

President's Message – November 2017

Members of the University community,

Our institutional commitment to research – like our dedication to teaching and learning and community service – is something we should be very proud of. Researchers in all disciplines at the University of Regina are striving for research excellence, and they are achieving it in many important and measurable ways.

In past years, we have had our share of positive announcements regarding our research enterprise. Recently, there has been even more good news courtesy of Research Infosource, one of Canada's leading research, consulting, and publishing firms. The company specializes in policy, research, business intelligence and analysis on science, technology, innovation and Canadian research and development. Statistics Canada data is used to prepare its reports.

In its most recent rankings, Research Infosource has rated our University number one in growth percentage in research revenue among comprehensive institutions in Canada. During the 2016 fiscal year, research revenue at our institution grew by 12.6 per cent, far exceeding the national average.

Comprehensive universities are institutions that offer professional degrees, have significant research activity, and offer a range of programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels. I often say that that the University of Regina punches above its weight in many ways, and our researchers are certainly doing that in a category that includes institutions like the University of Victoria, Ryerson University, Memorial University of Newfoundland and Concordia University.

Another measure of our research excellence appeared in the 2017 Essential Science Indicators report from Thomson Reuters. The company's analytics tool, InCites, tracks highly cited academic papers from all over the world. InCites uses 10 years of data to generate its statistics, and over the most recent reporting period, the University of Regina has ranked in the top one per cent globally in the areas of physics, environment and ecology, engineering, psychology, and social sciences.

This momentum is continuing throughout this academic year. In the past two months alone, University researchers have attracted close to \$6 million in federal research funding.

On September 8, for example, the Honourable Ralph Goodale announced more than \$2 million in Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) funding for 16 University of Regina researchers.

The researchers receiving Discovery Grants through NSERC this year are: Mark Brigham and Kerri Finlay of the Department of Biology; Allan East of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry; Cory Butz, Orland Hoerber, Jing Tao Yao, Yiyu Yao and Sandra Zilles of the Department of Computer Science; Yee-Chung Jin, Mehran Mehrandezh, Farshid Torabi and Peng Wu of the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science; Allen Herman and Andrei Volodin of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics; and Chris Oriet of the Department of

Psychology. Renata Raina-Fulton of the Department of Chemistry is receiving a Discovery Development Grant.

Minister Goodale was on campus again on October 11 for another federal funding announcement. This time it was to report more than \$3.7 million in funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Three of our researchers received CIHR funding for research aimed at helping people in need of mental health care, supporting Indigenous youth, and assisting people with neurodegenerative disorders such as Parkinson's disease.

Heather Hadjistavropoulos, a psychology professor and director of the Online Therapy Unit, is one of those researchers, and will receive more than \$971,000 to support internet-delivered cognitive behavioural therapy. Her research is helping Canadians more easily receive the mental health care they need. It is also of note that Dr. Hadjistavropoulos was recently named one of 150 leading Canadians for Mental Health by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. The award recognizes people who are transforming mental health and mental health care in our country, and more than 3,700 people were nominated for the award.

Tarun Katapally, an assistant professor at the University's Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, will use his CIHR grant of more than \$770,000 to study how to adopt culturally appropriate ways to integrate physical activity into the daily lives of Indigenous youth.

Mohan Babu, an associate professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, also received a CIHR grant. His grant, which totals more than \$1.9 million, will be used to better understand the genes linked to Parkinson's disease.

These are just a few of the University of Regina researchers who are working together and with others from across the country and around the world to help to bring new understanding to important societal challenges. Their commitment to research excellence is inspiring, and I would like to thank them as well as everyone else who is involved in the research enterprise at our University. Your work matters a great deal, and is helping make a larger impact on our world than ever before.

Sincerely,

Dr. Vianne Timmons
President and Vice-Chancellor