

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT: December 1, 2020

### GENERAL

Through the fall, extensive outreach continued via virtual meetings between the President and donors, community leaders, alumni and government partners via virtual meetings to discuss priorities for UM. Some key meetings include Premier Brian Pallister, several provincial Cabinet ministers, the Honourable Jim Carr, Special Representative for the Prairies, Grand Chief Arlen Dumas from the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, Sean Barr, Assistant Deputy Minister of Western Diversification (WD) and Kristina Braun, Senior Advisor, Manitoba, Western Canada Growth Strategy, WD, Manitoba Metis Federation President David Chartrand, Mayor Brian Bowman, and Tracey Maconachie, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Training.

Similarly, outreach took place within the university as well, with the President and Provost and Vice-President (Academic) attending meetings of faculty and college councils. As of the end of November, meetings have taken place with 10 councils and the remainder are scheduled to take place within the next few months.

The University signed on to the Collaborative Procurement Initiative with the Government of Manitoba and other public sector entities to leverage collective buying power. The first three formal categories that the University will be participating in are Office Supplies, Fleet and Freight. The University is currently participating in the Fleet Category, valued at \$800,000 annually, for the University, but is \$121 million annually for the collaborative group, exemplifying the volume buying power potential of a collaborative buying group.

In October, the Manitoba Industry-Academia Partnership (MI-AP) hosted the first AIMday™ Digital Agriculture event virtually. MI-AP is a partnership with Red River College, the University of Winnipeg and Business Council Manitoba, supported by a grant from Western Economic Diversification, to drive industry investment in specific collaboration projects that provide significant economic benefits. The first AIMDay was attended by seventy individuals and is the first step in a process that is expected to lead to joint research projects that will address specific industry needs. The event generated eight new partnerships which companies and scientists are now exploring further to expand the boundaries of knowledge and create economic advantages.

The announcement that the entire province is moving to the critical/red level on the #RestartMB Pandemic Response System, effective Thursday, November 12, resulted in some changes at UM to protect the health and safety of the UM community, while continuing to ensure students' ability to complete their approved in-person activities, and faculty members' ability to conduct essential research. These include instruction that all work that can be done remotely, must be; the wearing of 3-ply, disposable masks on campus for all academic and research activities; a reduction to the maximum number of employees on campus to 20%; the cancellation or postponement of all in-person discretionary activities until at least January 2021; the closure of all UM sport and recreation facilities; and the closure of all but absolutely essential common spaces and lunch spaces.

A drive-up COVID-19 testing site opened on the Fort Garry campus on November 8, 2020, at the Smartpark Event Centre in the UM Smartpark Research and Technology Park. The site is open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily.

## ACADEMIC MATTERS

- The Bruce D. Campbell Farm and Food Discovery Centre offered digital resources in celebration of Farm and Food Awareness Week in September. Although on-site visits were limited and have now temporarily ceased, a collection of hands-on activities, recipes, virtual tours, videos and other materials have been compiled to enable at-home learners and anyone interested in agriculture and food educational resources.
- The Faculty of Education recently hosted the first of their virtual lecture in the Dean's Distinguished Lecture Series, which is this academic year focus on Truth and Reconciliation. The first lecture *Institutional Racism and the Implications for Faculties of Education* featured Jerome Cranston, Professor and Dean of Education at the University of Regina and internationally recognized scholar in educational leadership.
- The Stu Clark Centre for Entrepreneurship (SCCE) recently held the first virtual business plan pitch competition. This core entrepreneurial course and pitch competition provides UM students a unique experiential learning opportunity; beginning with idea creation, through pitch development, and concluding with a real-life Dragon's Den format with students pitching in front of an audience (virtual) while fielding tough questions. Forty-nine cross-faculty teams representing 250 students from various faculties including; Agriculture, Arts, Engineering, Fine Arts, Kinesiology, Science and Asper recorded their two-minute virtual pitches. One team would be chosen to compete as a finalist in the live virtual pitch completion.
- As a response to concerns at Canadian business schools related to issues concerning Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) the Asper School of Business has formed an EDI taskforce, which aims at proactively addressing discrimination. Through the EDI task force, the School endeavors to foster a more inclusive learning environment for every single student that attends and/or interacts with the Asper School of Business. A series of workshops were launched designed to promote equal opportunity practices.
- Two faculty members from the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences have been elected to the Royal Society of Canada (RSC), the nation's most esteemed association of scholars and scientists. Dr. Joan Durrant, Community Health Sciences, was named a Fellow of the RSC. Durrant and Dr. Marcelo Urquia, Community Health Sciences and Canada Research Chair in population health, was elected to the RSC's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists.
- Dr. Brent Schacter, professor emeritus, internal medicine, will be inducted as a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. It is one of the highest honours in the academic community.
- Dr. Verena Menec, Community Health Sciences, has been named a Distinguished Member of the Canadian Association on Gerontology, recognizing her dedication to improving the lives of older Canadians.
- Camerata Nova (a popular Winnipeg choral ensemble that is largely composed of Desautels alumni, professors, and staff) has done a series of remote video recordings, beginning with an Indigenous

take on Iron Maiden's "Run to the Hills." A follow-up article later this year will release their recording of new Indigenous works by Desautels alumnus and composer Andrew Balfour.

- It was recently announced that UM alumnus Henry Bruce Chown [MD/22] is one of six groundbreaking physicians and researchers who were celebrated in a new set of commemorative Canada Post stamps. Dr. Chown, a renowned researcher and UM professor who lived from 1893 to 1986, is internationally recognized for leading the way in eliminating rhesus (Rh) disease, which was once a major cause of newborn deaths.
- Jonathan Rosset, recent Plant Science MSc graduate, and Nikki Hawrylyshen, Food and Human Nutritional Sciences PhD student, were selected to receive the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Graduate Student Teaching Award of Merit. These awards are given annually to individuals who excel in teaching an agricultural discipline.
- Adam Lakusta, law student, was the winner of the Canadian Bar Association Intellectual Property essay competition. The paper, titled *Reforming Canada's intellectual property laws: The slow path to reconciliation* examines to what extent Canada's intellectual property law protect Indigenous Traditional Knowledge in relation to its international obligations, domestic laws, and compares it with two other nations' examples.

## RESEARCH MATTERS

- At this time, research at the University of Manitoba (UM) is continuing remotely to the extent possible. UM has developed a phased approach to the recovery, cautiously resuming critical research and essential activities on our campuses, while ensuring a strong focus on health and safety. We are currently in Phase 3: September 1 to December 31 (Fall Term). Details on the phased approach for the campus can be found on the webpage COVID-19 UM Recovery: Resources and Updates. 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.
- Professor Emeritus Dr. Brent Schacter (Internal Medicine) was elected as a Fellow by the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS). Schacter is a member of the Department of Medical Oncology and Hematology at CancerCare Manitoba. Induction into the CAHS is considered one of the highest honours within Canada's academic community. Fellows are chosen by their peers based on their demonstrated leadership, creativity, distinctive competencies and commitment to advancing academic health sciences.

Schacter [BSc/65, MD(Hons)/65] has made monumental contributions to the fields of cancer and blood disorder research. Among his many achievements, while he was the Principal Investigator of the Canadian Tumour Repository Network (CTRNet), he launched a certification program that changed operating practices for biobanks—facilities that store biological materials for later research. He developed international quality assurance standards for the evolving field of biobanks that have been adopted around the world, much to the benefit of biomedical research. It was a herculean task

to work with partners around the world, past language barriers, to ensure the rules were unambiguous.

- Dr. Mario Tenuta (Soil Science) has been named the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Industrial Research Chair in 4R Nutrient Stewardship, with combined funding of \$2,930,000 over five years. The chair is awarded in partnership with NSERC, the Western Grains Research Foundation, Fertilizer Canada and UM.

Tenuta’s research will advance 4R nutrient stewardship, an innovative approach developed with the fertilizer industry, to apply the ‘Right fertilizer at the Right rate, at the Right time and in the Right place,’ to enhance production goals, farm profitability and environmental sustainability.

With the funding from this chair, Tenuta will be at the forefront of nutrient stewardship research and training and will offer guidance in 4R practice implementation to advance Canada as a leader in 4R nutrient stewardship. The knowledge and infrastructure capacity created will enrich industry and research collaborations, to serve as a critical expertise hub to advance Nitrous use efficiency and environmental health.

- The 2020/21 series of online Café Scientifiques kicked off with three topics in October and November: Designing Better Long-Term Care Facilities, Parenting During the Pandemic and Eating the Whole Grains in Canada’s Food Guide. There will be six Cafes beginning in January 2021, one each month until June 2021. To view the recorded sessions or watch them live, visit [umanitoba.ca/cafescientifique](http://umanitoba.ca/cafescientifique).
- The annual Undergraduate Research Poster Competition took place online from October 27 thru 29. Sixty-three undergraduate researchers presented their projects orally in self-recorded Youtube videos, with their poster .pdfs available for viewing. Fifteen students took home 1st, 2nd and 3rd place cash prizes in the five categories of: applied sciences, creative works, health sciences, natural sciences, and social sciences and humanities. The competition is sponsored by the office of the Vice-President (Research and International).
- Four researchers, working with partner organizations, received a total of \$249,601 in grant funding for COVID-19 related research projects:

PI	Sponsor	Title	Awarded
Chesser, Stephanie; Porter, Michelle (Kinesiology and Recreation Management)	SSHRC COVID-19 Partnership Engage Grant	Partnering to explore COVID-19 public messaging and its impact on internalized ageism among older people	\$24,821
Nixon, Kendra (Social Work)	SSHRC COVID-19 Partnership Engage Grant	COVID-19 and the experiences of IPV survivors and service providers	\$24,780
Souleymanov, Rusty (Social Work)	CIHR COVID-19 Mental Health and Substance	Mental health, substance use, and service needs, access, and delivery among two-	\$175,000

	Use Service Needs and Delivery	spirit, gay, bisexual, queer, and other men who have sex with men in Manitoba	
Woodgate, Roberta (Nursing)	SSHRC COVID-19 Partnership Engage Grant	Finding solutions for the challenges faced by young workers in the COVID-19 era	\$25,000

- Thirty-three investigators received a total of \$11,358,110 in grant funding for 63 projects from a variety of sponsors. Those projects receiving more than \$25,000 are:

PI	Sponsor	Title	Awarded
Austin-Smith, Brenda (English, Film, and Theatre)	Canadian Association of University Teachers	True to the spirit: Adaptation, Sound, Frames, Feeling	\$40,333
Ballard, Myrle (Chemistry)	CIHR Project Grant	Ki thagi daba wanawug unji udu kiwangk: Promoting health and mitigating trauma after the flood and permanent displacement of Lake St Martin First Nation community	\$100,000
Bandara, Nandika (Food and Human Nutritional Sciences)	NSERC Discovery Grant	Innovations in protein-lipid conjugation and novel technologies for developing protein-based nanodelivery systems to improve the delivery mechanism, efficacy, and bioavailability of bioactives	\$123,840
Bandara, Nandika (Food and Human Nutritional Sciences)	SSHRC - New Frontiers Research Fund Exploration	Renewable feather keratin based advanced functional materials: nano-reinforced, biomimetically modified keratin polymer blends as wound healing material	\$233,168
Cattani, Douglas (Plant Science)	Mitacs Accelerate	Perennial grain for fall grazing of beef cattle	\$60,000
Chochinov, Harvey (Psychiatry)	Research Manitoba - COVID-19 Rapid Response Grant	Death, dying and dignity in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic	\$235,676
Court, Deborah (Microbiology)	Mitacs Accelerate	Optimization of bacteriophage production for use in treatment and prevention of bacterial diseases in swine	\$60,000
Eltonsy, Sherif (Pharmacy)	Health Sciences Centre Foundation	Antiepileptics safety during pregnancy	\$70,000
Franca, Rodrigo (Restorative Dentistry)	Mitacs Accelerate Entrepreneur	Custom root-analogue dental implant manufactured by direct metal laser forming	\$90,000
Funk, Laura (Sociology)	University of Victoria	Tackling the home care challenge: A mixed methods study of publicly funded home care services in 4 Canadian cities	\$80,000

Jackson, Michael F. (Pharmacology and Therapeutics)	CIHR Project Grant	Interplay of neuroinflammation and synaptic plasticity in neurodegeneration	\$1,158,976
Jones, Meaghan (Biochemistry and Medical Genetics)	CHIRM Operating Grant: New Investigator Grants in Maternal, Reproductive, Child and Youth Health	Epigenetic changes linking prenatal exposure to tobacco or cannabis smoke with asthma risk	\$35,000
Kazem Moussavi, Zahra (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	Mitacs Accelerate Entrepreneur	Fast awake OSA screening and characterization using anthropometric and sound features	\$75,000
Ko, Ji Hyun (Human Anatomy and Cell Science)	Parkinson Society Canada	Stimulating the caudate nucleus to improve cognitive performance in Parkinson's Disease	\$100,000
Leung, Carson (Computer Science)	Mitacs Accelerate	Arctic research foundation UX/UI searchable database	\$45,000
Maghoul, Pooneh (Civil Engineering)	Mitacs Accelerate	Ultrasonic characterization of permafrost using an integrated machine learning poromechanical technique	\$90,000
Maghoul, Pooneh (Civil Engineering)	Mitacs Accelerate	Risk assessment of riverbank stability subjected to construction induced vibrations	\$90,000
Maghoul, Pooneh (Civil Engineering)	Mitacs Accelerate	Advanced coupled geomechanical tool for design and performance analysis of infrastructure affected by frost action	\$180,000
Maghoul, Pooneh (Civil Engineering)	Mitacs Accelerate	An AI-based climate impact assessment framework for infrastructure in northern Canada	\$90,000
McLachlan, Stephane (Environment & Geography)	Mitacs Accelerate Fellowship (COVID-IPDF)	Kitati pithitamak mi thwayawin: Indigenous-led countermeasures to Coronavirus (COVID-19) and other pandemics then, now, and into the future	\$180,000
Mezghani, Amine (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	Futurewei Technologies Inc.	Metasurface-based wireless communication	\$76,392
Mishra, Suresh (Internal Medicine)	CIHR Project Grant	Exploring the role of a mitochondrial protein prohibition in Leydig cell steroidogenesis	\$508,725
Nickerson, Peter (Internal Medicine)	National Institutes of Health (NIH)	Biomarker guided CNI substitution in kidney transplantation	\$273,306
Ogilvie, Tamra (Biochemistry and Medical Genetics)	CIHR Project Grant	Novel therapeutic targets for group 3 medulloblastoma stem cells	\$1,208,700
Pelka, Peter (Microbiology)	CIHR Project Grant	Molecular mechanisms of a denovirus pathogenicity and host immune evasion	\$849,150

Pelka, Peter (Microbiology)	Mitacs Accelerate	High throughput rapid detection of infectious diseases such as COVID-19.	\$60,000
Pelka, Peter (Microbiology)	Mitacs Accelerate	Broad spectrum CoV therapeutic; rhACE2 Immunoadhesin to treat COVID19	\$45,000
Righolt, Christiaan (Community Health Sciences)	CIHR - ICR/ Cancer Research Society Partnership - Research Grants	Use of glycogen synthase kinase-3 $\beta$ inhibitors (GSK3Is) and prostate cancer risk and prognosis	\$60,000
Rimmer, Emily (Internal Medicine)	CIHR Project Grant	Therapeutic plasma exchange in septic shock: A pilot study	\$100,000
Saleem, Ayesha (Kinesiology and Recreation Management)	CHRIM - postdoctoral fellowship	Extra cellular vesicles in breast milk and the developmental origins of asthma	\$44,100
Schroth, Robert (Preventive Dental Sciences)	CIHR Project Grant	Working together to implement novel, culturally informed early childhood oral health interventions for young First Nations and Metis children in Manitoba	\$1,472,626
Schweizer, Frank (Chemistry)	CIHR Project Grant	Rescuing beta-lactam antibiotic/beta-lactamase inhibitor combinations from resistance against multidrug-resistant Gram-negative bacteria	\$654,075
Shafai, Cyrus (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	Function Four	Smart hive technologies	\$30,019
Shafai, Cyrus (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	Mitacs Accelerate	High throughput Rapid Detection of Infectious Diseases such as COVID-19	\$90,000
Soussi Gounni, Abdelilah (Immunology)	CIHR Project Grant	The impact of epithelial cell derived semaphorin3E on airway remodeling in allergic asthma	\$757,350
St John, Philip (Internal Medicine)	CIHR Project Grant	Characterization of frailty in older men	\$206,550
Stewart, Ronald (Environment & Geography)	University of Saskatchewan	Climate-related precipitation extremes	\$28,000
Tachie, Mark (Mechanical Engineering)	NSERC Alliance Grant	Effects of submergence ratio and under surface roughness on flow separation beneath simulated ice covers	\$25,448
Thompson, Peter (Physiology & Pathophysiology)	CHRIM	Pancreatic Beta cell senescence and extra cellular vesicles in Type 1 Diabetes	\$75,000
Urbanowski, Reginald (College of Rehabilitation Sciences)	Research Manitoba	Telepresence robot for people with dementia	\$360,000

Woodgate, Roberta (Nursing)	CIHR Project Grant	Abi noonjees Nikanenim: Delivering mental health services to youth living in Island Lake Anishinew Nations	\$1,296,676
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## ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- The Office of Sustainability (OOS) has launched the Waste Reduction and Management Survey to ensure that students, staff and faculty can provide feedback on the goals of the Waste Reduction and Management Plan. With the support of the Sustainability Committee and Operations and Maintenance, a list of main goals reflecting current and future work regarding waste was created. A UM Waste Survey is ongoing from November 2 – 20, and collected 186 responses the first day.
- Through the Organics Collection Program, the university has collected 32,167 kilograms of organic waste since June of 2019, equivalent to removing 44,000 kilograms of CO<sub>2</sub> from the air; driving 175,709 fewer kilometres; and planting 728 tree seedlings and having them grow for 10 years.
- The University Re-Shop is moving to an online platform that will make surplus furniture and equipment more readily available for departments in need. The online platform will feature pictures, locations and descriptions of the objects available, and reduces the number of new items purchased as a University, the amount of waste being sent to landfill and creates a more efficient use of resources on campus. The online platform is available at [reshop.umanitoba.ca](http://reshop.umanitoba.ca).
- On September 29, 2020, the University's Board of Governors approved updates to the Respectful Work and Learning Environment (RWLE) and Sexual Violence (SV) Policies, as well as their shared Procedure (the *Disclosures and Complaints Procedure*). This approval confirms the work undertaken by the RWLE & SA Policy Advisory Committee over the past three years, including significant consultation with a large number of community stakeholder groups. Changes to policy include the impacts of intersectionality, the importance of a trauma-informed approach, more detailed information regarding interim measures, and a more robust commitment to informal resolution including mediation or restorative programs. Roll-out and delivery of new educational content regarding policy changes are ongoing.
- In August of 2019, the UM released the *Responding to Sexual Violence, Harassment and Discrimination at the University of Manitoba: A Path Forward Report* (Path Forward Report), which outlined 43 Recommendations on how the University could take action on the prevention, response, and consequences of sexual violence within its community. The UM has committed to implementing all 43 Recommendations. To date, 17 out of the 43 (40%) have been successfully implemented. An additional 10 Recommendations are on track to be implemented by the end of the fiscal year, bringing the implementation rate to 63%. Work is ongoing for the remaining 16 Recommendations, a number which will require significant community and stakeholder consultations.



- On October 15, 2020, the Supreme Court of Canada granted leave to appeal from the Federal Court of Appeal's decision matter to both Access Copyright and York University. The Federal Court of Appeal held that the Access Copyright tariffs set by the Copyright Board were not mandatory, but also that York's Fair Dealing guidelines (which are similar to those used across the Canadian post-secondary sector, including at the University of Manitoba) were not fair. A number of library and educational organizations are expected to seek leave to intervene in this appeal. It will likely be at minimum a year before the Supreme Court hears and renders its decision which will finally determine these issues which have been before the court since 2013.
- Learning & Organizational Development (LOD) launched five new staff development workshops in September and October: Introduction to Human Resources; HR Systems; Hiring & Onboarding; HR Governing Documents; and Retirements & Resignations. Developed in partnership with subject matter experts throughout Human Resources, and offered as part of the new UM Human Resources Essentials Program (UMHREP) certificate, these workshops provide essential knowledge to support staff with human resource responsibilities with 47 employees participating in the program as of September, 2020.

## EXTERNAL RELATIONS

- Communications support around the safe return to campus and virtual learning is ongoing. New information is being actively communicated through the UM COVID website, UM news and social media channels, and using a variety of tools including videos, newsletters, emails, and digital and print signage. A new UM COVID case status page has been added to the UM COVID website, providing regular updates regarding the current status of confirmed COVID-19 cases on UM campuses.
- In the current reporting period, UM students, faculty and staff members have received media coverage in 4,700 print and online stories, and 2,600 broadcast news stories from outlets across the world. Over the last month, a CTV story about UM's work on a vaccine trial reached almost 15 million viewers, and another CTV report about UM researchers working to protect older adults during the pandemic reached almost 11 million readers. UM researchers also earned international press for their study on pregnancy and diabetes that was picked up by a number of outlets including the New York Times.
- Funds raised year-over-year are down approximately 60%. The culmination of the Front and Centre Campaign impacts this as many donors are still in their current pledge, however this is primarily a result of the worldwide impact of the pandemic on fundraising. We are putting plans in place in order to mitigate some of this shortfall and ensure we are continuing to raise funds for essential UM projects.
- We released the first-ever digital only edition of UM Today: The Magazine on September 29 with the announcement of the 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients. The 2020 recipients include:
  - Lifetime Achievement: Dr. Judith Bartlett [MD/87, MSc/04]
  - Professional Achievement: Dr. Gigi Osler [MD/92, BSc(Med)/92]

- Professional Achievement: Chris Couture [BComm(Hons)/83, CA/86]
  - Professional Achievement: Kimberly Prost [LLB/81]
  - Community Service: Doneta Brotchie [BComm9Hons)/73]
  - Community Service: Barb Gamey [ExtEd/90]
  - Community Service: Kimberley Levasseur Puhach [ExtEd/11]
  - Outstanding Young Alumni: Taylor Morriveau [BSc(Hons)/17]
  - Outstanding Young Alumni: Josh Morry [BComm(Hons)/13, JD/16]
- On September 30, the Alumni Association virtual AGM was held with over 160 alumni from around the world in attendance – the highest attendance on record. Guest speakers included Her Honour, the Honourable Janice C. Filmon, the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, and President and Vice-Chancellor Michael Benarroch. The meeting was emceed by Alumni Association board chair, Peter Wheatley. Included in the AGM programming was a short, facilitated discussion with six alumni who shared what life has been like in their communities over these past number of months and their favourite UM memories.
  - A scholarship has been established in honour of Dr. Forough Khadem, a UM alumna who died on the Ukraine International Airlines flight PS752 plane crash in January. Her fiancé, Kourosh Doustshenas, and her family made a gift of \$100,000 to honour her memory and celebrate her passion for science and mentorship. The story was also featured in UM Today and attracted high readership and additional giving to the fund. The scholarship fund has almost reached the \$200,000 goal.
  - On October 14, the Fall 2020 Virtual Learning for Life eight-week series was launched. This program is sponsored by our affinity partner, iA Financial and follows the successful Spring 2020 series which attracted more than 1,000 alumni and friends over the nine lectures. Many thanks to the UM faculty who share their research with our alumni community through these sessions.
  - As part of the UM Alumni Book Club sponsored by the Alumni Association and hosted by Chancellor Anne Mahon, we began our third book this month – Gil Adamson’s *Ridgerunner* – selected by book club members and also shortlisted for the 2020 Scotiabank Giller Prize. More than 600 alumni and friends from around the world have joined the book club.
  - Migration of web content to the newly designed [umanitoba.ca](http://umanitoba.ca) continues, targeting an early 2021 completion. Preparations also continue for the UM Intranet launch expected to take place in early 2021.