

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT: March 24, 2020

### GENERAL

The University of Manitoba is focused on protecting the health and safety of our campuses and our wider community. The University is basing its response to the COVID-19 pandemic on the best available information at any point in time and on the advice of public health experts.

*As of March 13, 2020*, the University has announced that there will be no classes at all on March 16 and 17, creating a pause allowing for classes to move to alternative modes of instruction. Starting March 18, undergraduate and research-stream Master's and Doctoral instruction will not be provided in-person for the remainder of the term. Instruction will be provided through other means.

Other changes in effect *as of March 13* include:

- All events involving 50 or more people are being cancelled or postponed;
- Sports and recreation facilities and programs have been suspended;
- All university-related travel has been suspended, where possible;
- Students on foreign placements are being asked to return to Canada;
- All members of the university community are being asked to respect social distancing practices, including maintaining a minimum distance of 2m between each other and limiting extended contact.

The situation is evolving very quickly. All updates on the COVID-19 situation and the University's response may be found here: <http://umanitoba.ca/coronavirus>.

**NOTE:** The updates found below reflect information developed by reporting units in the early part of 2020 and submitted prior to March 6, 2020. As a result, due to timing there may be some references that do not yet reflect the University's revised approaches to responding to COVID-19.

### ACADEMIC MATTERS

- Jitendra Paliwal, biosystems engineering was sworn in as the 100<sup>th</sup> President of Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba at their Annual General meeting in October.
- Don Flaten, soil science, was recognized by the Manitoba Canola Growers Association with the 2020 Canola Award of Excellence for his years of research, teaching and extension.
- Jorge Nállim, history, has received a European community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students (ERASMUS) + mobility scholarship from the European Union. The fellowship is in support of a five-day visit to the Central European University (CEU) in Budapest, Hungary during Reading Week in February. During his visit, Jorge will be engaged in teaching and graduate mentorship in the Public Policy School and in the Department of History at Central European University (CEU).
- William Lee, asian studies centre, was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette. This is a national decoration presented by the Government of Japan, in the name of the Emperor, to

individuals that have made significant contributions with respect to the promotion of and exchange of friendship between nations.

- Lukas Neville, business administration, was named Jeux du Commerce (JDC) West Faculty Advisor of the Year. JDC West is an annual business competition featuring top business schools and students from across Western Canada, as well as the largest undergraduate business competition in Western Canada.
- Cheryl Rockman-Greenberg, pediatrics/child health and biochemistry/medical genetics, was appointed to the Order of Canada. Rockman-Greenberg has advanced the global understanding of rare genetic disorders. She has developed diagnostic tests, screening programs and treatments for rare disorders that are over-represented in Indigenous populations and Hutterite and Mennonite communities. She is a laureate of the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame.
- Joanne Thiessen Martens, soil science student, was named Bioscience Association of Manitoba (BAM)'s Most Promising Bioscience Student of the Year at the Bioscience Association of Manitoba (BAM) Awards Gala 2020 on February 5. The award is presented based on significant scholastic accomplishments, future plans in the bioscience sector and high level of community engagement.
- Örjan Sandred, music, displayed his sound installation "Sonic Trails" at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights during an 11-hour long performance. The installation explores how artificial intelligence can be used to create and control a continuously evolving artistic sound environment.
- The Desautels Faculty of Music's composition master's students and the Faculty of Architecture graduate studio class set out to Iceland. The students recorded various sounds, measured acoustics, and examined the exploration of generating sounds by interacting with the environment. The students were able to amplify each other's creativity, and build on ideas outside of their respective disciplines. Their findings took the form of an interactive installation, Ís, which ran in the School of Art's Student Gallery.
- The Percussion Ensemble performed a program called "Mostly Marimba" at the Millennium Library Lunch Hour Series in the Carol Shields Auditorium. It was a program of mixed repertoire for marimba and vibraphone featuring solo and chamber works performed by the members of the Desautels Faculty of Music
- The Desautels Faculty of Music is once again hosting the inaugural Canadian Jazz Summit, a series of workshops and concerts for jazz students and professionals. The workshops will explore elements of jazz history, composition, conducting, and performance.
- The Aggie Bedpush (which is run every fall) presented a cheque to STARS in the amount of \$19,081.70 in support of the air ambulance program. This event is organized by the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences Organization (FASO), the student council for the Faculty.
- The Decolonizing Lens presented We Will Stand Up at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. We Will Stand Up follows the family of the late Colten Boushie, a young Cree man fatally shot in a Saskatchewan farmyard, as they demand justice from Canada's legal system.

The Decolonizing Lens is a monthly film series co-organized by Jocelyn Thorpe, women's & gender studies and Kaila Johnston national centre for truth and reconciliation, that brings together Indigenous filmmakers, their films, and their audiences. The series is being sponsored by the Margaret Laurence Endowment Fund, Women's & Gender Studies, and the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

- At the 2019 Celebrating Co-op event, the Women's Enterprise Centre of Manitoba (WECM) was awarded the 2019 Co-op Employer of the Year award. As a co-op partner, the Centre has provided an outstanding mentoring experience and exposure to core principles of entrepreneurship and marketing.
- The Rady Faculty of Health Sciences marked International Human Rights Day by participating in Write for Rights, Amnesty International's global letter-writing campaign. Amnesty International Canada dedicated this year's campaign to the youth of Grassy Narrows First Nation and their ongoing fight for clean water. The event was hosted by the Office of Human Rights and Conflict Management and the Neil John Maclean Health Sciences Library.
- A scholarship has been established in memory of Dr. Forough Khadem, an accomplished Iranian-Canadian scientist who perished in the Flight 752 tragedy on January 8. The scholarship celebrates the legacy of Khadem, who earned her PhD in immunology at the University of Manitoba. It will support international female graduate students enrolled at UM in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. A fellowship is also being established to honour the memory of all the victims of Flight 752 from Manitoba. This fellowship will be awarded annually to a UM graduate student in a STEM-related field.
- The Rady Faculty of Health Sciences held a gala at the Fairmont Winnipeg to mark the 50th anniversary of the University of Manitoba's northern medical unit, now called Ongomiizwin – Health Services. The gala raised more than \$50,000 for a legacy fund established by Ongomiizwin – Health Services to support opportunities for Indigenous people to enter careers in the health sciences.
- A beaded quilt that honours missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls was unveiled at the entrance of the Neil John Maclean Health Sciences Library on the Bannatyne campus. The quilt was donated to the university by Deborah Young, former University of Manitoba's executive lead for Indigenous achievement.

## **RESEARCH MATTERS**

- A \$6.5 million grant has been awarded to Dr. Meghan Azad (Pediatrics and Child Health/Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba) by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, to establish a new global health initiative dedicated to breast milk: the International Milk Composition (IMiC) Consortium.

The IMiC Consortium will undertake a comprehensive analysis of human milk components linked to infant growth and resilience, in order to inform maternal and infant nutrition recommendations and interventions. The research will be critical to understanding why some breastfed infants can still

develop infections or struggle to achieve optimal growth trajectories, and also for optimizing nutrition for infants who cannot be breastfed.

The consortium will bring together five research groups studying maternal nutrition and infant growth in Tanzania, Pakistan, Nepal, Burkina Faso and Canada. It will also include human milk scientists who will analyze a vast array of different milk components, including macronutrients, vitamins and minerals, prebiotic sugars, hormones and growth factors. Initial analyses will involve 1200 mother-infant pairs.

- On February 13, the Honourable Cameron Friesen, Minister of Health, Seniors and Active Living, announced an investment of more than \$2.4 million in funding for research to enhance real-time access to the data health-care providers need to make informed decisions when caring for patients and to create a learning health system for the Province.

The project also received funding support through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research’s Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR). CIHR and the province of Manitoba will each invest \$600,000 a year over four years, for a total of \$4.8-million, to support work on the project

Drs. Ryan Zarychanski (Internal Medicine/Research Institute of Oncology and Hematology, CancerCare Manitoba), Paul Komenda (Internal Medicine) and Marshall Pitz (Internal Medicine/ Research Institute of Oncology and Hematology, CancerCare Manitoba) are leading the project, each focusing on a different area of health care. Each physician will focus on one of three different initiatives looking at how timely access to data can be used to:

- create efficiencies to reduce the need for blood transfusions and ensure appropriate care is provided during surgeries;
  - enhance the use of home dialysis to ensure care is delivered closer to home for rural patients; and
  - enhance navigation to health care for cancer patients to ensure timely access to care, particularly in rural and northern Manitoba.
- Twenty-eight research projects led by sixteen investigators received a total of \$1,991,878 in grant funding from multiple sponsors. Those projects receiving more than \$25,000 are:

<b>PI</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Awarded</b>
Annakkage, Udaya (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	Mitacs Accelerate	Sub synchronous oscillations in power systems	\$120,000
Ayele, Belay (Plant Science)	Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)	Enhancing traits of agronomic and economic importance in wheat	\$625,147
Azad, Meghan (Pediatrics and Child Health)	Research Manitoba	Manitoba interdisciplinary lactation center (MILC): A provincial infant feeding database and human milk biorepository	\$198,415
Ding, Hao (Biochemistry and Medical Genetics)	University of British Columbia	To model GLRX5 mutation in childhood-onset spasticity with nonketotic hyperglycinemia	\$25,000

Gole, Aniruddha (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	Mitacs Accelerate	An accurate screening technique for the study of sub-synchronous controller interaction in a power system having multiple wind generators	\$60,000
Gorczyca, Beata (Civil Engineering)	Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)	Effect of ozonation on chemical, physical, and biological removal of natural organic matter in granular filters	\$60,000
Katz, Alan (Family Medicine)	Research Manitoba	Screening for poverty and related social determinants and intervening to improve knowledge of and links to resources (SPARK) study	\$120,000
Kazem Moussavi, Zahra (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	Mitacs Accelerate	Developing a technique for characterization of upper airway and screening of obstructive sleep apnea using tracheal breathing sounds	\$45,000
MacKay, Dylan (Community Health Sciences)	Mitacs Elevated PDF	Resistant Starch Prebiotic Effects in Chronic Kidney Disease (ReSPECkD) study	\$60,000
Martin, Toby (Psychology)	Mitacs Accelerate	Evaluating community-based behavioural interventions for persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities	\$80,000
Myrie, Semone (Food and Human Nutritional Sciences)	Mitacs Accelerate	Development and validation of a pipeline for a clinical Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS) test for detection of a rare genetic sterol disorder influencing low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDC-C) concentrations	\$60,000
Paliwal, Jitendra (Biosystems Engineering)	Mitacs Accelerate	Development of safe storage guidelines for Canadian flax	\$105,000
Soussi Gounni, Abdelilah (Immunology)	Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba (CHRIM)	The impact of airway epithelial cells derived Semaphorin3E on the development of allergic asthma	\$60,000
Svecova, Dagmar (Civil Engineering)	Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)	Performance of UHPC in shear keys of box beam girders	\$33,873
Wang, Feiyue (Centre for Earth Observation Science)	Memorial University of Newfoundland	NSERC CREATE training program in Persistent, Emerging, and Oil PoLLution in cold marine Environments (PEOPLE CREATE)	\$27,000
Zvomuya, Francis (Soil Science)	Mitacs Accelerate	Soil productivity and soil health status following restoration of pipeline corridors	\$120,000

		on agricultural land reserve cropland in northern British Columbia	
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## ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- The Comptroller and the Manager of Purchasing Services met with the Province of Manitoba Assistant Deputy Minister, Procurement and Supply Chain to discuss collaboration opportunities. The Province has embarked on a procurement modernization initiative and participation will result in savings potential for the University. The first three categories that the University will participate in are office supplies, fleet, and freight.
- The Associate Comptroller was asked to join the Government Not-For-Profit Strategy Committee of the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) of Canada. The first focus of this national committee has been to consider the various accounting standards that not-for-profit organizations can follow and whether there should be a single accounting standard for these organizations.
- The Comptroller was invited to attend the Canadian Association of University Business Officers (CAUBO) Thought Leader Advisory Group where participants guide CAUBO in focusing their resources on issues that matter most to the member institutions.
- Learning & Organizational Development (LOD) is launching remote access for New Support Staff Orientation as part of an ongoing effort to make programming more accessible to support staff. Orientation provides a high level overview of both the responsibilities and benefits of working as support staff at the UM and introduces new employees to our campuses and culture. An employee of the Inuit Health Program, Ongomiizwin Health Services, Indigenous Institute of Health and Healing, is the first person to participate in new employee orientation from a remote location.
- Throughout the month of February, students, faculty, staff, alumni and the community at large were invited to attend a number of initiatives and events to honour Black History Month on campus.
- Device encryption for Windows laptops and desktops are currently being rolled out to IST centrally managed devices. We have encrypted 63% and on target to finish by April 2020.
- The Information Policy and Procedure were approved by the Board of Governors on February 3rd and a communication strategy for the Policy is being developed in March.
- Cell phone provider transition complete.
- The University has engaged with a client advocate to advance the MB Hydro Reservicing Project. A concept design is being finalized and has been identified to MB Hydro for prioritization and scheduling. This is a major step forward in advancing the modernization of the university power system. Over the coming months, further refinement of the concept and costing will be developed. The university continues to experience issues with the electrical distribution system, with a major outage due to a transformer failure in Elizabeth Dafoe Library on Feb 24, 2020. In addition, routine minor interruptions were experienced with the MB Hydro feed on several occasions in early 2020.

The underground line that feed the A Lot resulting in a major outage on campus on Oct 11, 2019 was replaced with a new cable on Dec 21, 2019.

- The Wildlife Management Plan and Goose Management Plan have been finalized by Joro Consulting on Feb 5, 2020, and are in final review by the Marketing Communications Office (MCO) before being posted to the UM website and made available for the campus community.
- The Campus Commute Survey ran January 13-31. The survey looked at how the Campus Community got to, from and around campus. The data helps shape direction and priority of transportation projects on campus. In total, 3,719 respondents filled out the survey. Results are expected to be compiled in a final report by April 2020.
- Invent for the Planet: In partnership with North Forge, Faculty of Science, Partnerships and Innovation Office and various other units, the Office of Sustainability co-hosted a 48-hour idea competition around creating solutions for large-scale world issues in sustainability. The event took place February 14-16 with a total of 40 students, 10 mentors and 4 judges participating in the weekend. Team “HUB-It”, winners of the competition, took home the grand prize of \$1,000, three months of mentorship at the North Forge Technology Exchange and the chance to continue to the final round in the international competition in Texas on March 31 – April 2.

## EXTERNAL RELATIONS

- Gifts made in the current reporting period include:
  - Gerry [B.Sc(M.E.)1970, M.SC 1972, LL.D. 2017] and Barbara [B.H.Ec. 1969, Cert.Ed. 1970] Price announced a gift of \$20 million to support the Faculty of Engineering on March 11. Because of their longstanding support of students and faculty, research and facilities, the University has renamed the faculty as the Price Faculty of Engineering in their honour.
  - The Department of Internal Medicine has committed \$1,500,000 to the Internal Medicine Endowment Fund.
  - The late Lytton W. Smith [M.D. 1970] has generously left a gift of \$1,324,000 to the Max Rady College of Medicine in his estate.
  - The Department of Anesthesia and Perioperative Medicine has committed \$330,000.00 to establish a professorship in anesthesiology, peri-operative and pain medicine.
  - The Department of Radiology members are establishing a professorship in neuroimaging with a gift of \$250,000.
  - Douglas Flynn has made an additional gift of \$200,000 to the Renal Transplant Research Fund.
  - The late Renie S. Grosser [B.A. 1953, B.Ped. 1954, B.Ed. 1958] made a bequest of \$159,330 in her estate to support the Israel Grosser and Amalie Rath Grosser Bursary.
  - J. Douglas Collier [B.Sc. 1987] made a gift of \$100,000 to support an Integrated Science Lab for the Faculty of Science.
  - James Peebles [BSc(Hons)/58, DCs/98], Faculty of Science graduate and recent recipient of the Nobel Prize for Physics, has directed \$100,000 from the proceeds of his Nobel Prize with the University of Manitoba.

- On April 2, we will celebrate the success of the Front and Centre campaign and unveil our final campaign total. The celebration will take place from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm at IG Athletic Centre. Donors, students, faculty and staff, and community members are invited to celebrate the success of the largest philanthropic campaign in Manitoba’s history.
- On April 15, 16 & 23, President Barnard will host alumni receptions in each of Vancouver, Calgary and Toronto. These events will serve as an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the support of the Front and Centre campaign donors in those cities.
- On February 11, Minister of Middle Class Prosperity and Associate Minister of Finance, the Honourable Mona Fortier, hosted a roundtable discussion at the Smartpark Innovation Hub as part of the Government of Canada’s 2020 pre-budget consultation. The University participated in the discussion along with approximately 20 other community stakeholders.
- On March 5, President Barnard hosted the final Visionary Conversations event on the topic: “*How can our community come together to combat the impacts of drug addiction?*” at the Brodie Centre at the Bannatyne Campus. Nine panelists participated in the discussion which drew over 250 attendees.
- Nominations for the 2020 Distinguished Alumni Awards closed on January 17. The selection panel has met to select this year’s recipients who will be announced later in March. The DAA 2020 Celebration of Excellence event is scheduled for October 1, 2020.
- The 2020 Board of Governors Alumni Representative nominations opened on February 13 and will close on March 16. The election will be held via online voting from April 15 to May 15, with the successful candidate to be announced on May 26.
- The migration of the UM website to the redesigned [umanitoba.ca](http://umanitoba.ca) is on track to continue until late 2020. Since the initial launch in August 2019, migration has focused on the student user experience. Recent migrations include content related to student housing, registration, academic advising, student supports and international student information. Over the next several months, many faculties and ancillary services will begin to migrate as well. The initial faculty sites include the Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management, Faculty of Architecture and Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences.
- Work also continues on the implementation of a UM intranet/staff portal with initial content being available for faculty and staff in the summer months.