

Bringing Research to LIFE

Our 2010 Rh Award Recipients

Honouring researchers for current success and future research advancements

The Rh Awards were established in 1973 by the Winnipeg Rh Institute, now the Winnipeg Rh Institute Foundation, from funds set aside from the sale and production of medical formulae. These honours are given to academic staff members who are in the early stages of their careers and who display exceptional innovation, leadership and promise in their respective fields. Past winners have become internationally-known researchers, so this recognition of early success bodes well for our latest recipients. Each winner receives \$10,000 to support his or her research program. Typically, one award is given in each of the following areas: applied sciences, creative works, health sciences, humanities, interdisciplinary studies, natural sciences and social sciences.



APPLIED SCIENCES: Pourang Irani

Dr. Pourang Irani, computer science, receives the Rh Award for his highly innovative research in the area of interactive design and information visualization. He is director and founder of the internationally recognized Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) laboratory at the University of Manitoba. His research has led to the development of novel navigation interfaces, particularly for mobile devices. He has developed new computer input devices, including the PressureMouse and LensMouse, patented technologies, which allow users to interact more efficiently with their computers. His research has garnered the interest of multinational companies, such as Logitech, a manufacturer of computer pointing devices and SAP technologies. Recognized as an emerging leader in the field of human-computer interaction, Irani has an impressive publication list that includes publications in top journals with an acceptance rate in the twenty per cent range. In the last four years he has received six "Honourable Mention" awards; an award that is restricted to the top five per cent of all paper submissions in a given year.

CREATIVE WORKS: Gordon Fitzell

Dr. Gordon Fitzell, music theory and composition, receives the Rh Award for his work in the area of original music composition. Since 2009 Fitzell has been an Artistic Director of GroundSwell, Winnipeg's premiere new music series. His original works have been commissioned by musicians around the globe, including Chicago sextet eighth blackbird, whose Grammy-winning recording *Strange Imaginary Animals* features two of his pieces. His music has been performed on stages across Canada and around the world. A composer, performer, producer and concert organizer, Fitzell's music has been reviewed in international publications such as *The Globe and Mail*, *BBC Magazine*, and *The New York Times*. He leads the eXperimental Improv Ensemble (XIE), a performance group dedicated to fostering interdisciplinary collaboration with partners both on and off campus. The group has performed at various events including the Winnipeg New Music Festival and Taste for Justice—a "sonic cuisine" fund-raiser sponsored by Amnesty International.

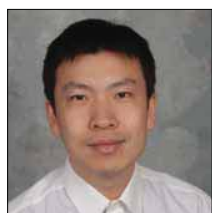


HEALTH SCIENCES: Annette Schultz

Dr. Annette Schultz, nursing, Psychosocial Oncology and Cancer Nursing Research Group, St. Boniface Hospital, receives the Rh Award for a program of research that spans three areas: tobacco dependence issues within health care services and policies; youth resolve to remain smoke free; and equity, social justice and rights-based premises in tobacco issues. Dr. Schultz recognizes various struggles surrounding tobacco dependence experienced by both tobacco users and tobacco control advocates. Her health care services and policy studies focus on asking difficult questions of practice contexts with the intention of opening dialogue concerning unintended policy consequences and challenging our vision for tobacco dependence treatment. Her published work focused on youth resolve to remain smoke free generated evidence to support the current national trend of smoking bans in cars with youth as passengers. She recognizes current inequities in tobacco use rates, which underlies her integration of a social justice lens. She has built a national reputation as an emerging leader in tobacco control, across academic and end user communities.

HUMANITIES: Michelle Faubert

Dr. Michelle Faubert, English, film and theatre; receives the Rh Award for her research on Romantic literature, focusing on the history of psychology and insanity in the Romantic period. She has garnered an international reputation by offering original insights into Romantic studies and the history of medicine. Her first monograph, *Rhyming Reason: The Poetry of Romantic-Era Psychologists*, is a comprehensive exposition of the use of poetry as a way of disseminating medical knowledge in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. In recognition of her ground-breaking and innovative approach, her monograph was nominated for the prestigious British Society for Literature and Science Prize. Her monograph and other publications have earned her wide recognition for her breadth of knowledge of Romantic literature and culture: Dr. Faubert has been invited to speak at conferences and universities across Europe and North America, she holds a British government fellowship, and is a Visiting Fellow at Northumbria University in England.



INTERDISCIPLINARY: Francis Lin

Dr. Francis Lin, physics and astronomy, receives the Rh Award for his unique research approach, which integrates methods from biophysics, engineering, cell biology and immunology, to the study of immune cell migration and trafficking. His innovative approaches have led to the early development of microfluidic devices and their use for cell migration studies. He initiated and established broad collaborations with faculties, funding agencies, institutes and centres, which have significantly stimulated interdisciplinary research within the science research community in Manitoba. His current research focus is to gain a better understanding of the immune system and develop new therapeutic approaches for cell migration mediated disorders such as autoimmune diseases and cancers. He is also interested in developing novel microfluidic systems for rapid diagnostic applications for diseases such as the H1N1 virus infection, cancers, and for stem cell based tissue engineering applications.

NATURAL SCIENCES: Wen Zhong

Dr. Wen Zhong, textile sciences, receives the Rh Award for her research into the development of medical textile and fibre materials. Her expertise in understanding nanofibres for biomedical applications has led to the development of functional nanofibres for the delivery of multiple bio-molecules that can be used as functional wound dressings and regeneration of tissues. Results of her research are expected to lead to new means of anti-cancer drug delivery, and to provide an effective therapy for tumour treatment. Dr. Zhong, a research affiliate with Riverview Health Centre, investigates ways to reduce the formation of pressure ulcers, or bed sores, in people who must spend long periods of time lying in bed, by developing novel textile products to enhance the quality of life for hospitalized patients as well as reduce injuries for users of sports and military textiles. Her innovative approaches have led to multiple publications and the opportunity to present at conferences across North America.



SOCIAL SCIENCES: Brooke Milne

Dr. Brooke Milne, anthropology, receives the Rh Award for her contributions in the field of Canadian Arctic archaeology. Colleagues have praised her as an emerging leader in the analysis of Canada's earliest Arctic hunter-gatherer populations and stone-tool technology. While most Arctic archaeologists have historically investigated sites that are easily found in coastal regions, Milne's ambitious research has taken her into the deep interior of Southern Baffin Island where the logistics of conducting fieldwork are complex and where comparatively little work has been done before. In fact previous research had concluded that members of the prehistoric Dorset culture spent most of their time in coastal areas and rarely, if ever, went inland. Consequently, Milne's efforts to investigate the deep interior of southern Baffin Island to test this assertion are recognized as courageous and her most recent findings have found that the Dorset did indeed make extensive use of the island's interior thereby challenging existing interpretations with innovative new site data.