

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT: June 23, 2020

### GENERAL

A COVID-19 Recovery Working Group has been established to lead the review of academic, research and other recovery plans for a slow, safe and phased-in restoration of on-campus activity. This working group is chaired by both Andrew Konowalchuk, Associate Vice-President (Administration) and Todd Mondor, Deputy-Provost (Academic Planning and Programs), and provides strategic advice to the President through the Vice-President (Administration).

At this time, research at University of Manitoba (UM) is continuing remotely to the extent possible. A process for a phased reopening of research—defined broadly as research, scholarly work, creative activities—that requires access to labs and facilities located in UM buildings and field research stations has been outlined by the Office of the Vice-President (Research and International). The phased approach does not apply to research that can be conducted remotely. To limit the spread of COVID-19, researchers are asked to continue to conduct research remotely to the extent practical. It is important to note, this is not a return to normal. Rather it is a step to allow those with a compelling need to access laboratories and facilities to do so.

Online voting for the 2020 Board of Governors alumni representative closed on May 15. With over 2,400 votes cast, alumni have elected Nora Murdock [PhD/16, Med/05, CertEd/78, BA/78] as the 2020 – 2023 alumni representative on the Board of Governors. As his term comes to a finish, the University wishes to thank Jerome Knysh [MBA/90 ExtEd/87 BSc(IE)/84] for his outstanding service as an alumni representative on the Board of Governors over the last three years.

On Monday, June 29, the University of Manitoba will come together to celebrate the 3,834 members of the graduating class of 2020 and confer them with their degrees in a virtual ceremony. Though an in-person celebration is not possible at this time, the virtual celebration promises to be a meaningful experience for all involved. As soon as it is safe to do so, each member of the class of 2020 will be invited to participate in an in-person celebration.

### ACADEMIC MATTERS

- Andrea Charron, political studies, was named Vice-President of Canada's Defence Advisory Board (DAB) by the Chief of the Defence Staff and Deputy-Minister of Defence. The Defence Advisory Board (DAB) provides advice to the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces.
- Janilyn Arsenio, internal medicine and immunology, has been selected for membership to the prestigious Global Young Academy (GYA). She is one of four Canadians among this year's 40 Global Young Academy (GYA) inductees, who represent 30 countries. The Global Young Academy (GYA) brings together outstanding early-career researchers for international dialogue and collaboration.

Members are selected for their scientific excellence and commitment to service. Each member joins the academy for a term of five years.

- Cheryl French, emergency medicine, has been honoured with the Resident Doctors of Canada's Puddester Award for Resident Wellness. The RDoC Puddester Award for Resident Wellness is awarded annually to a student, resident, staff member, physician, program, or institution that has made a significant contribution to resident wellness.
- On May 12, a large-scale international clinical trial to test whether the blood thinner heparin can help improve survival for COVID-19 patients was launched. Ryan Zarychanski, internal medicine and community health sciences, is co-Principal Investigator of the clinical trial with Dr. Ewan Goligher and Dr. Patrick Lawler, both at the University of Toronto. The trial was started with funding from a COVID-19 Fast Grant from the ThistleDown Foundation, and an Innovation Award from the Peter Munk Cardiac Centre Innovation Committee.
- Lauren MacKenzie, internal medicine, infectious diseases, in collaboration with the University of Minnesota and McGill University, launched an online clinical trial titled Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for health-care workers at higher risk of exposure to COVID-19. The purpose of the trial is to study the medication hydroxychloroquine to see if it can help prevent health-care workers from contracting COVID-19. This trial is part of a suite of trials overseen by Ryan Zarychanski, internal medicine and community health sciences, and his research team.
- Laura Forsythe, native studies, student received the Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship Doctoral award. The award aims to develop research skills and assist in the training of highly qualified personnel by supporting students who demonstrate a high standard of scholarly achievement in undergraduate and graduate studies in the social sciences and humanities.
- An Asper MBA business venture team excelled at the world's first virtual business plan competition by reaching the final round of the 2020 SCG Bangkok Business Challenge. MBA students Sankalp Kalra, Meycee Kalaw, Paul-Emile Crevier, and Yusuf Kacamak were selected as one of the six finalists from a pool of 208 teams representing 83 institutions and 24 countries all competing for more than US \$60,000 in cash awards. As one of only two Canadian business schools to qualify for the final, Team MYCA's presentation represented a unique interconnection of business, agriculture and science.
- Two graduates of the Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry's pediatric dentistry graduate program, Rena Sihra and Tara Kennedy, were awarded the 2019 Richard C. Pugh Achievement Award. It is awarded to those who score in the top three per cent on the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry Qualifying Examination. The exam is written by about 500 people each year. They were the only two graduates from a Canadian university to receive the award in 2019.
- As a response to economic challenges facing many local businesses, the Asper School of Business has developed a new undergraduate course for the fall entitled Applied Small Business Consulting. This experiential course, supported by the Stu Clark Centre for Entrepreneurship, gives senior students hands-on consulting experience, by providing qualifying small businesses access to pro bono business consultation.

- The Asper School of Business has created a COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund with close to \$500,000 allocated to students experiencing financial hardship. Thank you to the Associates for the \$50,000 donation made through the University of Manitoba Business School Foundation. Faculty and staff have also contributed more than \$22,000 to the fund.
- Professors and instructors from the Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry are treating patients for dental emergencies at Health Sciences Centre two days a week. Nine dentistry professors and seven dentists, most of whom teach part-time at the dental college, have stepped forward to provide this frontline care. The team includes general dentists and specialists in endodontics, oral surgery, pediatric dentistry and support staff from the dental college. The community dentists are working as unpaid volunteers. The Rady Faculty, Shared Health, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA) and the Manitoba Dental Association collaborated to establish and make the services available, on a referral basis, to all Manitobans.

## RESEARCH MATTERS

- Further to the phased re-opening of research, the responsibility for operationalizing increasing research activity within each faculty is lies with the respective faculties. Therefore, each faculty will be asked whether it wishes to increase research activity within their units, recognizing that different faculties may have different needs or impediments. Details on the guiding principles, process for requesting access and preventative measures are available in the updated Researcher FAQs section of the COVID-19 webpage.
- The following COVID-related research has been awarded to UM researchers:

PI	Sponsor	Title	Awarded
Herbert, David (Chemistry)	NSERC Alliance COVID-19	Production of a synthetic library of chloroquine analogs and precursors for future treatment development of COVID-19	\$50,000
Koper, Nicola (Natural Resources Institute)	NSERC Alliance COVID-19	Effects of COVID-19-related travel restrictions on migratory birds, including species at risk, in Canada	\$50,000

- One hundred and seven research projects led by 102 investigators received a total of \$13,640,214 in grant funding from multiple sponsors. Those projects receiving more than \$25,000 are:

PI	Sponsor	Title	Awarded
Acar, Elif Fidan (Statistics)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Dependence models for complex and massive data	\$120,000
Akcora, Cuneyt (Computer Science)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Data science of blockchains	\$120,000
Anderson, W. Gary (Biological Sciences)	NSERC Industrial Research Chair	NSERC/Manitoba Hydro Industrial Research Chair in conservation aquaculture of Lake Sturgeon	\$608,406
Appadoo, Srimantoorao (Supply Chain Management)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	On the role of data analytics and fuzzy sets theory in healthcare supply chain management	\$130,000

Azad, Meghan (Pediatrics and Child Health)	Mitacs Industrial Postdoctoral Fellowship	Optimizing the prebiotic profile of donor human milk for preterm infants: feasibility of new donor milk matching strategy based on maternal secretor status.	\$220,000
Bailis, Daniel (Psychology)	SSHRC Insight Grants	Self-Compassion at the Point of Sale: Investigating Linkages to High and Low Consumerist Behaviours	\$97,914
Bakker, Matthew (Microbiology)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Microbiome management for sustainable agriculture	\$150,000
Bassuoni, Mohamed (Civil Engineering)	City of Winnipeg	Nano-modified polymer coatings for concrete bridges	\$78,000
Bassuoni, Mohamed (Civil Engineering)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Improving the process for cold weather concreting: Novel concrete mixtures and innovative curing methods	\$215,000
Becker, Allan (Pediatrics and Child Health)	CIHR Project Grant	CHILDhood asthma and puberty: Understanding the gender shift in asthma to female predominance	\$1,220,940
Bieringer, Mario (Chemistry)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Understanding inorganic solid state reactivity for the design of functional materials	\$145,000
Bookman, Sonia (Sociology)	SSHRC Insight Grants	Cosmopolitan consumption, culture, and markets in a Canadian society	\$88,395
Budisa, Nediljko (Chemistry)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Chemical evolution of synthetic bacterial cells by reprogramming protein translation with noncanonical amino acids	\$250,000
Bunt, Andrea (Computer Science)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Technologies to support online knowledge sharing and retrieval for feature-rich software	\$205,000
Chelikani, V.G.B. Prashen (Oral Biology)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Food chemosensation: Characterization of novel bitter taste blockers and structure-function analysis	\$250,000
Clay, Adam (Mathematics)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Low dimensional topology, ordered groups and actions on 1-manifolds	\$135,000
Collins, Eric (Centre for Earth Observation Science)	New Frontiers Research Fund - Exploration	Arctic coastal community-based prediction of oil biodegradation potential using real-time DNA sequencing and machine learning	\$250,000
Cossar, Roisin (History)	SSHRC Insight Grants	To everything there is a season: Seasonality and the history of late medieval Christianity	\$90,060
Costamagna, Alejandro (Entomology)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Effects of landscape complexity on the functional diversity of natural enemies and the provision of pest control ecosystem services in agricultural landscapes	\$140,000
Dahl-Jensen, Dorthe (Centre for Earth Observation Science)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Ice2Sea	\$375,000
Davidson-Hunt, Iain (Natural Resources Institute)	SSHRC Insight Grants	Living autonomously in precarious times: the persistence and emergence of artisanal practice in rural regions	\$358,178

Doble, Bradley (Pediatrics and Child Health)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Elucidating Wnt signalling mechanisms in pluripotent stem cells	\$160,000
Driedger, S. Michelle (Community Health Sciences)	University of the Fraser Valley	Improving the health of immigrant and refugee women and children through immunization	\$54,855
Durocher, Stephane (Computer Science)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Algorithms for summarizing, representing, and analyzing trajectories of moving objects	\$240,000
Eltosy, Sherif (Pharmacy)	Manitoba Medical Service Foundation	Comparative safety of antiepileptic therapies during pregnancy	\$30,000
Ferguson, Philip (Mechanical Engineering)	NSERC Collaborative Research and Development	A virtual ground station for automated spacecraft operations	\$30,000
Fernandez, Enrique (French, Spanish and Italian)	SSHRC Insight Grants	Post-mortem gender identities in early modern Iberia: Relics and anatomies	\$88,689
Filizadeh, Shaahin (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Solutions and study methods for power grids with diminishing inertia	\$230,000
Fowler, Kent (Anthropology)	SSHRC Insight Grants	Between commoners and kings: An integrated approach to the political economy of the Zulu Kingdom	\$399,511
Frederiksen, Andrew (Geological Sciences)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Seismic structure of central Canada at multiple scales	\$150,000
Giesbrecht, Gordon (Kinesiology and Recreation Management)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Neuromuscular mechanisms for cold-induced changes in voluntary and involuntary muscle activity	\$140,000
Gilmore, Colin (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Bridging the gap between computations and experiment in electromagnetic inversion	\$140,000
Glazebrook, Cheryl (Kinesiology and Recreation Management)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	How to harness the benefits of multisensory-motor integration: Attention and preparation	\$200,000
Harris, Steven (Biological Sciences)	Manitoba Hydro	NSERC/Manitoba Hydro Industrial Research Chair in conservation aquaculture of Lake Sturgeon - Renewal	\$175,375
Harris, Steven (Biological Sciences)	NSERC Industrial Research Chair	NSERC/Manitoba Hydro Industrial Research Chair in conservation aquaculture or Lake Sturgeon - Renewal	\$259,500
Hatala, Andrew (Community Health Sciences)	University of Winnipeg	Kishaadigeh: Indigenous self determination through research for our future generations - Manitoba NEIHR	\$66,667
Hausner, Georg (Microbiology)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Introns, nested introns and intron encoded proteins in the mitochondrial genomes of fungi	\$210,000
Hawthorne, Frank (Geological Sciences)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	A theoretical basis for mineralogy and the behaviour of minerals in earth processes	\$150,000
Irani, Pourang (Computer Science)	Huawei Technologies Canada Co., Ltd.	Finger-tip computing	\$132,000

Jafari Jozani, Mohammad (Statistics)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Statistical learning with expert knowledge and complex data	\$120,000
Jeffrey, Ian (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Meta-optimization of wavefield imaging for agricultural and biomedical applications	\$140,000
Jian, Fuji (Biosystems Engineering)	Mitacs Accelerate	Desorption and sorption isotherms of hemp seeds with dockage	\$45,000
Kelly, Lauren (Pediatrics and Child Health)	Mitacs Accelerate	Cannabis used for medical purposes by children in Canada	\$30,000
Koksel, Filiz (Food and Human Nutritional Sciences)	NSERC Research Tools & Instruments	Rheometer for characterizing mechanical properties of food materials	\$144,145
Kopotun, Kirill (Mathematics)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Topics in nonlinear approximation	\$90,000
Kumar, Ayush (Microbiology)	Mitacs Accelerate	Development and testing of novel antimicrobial fabrics	\$110,000
Labouta, Hagar (Pharmacy)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Combined in vitro experimental and computational approaches for predicting the identity and behaviour of protein corona-adsorbed nanoparticles	\$140,000
Li, Hong (Warren Centre for Actuarial Studies and Research)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Stochastic mortality modeling and longevity risk management in multiple-population context	\$115,000
Liao, Kang-Ling (Mathematics)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Mathematical analysis and modelling of Notch signalling in zebrafish somitogenesis	\$90,000
Lindsey, Benjamin (Human Anatomy and Cell Science)	Manitoba Medical Service Foundation	Immune cell regulation of neural stem cells for spinal cord repair in a zebrafish model	\$30,000
Lindsey, Benjamin (Human Anatomy and Cell Science)	NSERC Research Tools & Instruments	Connecting cellular dynamics with animal behaviour in small teleost models	\$95,202
Livi, Lorenzo (Computer Science)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Machine learning for graph-structured data: Understanding complex biological systems	\$145,000
Martin, Robert (Mathematics)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Multi-variable Hardy Spaces and Operator Theory	\$90,000
McKinnon, Lyle (Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Immune regulation at mucosal surfaces	\$150,000
McLachlan, Stephane (Environment & Geography)	Mitacs Accelerate	Pangnirtung land and climate program	\$30,000
Menec, Verena (Community Health Sciences)	SSHRC Insight Grants	Age-friendly community initiatives: Impact and sustainability	\$220,476
Mezghani, Amine (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Multi-functional millimeter-wave radios for connected and autonomous vehicles: Signal processing algorithms and practical design	\$140,000
Mookherjee, Neeloffer (Internal Medicine)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Cytokines and host defence peptides: Mechanisms of immunomodulation	\$210,000

Nagy, James (Physiology & Pathophysiology)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Structural organization and functional roles of electrical synapses formed by Cx36-containing gap junctions in neural systems	\$180,000
Ng, Koi Yu Adolf (Supply Chain Management)	Research Manitoba	An investigation on epidemic logistical response and planning: The case of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)	\$258,900
Nixon, Kendra (RESOLVE (Research and Education for Solutions to Violence and Abuse))	Western Manitoba Women's Regional Resource Centre	Responding to women who experience IPV in rural municipalities across the prairies	\$74,922
Okhmatovski, Vladimir (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Forward and inverse problems of electromagnetics: Novel algorithms and their implementations	\$165,000
Pascoe, Chris (Physiology & Pathophysiology)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Elucidating the role of the hydroxyeicosatetraenoic acid family of eicosanoids in airway smooth muscle physiology	\$150,000
Peng, Qingjin (Mechanical Engineering)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Research on key technologies of a virtual reality based product test platform	\$195,000
Peter, Tracey (Sociology)	SSHRC Insight Grants	A cross-national, cross-sectional study of women's retention and advancement in information technology and engineering careers	\$212,170
Prymak, Andriy (Mathematics)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Multivariate approximation	\$90,000
Qi, Dake (College of Pharmacy)	CIHR Project Grant	Macrophage migration inhibitory factor (MIF), a novel factor regulates hyperphagia and obesity associated with atypical antipsychotics	\$520,200
Rachul, Christen (Office of Educational and Faculty Development)	University of Alberta	Coronavirus outbreak: Mapping and countering misinformation	\$25,408
Stobart, Jill (College of Pharmacy)	CIHR Early Career Investigator Award	Brain pericyte calcium signaling in health and disease	\$88,500
Regehr, Jonathan (Civil Engineering)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Modelling truck loads on secondary rural highway networks	\$130,000
Salimi, Elham (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Electrically-enhanced modular microfluidics for single-cell analysis	\$140,000
Schultz, Annette (Nursing)	CIHR - Fellowship: Patient-Oriented Research Awards - Transition to Leadership Stream	Building capacity for patient-oriented research within a Canadian research hospital	\$232,500
Schweizer, Frank (Chemistry)	CIHR Project Grant	Rescuing $\beta$ -lactam antibiotic/ $\beta$ -lactamase inhibitor combinations from resistance against multidrug-resistant gram-negative pathogens	\$100,000
Schweizer, Frank (Chemistry)	NSERC Research Tools & Instruments	Purification system for polybasic amphiphiles	\$58,425

Shafai, Cyrus (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	Mitacs Accelerate	Groundless MEMS DC voltage sensors for electric power utilities	\$160,000
Shankar, Jai (Radiology)	Manitoba Medical Service Foundation	CT perfusion (CTP) for Assessment of poor Neurological outcome in Comatose Cardiac Arrest Patients (CANCCAP)-a prospective cohort study	\$25,000
Souleymanov, Rusty (Social Work)	CIHR Catalyst Grant: HIV/AIDS and STBBI Community-Based Research	An exploratory qualitative study of migration, sex health and HIV/STBBI in Manitoba	\$40,000
Starzyk, Katherine (Psychology)	Mitacs Accelerate Industrial Postdoctoral Fellowship	The psychometric development and validation of the Canadian Reconciliation Barometer	\$55,000
Stobart, Jill (Pharmacy)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Delineation of astrocyte microdomain calcium events during cortical activity	\$205,000
Strachan, Shaelyn (Kinesiology and Recreation Management)	Mitacs Elevated Post-Doctoral Fellowship	Enhancing exercise adherence in people with persistent musculoskeletal pain using behaviour change approach	\$60,000
Stroeve, Julienne (Centre for Earth Observation Science)	Laval University	Improved Canadian arctic sea ice thickness estimates	\$25,000
Tenuta, Mario (Soil Science)	NSERC Research Tools & Instruments	Back to capacity: Replacement of a 20 year old nonservicable automated gas chromatograph for determination of greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture	\$104,194
Thavaneswaran, Aerambamoort (Statistics)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Inference for stochastic processes and applications	\$90,000
Thomson, Douglas (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	High throughput and accuracy single cell dielectric analysis and dielectric dyes	\$140,000
Thulasiram, Ruppa (Computer Science)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Advances in computational finance and its application with decentralized distributed systems	\$175,000
Triggs-Raine, Barbara (Biochemistry and Medical Genetics)	Manitoba Medical Service Foundation	Artificial intelligence and genomics-driven precision oncology for breast cancer	\$75,000
Tze, Virginia (Educational Administration, Foundations and Psychology)	SSHRC Insight Grants	Empowering students to fight boredom through an online intervention	\$143,034
Van Lierop, Johan (Physics and Astronomy)	NSERC Research Tools & Instruments	Atomic magnetism of skyrmion lattices: Probing dzyaloshinskii-moriya interactions using advanced low temperature conversion electron mossbauer spectroscopy	\$83,395
Van Nest, Byron (Biological Sciences)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	The neural circuitry of learning, memory, and decision making in honey bees	\$140,000



Woodgate, Roberta (Nursing)	CIHR Catalyst Grant: Patient-Oriented Research	Engaging youth in patient-oriented research to develop a research project on culturally sensitive mental healthcare for youth	\$99,880
Wu, Zhenyu (Business Administration)	SSHRC Insight Grants	Family involvement and longevity of joint ventures: International evidence	\$98,280
Yang, Po (Statistics)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Optimal experimental designs and response surface optimization	\$90,000
Yao, Xiao-Jian (Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases)	Research Manitoba	Development of a novel DC-targeting vaccine approach targeting 2019-nCoV spike protein for controlling nCoV infection	\$270,550
Zahradka, Peter (Physiology & Pathophysiology)	Mitacs Accelerate PhD Fellowship	Selection of standardization of a metabolite profile for diagnosis of Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD)	\$55,000
Zarychanski, Ryan (Internal Medicine)	Research Manitoba	Antithrombotic therapy to ameliorate complication of Covid-19 (ATTACC)	\$500,000
Zhang, Yang (Mathematics)	NSERC Discovery Grants Program	Efficient algorithms for the symbolic computation of matrices	\$205,000

## ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- The Office of the CIO and Chief Information Officer continues to provide support to the University community. Two Factor Authentication product purchased and implementation being accelerated due to increased risk with Pandemic remote work.
- Human Resources continues to spend a considerable amount of time preparing and planning for staffing and budget implications due to the continuation of the stay at home orders and government reductions due to COVID-19.
- With the announcement of fall classes being offered by remote learning, Learning & Organizational Development (LOD) designed several new workshops for support staff and teams. New workshops include “Virtual Meetings” and “Managing Teams in an Online Environment” and are open to all employees and to intact working groups and teams.
- Purchasing Services is sourcing Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and supplies and developing a list for the website to assist University staff to purchase these supplies. Where supplies need to be sourced, Purchasing Services is consolidating volumes with other universities in Manitoba in collaboration with the Province for procurement sourcing events.
- The year-end audit being conducted by the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) is drawing to a close, with no known errors being identified to date. They are anticipated to have the audit substantially completed by May 22.

- The Office of Fair Practices and Legal Affairs is providing opinions, advice and guidance regarding:
  - Best practices for the use of electronic signatures for contract execution while working remotely
  - Landlord-tenant and real property concerns including:
    - Preparation of a memo: re deferral/abatement of rent
    - Preparing a draft template lease amendment agreement for the deferral/abatement of rent
    - Guidance on the federal government’s commercial rent relief program, including considerations surrounding eligibility requirements
  - Employment and labour relations issues relating to:
    - temporary lay-off of bargaining unit members
    - new academic appointments set to start in July and September 2020; and
    - ongoing discussions between staff relations and union leadership about remote work and remote learning
  - Reviewing, negotiating and finalizing seven (7) clinical trials agreements related to the COVID-19 virus (set out in Appendix “A”).
  - Assistance with preparing and finalizing a number of Material Transfer Agreements and data sharing agreements, which are also related to COVID-19 related research.
  - Participation on the UM COVID-19 Recovery Working Group.
  - Coordinating and synthesizing information into FAQs and other communications to support consistent messaging and directions.
  - The Office of Fair Practices and Legal Affairs continues to provide support and advice around COVID-19 impacts (urgent measures, response plans, employment issues, safety and security, contractual amendments and cancellations, new contracts to support COVID-19 initiatives and research) and the University’s ongoing critical obligations (contracts, leases, placements, construction, labour relations, and statutory compliance obligations). Some staff have also been reallocated to provide additional support to the Vice-President Administration’s office.
  
- The Copyright Office continues to provide support and advice regarding copyright/ownership issues during the change to online course delivery, developing best practices for use of protected materials during pandemic, and assessing and advising on copyright implications for platforms and tools for online course delivery.
  
- The copyright office is assisting the University of Manitoba Libraries to develop digital and remote access provisions for print holdings, including through membership in the HathiTrust library consortium.
  
- The copyright office is also developing copyright guides and presentations for rapidly changing course delivery from in-person to online.
  
- The Access and Privacy Office continues to provide support and guidance in assessing new tools required for online course and exam delivery, in responding to and upholding health care privacy obligations, in responding to access requests and complaints filed, and in supporting the technical requirements for the University community to work remotely and ensure business continuity.
  
- The Access and Privacy Office is developing a Response Plan for COVID-19 Positive Cases in the University Community.

- The Human Rights and Conflict Management Office has adapted its systems to continue providing services in relation to issues of Accommodations and allegations of Harassment, Discrimination, Racism, Sexual Violence, and Reprisals, while also reallocating its staff to support the work conducted by the other offices of Fair Practices and Legal Affairs.

## EXTERNAL RELATIONS

- Like most other philanthropic organizations, the University is experiencing a significant downturn in fundraising activity. Fiscal year to date, giving is down approximately 69% compared to the same time period in 2019. To date, only a small number of donors (<10) have asked to cancel, decrease or defer existing pledge payments.
- The majority of current fundraising activity is focused on the promotion of the COVID-19 UM Student Relief Fund and the COVID-19 UM Student Technology Fund. The purpose of these funds is to provide support to students in the form of bursaries and personal computer equipment facing barriers to complete their studies as a result of the pandemic. To date, 257 donors have made gifts totalling \$476,086 to these funds to be dispersed to UM students.
- Our dedicated communications team is actively working with areas across UM to support timely decision-making and communications. Our strategy has been to direct all communications to our central COVID-19 webpage at [umanitoba.ca/coronavirus](http://umanitoba.ca/coronavirus) which serves as the primary source for all information required by students, faculty and staff, and visitors. We are actively communicating new information to our community via our news and social media channels, linking back to our main webpage to access the latest information.
  - To date, we've communicated over 200 COVID-19 related messages and stories across our digital channels.
  - Over the month of May, total pageviews for [umanitoba.ca/coronavirus](http://umanitoba.ca/coronavirus) were approximately 50,000.
  - In the current reporting period, UM students, faculty and staff members have received extensive media coverage including 1,500 print and online stories and 170 broadcast news stories from outlets across Canada, US, UK, Austria and more.
  - Dr. Jason Kindrachuk, Assistant Professor of Viral Pathogenesis and Canada Research Chair, continues to be a top-featured UM expert on various media outlets.
  - Dr. Nicola Koper, Professor and Acting Director of the National Resources Institute, received national media attention for her project that aims to unite North American biologists to study the effects of the pandemic on the continent's wildlife.
- Engagement, activity and collaboration with all levels of government continues to increase. UM is continuously working in solidarity with our partners at the City of Winnipeg, Province of Manitoba and Government of Canada to find solutions to the complex and diverse challenges we face due to the pandemic while continuing to advance our other important priorities as potential funding opportunities post-pandemic.
- The 2020 Distinguished Alumni Awards, Homecoming and milestone reunions will be celebrated virtually, with all in-person celebrations to be moved to 2021.

- Carrying on the longstanding tradition of student philanthropic giving, all eight of the student councils that voted in this period were positive in confirming a renewal of their support. A contribution per credit hour or term is being proposed in each of these eight academic units with funds to be used to support projects selected by the students.
- The Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education has recognized the University with five 2020 Prix D'Excellence Awards:
  - Gold – Best Photograph for Dorthe Dahl-Jensen: Below the Surface, UM Today The Magazine
  - Silver – Best Print Magazine for UM Today The Magazine
  - Bronze – Best Social Media for @umstudent Instagram account, Best Public Relations/Marketing/Communications Initiative for James Peebles: Our Nobel Laureate event, and Best Poster for James Peebles airport installation
- The migration of the University website to the redesigned umanitoba.ca continues, on track to wrap-up late 2020. We are currently experiencing a quarterly growth of over half a million visits to umanitoba.ca. Traffic to the new website has grown by 174% since the initial launch in August 2019.
- Work continues on the implementation of UM Intranet, a staff portal, with initial content being available for faculty and staff later this year.