

Bringing Research to LIFE

In brief

Course in Human Research Protection

Anyone working or studying at the University of Manitoba now has access to a new online research ethics tutorial.

The Office of the Vice-President (Research) recently purchased the license to the Course in Human Research Protection Program (CHRPP).

The tutorial "was created to offer researchers a deeper understanding of the principles and standards that govern human research in Canada," according to the website for the Queen's University-based course.

It is made up of seven modules that can be completed at the participant's own pace, and may include "audio, video or text-based news reports about how issues in research have affected real people."

After completion, a participant will be eligible to print a certificate.

The content is based on the national standard of human research ethics, the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans.

"This will be a useful resource for our research community," says Monica Woods, research quality assurance manager. "Valuable content is shared in an engaging way."

To access the tutorial, go to <http://www.chrpp.ca/homepage/MAN/>. Enter your university e-mail address as your user ID and create a password.

Upcoming event

Bringing Research to Life Speaker Series

Bacteria: Refineries for Biofuel Production

Dr. Richard Sparling
(Microbiology)

Dr. David Levin
(Biosystems Engineering)

Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2010

7 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION

Sparling and Levin will discuss the next generation of biofuels: bacteria that transform cellulosic waste to ethanol or hydrogen.

The \$10.4 million Genome Canada project they co-lead will provide an in-depth understanding of the genetic blueprint of these 'industrial complexes' and how to make biofuels production more efficient.

Researchers win the lottery

Well, not exactly, but now that we have your attention...

Join a research database that's win-win, connecting you with collaborators worldwide and funding opportunities!

BY KATIE CHALMERS-BROOKS

Sadly, no University of Manitoba faculty members have bought a winning Lotto ticket and secured a life of luxury. But a growing number are joining an innovative online research database unique to the U of M that brings research funding dollars and collaborators their way.

"In some respects that's like winning the lottery," jokes Terry Hnatiuk, who helped found the web application My Research Tools (MRT). "One thing is similar at least: You can't enjoy the benefits unless you at least take the step of buying a ticket."

In the case of this online tool, "buying a ticket" means signing on to the free database and choosing keywords that describe your research and expertise, says Hnatiuk, research information systems manager in the Office of Research Services.

New Search Bar on Homepage

A "Research Experts" search bar has recently been added to the university's homepage, allowing visitors to browse based on these keywords.

"It is a tremendous tool," says Hnatiuk. "Potential collaborators from all over the world can now find our specialized researchers almost instantly. It also helps bring sought-after graduate students to the university and connects researchers from different disciplines right here on campus."

Researchers can choose to be accessible through a public or internal search—or both—and do their own searching for collaborators too, Hnatiuk notes.

Not only will these keywords lead them to potential partnerships but also bring them funding. Researchers can sign up to receive e-mail alerts about upcoming funding opportunities in their discipline; the software uses the keywords to make the matches.

Makes it 'Easier'

"Researchers are busy people and we're trying to make it as easy as possible for them to pursue advancements in their field," says Hnatiuk.

MRT also gives researchers private online access to information about their research projects and accompanying financial information, making it easier to keep track of details and spending.

James Blatz, associate professor and associate dean (research and graduate programs) in the Faculty of Engineering, says the tool will prove helpful to researchers.

"This will aid in making the case for attracting additional funds and recognizing collaborative



Photo by Katie Chalmers-Brooks

A friendly face behind a user-friendly web tool: Terry Hnatiuk, research information systems manager in the Office of Research Services, who helped create My Research Tools (MRT).

opportunities on the campus in areas that would not necessarily communicate otherwise," he says.

MRT, which was launched last summer with help from the university's IST Department, is catching on, Hnatiuk says, but she would like to see even more professors update their profile, add their keywords and populate descriptions about their research.

"Every day, the database becomes more complete and ultimately stronger," she says. "This tool is a great asset for researchers. For some, it's just sitting there waiting to be discovered."

For more information, log on to <http://umanitoba.ca/research/ors/myresearchtools.html>. Or contact Terry Hnatiuk at 474-7860 or terry_hnatiuk@umanitoba.ca.

Where do I find My Research Tools?

Sign on to JUMP
(www.unmanitoba.ca/jump)

Click the Research tab

Click on My Research Tools
(on right-hand side of page)

My Research Tools