of impact to other vegetation. [The full story.](#)



WAW re-brand and new podcast episodes

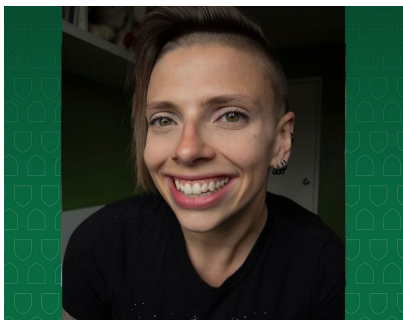
New name. New look. Same water science communication.

"*What About Water?*" connects water science with the stories that bring us solutions, adaptations, and actions for our world's changing water realities. Formerly "Let's Talk About Water".

This year the *What About Water?* podcast host Dr. **Jay Famiglietti** (PhD) speaks with guests on a huge variety of topics from reframing the climate conversation with Dr.

Katharine Hayhoe (PhD) to **Janet Pitsiulaaq Brewster** on how the people of Iqaluit are

Arts and humanities



Research examines Canada's shift to later parenthood

USask College of Arts and Science medical anthropology graduate student **Jessica Jack** is investigating why Canadian adults are choosing to have children later in life — or not at all — and the impacts of these decisions on the economy and political systems across the nation.

Supervised by Dr. **Pamela Downe** (PhD), the work seeks to discover how to best support individuals as they make reproductive decisions. Findings indicated that Canadians decide whether to become parents mainly based on three factors — the perceived weight of responsibility, the amount of community support available to them, and current societal norms surrounding the best time for parenthood.

The research is novel in that it examines a wide array of reproductive perspectives in Saskatchewan, including mothers, fathers, non-parents, and parents in the 2SLGBTQ+ community. [The full story.](#)



NY Times profiles USask researchers using radar to discover unmarked residential school graves

A video from the New York Times features the work being done by a team of archaeologists led in part by Dr. **Terence Clark** (PhD) of the USask College of Arts and Science, who came to the Muskowekwan First Nation to search for the unmarked graves of children.

The video, which also features several USask graduate students along with researchers from the University of Alberta, profiles the work of archeologists who—using ground-penetrating radar technology—can get a detailed look of disturbances in the ground.

[Watch the video.](#) (Warning: This video contains details some may find distressing.)



USask researcher uses evolutionary biology to bring medieval literature to new life, online

Italian poet Dante Alighieri's epic poem *Divine Comedy* (*Commedia*) is now available for free and in richer detail than ever before, thanks to a new online platform created with USask research.

USask researcher Dr. **Peter Robinson** (PhD) was integral to the development of the digital tools to create this new edition that breaks ground in many ways: it is the first edition of any major work by any author in any language to bring together, in a free online interface, full sets of images of seven key manuscripts and two modern editions—more than 2000 pages that were previously only available in select European libraries. [The full story.](#)



USask student artists revisit Picasso for Rемаi Modern exhibition

USask College of Arts and Science Bachelor of Fine Arts students **Atrayee Basu** and **Gabby DaSilva**, and Master of Fine Arts students **Emily Conlon**, **Louisa Ferguson** and **Jesse Fulcher Gagnon** helped add a Saskatchewan spin to the newest exhibition at the Rемаi Modern.

The students were invited to assist with building a sculpture by Adad Hannah as part of *Guernica Remastered*: a new exhibition at the museum in which contemporary artists created works inspired by Pablo Picasso's famous 1937 painting *Guernica*. The original painting depicts a scene of violence and chaos in the aftermath of a bombing, and the adapted result is a nearly life-sized version recreated with everyday materials—from a lampshade to an ironing board to a roasting pan.

Guernica Remastered can be seen at the Rемаi Modern from Oct. 9 until Feb. 27. [The full story.](#)

Commercialization



Engineering researcher develops process to add value to biodiesel fuel waste

USask College of Engineering researcher and Canada Research Chair in Bio-energy and Environmentally Friendly Chemical Processing Dr. **Ajay Dalai** (PhD) has been awarded an NSERC *Idea to Innovation* grant for a new process to turn glycerol waste into a value-added product

that can be used in the food, pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries.

Dalai's research focuses on further developing the patented process that converts glycerol waste from biodiesel fuel production into high-demand propylene glycol - reducing environmental strain and encouraging the use of biodiesel fuels in transportation to combat climate change.

Undergraduate research

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

STUDENT UNDERGRADUATE
RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**RESEARCH,
SCHOLARLY AND
ARTISTIC
SYMPOSIUM**

SURE Research, Scholarly and Artistic Works Fall 2021 Symposium

Research Acceleration and Strategic Initiatives is pleased to announce our new SURE (Student Undergraduate Research Experience) RSAW (Research Scholarly and Artistic Works)

Fall 2021 Symposium.

The Symposium will be held online via Canvas between Nov. 29 and Dec. 7, with the possibility of an in-person on-campus event on Dec. 7. All participants must create a pre-recorded presentation for sharing their research, scholarly, or artistic work.

Faculty who teach research-intensive and/or project-based or experiential courses, where students must give a presentation of results, are welcome to register their classes in the symposium, to showcase course-based research to the broader campus community. Individual student registrations are also welcome.

Registration is open [here](#) and will close Nov. 19. Questions can be directed to Dr. Merle Massie (PhD), Coordinator of Undergraduate Research Initiatives, at merle.massie@usask.ca. [Find more information here.](#)

Accolades



USask celebrates distinguished honorary degree recipients

On Nov. 10, as part of Fall Convocation celebrations, the university recognized Dr. **David Mulder** (MD) and Dr. **Wilfred Keller** (PhD) for their extraordinary career achievements

Keller received an Honorary Doctor of Science for his contributions to crop science research, including the application of genomics in canola breeding that had a tremendous impact and contributed to making the crop a made-in-Canada success story. Keller's work also contributed to the development of the first herbicide-tolerant canola variety in North America.

Mulder, team physician for the National Hockey League and esteemed surgeon, received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree. Mulder is credited with being the driving force in developing a province-wide trauma treatment system in Quebec in the 1980s, an advancement that helped to reduce the trauma-related mortality rate in the province by 50 per cent. [The full story.](#)



Vassileva earns Distinguished Researcher Award

Dr. **Julita Vassileva** (PhD) is the Fall Convocation recipient of the University of Saskatchewan's Distinguished Research Award, presented annually to recognize two faculty members who have demonstrated significant achievement and contributions to research, scholarly, and artistic works.

Vassileva, professor in the computer science department of the College of Arts and Science, is ranked by Stanford University as among the top 0.66 per cent of researchers in the world in the study of artificial intelligence and image processing. Vassileva runs a large, successful graduate program, having supervised 50 graduate students from diverse backgrounds who have gone on to great career success in academia and industry. Her work is highly regarded by the international research community and in Canada. [The full story.](#)

USask PhD student earns Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship for fungal research

USask PhD student **Jensen Cherewyk** has been awarded



one of Canada's most prestigious doctoral scholarships for leading-edge research into an overlooked compound formed by a toxic fungus in forage grasses and cereal grains.

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship is awarded to the top tier of doctoral scholarship applicants and provides \$35,000 a year for three years.

Cherewk's research focuses on mechanisms to detoxify important crops such as rye, wheat or barley of the ergot fungus, which can be dangerous for humans and animals to consume at certain levels. **The full story.**

From the OVPR



Campus Conversations on Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Works – Dec. 1

The Vice-President Research will hold the next Campus Conversations on Wednesday December 1, 2021 from 7:30 AM – 8:15 AM via Microsoft Teams.

Campus Conversations is an opportunity for all members of our campus - senior administrators, faculty, staff, students, post-doctoral fellows, and others – to meet with the Vice-President Research and fellow scholars to engage in

constructive discussions about research, scholarly, and artistic works at USask.

Please save the date in your calendar and **register online if you wish to attend**. A link will be circulated one day before the virtual event.



Office of the Vice-President Research staff contributes to UNESCO book series

Staff members from the Office of the Vice-President Research have co-written a chapter in the latest UNESCO International Bureau of Education series on Curriculum, Learning, and Assessment, titled "Curriculum and Learning for Climate Action - Toward an SDG 4.7 Roadmap for Systems Change."

The book turns to curricula, education systems, and communities for a response on how to effectively achieve Target 4.7 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Universal Education for Sustainable Development, and Global Citizenship Education. The book has been launched internationally, including at the recent 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference.

Co-authors of the chapter include **Irena F. Creed, Meghna Ramaswamy,**

Telling your research story

USASK RESEARCH PROFILE AND IMPACT

Follow USask Research Profile & Impact on LinkedIn

Follow the USask Research Profile and Impact page to stay in the know, with exciting research news delivered right to your LinkedIn newsfeed. As a unit of the Office of the Vice-President Research, our mission is to help share USask research stories with the world.

We will be sharing current research, exciting findings, new research directions and partnerships regularly. Come see what we're up to at USask by making us part of your professional network, and check back often for updates.



Share your research story on social media

Use the hashtag **#USaskResearch** when sharing about USask-related research findings, publications or achievements on social media. Using our hashtag will allow OVPR and USask to find your posts and share them on our own channels. You can also search the hashtag at any time to find relevant research-related content. Don't forget to follow **@VPR_USask** and **@USask** on Twitter for the latest research and university news.

In THE CONVERSATION

I'm an infectious disease doctor. Yes, I'm vaccinating our 5-year-old against COVID-19. Here is why you should too.

USask infectious disease specialist Dr. **Alexander Wong** (MD)

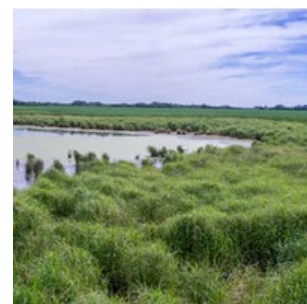
An infectious diseases doctor reviews the evidence, discusses hesitancy and concerns about side-effects and explains the overwhelming case for vaccinating five-to-11-year-olds, including his own son.



To be resilient, the Canadian Prairie needs lots of wetlands

USask water researchers Dr. **Colin Whitfield**, (PhD) and Dr. **Christopher Spence** (PhD)

More than 40 per cent of natural wetlands in the Canadian Prairies have been lost due to drainage, and the impacts associated with this are largely unmitigated.



Write about your own research in The Conversation

USask is a founding member of The Conversation Canada, an online academic journalism hub/newswire where researchers write plain-language editorials and explainer articles about their research. Articles written by USask researchers have been read more than 3.5 million times since the university entered into a partnership with the SSHRC-funded Conversation Canada in June 2017.

Writing is easier than you think!

Watch a video from Conversation Canada Editor-in-Chief Scott White.



Want to reach a broad audience with your research? Consider pitching an item to the Conversation. **Wondering where to start? Read a short explainer on how to write for The Conversation Canada. Read previous USask articles here and get in touch with Research Profile and Impact.**

Opportunities



USask provides “PAWSitive” toolkit for service dog organizations working with veterans

In commemoration of Remembrance Day, registration is now open for a free online course, led by USask health researchers, for service dog organizations working with veterans.

Dr. **Colleen Dell** (PhD), USask Research One Health and Wellness, and a team of experts have put together a course as part of a toolkit that informs service dog trainers about recovery from substance use harms; the important role of peer support; and connection to animals, humans, and the land in the wellness of veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. This self-paced, two-hour course will be available in January 2022 and includes an online certificate and is funded by Health Canada’s Substance Use and Addictions Program.

Watch the trailer [here](#). Service dog organization staff and volunteers can register [here](#).

Upcoming events



Webinar: Pivotal Research and Innovation Advance Fruit and Vegetable Science

Join us for a special webinar in honour of the 2021 International Year of Fruits and Vegetables *and* 100 Years of Horticulture at USask! Dr. **Cecil Stushnoff** (PhD) of Colorado State University will be presenting "Pivotal Research and Innovation Advance Fruit and Vegetable Science".



SSHRC Matters research series – late November/early December

All are welcome to attend as we highlight how SSHRC Matters to the graduate student research experience at the University of Saskatchewan. An event date will be announced in the near future.

The first session of the series will start our conversation on social science, humanities, and artistic research where it all begins: with recognition of the fundamental research relationship between graduate students and their supervisors. Guests for the event include stellar USask researchers and graduate students who have been awarded SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships: Dr. **Ryan Walker** and **Joel Bernbaum** (Interdisciplinary), Dr. **Jorden Cummings** and **Whitney Willcott-Benoit** (Psychology), and Dr. **Ken Coates** and **Oxana Pimenova** (Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy).

The event will be co-hosted by Office of the Vice-President Research SSHRC Lead, Dr. **Dawn Wallin**, and the Dean of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, Dr. **Debby Burshtyn**. **Register for the event and keep watch for an official event date here.**



Robertson Lecture featuring Dr. Kai Chan – Nov. 17 at 7 PM CST

The Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy and the Centre for the Study of Science and Innovation Policy are pleased to host the second annual **Robertson**

Lecture as a way to bring together thought leaders, academics, students and community members to discuss knowledge on current issues related to science and innovation policy in Canada.

With an accelerating climate and ecological crisis, floods, fires, extinctions, and heat domes are the new normal. In this talk, Dr. Chan will address what we know about the causes of the climate and ecological crises, why 132 of the world's nations concluded that transformative system change was the only desirable way forward, and what law and policy reform might achieve that. He'll review what we know about how deep social change happens, and what science says about how individuals can spark change.

The event will be held via Zoom. **Find more information. Register.**



Gender, Health and Social Justice Speaker Series – select Fridays at 10-11:30 AM PST

Presented by Canada Research Chairs in the Historical Dimensions of Women's Health and Health and Social Justice, the series will expose attendees to some of the exciting and innovative research being done in the history

of gender and health – topics to be discussed include histories of birth control, vasectomy, health technologies, and public health, from global perspectives ranging from Canada, to Britain, to India.

Featured speakers in the series include Dr. **Urvi Desai**, PhD (McGill University), **Georgia Grainger** (University of Strathclyde), Dr. **Ipshita Nath**, PhD (University of Saskatchewan), **Jennifer Fraser** (University of Toronto) and a Q&A session with the North American Editors of the journal *Gender & History*.

The first event will be held Nov. 19 at 10 AM PST, when **Urvi Desai** of McGill University will discuss "Birth Control in India: Women's Stories, Health, and Technology, 1930-1960s" with various other dates offered until April 2022. Register for each event you would like to attend [here](#).



Conference on HIV and hepatitis C vital to addressing rising rates in Saskatchewan – Nov. 25-26

Pewaseskwan - the Indigenous Wellness Research Group, based in the College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, is hosting the Sask Stories Provincial Conference on HIV and Hepatitis C Wise/Promising Practices on Nov. 25 and 26.

The conference will feature activities that show cultural responsiveness and effectiveness in curbing the impact of HIV and HCV in the province. There will be presentations by Prairie Harm Reduction, Wellness Wheel and the Saskatchewan Infectious Diseases Care Network, among others.

The hybrid conference will take place at the Dakota Dunes Resort on the Whitecap Dakota First Nation, with the option of attending virtually by Zoom. The event will share knowledge about HIV and hepatitis C (HCV) programming in Saskatchewan. Free registration for the conference is now **open**. [Find more information](#).

In the news

- The month's top stories:
 - **USask researchers take steps to develop new multiple sclerosis treatments** was seen by more than 68 million readers, and featured by *CTV News*, *MSN News Canada*, and *The Star Phoenix*
 - **USask provides 'PAWSitive' toolkit for service dog organizations working with veterans** was seen by more than 28.5 million, and featured in the *National Post*, *Toronto Star*, and *CBC Radio*
 - **Have a kid with a cough? One-third of Canadians think parents will still send children to school while sick: USask survey** was read by nearly 23 million, and featured in *CBC News Network* coverage, as well as by *The Globe and Mail*, and *Toronto Star*
 - **CEPI awards USask's VIDO \$6M for vaccine development** was seen by an estimated 8.4 million, and featured by *Global News*, *Research Money*, and *Academica*
 - **Wearing a surgical face mask as protection from COVID-19 does not affect performance of youth hockey players: USask study** was seen by 6.6 million, and

- USask's COVID-19 research has been featured in:
 - Oct. 20 - *Global News* - **Wearing a mask won't affect children's performance on the ice: USask study**
 - Oct. 20 - *CTV News* - **University of Sask. study finds no physiological impacts for minor hockey players wearing facemasks**
 - Oct. 30 - *CTV W5* - **The Next Pandemic**
 - Oct. 31 - *CBC News* - **How the technology used to make COVID-19 vaccines could improve flu shots**
 - Nov. 2 - *CBC News* - **Sask. researchers see downward trends in COVID-19 wastewater testing**
 - Nov. 4 - *Global News*, *The Star Phoenix*, *CTV News*, *BioPharma Reporter*, and *The Telegraph* - **USask VIDO team receives \$6M from international epidemic coalition**
 - Nov. 5 - *CBC The Nature of Things* – **Inside the Great Vaccine Race**
- Other USask research has also been featured in:
 - Oct. 13 - *CBC News* - **Wild pigs running amok in Saskatchewan: researcher**
 - Oct. 19 - *Maclean's* - **Meet the University of Saskatchewan student behind Canada's COVID-19 tracker**
 - Oct. 21 - *CJWW 600* - **USask Creating Tumour Bank in Ovarian Cancer Research**
 - Oct. 25 - *The Medium* - **Healthy eating, student living and meal ideas**
 - Oct. 27 - *620 CKRM* - **USask researchers use waste straw to remove arsenic from drinking water**
 - Nov. 1 - *Regina Leader-Post* and *Saskatoon StarPhoenix* - **Sask. prof hopeful work on a new MS treatment could stop disease progression**
 - Nov. 6 - *CBC News* - **Sask. pilot project helping trans, gender diverse people access health-care needs**
 - Nov. 8 - *Manitoba Co-operator* - **Risk and reward**
 - Nov. 9 - *GraiNews* - **New cereal varieties for 2022**
 - Nov. 9 - *Tech Xplore* - **Coffee ground waste may be a lucrative tool to reduce carbon emissions**
 - Nov. 9 - *RealAgriculture* - **The Agronomists, Ep 45: Jeff Schoenau and Merrin Macrae on managing phosphorus losses**
 - Nov. 10 - *Global News* - **Health Canada funds training program for service dogs for veterans with PTSD**
 - Nov. 11 - *CJWW* - **Veteran Service Dogs Can Save a Life**
 - Nov. 12 - *Canadian Cattlemen* - **USask PhD student earns Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship for fungal research**



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