



U of M works on 2006/07 budget

The March 6 provincial budget offered good news for the University of Manitoba, but not a complete solution for the funding challenges facing the university.

The good news was that the budget offered a 5.8 per cent funding increase in the university's operating grant for 2006/07, with minimum increases of 5 per cent promised in each of the following two years. Knowing what it will receive over the next two years allows the university to do more long term planning than the traditional system of announcing funding on a year by year base ever could.

However, the problem is that the university had asked for an 8.9 per cent funding increase this year just to maintain the status quo.

Vice-president (administration) Debbie McCallum said the 8.9 per cent request includes \$6.9 million – about 3.4 per cent – that the university had built into its budget last year through three ancillary fees approved by the Board of Governors in May, 2005. The fees were not implemented when the province stepped in with a special one-time \$6.9 million funding grant.

However, while the funding might have been a one-time measure to the province, it was filling an ongoing shortfall for the university. Instead of dealing with the shortfall, the one time grant merely moved the shortfall forward a year.

"As a result, significant financial challenges remain and work continues on developing possible solutions to fill the gap," McCallum said. She added, "We're pleased with the three year funding announcement because it does enable us to plan. If we can figure a way out of our problem this year, it will help us to know the level of funding we'll receive in 2007/08 and 2008/09."

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Photo by Bob Talbot

From left, Glen Lang, pediatrics and child health, and Alec Sehon, distinguished professor emeritus, immunology, join president Emőke Szathmáry at the March 16 ceremony honouring the university's researchers who have successfully patented new technologies.

We're bringing research to life

Ceremony recognizes U of M researchers for patenting new technology

University of Manitoba researchers aren't just making new discoveries, they're learning how to put those discoveries to use.

On Thursday, March 16, president Emőke Szathmáry formally recognized 27 researchers who have successfully patented new technologies.

The patents cover a wide range of applications, from potential new treatments for cancer, heart disease and diabetes, to improvements in spectrometer design, robotics and wireless communications.

"We are very proud of these outstanding researchers, not only for developing new technologies and techniques, but for successfully patenting them," Szathmáry said.

"These are all important innovations that have the potential to advance our technological capabilities and improve the lives of people in Manitoba, Canada and

around the world."

The event was hosted at the Bannatyne campus by the university's Technology Transfer Office, one of the most successful university technology transfer programs in Canada. It provides a wide range of intellectual property services to the university community, including: Canadian and international patent prosecution, copyright registration, technology commercialization and start-up launches.

"This event showcases the high level of innovation at the University of Manitoba," said Technology Transfer executive director Gary Breit.

"It also highlights the importance of making such important platform technologies available to the industries that can fully develop them. In doing so, these researchers are making a vital contribution to Manitoba's economic growth and competitiveness."

The researchers honoured were:

MICHELLE ALFA
medical microbiology

For inventing an artificial fluid for testing and cleaning studies of medical devices, including endoscopes and other difficult-to-clean apparatuses.

JUDY ANDERSON

human anatomy and cell science
For discovering a basis for muscle regeneration that has potential applications in treating muscular dystrophy and muscle atrophy.

GILBERT ARTHUR

biochemistry and medical genetics
For developing a number of new anti-cancer compounds that can discriminate between cancer cells and normal cells.

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Smartpark welcomes "Power 30" member Sam Katz



Photo by Frank Nolan

Winnipeg mayor Sam Katz with University of Manitoba vice-president (research) Joanne Keselman following Katz's interview at Smartpark as one of the "Power 30" of Winnipeg.

Why would you give up the good life for a life in politics? This is one of the questions that mayor Sam Katz answered for the audience of Smartpark Interactive's Breakfast Speaker Series on March 14.

Katz's view? The owner of the Winnipeg Goldeyes didn't like what he saw at City Hall, knew he could run the city better and thought he had enough community support to get elected. These were the reasons given for giving up a job where he could pretty much do anything, including head home in the afternoons to be with his family, to throw his hat in the ring to become mayor of Winnipeg.

Smartpark's latest edition of its "The Power 30," derived from a *Winnipeg Free Press* article describing the thirty most powerful and influential leaders in Manitoba, featured Katz speaking to Geoff Kirbyson, a business reporter for the *Free Press*, on topics ranging from his plans for the Oct. 25 civic election to his days growing up in the city's North End.

Katz wouldn't officially say if he was planning to seek re-election this fall but he did state that two and a half years is not a long enough period to get

everything he wanted done and that as long as he was making progress he would continue on as mayor.

Another hot point for discussion was the mayor's views on keeping university and college graduates in the city after completing their degrees. "Everyone thinks the grass is always greener," he stated, as a reason why some move away. He also cited a Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce study that said 74 per cent of youth (ages 18 to 30), if given the opportunity, would want to leave our city. Katz's solution is, "We have to get people to believe." He said we need our youth to believe that businesses in our city are growing and that there will be jobs available for them once they graduate from university or college.

To help solve this problem, Katz said corporate and payroll taxes are a bad thing and that he would like to see them reduced or eliminated. The problem, he says though, is replacing that revenue. He sees cities getting a share of growth revenues like GST, PST and income tax as a way to fill the void when business taxes are reduced or eliminated. The tax issue is one of many that will likely figure prominently during his next election campaign.

Researchers develop patents for research innovations

From Page 1.

CHARLES BERNSTEIN internal medicine

For developing a non-invasive method for detecting the presence of colorectal cancer and colon polyps.

LORNE BRANDES internal medicine/

Manitoba Institute of Cell Biology
For inventing a new drug, now in a

final phase III trial in metastatic and recurrent breast cancer, which could potentially be used to treat a wide range of aggressive cancers.

ALVARO BRAS Pharmacy DANIEL SITAR

pharmacology & therapeutics
For developing a diagnostic test that could be used to detect the presence of cancer in general, and potentially to detect specific types of cancer.

KRISHNAMURTI DAKSHINAMURTI biochemistry and medical genetics NARANJAN DHALLA physiology/institute of cardiovascular sciences RAJAT SETHI physiology/institute of cardiovascular sciences

For developing a treatment for hypertension, as well as new compositions and methods for treatment and prevention of hypertrophy, hypertension, congestive heart failure and ischemic heart disease.

KENNETH DOLYNCHUK surgery

For inventing a therapeutic treatment for scar tissue.

WERNER ENS physics and astronomy VICTOR SPICER physics and astronomy KENNETH STANDING physics and astronomy

For a number of patents for improved spectrometer design, which are key components of spectrometers produced by MDS Sciex and used by proteomics researchers worldwide.

ROBERT HILL plant science

For his discovery that expression of a specific plant hemoglobin can maintain the energy status of cells in low oxygen environments, permitting plant roots to survive during flooding conditions.

WAYNE LAUTT pharmacology & therapeutics

For discovering a mechanism for insulin resistance in Type 2 diabetes.

GERALD LEFEVRE anesthesia ALAN MUTCH anesthesia

For developing mechanisms for creating natural physiological variation in life support devices, like mechanical ventilators and mechanical pumps used to supply blood flow during open heart surgery.

RONALD MARQUARDT animal science

For discovering a method for detecting the amount of biological activity, identity and/or the quantity of a biologically active substance.

MICHAEL MAYNE pharmacology and therapeutics

For developing a compound that reduces the levels of a potent inflammation protein, which if not kept in check during events like sepsis, arthritis, multiple sclerosis and stroke, can lead to death.

LUIS OPPENHEIMER surgery

For developing a method for detecting pulmonary edema.

ALEC SEHON immunology GLEN LANG

pediatrics and child health
For developing a method for specifically suppressing the immune response in a mammal receiving gene therapy.

NARIMAN SEPEHRI mechanical and manufacturing engineering

For inventing a method and apparatus for accurate position control of hydraulic robots, and a controller that compensates for flow deadbands in hydraulic valves.

LOTFOLLAH SHAFAI electrical and computer engineering

For developing mathematical models for electromagnetic phenomena to design and improve the performance of antennas and the software that controls them.

MARIA VRONTAKIS human anatomy and cell science

For developing a new transgenic mouse model for the study of neurological disorders.

MAGDY YOUNES internal medicine

For developing the proportional assist ventilator (PAV), a critical care device that responds to the breathing needs of the patient.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Bulletin

The University of Manitoba Bulletin is published by the Public Affairs department every second Thursday from September to May and monthly from June to August.

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Deadline for Events for the April 6 Bulletin edition is March 29.

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The Bulletin can be viewed online at www.umanitoba.ca/bulletin

Budget will go before the Board of Governors in May

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McCallum said the university will be working on its budget over the next two months and will make its budget

presentation to the Board of Governors on May 23.

The university's overall operating budget works out to about \$380 million

with about \$220 million coming directly from the provincial operating grant and the remaining amount through tuition fees and other sources of income.