

October 2021 - Issue 45

In this issue: Two new USask facilities announced for insect research and engineering biology, Major new CIHR funding for USask researchers, Drugs and industrial chemicals found in Saskatoon wastewater, USask celebrates 50 years of Gerhard Herzberg's Nobel Prize, new insights into

cystic fibrosis uncovered, 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



USask researchers awarded more than \$4.45 million for six health-related projects

Dr. Alexandra King (MD, FRCPC) and Dr. Malcolm King (PhD) will receive more than \$2.4 million for two projects using Indigenous ways of being and doing to influence change in the justice system and delivery of mental health and addictions services.

USask also received funding for projects tackling issues ranging from understanding COVID-19 variants to addressing cystic fibrosis at a cellular level. USask College of Medicine researchers awarded include Dr. **Oleg Dmitriev** (PhD), Dr. **Juan Ianowski** (PhD), Dr. **Anil Kumar** (PhD), and Dr. **Franco Vizeacoumar** (PhD).

The funding is awarded through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Projects program. **The full story.**



Saskatchewan government announces \$3.2M in funding to the Global Institute for Food Security

Innovation Saskatchewan and the Ministry of Agriculture have announced \$3.2 million in funding to the Global Institute for Food Security's (GIFS) new engineering biology centre at the University of Saskatchewan. Engineering Biology combines the power of automation and digitization, plus biology and computation (ABC) to rapidly scale up the design and production of more nutritious and sustainable crops and food products.

The new facility will enable the agri-food industry rapidly create reagents, proteins, and peptides on a much larger scale - for the efficient and sustainable production of safe and nutritious food. It will also help make Saskatchewan the engineering biology hub for agriculture in Canada, growing the province's profile as a centre for the delivery of biomanufacturing services to support the agri-food and biotechnology sectors. **The full story**.



USask announces new Insect Research Facility

The new USask Insect Research Facility (USIRF) will be the first of its kind in a western Canadian university and one of only a handful of facilities in the country specifically designed to conduct research on arthropod plant pests and beneficial insects.

The new research facility will aim to develop innovative and sustainable pest management strategies for various western Canadian crops, including canola, wheat, oats and barley—and will help to predict pest outbreaks and reduce pesticide use.

The USIRF will be led by Dr. **Sean Prager** (PhD), the first entomologist at USask's College of Agriculture and Bioresources. **The full story.**

COVID-19 Research



Strong support for COVID measures

A national survey by USask's Canadian Hub for Applied and Social Research (CHASR) in September shows more than one-third of Canadians don't trust parents to keep their COVID-symptomatic children home from school. The survey asked about the extent to which COVID-19 may be a problem in schools, and people's response to public

health guidelines.

Among other findings, the majority of respondents support strict measures such as requiring masking in indoor public spaces. Responses from regions in Canada varied, with Prairie respondents more permissive on many health measures than were Central and Atlantic Canadians. The vaccination rate among respondents in all regions except the Prairies was 90 per cent or higher. **The full story.**

New funding will help predict SARS-CoV-2 variants and protect vulnerable populations

Dr. Alyson Kelvin (PhD), a scientist at USask's Vaccine and



Infectious Disease Organization, was awarded nearly half a million dollars to assess COVID-19 vaccine efficacy including against virus variants in vulnerable populations —immunosuppressed and older individuals typically

respond less effectively to vaccines.

Samples from study participants in Canada, Italy, and Rwanda will be analyzed to determine if antibodies generated by vaccination or infection can neutralize the viruses, and to identify viruses that are able to 'escape' this neutralization.

This project is funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research Emerging COVID-19 Research Gaps and Priorities Fund. **The full story**.



USask researchers explore Canadian transit agencies public response efforts to COVID-19

USask College of Arts and Science geography and planning researchers, Dr. **Ehab Diab** (PhD), **Fabian Diaz**, and **Sarmad Abbasi**, conducted a review of how Canadian transit agencies used their websites and social media platforms to communicate with the public about COVID-

19.

Findings included that the largest transit agencies implemented the greatest COVID-19 response communication efforts. The least accessible information across all agencies was the number of cases reported in the transit workforce.

Published in Transportational Research Interdisciplinary Perspectives, the paper hopes to inform policymakers and transit planners on the most common communications efforts to help maintain operations during unprecedented times. **Read the full publication.**

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 research contributes to understanding of cystic fibrosis

USask researchers are hopeful a new understanding of cellular defects related to cystic fibrosis (CF) could help pave the way for treatment of the disease.

A team in the College of Medicine led by Drs. **Juan Ianowski** (PhD) and **Julian Tam** (MD) found that sodium transport is abnormal in lungs with CF. The researchers, affiliated with the Respiratory Research Centre, studied the swine model of CF and used a specialized microelectrode technique that allowed them to perform experiments with very high resolution.

Their findings were published in the highly regarded journal *Cell Reports* on Oct. 5. **The full story**.



USask researchers highlight voices of people with addictions to improve services

As part of a research study called **P5 Project YXE**, researchers in the USask School of Public Health are talking to people in Saskatoon who have experience with problematic substance use, to hear their ideas on what changes to programs and policies could help improve

addiction care locally and provincially.

Adjunct faculty member Dr. **Barb Fornssler** (PhD) and her team are interviewing individuals from multiple employment scenarios to learn how people in different economic groups access addiction services—or whether people avoid seeking support because of stigma or fear over losing their job.

The project aim is to lead to a change in perceptions around substance use. **The full story**.



SPH researcher helps maternal-child health program serving Indigenous families identify success factors

A PhD project led by Dr. **Charlene Thompson** (PhD) in the USask School of Public Health has identified ways the already-strong KidsFirst North program in northern Saskatchewan can have an even greater impact on the health of Indigenous children.

To discover the strengths of the program and areas for improvement, group discussions and individual interviews conducted among key stakeholders determined the success factors of the program and highlighted where policy changes may further improve the infrastructure of program delivery.

The project informs future organizational and program development among similar initiatives in Canada that support maternal-child health in Indigenous communities. **The full story**.

Research aims to improve CPR and patient outcomes

Western College of Veterinary Medicine graduate student, **Rory Marshall**, and his research team, including assistant professor Dr. **Dylan Olver** (PhD), investigated the best location on the chest to perform compressions



during cardiopulmonary resuscitation to maximize blood flow to the brain.

It was determined that performing chest compressions over the left ventricle of the heart —as opposed to the sternum—allowed more blood and oxygen to travel to the brain. This is the first research to demonstrate the effects of chest compression location on neurological outcomes.

This new knowledge could lead to more lives saved and improved recoveries for patients following a cardiac episode. **The full story.**



USask researcher crosses biological boundaries to discover insights into multiple sclerosis

USask College of Medicine PhD candidate **Cole Libner** and his research team, including Dr. **Michael Levin** (PhD), have tackled the question of how to decelerate or halt the devastating neurodegeneration caused by MS.

The team used laboratory imaging for observation and

were able to see the immune cells physically entering the nerve cells containing the A1 proteins and causing further damage. This is the first research to observe immune cells physically entering nerve cells.

The finding allows research scientists and clinicians to develop a deeper understanding of how and under what conditions nerve cells are affected by antibodies during disease progression. **The full story.**



USask researcher and Paralympian seeks plant-based solution to iron deficiency

USask PhD candidate, Keely Shaw, is investigating how a new breed of field peas developed by the USask Crop Development Centre may allow for a pharmaceuticalfree fix to iron deficiency worldwide. The supplement can offer a solution to those with dietary restrictions or preferences that do not include animal products – the most recommended way to increase iron intake.

Preliminary results of Shaw's study have shown the new breed of field peas improves hemoglobin levels in female runners and helped them to reach their recommended daily iron intake. The research is supervised by Dr. Phil Chilibeck (PhD), a professor in the College of Kinesiology, and Dr. Gordon Zello (PhD), a professor in the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition. **The full story.**

Animal health



USask research featured in *Nature*: How local communities helped polar scientists during the pandemic

USask School of Environment and Sustainability researcher Dr. **Douglas Clark** (PhD) is currently working on a wildlife-camera project to non-invasively monitor bears and how they interact with humans and human infrastructure.

In a Q/A interview with **Erica Gillis**, the former Churchill Northern Studies Centre (CNSC) research manager

explains how research was able to continue at the CNSC with help from the local community, despite travel restrictions and lockdowns. Traditionally, northerners have been excluded from research in their own communities, or their participation and contributions devalued. Now, the CNSC has a new blueprint for future community partnerships. **Read the full Nature article.**



Multi-species bacteria is a threat to Canadian swine industry

A previously innocuous bacterium that's considered to be part of a pig's biological makeup is causing increased cases of fever and death among Canadian swine herds. *S.zooepidemicus* usually affects older pigs, and its initial clinical signs include a lack of appetite and lethargy. Some

pigs remain asymptomatic although infected, perpetuating the spread.

Dr. **Matheus Costa** (DVM, PhD), a swine medicine specialist at USask, and his research team are trying to determine what will slow the spread of S. zooepidemicus in barns, whether that includes workers washing their boots, testing every animal, or depopulating a barn - and the possible development of non-antibiotic therapies and prevention strategies to reduce disease severity. **The full story.**

Food security research



Nutrien and other founding partners endorse Global Institute for Food Security's strategic direction for second phase of growth

Following a successful phase of operations and a new corporate strategy, Nutrien, the Government of Saskatchewan and USask have endorsed the renewed direction of the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS),

reconfirming their Memorandum of Agreement and additional funding to support the institute's next phase of growth.

Current initiatives underway at GIFS as part of its new phase of operations include its research and development to boost photosynthesis in crops, the process by which plants use sunlight to convert water and carbon dioxide into energy and food.

The Nutrien investment in GIFS will support the public-private partnership's focus on connecting the agri-food value chain in efforts to enhance environmental and social sustainability. **The full story**.

Water security research



USask researchers and the City of Saskatoon discover drug, chemical concentrations in wastewater treatment plant

The USask and City of Saskatoon research partnership, Research Junction, has led to the identification of recreational drug and industrial chemical levels in Saskatoon's wastewater system.

Industrial chemicals, illicit drugs, dyes, and human drug metabolites were detected using screening-level analyses. These include methamphetamine, insecticides, and fabric and plastic dyes. The impacts on organisms exposed to these substances in the surrounding river ecosystem were evaluated.

The study was led by USask's principal investigator Dr. **Markus Brinkmann** (PhD) of the School and Environment and Sustainability, and City of Saskatoon's wastewater treatment plant manager **Mike Sadowski. The full story.**



City and USask study rubber tire-derived chemicals in stormwater

High concentrations of tire rubber chemicals were found in Saskatoon's stormwater runoff, according to a recent City of Saskatoon-USask research collaboration spearheaded by USask School of Environment and Sustainability researcher, Dr. **Markus Brinkmann** (PhD),

and director of Saskatoon Water, Ross Munro.

Water that enters storm drains, through snowmelt or rain runoff, flows into the South Saskatchewan River. The study indicates that high concentrations of tire rubber chemicals may relate to occasional but intense rainstorms in the summer and snowmelt in the winter.

High levels of these chemicals have been related to wildlife mortality in other regions and the City has many initiatives in place to counteract these effects. **The full story**.



USask researchers awarded over \$440,000 in SSHRC funding to kickstart research with social impact

Seven USask researchers have been awarded nearly \$445,000 in funding to support multiple projects that bridge history and social innovation.

The varied projects focus on many facets of the social sciences and humanities - including examining the impacts

of state intervention in 20th century Métis road allowance communities, assessing how transnational networks of 2SLGBTQ+ individuals in 1950s Europe continue to inspire social activism, and evaluating strategies to support the civilian reintegration of former child soldiers in Uganda.

The funding—Insight Development Grants awarded by Canada's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)—is intended to support research in its initial stages for up to two years. **The full story including project summaries**.



Driving a more efficient transit system

USask computer science researcher from the USask College of Arts and Science, Dr. **Debajyoti Mondal** (PhD), in partnership with Saskatoon Transit, is undertaking a project to improve transit services in Saskatoon and beyond.

Algorithms and prediction models will improve the

understanding of how the transport sectors are impacted by public mobility behavior in a variety of scenarios, such as seasonal changes, road construction, city expansion, or emergency situations like the COVID-19 pandemic.

The project aims to develop fast and trustworthy transit analytics that will evaluate ridership data to uncover their behaviors and transportation needs, allowing planners to make data-driven decisions to optimize transit services. **The full story**.



USask researcher aims to empower Indigenous youth

USask School of Environment and Sustainability graduate student **Mariana Campos Rivera**, along with supervisor Dr. **James Robson** (PhD), is investigating how Indigenous youth benefit from sharing their territorial and cultural knowledge with one another.

Youth selected for the study had developed initiatives

focused on various aspects of traditional knowledge in their home communities, including food security, language revitalization, textiles, art, and territorial rights, which are then collated into a digital platform for peers and community members to access and connect.

The goal is to identify what Indigenous youth know about their home territories and cultures and explore how they can learn by sharing and connecting with their peers and communities. **The full story.**



Hounds of hope: USask researcher investigates how service dogs can improve the mental health of veterans

USask sociology MA candidate **Alexandria Pavelich** is exploring how suicidality in military veterans may be mitigated by the presence of service dogs and how this relationship positively influences mental health. The work

is supervised by Dr. Colleen Dell (PhD).

Through interviews with veterans who worked with a psychiatric service dog, the findings indicated that service dogs provide a companionable relationship with an animal that allows people to feel like they matter—reducing risk for suicidality and other mental health concerns.

Widespread recognition of the benefits of animal companionship has the potential to reduce burdens on the health care system. **The full story.**

Undergraduate research



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 commemorates Herzberg Nobel Prize with new international student award

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of **Gerhard Herzberg**'s Nobel Prize this fall, USask chemistry department has created a new student award—the Herzberg International Equity Award—which will assist almost 50 students from 20 countries this year.

Herzberg was widely considered the world's foremost molecular spectroscopist when he won the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1971. His work, both at USask and at the National Research Council in Ottawa, revealed the structure of many molecules and the energy they contain—knowledge that has had a major impact in a wide range of fields, from astronomy to zoology.

The goal of the student award is to celebrate Herzberg's legacy and improve access to USask's chemistry program for international graduate students. **The full story.**



USask researcher named recipient of AGE-WELL Honorary Fellow Award

College of Medicine researcher Dr. **Carrie Bourassa** (PhD) has been named one of two recipients of the 2021 AGE-WELL Honorary Fellow Awards.

Bourassa is also the scientific director of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Institute of

Indigenous Peoples' Health (IIPH). Through IIPH, she leads the advancement of a national health research agenda to improve and promote the health of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples in Canada.

The award recognizes members of the AGE-WELL network who have made long term and substantial contributions to research and innovation in the AgeTech sector, as well as a significant contribution to AGE-WELL. **The full story**.

From the OVPR



USask Signature Areas Renewal update

September was a busy and productive month for the USask Signature Areas of Research renewal process, led by Dr. **Airini**, Provost and VP Academic and Dr. **Baljit Singh**, Vice President Research. A total of 16 pitches were heard across the academy, meant to refresh **these areas of focus**.

Drs. Airini and Singh are grateful for those who created pitches, the hard work of the steering committee and all members of the USask community who have taken part in

this invigorating process so far. The steering committee will now begin the work of evaluating the pitches, and will report back to the academy prior to the end of 2021.

Visit the **Signature Areas of Research Renewal website**. The feedback surveys on the pitches are now closed, however, the videos and executive summaries remain available for review.

USask faculty mentorship program



Under the leadership of **Laura Zink**, Director of Research Acceleration and Strategic Initiatives and her team, efforts are taking place to revitalize and develop a university-wide mentorship program for faculty. Candidates were sought out to envision and lead early-

stage implementation of an institution-wide program supporting early-career and/or newto-USask faculty members as well as faculty seeking support in re-focusing or revitalizing their research and academic interests.

The three individuals chosen for the roles include:

Dr. Kristina Bidwell, is a full professor in the Department of English in the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Bidwell's research areas include Indigenous storytelling and its social functions within the community.

Dr. Petros Papagerakis, is associate dean, research and graduate affairs, in the College of Dentistry. His research interests include circadian biology applied to oral and systemic precision health, and in the area of dental tissue repair and regeneration.

Dr. Jaswant Singh, is a full professor in the Department of Veterinary Biomedical Sciences at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. His research is focused on the study of maternal reproductive aging and oocyte competence in ruminants to develop reproductive technologies for clinical applications.

Over the next month the team will be coming together with plans to reach out to the broader community in November.



Campus Conversations on Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Works

The Vice-President Research is hosting the second Campus Conversation on Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2021 from 4-4:45 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.

Campus Conversation 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.

Telling your research story



Plain Language for Researchers Lunch-and-Learn – Oct.

Resilia 20

USask's Research Profile and Impact (RPI) unit is joining

forces with the University of Regina and the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation to present Plain Language for Researchers lunch-and-learn session at noon on Oct. 20.

Dr. **Nazeem Muhajarine** (PhD) of the USask College of Medicine will share from his extensive experience as a public spokesperson and in knowledge translation—especially during the pandemic. Communications experts, including RPI Director **Heather Persson**, will be on hand to offer guidance and answer questions.

The event will help celebrate Health Research Week, however, the session is open to researchers from any area of study. **Sign up and find more information here**.

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RESEARCH PROFILE AND IMPACT 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

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



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.

Upcoming events



"Making Cents" of Coins at the Museum of Antiquities —Oct. 16

Join USask Museum of Antiquities experts to learn about the coins on display. This workshop will be held online and in person. There will be a limit of 10 attendees for the inperson portion.

The workshop will be held Saturday, Oct. 16, 2021 at 1-4 pm CST, online and in person at the Museum of Antiquities. The museum is located in Room 106, Peter MacKinnon Building, 107 Administration Place, University of Saskatchewan. The event is free to attend. To register: Email **museum_antiquities@usask.ca** or call 306-966-7818.



The Digital P2IRC Symposium - Oct. 20-21 (online)

Hosted by the **Global Institute for Food Security** (GIFS) at USask, the 6th annual P2IRC Symposium is free to

attend.

Recorded presentations from a diverse program of speakers will be brought to life with live Q&A sessions, while dedicated networking rooms will provide attendees a chance to engage with world-renowned researchers, industry representatives, students and others in-between sessions.

The event will also feature the 6th annual P²IRC Student Poster Competition. **Click here to register.**



Passionate English Diction – Oct. 29

A Fine Arts Research Lecture Series (FARLS) talk by Dr. **Elroy Friesen** (DMA). Choirs and singers often struggle to get English "off the page" in a natural, unaffected manner. Understanding and embracing the inherent characteristics of English is key to clear expression of the text.

This lecture will examine where English lies in the context of Romance and Germanic

languages. Clear comparisons and contrasts between languages and careful examination of how we actually "speak" English, will provide a useful set of tools for singers in ensemble and solo settings of all musical styles. The event will be held on Zoom at **this link.**



Impact and Response to Food Fraud in Canada webinar —Nov. 10

Public attention is captured by recent reports on food fraud concerning food oil, honey, juice, syrup, and meat products. Economically motivated adulteration (food

fraud) are subjects of increasing concern from regulators, retailers, producers, and researchers.

A growing catalog of detection methods is used to monitor and enforce regulations and quality standards to protect consumers and producers from health and economic impacts of food fraud.

In partnership with the American Oil Chemists' Society, this webinar panel moderated by USask postdoctoral fellow Dr. **Sarah Purdy** (PhD) features guests from government, industry, and research sectors together to discuss the current issues and practices of food fraud defense.

Panelists include Mitacs award winner Yaxi Hu (Health Canada), and consultant for Shantalla.org, John Keogh. There will be a virtual "**MidWeek Mixer**" on Oct. 21, 12 pm CST associated with the event, for industry professionals to network and discuss.

Register for the public event (recordings will be available to registrants.)



Department of Surgery Resident Research Day—Nov. 23 (Online)

Celebrate resident research in the Department of Surgery.

Residents are encouraged to submit abstracts to **Karen Mosier** by **Tuesday, Oct. 12**. Late submissions will not be accepted. Each oral presentation will be 10 minutes in

length followed by five minutes for discussion.

Contact Karen Mosier (karen.mosier@usask.ca) or Dr. Daryl Fourney with any questions.



Proliferate—Works on Paper—gallery available Sept. 15-Dec. 18

Curated by **Leah Taylor**, *Proliferate* brings together a selection of works on paper from USask's accumulative and vast art collection. Developed through close investigation of the vault's map drawers and racks—containing works often out of sight—this exhibition

ultimately presents a disparate range of artists and movements in a non-linear format,

ranging from the 19th century through to the 21st century.

Visit at the College Art Galleries I and II, Peter MacKinnon Building, 107 Administration Place. For more information, visit **http://artsandscience.usask.ca/galleries**.



derdie: PLAY – available Oct. 8-Dec. 18

derdie is the collaboration

between **Derek Sandbeck** and **Andie Palynchuk**, two interdisciplinary artists situated on Treaty 6 Territory. Derek and Andie have worked together on numerous projects, both personally and professionally, curating and producing a variety of programming.

Both enable creative expression while developing imaginations and expanding spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional states. derdie's goal is to construct an arena where play and art coalesce, creating space to assess societal norms, break down barriers, and connect communities by cultivating joy.

Visit the collaborative exhibition of visual, interactive and performance art by two interdisciplinary artists at Kenderdine Art Gallery, Agriculture Building, 51 Campus Dr. **Find more information here.**



11th International Conference on Isotopes – June 19-23, 2022

Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation, in partnership with USask and **Tourism Saskatoon** will host the 11th International Conference on Isotopes (11ICI) from June 19-23, 2022. In anticipation of this prestigious

event, which is expected to attract more than 400 delegates from around the world, members of the World Council of Isotopes were in Saskatoon for a site visit on Sept. 27 and 28.

The visiting delegation included President of the World Council of Isotopes (WCI), Prof. Jong Kyung Kim (South Korea), Secretary-General of the Secretariat of WCI, Mr. Woo-Geun Song (South Korea), WCI President Elect Representative, Mr. Paul Dickman (United States), and WCI Immediate Past President, Dr. Nigel R. Stevenson (United States).

USask President **Peter Stoicheff**, Vice-President Research **Baljit Singh** and Saskatoon Mayor **Charlie Clark** welcomed the visiting team at several events. **Find more information about 11ICI here.**

In the news

• The month's top stories:

• USask researchers and the City of Saskatoon discover drug, chemical concentrations in wastewater treatment plant. The story was featured

by Global News, CTV News, and Water Canada, and seen by more than 5.6 million people.

New funding will help predict SARS-CoV-2 variants and protect vulnerable populations. The story was featured by The Globe and Mail, CTV News, and Education News Canada, and seen by nearly 3 million people.

• USask researchers awarded more than \$4.45 million for six health-related projects. The story was featured by the Regina Leader-Post, NationTalk, and Education News Canada, and seen by more than 700,000 readers.

- USask's COVID-19 research has been featured in:
 - Sept. 27 *CBC News* Researchers doing wastewater testing find COVID-19 spikes in Saskatoon and North Battleford

• Oct. 12 - Prince Albert Daily Herald - USask survey gauges response to COVID-19 health guidelines

- Other USask research has also been featured in:
 - Sept. 13 Precision Oncology News University of Saskatchewan to Advance
 Ovarian Cancer Tumor Bank, Genetic Test With Government Grant
 - Sept. 15 Saskatoon StarPhoenix U of S, City of Saskatoon launch four practical research projects

• Sept. 17 - CJWW - USask Chemistry Department Creates New Student Award in Honour of Famed Scientist Gerhard Herzberg

• Sept. 23 - *HortiDaily* - USask expands with new greenhouses and plant growth chambers

 Sept. 25 - Saskatoon StarPhoenix - U of S researchers study flow of human pharmaceuticals into South Saskatchewan River

• Sept. 28 - *MBC Radio* - U of S research project finds jurisdictional policy hindering northern resource for Indigenous children

• Sept. 29 - Western Producer - Groups fund new U of S bug lab

Oct. 1 - Saskatoon StarPhoenix - Federal health agency awards U of S researchers more than \$4M

• Oct. 1 - 620 CKRM - U of S sets up new 1.2 million dollar crop insect research facility

• Oct. 7 - *Devdiscourse* - Researchers attempt better understanding of cystic fibrosis

• Oct. 8 - *Global News* - Future crop threats to be housed, studied inside Saskatchewan insect facility

 Oct. 8 - The Globe and Mail - Unlocking the power of pulses for meeting demand for plant-based protein and feeding the world

• Oct. 11 - *CBC News* - Most Sask. residents believe climate change humancaused but fewer willing to act: survey

• Oct. 12 - Swift Current Online - Gov't Commits \$3.2 Million Towards New Engineering Biology Centre



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