

Bringing Research to LIFE

Upcoming Events

Café Scientifique

HIV/AIDS IN MANITOBA: GLOBAL STRATEGIES FOR A LOCAL PROBLEM

For decades, the University of Manitoba has led the fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS around the globe. Come join our experts to learn about the latest prevention strategies being used to address Manitoba's growing HIV/AIDS cases and the status of the development of a vaccine to prevent the disease.

Experts:

Dr. Keith Fowke
Dr. Marissa Becker
Tara Carnochan

Moderator:

Dr. Stephen Moses

Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012 – 7pm
McNally Robinson Booksellers
1120 Grant Ave., Event Atrium

RSVP to:

Research_Communications@
umanitoba.ca or 204-474-6689

Visionary Conversations

The Truth North: Canada's Final Frontier

Join our panelists in a discussion of the issues that impact Canada's North: resource development, climate change and sovereignty, as well as the interests of and effects on Indigenous populations.

Featured Speakers:

James Fergusson – Professor,
Political Science, Faculty of Arts
Norman Halden – Dean, Clayton
H. Riddell Faculty of Environment,
Earth, and Resources
Chris Trott – Associate Professor,
Native Studies, Faculty of Arts;
Warden and Vice-Chancellor, St.
John's College
Umut Özsu – Assistant Professor,
Faculty of Law

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2012
Robert B. Schultz Theatre
St. John's College
Fort Gary campus

Reception in galleria
6:30 to 7:00 p.m.
Panel discussion
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

RSVP to:

Visionary.Conversations@
ad.umanitoba.ca

A first in Canada

Innovative online course will teach U of M students about responsible research



University of Manitoba research quality coordinator Ricardo Soriano

Photo by Mike Latschislaw

BY KATIE CHALMERS-BROOKS For The Bulletin

The University of Manitoba will be the first postsecondary institution in Canada to offer the online course Research Integrity, a new tool to educate students about academic misconduct in research.

Other institutions provide a similar course but one that is far less interactive and engaging, says U of M research quality coordinator Ricardo Soriano. Produced by United States and United Kingdom publisher Epigeum, the course includes high-quality videos and real-life scenarios that prompt the user to problem solve and make a decision about what to do next with a click of the mouse. They get immediate feedback about how they fared, which is key, says Soriano.

"I was amazed by the many strategies the course uses to keep the students motivated and engaged with the content presented," he says. "There are not really many places where students can find this information. Research is something that all faculties and all the students are doing and in order to do good research, you have to do it correctly and this will give the students the basics on how to do research correctly."

In one video, participants hear from the course creator who explains how a paper he wrote ended up being used throughout the United States without any citation. In another, a student talks

about how he too witnessed research misconduct and what he did about it.

The course will become available following its launch during the university's Academic Integrity Week Nov. 5 to 9. Enrollment is free and optional; students who finish receive a certificate and this completion is recorded in their transcript.

U of M graduate studies associate dean Archie McNicol, who is also an oral biology researcher, believes the software will effectively gauge whether participating students really know what counts as plagiarism. As students rely more on internet searches for academic journals for their research, there may be increased temptation to cut and paste a few sentences without proper attribution, says McNicol.

"It's a huge resource and it's a huge temptation," he says. "This new online course lays it out very clearly what the forms of plagiarism are."

McNicol encourages faculty to use it as an instructional tool.

Soriano has customized the course content to provide U of M users with up-to-date policies and guidelines specific to the university, in addition to access to relevant federal government documents. There are also links to information about U of M research ethics boards, including their processes and schedules.

PhD student Chelladurai Vellaichamy, who researches grain

storage, took the course for a test run and says it's a good tool to help graduate students understand special research considerations in their chosen field. It also provides insight into how best to design a research project.

"That will be helpful for their academic life," Vellaichamy says.

Students taking the course can choose from five areas of study: arts and humanities, biomedical sciences, engineering and technology, natural and physical sciences, and social and behavioural sciences. It takes about five hours to complete their chosen module but they have the option to invest more time to do additional activities. Participants can work through the content at their own pace.

"The students will be able to find in one single place many resources that are spread throughout the university," says Soriano, noting the course is designed for students but is available to any interested faculty or staff members. "The content is practical and covers all the areas researchers deal with on a daily basis."

The launch of the Research Integrity course is an initiative of the Vice-President (Academic) in collaboration with the Vice-President (Research and International). To enrol, please send an email which includes your name or UMnetID to ricardo.soriano@ad.umanitoba.ca.