Discovery Digest

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

February 2022 - Issue 49

In this issue: New USask Signature Areas of Research are announced, the USask *Visiting* video series featuring Indigenous researchers launches, USask wastewater research makes a splash, researchers tackle keeping edible food out of landfills, and 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!

This Month's Stories

New USask Signature Areas of Research announced

After a collaborative process that included input from more than 600 members of the USask community, three new signature areas of research have been selected.

The areas are Communities and Sustainability (proponent leads: **Doug Clark** and **Marc-Andre Pigeon**), Health and Wellness (proponent leads: **John Gordon, Alexandra King, Sylvia Abonyi, Jennifer Lang, Dean McNeill, Nazeem Muhajarine, Cory Neudorf, Thilina Bandara, Ulrich Teucher, Avi Akkerman, Laura Wright**) and Quantum Innovation (proponent lead: **Steven Rayan**).

USask's six current signature areas — Agriculture, Energy and Mineral Resources, Indigenous Peoples, Synchrotron Sciences, One Health and Water Security — were

selected a decade ago after a campus-wide consultation process. These will remain, although Water Security and Energy and Mineral Resources will undergo updates based on pitches presented in the renewal process. The other four areas will be reviewed in 2024 in a process yet to be developed.

Full executive summaries and more information on the steering committee and advisory circle can be found on the **Signature Areas Renewal website**. There is also a feedback/question form on the site for those who would like more information on the renewal project.

Drs. **Singh** and **Airini** will hold a special edition of Campus Conversations on March 2 at noon. Sign up to attend here: **https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/CampusConversationMarch2022**

Visiting Video Series Launch

On behalf of the Office of the Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement, you are invited to a special event streaming live from Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

USask will launch an engaging video series which celebrates stories and accomplishments of four USask researchers—what experiences shaped them, what drives them, what they study, and how they are making a difference in the world.

The Visiting video series launch will include a conversation with the four researchers – Drs. **Heather Foulds** (PhD), **Holly Graham** (PhD), **Chris Phenix** (PhD) and **Deneh'Cho Thompson** – along with video host, **Matt Dunn**, Senior Strategic Officer, and Dr. **Angela Jaime** (PhD), Interim Vice-Provost from Indigenous Engagement, and Dr. **Baljit Singh** (PhD), Vice-President Research. Screening to follow.

Thursday, February 17, 2022 - 3 – 5 pm CST - **REGISTER** for the livestream event.

Wastewater testing for COVID-19 sets the standard

USask researchers Drs. **Markus Brinkmann** (PhD), **John Giesy** (PhD) and **Kerry McPhedran** (PhD) have been analyzing wastewater and stormwater flows in Saskatoon, Prince Albert, North Battleford, and five First Nations communities to uncover everything from infectious diseases to biomarkers for such conditions as diabetes and heart disease, to the consumption of recreational drugs in a community.

Since the arrival of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) in Saskatchewan, the researchers have been busy measuring concentrations of viral genetic material in wastewater, providing a cost-effective, efficient measure of the COVID infection rate sooner than clinical testing reports. **The full story.**

Inside the USask Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization

One of the first labs in Canada to isolate the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) located at USask is currently a Level 3 biosafety lab. VIDO staff includes scientists from 25 countries, who conduct independent research and are also contracted to test vaccines, anti-viral compounds and therapeutics for pharmaceutical companies around the world.

Take a look into the lives of VIDO research scientists by reading **the full article in University Affairs.**

USask pediatrician discusses childhood eating disorders and the COVID-19 pandemic

Take a minute for research and **watch** USask pediatrician Dr. **Ayisha Kurji** (MD) discuss the increase in childhood eating disorders that health care professionals have seen during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the importance of awareness and early treatment in creating better health outcomes for those affected.

The post-pandemic legacy of COVID-19

From the lingering effects of long COVID on patients, to the long-term impacts of an overburdened health care system, USask researchers are concerned about the post-pandemic legacy of the global health crisis. As the fifth wave of the pandemic continues – driven by the highly transmissible Omicron variant – USask researchers Dr. **Cory Neudorf** (MD) and Dr. **Nazeem Muhajarine** (PhD) are pointing to the warning signs of the effects on distressed health-care systems in Saskatchewan and across the country. **The full story.**

Sask Long COVID—an app to better understand the impacts of Long COVID in Saskatchewan residents

Not everyone who has COVID-19 recovers quickly. People who experience continuing symptoms such as fatigue, difficulty breathing, and memory issues are recognized as having 'Long COVID'.

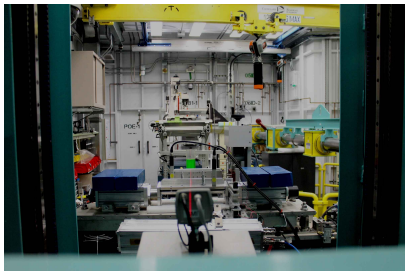
Dr. **Alyson Kelvin** (PhD) with team members from USask, Lung Sask, and the Saskatchewan Health Authority Long COVID Task Force have developed a mobile/web-based app for Long COVID to understand the COVID-19 experiences of people in Saskatchewan. People with Long COVID as well as people who do not have Long COVID can participate.

The primary goal is to understand the impact of COVID-19 and Long COVID in Saskatchewan. This could help guide the establishment of provincial health care support for Long COVID. **Visit the website** to participate in the study and learn how to use the app.

COVID-19 Research

USask researchers in a wide range of fields are undertaking critical research to help combat COVID-19.

Read other stories.



Scientists develop new coating to protect kidney failure patients on dialysis

Researchers from USask and St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon used the Canadian Light Source at USask to help improve health outcomes for patients on dialysis who receive blood filtering treatment through the use of an artificial membrane to relieve their kidneys.

USask College of Medicine professor Dr. **Ahmed Shoker** (MD), USask College of Engineering assistant professor Dr. **Amira Abdelrasoul** (PhD) and their research team have developed a membrane coating that is more compatible with the human body. The researchers are hopeful that this innovation will help to minimize the side effects experienced by kidney disease patients. **The full story.** **Watch a video summary.**

JSGS master's research contributes to empowering expecting Indigenous mothers

Valerie McLeod, a Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy GENI student, and academic and community advisers supported Yellow Quill First Nation to develop a birthing rights toolkit for expecting mothers. McLeod and Saulteaux Elder **Gilbert Kewistep**, who had a longstanding working relationship, engaged in traditional ceremony and met with the Chief and council of Yellow Quill First Nation to determine what information they needed and how to use it to help their families.

The resulting relationship-based, community-led research project was supervised by USask College of Medicine faculty member Dr. **Vivian Ramsden** (PhD) and created an information and resource package that helps expecting mothers know their rights. **The full story.** **Watch a video summary.**

USask study finds post-surgical monoclonal antibody treatment reduces breast cancer recurrence

Treating women diagnosed with one type of early-stage breast cancer with the monoclonal antibody trastuzumab after surgery reduces the risk of the cancer returning, reports a research team led by USask oncologist Dr. **Shahid Ahmed** (MD).

The research team anticipates the findings of the study, which favour post-operative trastuzumab use for small tumours, will lead to its more frequent use to reduce the risk of cancer recurrence in younger women with tumours larger than 5mm. **The full story**.

USask sponsors inaugural Canadian Black Scientists Network BE-STEMM Conference

The Canadian Black Scientists Network hosted the first annual Black Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Medicine and Health (BE-STEMM) conference, held virtually on Jan. 30-Feb. 2. The event, sponsored by the USask Office of the President and other major Canadian universities, aims to remove barriers to attracting and retaining Black Canadians in STEMM fields.

USask College of Medicine researcher and Vice President of the CBSN Dr. **Erique Lukong** (PhD) was involved in the co-ordination of the event, while researcher Dr. **Erick McNair**

(PhD) was the facilitator of a panel discussion highlighting obstacles faced by Black Canadians when working toward a professional career in STEMM. **The full story**.

USask researchers see virtual reality as way to build anesthesiology skills in physicians

USask College of Medicine researchers are looking to virtual reality as a tool to help refresh anesthesia skills for rural physicians with a recently awarded $20,000 grant, allowing these physicians to practise anesthesiology scenarios in a simulated environment before encountering the situation in real life with a patient.

Assistant professor and clinical scientist in the Department of Anesthesiology, Dr. **Peter Hedlin** (MD), and assistant professor Dr. **Justina Koshinsky** (MD) will explore an interest in virtual reality, and how it can be used to enhance the anesthesia skills of physicians practising in rural communities. **The full story**.

Exploring the history of hospitals in Saskatchewan

Watch Assistant Professor Dr. **Helen Vandenberg** (PhD) from the USask College of Nursing sit down for a USask Research Minute to discuss her current project, *The History of Saskatchewan Early Hospitals, 1873-1920.*

During this time period, more than 40 hospitals were built in the province. Government, religious, and charitable organizations constructed many of these hospitals, but little is known about how they were funded and operated. **Watch the video summary.**

Computer mapping of brain connections may reduce the number of required MRI scans

USask PhD candidate **Josh Neudorf** and his research team are developing a computer model map of brain connectivity that may be able to save the health care system and research centres time and money by decreasing the number of necessary patient brain scans.

The study, supervised by professor Dr. **Ron Borowsky** (PhD) of the USask College of Arts and Science Cognitive Neuroscience Lab, was published in the journal Neuroscience and

concluded that indirect connections between brain regions may have a bigger influence on brain function overall than previously thought. **The full story.**

Bringing together health care providers and family caregivers

Two research teams from Western Canada and a team from Australia have joined forces to create online educational modules tailored for health care workers employed in long-term care and assisted living. College of Nursing assistant professor Dr. **Roslyn Compton** (PhD) and her team are modifying an existing course into six, 15-minute digital modules for use in Saskatchewan and Queensland, Australia, to focus on professional development for health care workers. The modules will increase the workers' ability to identify and include family caregivers as team members in caring for older adults living in long-term care and assisted living facilities. **The full story**.

Digital replica of birch bark canoe on view at Remai Modern through USask partnership

An augmented reality version of a traditional birch bark canoe, produced through an interdisciplinary research initiative at USask, will be showcased as part of a new art exhibition at Saskatoon's Remai Modern entitled "Canoe."

The original canoe was built in the 1970s on the banks of Otter Lake, Sask., by Isaiah and Annie Roberts, fluent Cree speakers and members of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band. For years after the video was made, the canoe was stored in the Archaeology Building at the USask campus before faculty members initiated its return to the Lac La Ronge community in 2020.

3D documentation of the canoe was undertaken by USask's SharedSpaces app team, available for viewing via a QR code. **The full story**. Archaeology professor Dr.**Terence Clark**'s (PhD) work in the process of uncovering Indigenous residential school victims' graves was highlighted on **60 Minutes by Anderson Cooper** on Feb. 6.

Investments in USask livestock research fuels innovation, protects animal health

USask researchers have been awarded $4.2 million to develop livestock-related innovations that range from improving forage feed to advancing work on vaccines to

tackle the global spread of African swine fever.

Funding through Saskatchewan's Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) was awarded to 19 researchers to support 23 projects. ADF is supported through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year, $3-billion investment by federal, provincial, and territorial governments to strengthen and grow Canada's agriculture, agri-food and agri-products sectors. **The full story**.

Student researchers hone science communication skills

Four USask undergraduate students who conducted research at the Western College of Veterinary College (WCVM) last summer have had their research stories published on Borealis Blog, which is curated by a Canadian science communication group called Science Borealis.

As part of Science Borealis's writing program, the students worked with a mentor to create news articles about WCVM-based research targeting human and wildlife health.

Click on the following links to read the students' stories: **Research collaboration yields promising biopsy tool for diagnosing lung disease**; **On the trail of the B.C. bat mortality mystery**; **Understanding why expecting parents give birth unexpectedly; USask researchers probe Lyme disease ecology**.

Global Institute for Food Security at USask receives award to improve economic and environmental impact of bread wheat

The Global Institute for Food Security at USask has been awarded $295,000 by Saskatchewan's Agriculture Development Fund for a project aiming to improve phosphorous and nitrogen uptake and efficiency in bread wheat – developments that would provide significant environmental and economic value in Canada and beyond.

The project, spearheaded by Dr. **Leon Kochian** (PhD), Canada Excellence Research Chair in Global Food Security at GIFS, and Dr. **Wendy Lyzenga** (PhD), research associate at GIFS, helps Canadian wheat producers to get a better return on their inputs. The team will achieve this by identifying naturally occurring wheat alleles (genetic variations) that not

only have improved nitrogen and phosphorous uptake from the soil, but also use nutrients more efficiently within the plant. **The full story**.

USask-City of Saskatoon study finds ways to divert edible food from landfill

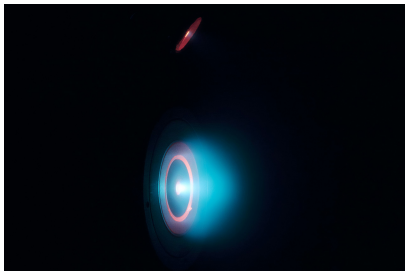
A new joint study by USask and the City of Saskatoon, Promising Practices in Food Reclamation in Saskatoon, found ways to minimize the levels of edible food being discarded into landfills.

The team performed a survey of best practices in food diversion, and gathered information from a wide variety of stakeholders, including food retailers and organizations on the front lines of providing food to clients in Saskatoon. The project took place through Research Junction, an innovative partnership between the city and the university. **Rachel Engler-Stringer** of USask's Community-University Institute for Social Research was a lead researcher on the project. **The full story**.

USask researcher named as UArtic Chair

USask professor Dr. **David Natcher** (PhD) has been appointed as the UArctic Chair in Water, Energy and Food Security in the Arctic for the next five years. During his term as a UArctic Chair, Natcher will examine the distinct social, cultural, and environmental contexts that produce water, energy and food insecurities in the Arctic.

Natcher is a Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the USask College of Agriculture and Bioresources. Trained in cultural anthropology, Natcher's research focuses on the social dimensions of water, energy, and food insecurity in Arctic regions. Visit **uarctic.org** for more information.

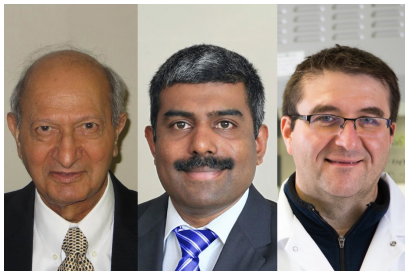


USask graduate student aims to improve space travel through plasma research

An interdisciplinary scholar who earned degrees in electrical engineering and physics in his home country of Iran, USask College of Arts and Science PhD student **Arash Tavassoli** is aiming to combine physics and

computer science to help designers of plasma thruster engines enhance the capability and efficiency of the machines.

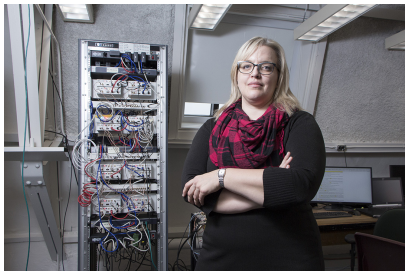
Improving the plasma thrusters could ultimately improve the way spacecraft and satellites travel through space, with the propellants accelerated by the electric field rather than through traditional, and more simplistic, heat-producing chemical reactions. The work is supervised by USask physics professor Dr. **Andrei Smolyakov** (PhD) and computer science professor Dr. **Raymond Spiteri** (PhD). **The full story**.



Internationally recognized Parkinson's disease researcher honoured with Achievement Award

On Jan. 19, the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation announced the winners of the 18th annual Santé Awards to celebrate top health scientists in the province. Dr. **Ali Rajput** of the USask College of Medicine was honoured with an Achievement Award for his contributions to research and clinical innovation while showing foresight and leadership through his observation, curiosity and focus on providing the best care for his patients.

Other USask awardees include College of Arts and Science assistant professor Dr. **Christopher Phenix** (PhD), who was presented with an Early Career Impact Award, and College of Medicine assistant professor Dr. **Anil Kumar** (PhD), who received an Excellence Award for having the top-ranked Establishment Grant application in the Biomedical category. **The full story**.



USask scientist becomes first Canadian to win Royal Astronomical Society honour

USask researcher Dr. **Kathryn McWilliams** (PhD) has been awarded an honorary fellowship from the Royal Astronomical Society (RAS) of the United Kingdom. The RAS awards honorary fellowships to scientists living outside the U.K. who are eminent in the fields of astronomy or geophysics.

McWilliams, a professor in the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics in USask's College of Arts and Science, is the first Canadian to receive the honour. McWilliams is also the director of SuperDARN, the Canadian arm of an international project that uses radar to study Earth's upper atmosphere. **The full story.**

USask researcher named fellow by distinguished American science organization

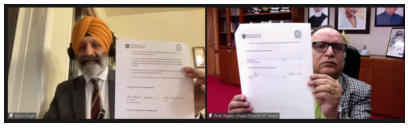
USask researcher Dr. **Jeffrey McDonnell** (PhD) has been named a fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). McDonnell is associate director of the Global Institute for Water Security at USask and professor of hydrology in the School of Environment and Sustainability.

AAAS's purpose is to "advance science, engineering, and innovation throughout the world for the benefit of all people." AAAS fellows are a distinguished group of scientists, engineers and innovators who have been recognized for their achievements across disciplines. **The full story**.

Pathology professor recognized with lifetime achievement award

Dr. **Rajendra K. Sharma** (PhD) was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Saskatchewan Association for Laboratory Medicine for his significant contributions to cancer research during a 50-year career. Sharma's research has had a profound impact in the areas of colorectal cancer, brain research and the cardiovascular system.

Since being hired at the USask College of Medicine in 1991, Sharma and his team found that a particular enzyme called N-myristoyltransferase (NMT) plays a significant role in early-stage colorectal cancer. It is used as a target for anti-cancer drugs. **The full story**.



USask and Indian Institute of Technology Ropar sign MOU for research partnerships

On Jan. 24, the University of Saskatchewan and the Indian Institute of Technology Ropar in Rupnagar, Punjab, India, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU). The MOU emphasizes each institution's commitment to providing students and faculty with international research opportunities while building on shared research strengths in the areas of agriculture, water security, bio-imaging and clean energy. The MOU will serve as the framework to continue sharing and building knowledge, skills, tools and technology, and supporting students and faculty in their research activities.

From the Office of the Vice-President Research

Revitalization of Process for External Awards and Recognitions

External awards at the provincial, national and international level provide opportunities to recognize USask faculty and students for their research, scholarly and artistic achievements. The Research Profile and Impact team is at the beginning stages of revitalizing the awards process.

We are asking the campus community for names that may be considered for some upcoming awards. As a central component of excellence, we encourage you to embed equity, diversity and inclusion into your nomination considerations. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we further develop our processes and look for more ways to increase recognition for USask's dynamic research culture.

Current calls for nominees and more details are available at these links:

Call for **Canadian Academy of Health Sciences Fellowship Nominees** – Deadline: Mar. 14

Call for **Royal Society of Canada Awards** – Deadline: Mar. 31

Call for **SSHRC Impact Award Nominees** – Internal Deadline: Feb. 23 | External Deadline Apr. 1 - **More information**

Call for Applications: Living Skies Post-Doctoral Fellows Program (NEW)

The Office of the Vice-President Research Living Skies Postdoctoral Fellows program has been created to support the recruitment of outstanding post-doctoral fellows to our university and further grow our research, scholarly and artistic enterprise. **Further information can be found here**.

Applications can be submitted to Alice Der, Executive Assistant, by email (**alice.der@usask.ca**). Deadline for submission is February 25, 2022.

Call for Nominations: New and Distinguished Researcher Awards and Internationalization Awards

The Office of the Vice-President Research invites nominations for faculty members who have demonstrated excellence in their research, scholarly or artistic work. The

Distinguished Researcher Award applies to eligible candidates that received their Ph.D or terminal degree 10 or more years ago. The **New Researcher Award** applies to eligible candidates who are within 10 years of receiving their PhD or terminal degree. Please submit your nomination package and direct any questions to Candace Leuschen at **Candace.leuschen@usask.ca**. Deadline for submission is March 4, 2022.

As part of the USask Blueprint for Action 2025, the International Office announces the J.W. George Ivany Internationalization Award, Global Research Leadership Award for Faculty, Global Research Leadership Award for Students, and International Engagement Service Award for Staff. These $1500 awards are to recognize the achievements of faculty, staff and students who provide outstanding contributions to the internationalization of USask. Nominate a deserving colleague for an Internationalization Award. Nomination deadline is March 11, 2022, at 4 pm CST/SK time.

Visit **internationaloffice.usask.ca/awards** for details.

Telling your research story

USask "Images of Research 2022" launching March 1

The eighth annual USask "Images of Research" competition, organized by Research Profile and Impact, launches March 1. Snap your research, scholarly, and artistic work and enter your images in one of five categories. Open to USask students, staff, faculty, and alumni.

Grand prize: $500. Category winners awarded $300, 1st runner-up, $200, plus awards for overall Best Description and Viewer's Choice. Submit March 1-16, vote March 17-31. Get those shutters clicking and check **Research.USask.ca** for past winners and contest details.

[www.linkedin.com/company/usask-research-profile-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.

USASK

RESEARCH PROFILE AND IMPACT

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.

SENS launches microcredential: Foundations in Science Communication

Don't be the only person excited about your research! With a focus on humanizing science, and the people who do it, this facilitated online course invites researchers to explore and develop the powerful stories that help audiences connect with their work. It pairs this human focus with practical tools for strategically, cost-effectively, and professionally communicating with non-specialist audiences and the media.

To secure your spot, register now. Space is limited. We will be accepting registration up to March 4. For more information, **visit the SENS website.**

In THE CONVERSATION

Canada's pandemic recovery urgently needs a national school meal program

USask College of Medicine post-doctoral research fellow Dr. **Amberley T. Ruetz** (PhD)

COVID-19 has exposed yet again the critical importance of Canada catching up with other G7 nations by developing and implementing a national school meal program.

Should university instructors disclose mental health conditions? It's complicated

USask College of Education lecturer Dr. **Jenn Bergen** (PhD) and associate professor Dr. **Vicki Squires** (PhD), USask College of Kinesiology lecturer **Shannon Forrester**, USask College of Arts and Science professors Dr. **Jan Gelech** (PhD), Dr. **Simonne Horwitz** (PhD) and MA candidate **Ana Carolina de Barros**

The onset of what some psychologists suggest is a mental health "parallel pandemic" during COVID-19 has created new questions about how post-secondary instructors address mental health in their classrooms.

Groundwater – not ice sheets – is the largest source of water on land and most of it is ancient

USask College of Engineering professor Dr. **Grant Ferguson** (PhD)

Outside of the world's oceans, groundwater is one of the largest stores of water on Earth. While it might appear that the planet is covered in vast lakes and river systems, they make up only 0.01 per cent of the Earth's water.

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. 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

Upcoming events are now featured in the USask Office of the Vice-President Research website event calendar for your convenience in finding events of interest to attend. **Visit the full calendar here**.

Upcoming events include:

Media Basics for Researchers – Feb. 23 – 1 pm CST

Arctic Bears Project Part II Launching on Zooniverse - Feb. 27

Johnson Shoyama Women in Science Speaker Series: Dr. Donna Strickland – Mar. 1 – 12 pm CST

In the news

- The month's top stories:
  - **USask scientist becomes first Canadian to win Royal Astronomical Society honour** was featured by 18 media outlets, including *CBC Radio One, CTV News Network*, and *Global News* and was seen by an estimated 27.7 million people
  - **Investments in USask livestock research fuels innovation, protects animal health** was featured by 14 media outlets including E*ducation News Canada, Seed Today* and *Farms.com* and was seen by an estimated 649,000 people.
  - **USask-City of Saskatoon study finds ways to divert edible food from landfill** was featured in 10 media outlets and was seen by an estimated 13.9 million people.
- USask's COVID-19 research has been featured in:
  - Jan. 16 – *CTV Regina* - **'Fill the gap': Sask. student creates tool to track rapid test results, account for unreported COVID-19 cases**
  - Jan. 16 – *Global News* - **COVID-19 pandemic increases youth hospitalizations for eating disorders: USask study**
  - Jan. 18 – *Saskatoon StarPhoenix* - **Previous infection poor protection against Omicron: U of S study**
  - Jan. 21 – *Saskatoon StarPhoenix* - **VIDO CEO Volker Gerdts on plan to upgrade lab to highest-possible containment level**
  - Jan. 22 – *CBC* - **Upgraded ventilation systems in schools important, but not single solution, say experts**
  - Feb. 2 - *CBC The Dose* - **What do we know about the Omicron subvariant BA.2?**
  - Feb. 7 – *The New York Times* - **Is the Coronavirus in Your Backyard?**

- Feb. 9 – *The New York Times* - **The Next Vaccine Debate: Immunize Young Children Now, or Wait?**
- Feb. 15 - *National Geographic* - **The 3 main theories for Omicron's origins**

- Other USask research has also been featured in:
  - Jan. 16 – *Regina Leader-Post* - **Sask. researcher hopes new technology will create better cancer treatment**
  - Jan. 17 – *Researchers Under the Scope* podcast: **The Kids Are Not All Right, with Ayisha Kurji** - USask College of Medicine
  - Jan. 19 – *Saskatoon StarPhoenix* - **'Ebola for pigs' among projects in $5M of research spending**
  - Jan. 19 – *National Post* - **Should university instructors disclose mental health conditions? It's complicated**
  - Jan. 20 – *Western Producer* - **Research explores canola's energy potential**
  - Jan. 21 – *Toronto.com* - **Toronto Zoo program producing more female wood bison — and that's no bull**
  - Jan. 26 – *SaskToday.ca* - **University team working to get Sask. satellite to launch on time**
  - Jan. 27 – *CBC* - **Local materials, labour would help some Sask. businesses survive supply chain crunch, says professor**
  - Jan. 31 – *Researchers Under the Scope* podcast: **Phantom Power: Audrey Zucker-Levin on Artificial Limbs** - USask College of Medicine
  - Feb. 2 – *Saskatoon StarPhoenix* - **'The light coming through': Depth of Field at Wanuskewin explores Indigenous lived experience**
  - Feb. 7 – *CBC* - **How the Prairies must adapt to meet the challenges of climate change**
  - Feb. 9 – *CBC* - **As rabies pops up in the North again this year, researchers look to predict future outbreaks**
  - Feb. 11 – *CBC* - **Most Sask. residents believe society has become more polarized compared to a year ago: survey**
  - Feb. 11 - *Toronto Star* - **USask crop researchers receive $5.7 million for new research**

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

We want your feedback! **What do you think of Discovery Digest?**

Looking for past issues of Discovery Digest or Research Update? Visit **Research.usask.ca** for more.

You are receiving this email because you are a student, faculty or staff at USask. Questions? Comments? Send an email to **Research Profile and Impact.**