

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
January 25, 2022

GENERAL

The University of Manitoba was awarded its highest ever amount of research funding in the 2020/21 fiscal year. A total of \$231 million in grants and contracts was delivered to UM to support research in every discipline, making an impact in areas such as climate change, responding to the COVID pandemic, Indigenous languages, food security, human rights and social justice, reconciliation, and more. In turn, this leads to new knowledge, new ideas and helps grow the economy of the province.

Funding came from a number of sources, including the Tri-Agencies (Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)), as well as directly from federal and provincial departments. A further breakdown shows that \$114.2 million came from the federal government; \$15.8 million came from the provincial government; and \$101 million came from industry, non-for-profit organizations, foundations, and the City of Winnipeg.

In addition to directly funding research and the work of early-, mid- and established-researchers at UM, these awards also support graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, research associates, and many undergraduate students through employment.

The University's commitment to consult with Indigenous communities, including the Indigenous Academic community, to develop an Indigenous declaration practice that respects Indigenous communities' frameworks for citizenship and membership has begun with the establishment of the Indigenous Identity Consultation working group. Three co-leads (Ovide Mercredi, Marti Ford, Barbara Bruce) have joined the process to address claims of Indigenous identity and are assisting in setting up the working group that will commence meetings this month.

Ongoing engagement with provincial and federal governments continued in December 2021 and January 2022 with meetings of President Michael Benarroch and Vice-President (Research and International) Digvir Jayas with Terry Duguid, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change and of the U15 with François-Philippe Champagne, federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry. This also included participation in the announcement of the provincial commitment to [expand the nursing program](#) and the [commemoration](#) with Manitoba Health and Seniors Care Minister Audrey Gordon of the anniversary of the first COVID-19 vaccination on December 16.

REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (RESEARCH AND INTERNATIONAL)

- Further clarification was provided to researchers regarding President Benarroch's email to the university community on December 20, 2021 that *"from now until the end of Winter Term break on February 26, 2022, all non-essential activity will continue remotely. Effective immediately, we are asking staff to work remotely and for course activity to be moved to remote delivery wherever possible. Limited in-person activity may continue if required and there is no reasonable remote alternative."*

Research activities can continue at this time in the labs as well as remotely to the extent possible in compliance with the provincial Public Health and as recommended by CRSC and approved by PET. Details on the current COVID-19 guiding principles, processes for requesting access and preventative measures are available in the updated Researcher FAQs section of the COVID-19 webpage.

- On October 26, Christine Vaccaro, who will graduate as a pharmacist in 2023, is playing a role in a globally unique program to help Manitobans quit smoking. The program, to be launched in January 2022, will pay pharmacies for assessment, prescribing, counselling and follow-up sessions that pharmacists do with patients. It will be managed by Pharmacists Manitoba, the non-profit advocacy body for pharmacists in the province.

Every patient who participates in Quit Smoking with Your Manitoba Pharmacist is eligible to receive up to \$100 in nicotine-based therapies, such as patches, or in the prescription drug varenicline. The program is being funded through what is believed to be the world's first social impact bond for smoking cessation. A social impact bond is a partnership in which, generally, a private investor funds a new government program delivered by a service provider. The private investor for this bond is Shoppers Drug Mart, which will invest \$2 million.

- On November 19, eight outstanding graduate students were awarded the Dean of the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences Graduate Student Achievement Prize. The award recognizes exceptional academic achievement, strong leadership skills and notable personal service of graduate students in the Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry, Max Rady College of Medicine, College of Nursing, College of Pharmacy and College of Rehabilitation Sciences.

The Prize winners are:

- Corrine Clyne, a master of occupational therapy student in the College of Rehabilitation Sciences, is focused on understanding how the Western term “frailty” fits in relation to older First Nations adults. She said her professors have contributed to her success by being supportive throughout the program.
- Dr. Vivianne Cruz de Jesus, a PhD candidate in the department of oral biology at the Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry, is focused on understanding the role of taste genetics and oral microbes in the development of oral and systemic diseases, with an emphasis on severe childhood tooth decay. She said her supervisors have contributed to her achievements by providing opportunities to learn new research techniques, collaborate with other research teams and engage in leadership roles.
- Kailey Evans, who graduated in Fall 2021 with her master of physical therapy at the College of Rehabilitation Sciences, said she was overwhelmed and honoured to have been selected for the prize. She is passionate about working with older adults and has been a dedicated volunteer with them over the years.
- John Jackson, a PhD student in the College of Nursing, is researching how the amalgamation of nursing regulators affects the discipline of nursing. He said that it is a great honour to receive the prize and that his advisor, Dr. Elsie Duff, has been a great support.

- Alekhya Lavu, a PhD student in the College of Pharmacy, specializes in drug safety and pharmacoepidemiology, with a research program that focuses on medications in pregnancy and neonatal safety outcomes. She said that winning the prize has boosted her confidence and motivated her to keep going.
- Toby Le, a PhD student in the department of medical microbiology and infectious diseases at the Max Rady College of Medicine, is exploring how DMPA, a commonly used birth control, is potentially linked to an increased risk for HIV infection. He said that this recognition wouldn't be possible without the continued support and guidance from his peers and mentors in the Fowke Lab.
- Michaela Palmer, a master of science in genetic counselling student at the Max Rady College of Medicine, is focused on gaining a better understanding of the abnormal processes driving colorectal cancer development so that they can be exploited with new treatments to improve the lives and outcomes of those living with the disease. She said that the gratitude she feels has motivated her to pursue leadership, volunteering, community engagement and social accountability experiences to help others in the ways they have helped her.
- Andrea Toews, a master's student in the College of Nursing, is researching how to best support health-care teams through the use of clinical debriefings after providing CPR. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, she has been working as a nurse in intensive care units and she said the experience has put her in a unique position to bring understanding and awareness to her research topic.
- On December 7, Dr. Meghan Azad, an international expert on how children's experiences in the womb and during infancy shape lifelong health, was recently honoured as one of **Canada's Top 40 Under 40** for 2021. The annual awards given by Caldwell, an executive search firm, recognize exceptional achievement by 40 outstanding Canadians under the age of 40. Recipients are assessed on their vision and innovation, leadership, impact and influence, and social responsibility. Azad holds a Canada Research Chair in the developmental origins of chronic disease. She is an associate professor in the departments of pediatrics and child health, community health sciences, and immunology in the Max Rady College of Medicine, an adjunct professor in food and human nutritional sciences in the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences as well as a researcher with the Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba.
- Sixty-four research projects led by thirty-four PIs received a total of 8,986,403.51 in grant funding from a variety of sponsors. Those projects receiving more than \$25,000 are:

PI	Sponsor	Title	Awarded Amount
Lin, Francis (Physics and Astronomy)	American Association of Immunologists, Inc.	Developing a microfluidic device for the study of cytokine and lipid mediators in modulating neutrophil infiltration at the lung epithelial-vascular interface in activated and hyperinflammatory conditions	\$69,060.10

O'Neil, Liam (Internal Medicine)	Arthritis Society	Dysregulated neutrophil extracellular trap formation in Rheumatoid Arthritis	\$298,400.00
Frogner, Raymond (Archives and Special Collections)	Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)	NCTR Digital Architecture	\$2,411,773.00
Armstrong, Heather (Internal Medicine)	Canada Research Chairs Program	Canada Research Chair in Integrative Bioscience	\$310,000.00
Wilkinson, Lori (Sociology)	Canada Research Chairs Program	Canada Research Chair in migration futures	\$686,021.00
Austin-Smith, Brenda (English, Film, and Theatre)	Canadian Association of University Teachers	Screening Feelings in Film and Television	\$40,333.35
Doucette, Christine (Physiology & Pathophysiology)	Canadian Diabetes Association	Breaking the intergenerational cycle of gestational diabetes and increased offspring type 2 diabetes risk by restoring circadian rhythms	\$100,000.00
McGavock, Jonathan (Pediatrics and Child Health)	Canadian Diabetes Association	Dialectal behavioural therapy to enhance health behaviour change and prevent type 2 diabetes in adolescents: A pilot randomized trial	\$100,000.00
Leong, Christine (Pharmacy)	Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy	Mental health first aid training in community pharmacy practice: An evaluation of the value and impact of mental health first aid training on patient care from the perspective of pharmacists and the public	\$48,250.00
Afifi, Tracie (Community Health Sciences)	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	Understanding and responding to self- perceived stressors among parents and youth due to the COVID-19 pandemic: informing an evidence-based public health approach	\$141,720.00

Driedger, S. Michelle (Community Health Sciences)	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	Structural harms and COVID-19 policy responses in Manitoba: Exploring the experiences of Red River Metis	\$499,860.00
Alan Katz (Community Health Sciences)	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	Understanding of long COVID using a health system database with the aim of improving the definition of the condition, determining its predictors and how many are affected by it	\$200,000
Ruey-Chyi Su (Medical Microbiology)	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	Investigation of how the binding of the spike proteins of various coronavirus variants to the host-cell receptor known as ACE2 affects viral spread and mortality rates	\$430,000
Kothe, Ute (Chemistry)	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	Identifying critical RNA-RNA interactions during ribosome biogenesis	\$538,220.31
Lorway, Robert (Community Health Sciences)	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	Understanding and strengthening vaccine confidence among temporary foreign workers in Manitoba: A community-based participatory approach	\$199,100.00
Myal, Yvonne (Pathology)	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	The role of prolactin inducible protein, PIP, in promoting breast cancer metastasis in the lung	\$60,000.00
Protudjer, Jennifer (Pediatrics and Child Health)	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	vACcine COncidence amongst those living with alleRgy during the coviD pandemic (ACCORD): An integrated knowledge translation study	\$200,000.00
Protudjer, Jennifer (Pediatrics and Child Health)	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	NOURISH-US: patieNt-Oriented research to Understand and addResS Inequities of food accesS and insecurity amongst Households managing food allergy – a Unique intervention Study	\$110,000.00
Roos, Leslie (Psychology)	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	An mHealth intervention and community partnership to promote mental health in children born to mothers with depression and psychosocial stress during COVID-19: A randomized controlled trial	\$150,000.00

Rueda, Zulma (Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases)	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	Covid-19 Pandemic Concealing a Syndemic of Concern: Sex and Gender, Methamphetamine and Sexually Transmitted and Blood Borne Infections (STBBIs) in People Living with HIV. Are we heading towards a post-Covid-19 STBBIs tsunami	\$361,400.00
Sharif, Tanveer (Pathology)	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	Therapeutic exploitation of metabolic rewiring in tumor heterogeneity	\$60,000.00
Shaw, Souradet (Community Health Sciences)	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	SCaPE Study: Syphilis in the Canadian Prairies Epidemiological Study	\$99,865.00
Shaw, Souradet (Community Health Sciences)	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	The landscape of risk: Examining the correlates of inequitable COVID-19 infection and vaccination rates in Manitoba using population-based laboratory and administrative healthcare data	\$239,942.00
Shen, Garry (Internal Medicine)	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	To assess the impact of COVID-19 on prenatal education and pregnancy outcomes in mothers and children in remote First Nations communities in Manitoba	\$150,000.00
Myal, Yvonne (Pathology)	Cancer Research Society, Inc.	The role of prolactin inducible protein, PIP, in promoting breast cancer metastasis in the lung	\$60,000.00
Sharif, Tanveer (Pathology)	Cancer Research Society, Inc.	Therapeutic exploration of metabolic rewiring in tumor heterogeneity	\$60,000.00
Pascoe, Chris (Physiology & Pathophysiology)	Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba (CHRIM)	Mechanistic exploration into the association between exposure to maternal diabetes and risk of asthma	\$26,000.00
Ghia, Jean-Eric (Immunology)	Crohn's and Colitis Canada	Function of follicular dendritic cell secreted protein in ulcerative colitis	\$50,000.00

Salman, Michael (Pediatrics and Child Health)	Foundation Fighting Blindness Canada	Investigating risk factors and prognosis in patients with septo-optic dysplasia and optic nerve hypoplasia	\$57,171.00
Kazem Moussavi, Zahra (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	Mitacs Inc.	Augmented Virtual Reality Interactive Training Program, with focus on older adults for Improving their Cognitive Function	\$60,000.00
Szturm, Tony (Physical Therapy)	Mitacs Inc.	Computer Game-Based Rehabilitation Platform Targeting Manual Dexterity: Transitioning Clinical Programs to Community	\$120,000.00
Kothe, Ute (Chemistry)	Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Discovery Grants Program	Mechanism and function of tRNA modification and folding	\$220,646.94
Kothe, Ute (Chemistry)	Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Discovery Accelerator Supplements	Mechanism and function of tRNA modification and folding	\$80,000.00
Ormiston, Scott (Mechanical Engineering)	Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)	Computational fluid dynamics modelling aerosol removal in a strongly condensing environment	\$52,174.00
Kowalec, Kaarina (Pharmacy)	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	A trans-nordic study of extreme major depression	\$122,616.81
Linovski, Orly (City Planning)	University of Toronto	Mobilizing justice	\$32,850.00
Nickerson, Peter (Internal Medicine)	Winnipeg Rh Institute Foundation Inc	Expanding the pool of deceased kidney donors and kidney transplant recipients in Manitoba	\$25,000.00

Arino, Julien (Mathematics)	York University	One health modelling network for emerging infections	\$45,000.00
Portet, Stephanie (Mathematics)	York University	One health modelling health network for emerging infections	\$40,000.00

REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (INDIGENOUS)

- The 2021 Migizii Agamik Holiday Hamper initiative provided \$28,500 to 130 students provided aid to 472 people. The ISC team organized 83 deliveries and the rest were picked up or mailed. We thank Access, the Extended Education Social Committee, The Faculty of Arts, The Department of Native Studies, the Indigenous Student Centre and the Vice-Provost (Student Affairs) for their contributions.
- 2022 Indigenous Awards of Excellence open for nominations - due February 4, 2022.
- 2022 Indigenous Initiatives Fund – Proposals are due February 18, 2022.
- Efforts to staff the portfolio continue; failed recruitment searches for two existing vacant positions have prompted these positions to be re-evaluated. The Graduate Student Success Coordinator position will be moved from the Indigenous Student Centre to the management of the AVP of Scholarship, Research and Curriculum.
- The graduation Powwow has been scheduled for May 7, 2022.
- Virtual Survivor Event - Missing Children & Unmarked Burials (Slaight Foundation) – March 2022
The NCTR will host a virtual Community Roundtable on Missing Children and Unmarked Burials. Following the discovery at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School site, many Indigenous leaders and organizations are beginning to look into searching other residential school sites and there is a keen interest by Indigenous communities to gather virtually to foster inter-community learning and supports.
- The NCTR Archives:
 1. Finalized contract with the National Film Board to create professional standard preservation and access copies of all the NCTRs Survivor statements.
 2. Finalized the setup of the data repositories for Indigenous communities to use as they investigate unmarked burials. Title of repositories is “Our Relations.”
 3. Completed the digital processing for preservation of all sets of records the TRC collected from religious entities. This is part of the DPAS project.
 4. Negotiated the transfer of school narratives from CIRNA to the NCTR. Includes, in addition to the narratives, one million additional GoC records. Finalized file transfer protocol.

5. Completed MOAs for Indigenous communities to use the NCTRs records for unmarked burial research projects:
 - a. Penelakut First Nation
 - b. Six Nations of the Grand River
 - c. The People of Wauzhushk Onigum Nation
 6. Delivered presentation to the Associations des Archivistes du Québec, Dec. 2nd on the topic of a decolonizing archives.
 7. Finalized agreement and sign off with Services Ontario and the Ontario Attorney General to share vital stats records. Next step, official ceremony, and transfer of records.
 8. Finalized agreement and sign off with Manitoba Vital Stats and the Manitoba Attorney General to share vital stats records. Next step, official ceremony, and transfer of records.
 9. Presented at an international conference at Galway University, Ireland on the topic of Truth-Telling and Transition: Justice, Reparation, Memorialization
- The Education Unit of the NCTR hosted 17 presentations (approx. 678 individuals,) 2 Conferences /events (OARTY conference and AFN's December event) and tours at the NCTR.
 - The new Imagine a Canada program was re-launched on Sep. 30, 2021 and closed on Dec. 17, 2021. We received over 40 submissions for G6-12 and CEGEP grant stream. The deadline for youth K-Gr. 5 was extended to Feb. 11, 2022, to give more time for art only submissions.
 - The NCTR is working with the CIRNAC for sustainable funding for the next 5 years and funds for a new NCTR building.
 - On November 24, 2021, following discussions with the Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) and Indigenous leadership, Elders, Survivors, communities and organizations, Manitoba will present a funding envelope to the NCTR.
 - The Bank of Montreal donated \$250,000 one-time gift to Na-Mi-Quai-Ni-Mak Centre Community Support Fund that provides grants to Indigenous communities for memorial and healing activities
 - On December 9th, 2021, the NCTR held a celebration to honour Ry Moran, Executive Director of NCTR for 6 years.
 - On December 19, 2021, in partnership with Parks Canada, the Survivor Holiday Special was held live. This virtual event highlighted Survivor stories of hope and support for one another, healing through art, music, and techniques to help cope with triggers and manage stress. Special guests include Susan Aglukark, Tom Jackson, Gerry Barrett, Chef Ray Bear, Skinny Kookoo and the Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers.

REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (ADMINISTRATION)

- Following the discovery of the bodies of hundreds of missing children who attended residential schools, the Legal Office has been working closely with the National Centre for Truth and

Reconciliation (NCTR) to negotiate agreements with various governments, archives, and church groups to facilitate the transfer of records related to residential schools and the missing children's register to the NCTR.

- The Legal Office has been heavily involved in supporting the University's efforts regarding its vaccination mandate, including procedure development, providing direct legal support to the Safe Return communications team, and working closely with external counsel regarding applications for religious exemption. The University has received demand letters from legal representatives acting on behalf of a handful of students concerning potential lawsuits/human rights complaints, and the Legal Office is responding as required.
- The Legal Office continues to provide support to the Office of the Vice-President (Research and International) in the negotiation of various agreements with Research Manitoba, which will facilitate the Research Improvements Through Harmonization in Manitoba (RITHIM) Initiative, and appoint Research Manitoba as the University's Research Ethics Board (REB) for studies involving human health research.

REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT (EXTERNAL)

Fundraising Highlights

- To date, we have achieved \$33.8 million in philanthropic funds raised against a target of \$41.8 million for the 2021/22 year.

Upcoming Activities/Events:

- UM plans to host the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Winnipeg group on March 11 in an outreach day filled with presentations and tours delivered by UM leadership, faculty, staff and researchers.
- 2022 "Virtual Learning for Life" planning is underway. Faculty members will conduct seminars for alumni during the winter program on climate-related topics.
- The UM Alumni Book Club will begin reading Amor Towles' "*A Gentleman in Moscow*" in January 2022. Over 900 alumni and friends have joined the book club since its launch.
- The UM Alumni Association will participate in Mentoring Month during January 2022 by providing mentoring tips and videos.
- The "UM Career Lab" will be expanded to include offerings to mid-career and later career UM alumni.
- The Distinguished Alumni Award Celebration of Excellence gala will be a virtual event hosted on Thursday, February 3, 2022.

- Effective mid-February, nominations will open for the 2022 Alumni Representative Board of Governors election.

Other Significant Activities:

- RedDot, the university's legacy web platform, will be decommissioned in January 2022. This marks the successful conclusion of the NGWE project that introduced updated web platforms and led the migration of over 70,000 content pages since 2019.
- Focused communications strategies supported the November 14 vaccination submission deadline aiming for 85%+ of the UM community to upload proof of vaccination. As of winter break 2021, proof of vaccination had been uploaded by over 89% of students and staff respectively (when not including NIL Appointments and GFTs).
- From November 1 to December 22, 2021, UM worked with 165 reporters on stories related to university issues. During this time, there were 8,599 news stories in media mentioning UM, most of which related to COVID-19 and the UMFA labour disruption. One study on Arctic climate change by Michelle McCrystall from the Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources, appeared around the world in 546 outlets, including CNN, the Globe and Mail, the Washington Post, the Guardian, and the Smithsonian's magazine among many others.