AGENDA ITEM NO: 14.1

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
RESEARCH, SCHOLARLY, AND ARTISTIC WORK COMMITTEE
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

PRESENTED BY: Jon Bath, Chair, Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Work Committee

DATE OF MEETING: June 18, 2020

SUBJECT: Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Work Committee Annual Report

COUNCIL ACTION: For information only

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RESEARCH, SCHOLARLY, AND ARTISTIC WORK COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
2019-20

Terms of Reference
1) Recommending to Council on issues and strategies to support research, scholarly and artistic work.

2) Recommending to Council on policies and issues related to research integrity and ethics in the conduct of research, scholarly and artistic work.

3) Recommending to Council and providing advice to the Vice-President Research on community engagement and knowledge translation activities related to research, scholarly and artistic work.

4) Providing advice to the Vice-President Research and reporting to Council on issues relating to the granting agencies which provide funding to the University.

5) Providing advice to the Vice-President Research, the Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning, and Dean of Graduate Studies and Research on the contributions of undergraduate and graduate students and post-doctoral fellows to the research activity of the University.

6) Examining proposals for the establishment of any institute or centre engaged in research, scholarly or artistic work at the University, and providing advice to the planning and priorities committee of Council.

7) Receiving an annual reports from the Vice-President Research and the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research.

8) Receiving and reporting to Council the University’s research ethics boards’ annual reports.
9) Designating individuals to act as representatives of the committee on any other bodies, when requested, where such representation is deemed by the committee to be beneficial.

10) Considering the priorities of the University community, such as Indigenization and internationalization, when assessing current and new research, scholarly, and artistic work activities.

**Council Members**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marjorie Delbaere</td>
<td>Management and Marketing</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainer Dick</td>
<td>Physics and Engineering Physics</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gordon Sarty</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheryl Waldner</td>
<td>Large Animal Clinical Sciences</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phil Woods</td>
<td>Associate Dean (Research), Nursing</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**General Academic Assembly Members**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Year</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jon Bath (Chair)</td>
<td>Art and Art History</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lori Bradford</td>
<td>SENS</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Buhler</td>
<td>Law</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jon Farthing</td>
<td>Kinesiology</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Waldrum</td>
<td>Archaeology and Anthropology</td>
<td>2022</td>
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**Other Members**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Karen Chad</td>
<td>Vice-President Research (ex officio)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trever Crowe</td>
<td>Interim Dean, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (ex officio)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlos Munoz Pimentel</td>
<td>USSU designate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohamad Wajih Alam</td>
<td>GSA designate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Resource Members**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dion Martens</td>
<td>Director of Research Services and Assistant Vice-president Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Zink</td>
<td>Director, Strategic Research Initiatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Storey</td>
<td>Committee Secretary, Office of the University Secretary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Work (RSAW) committee met 12 times during the 2019-20 year, cancelling one meeting during the early response to the Covid-19 pandemic. At its meetings, both in person and virtually, the committee addressed many issues related to research, scholarly and artistic work at the University of Saskatchewan.

At its first meeting of the year, the committee received the annual report on breaches of the Responsible Conduct of Research policy and presented this report to University Council for information in October.

In October 2019, RSAW conducted its annual meeting with the chairs of the university’s Research Ethics Boards and received their annual reports. As is the case after every meeting with the chairs, RSAW was impressed with the work and commitment of members of the ethics boards in their work to ensuring ethical research at USask. These reports were provided to University Council for information in November 2019.
Starting at its October 3, 2019 meeting, RSAW began meeting with deans and associate deans (research) to discuss their colleges’ research plans, challenges, and successes, with the intent to bring a report to Council this year. Representatives from Medicine, Dentistry, and Nursing presented, but given the shift to virtual meetings and the great demand on the time of deans and associate deans to respond to the global pandemic, this project was set aside and will be taken up by the committee next year. Some early commonalities that emerged from the Health Sciences were the importance of new faculty hires and internal funding opportunities to accelerate research success, and the continued challenges of balancing professional training requirements with research.

The RSAW committee discussed the Federal Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Dimensions charter in the fall and reviewed and provided comment on the university’s Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy in the May 2020. RSAW also provided review and comment on revisions to the Centres Policy and the Responsible Conduct of Research Policy.

The committee provided review and comment on a number of initiatives impacting research, scholarly, and artistic activities on campus, including the memorandum of understanding between USask and the City of Saskatoon, the Wanuskewin Institute, the Indigenous Summer Entrepreneur program, and the collaborative use of research infrastructure project. The committee also discussed supports and services available for researchers and reviewed the implementation plan for the research strategic plan.

The committee continued its interest in the impact of changes in the scholarly publishing world on universities, and engaged in good discussions with the University Library about open access, changes to the collections budget, and predatory publishing. The committee also met with jake moore, director of the University Art galleries and Collections, on the ongoing work on the Galleries Reimagined project.

Under the Centres policy, RSAW is required to review all proposals for research centres. RSAW reviewed the proposal for the School for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning at its February 13, 2020 meeting.

The RSAW committee received an annual update from the Tri-agency leaders Irena Creed (SSHRC), Ron Borowsky (NSERC), and Darcy Marciniuk (CIHR) at its May 7 meeting. Committee members were interested in the success rate of applications of tri-agency funding and with the year over year trends. The varying success rates depending on granting agency were discussed and RSAW appreciated the work being done by all tri-council leaders to improve success rates through mentorship and internal review.

The service of John Farthing and Lori Bradford as a representatives of RSAW on the Centres Subcommittee of Planning and Priorities Committee, Gord Sarty on the Joint Committee on Chairs and Professorships, and Jim Waldram as a representative on the New Researcher and Distinguished Researcher Awards Committee is recognized with appreciation. Appreciation is also extended to all presenters who attended the RSAW committee this year. I also want to thank Sarah Buhler for her service as Vice-Chair this
year and acknowledge the outstanding administrative support provided by Amanda Storey.

Attached as appendices to this annual report are the annual reports of the Office of the Vice-President Research and the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies 2018/19.

ATTACHMENTS:

2. Annual report of the Vice-President Research for 2019-20
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Message from the Dean

We are living through an unprecedented time that challenges us to act and think differently. Our lives have changed in ways that we could not have imagined a few months ago. It has been nearly two months since we left campus, and although we are ‘all in this together,’ I know that each of us faces unique challenges in supporting our graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and each other.

The CGPS team continues to work feverishly to ensure the business of the college is well managed. The entire team has mobilized to remote service, with our stakeholders experiencing the same high level of commitment and support. We continue to work with our colleagues to encourage adaptive and creative solutions, encouraging students to continue to make progress in their programs. Everyone has responded with innovative solutions in response to artistic exhibitions, online thesis defenses, alternate English proficiency scores and approvals of program extensions. We have created new communication channels to ensure both students and partners have access to the latest information impacting students, graduate faculty, supervisors and partners. Our communication strategy continues to evolve and improve. The questions and topics change, but we consistently strive to provide deliberate and careful messaging through weekly forums designed for graduate chairs and graduate administrators; an addition to our website with topic-specific supplemental information; a monthly newsletter designed to lift spirits, and more.

To ensure topics important to our graduate students and postdoctoral fellows are presented at the institutional level, CGPS staff have committed time to an incredible number of committees and groups, working on academic planning and research, not to mention participating in a number of online forums & town halls.

Work continues in order to plan for the future, and while some of the specific challenges remain undefined, I am confident that we will succeed. I can’t tell you how proud I am of our USask graduate community. We are early adopters, and we have contributed greatly to flattening the COVID-19 curve, while also supporting students. USask researchers are leading the race to overcome these infections, and we continue to flex and adapt programming as we evolve to a new norm. I see new and exciting opportunities for innovative ways to deliver graduate education and research. In research, some experiments deliver discouraging results, but all represent experience and opportunities to learn. I remain ever optimistic that we will continue to be innovators. We will get through this.

Trever Crowe, Ph.D., P.Eng.
Interim Dean
College of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies
Connect with us! 

Add our paws channel

Engage in a weekly forum  

Taking graduate supervision online

Special guests:
Dr. Ron Berensky, Psychology & Utask’s NSERC Leader  
Therese James, Manager, Professional and Curriculum Development, GATCL  
Watson Pepper, Educational Development Specialist, GATCL

Take part in a focus group

HAVE YOUR SAY

GRAD STUDENT ORIENTATION FOCUS GROUP

FACILITATED BY: ANDREW HARTMAN, PHD CANDIDATE & THE CGPS ORIENTATION WORKING GROUP
participating students will be entered to win a $50 Visa card
REGISTER HERE

COVID-19 IMPACT

Admissions & Program Progress

Table 1: Admissions and Yields

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019/2020</th>
<th>2020/2021 as of Apr 21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Apps</td>
<td>Offers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Student</td>
<td>1,233</td>
<td>390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Student</td>
<td>5,571</td>
<td>659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undeclared</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>6,820</td>
<td>1,049</td>
</tr>
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</table>

The college is currently tracking above average as of April 21, 2020 in applications, letters of offer and students accepting offers, with enrolment numbers remaining stable for Spring/Summer 2020.

Table 2: Spring/Summer Enrolment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Students</td>
<td>1,787</td>
<td>1,666</td>
<td>1,885</td>
<td>1,851</td>
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</table>

CGPS continues to offer support and flexibility regarding leaves and program extensions where necessary. We continue to encourage students and faculty to find creative ways that would allow students to continue to make progress in their degrees.

The college continues to work closely with campus colleagues in planning and delivery of remote support for students. Development is underway for college-specific online or remote orientation. Both incoming and current students continue to be supported – this includes graduating students who cannot leave due to travel restrictions.

More information is released as it becomes available and can be found on our supplemental information site and through targeted email messaging.
Programs & Operations
Jennifer Drennan, Director

The RMS Recruit project continues to move forward. Thank you for your continued feedback—your comments are used in decisions regarding system design and configuration.

CGPS went live with Jira Service Desk in December, and we have been very pleased with the uptake and results to date. We continue to gain experience. Over the past month, we have received 1258 tickets. We will soon be able to extract meaningful data and statistics to better support informed discussions and allow us to analytically review college response time among other key performance indicators.

Recruitment
Kathi Suderman, Acting Manager

Staff members from Student Recruitment attended a number of graduate studies fairs in Western Canada during the fall months to highlight graduate study opportunities at USASK.

On January 29, 2020, Student Recruitment hosted its first Soup and Bannock event at the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre at which graduate study opportunities were promoted to current undergraduate Indigenous students. Three current Indigenous graduate students gave short testimonials about their research as well as what had first motivated them to consider graduate studies.

Internationally, Student Recruitment focuses its efforts on government-sponsored students through membership in the CALDO consortium and a partnership with the China Scholarship Council.
From the Associate Dean’s Portfolio  
Dr. Martha Smith

Student Affairs

The CGPS oversees a variety of academic areas, primarily providing oversight in graduate academic policy and programs as well as supporting students and faculty.

Postdoctoral Fellows

PDFs are valuable members of the university; they contribute immensely to the vitality of the research environment. In general, PDFs come to a university in order to gain additional research experience and expertise. They are here to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to become independent investigators themselves.

Figure 5: PDF Headcount

Figure 4: Academic Affairs Portfolio Insight

Figure 6: Student Leaves 2019-20 Academic Year = 159
Scholarships & Awards
Director, Heather Lukey

The last review of the Devolved Scholarship Action Plans (DSAPs) occurred in the Spring of 2013. There have been ongoing changes at the University of Saskatchewan, and it became necessary to update the devolved plans. The review was primarily motivated to ensure that DSAP plans are consistent with the collective agreement between the University of Saskatchewan and the Public Service Alliance of Canada, representing graduate student employees. The Director of Awards & Scholarships held in-person meetings with the 45 devolved units across campus to review, revise and on occasion totally rework their devolved plans. As of today, nearly all plans have been completed and approved. The approved DSAPs will be published on the CGPS website as their permanent home. We hope this will facilitate transparency as to how devolved funding is administered.

### Dean’s Scholarship Term 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Awarded</th>
<th>Applications</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic PhD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International PhD</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic Masters</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Masters</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$345,691</td>
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Table 3: Dean’s Scholarship – Round 1 (April 27, 2020)

### Dean’s Scholarship Term 2

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Awarded</th>
<th>Applications</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic PhD</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>225</td>
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<tr>
<td>International PhD</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic Masters</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Masters</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$1,082,697</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Table 4: Dean’s Scholarship – Round 2 (April 27, 2020)

### Tri-Agency Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Received</th>
<th>Forwarded</th>
<th>Awarded</th>
<th>Funding Awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSHRC Doctoral</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>$1,100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSHRC Masters</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>Awarded</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>$402,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIHR Masters</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Awarded</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$87,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIHR Doctoral</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSERC Doctoral</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>$462,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSERC Masters</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>Awarded</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>$367,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanier</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Table 5: Tri-Agency Statistics 2019-20 (April 30, 2020)

In addition to the above, the awards and scholarship team are currently working with the Tri-Agencies to CIHR competitions. During the 2019-20 academic year we have a total of 4 Masters and 2 PhDs on Indigenous Graduate Leadership Scholarships – these scholarships are unique in that they provide tuition in addition to an annual allocation. During the 2019-20 year we have awarded 30 GRFs, the equivalent of 50 GTFs, the equivalent of an additional 40 GTF summer supplements, 17 TSDFs, and nearly $252,000 in faculty startup funding.

The College of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies provides nearly $500,000 outside of our operating budget in support of graduate student, postdoctoral fellow and faculty support in the form of matching funding for a variety of research and academic initiatives. A portion of this funding is provided through strategic financial management of application fees that are collected. In 2019-20, approximately $515,000 was awarded to graduate students through the generosity of our donors and endowment funds.

Support for Students affected by COVID-19

On April 22nd, 2020 there was an announcement from the Federal Government “Support for students and new grads affected by COVID-19” describing financial aid that will be made available to students across Canada. In that announcement it mentioned the possibility of the extension of expiring federal graduate research scholarships and post doc fellowships by providing $291.6 million to the federal granting councils. The Tri-Agency determined that this funding is their number one priority and they are diligently working towards a process to distribute these funds soon. Tri-Agency recommends to consistently monitor their websites and social media to remain updated as information becomes available.
I am very pleased to report on the many successes and accomplishments of the Office of the Vice-President Research for the 2019-20 academic year.

To begin, I want to thank all of our faculty, staff, students, researchers and community partners for their hard work, perseverance, and dedication over the past several months. As you well know, COVID-19 has quickly become the defining feature of our present times and the past academic year.

In a short but dynamic four months, the University of Saskatchewan has transitioned its operations from being primarily in-person and on-campus to that where our teaching and learning, research and discovery, and administrative mandates are carried out primarily remotely. During the same period, USask researchers have demonstrated exceptional leadership by coming together (while being physically apart), embracing interdisciplinarity, and collaborating to produce impactful solutions in the global fight against COVID-19. I continue to observe and be humbled by the agility and resiliency of our campus during these unprecedented times.

Now, despite COVID-19, the Office of the Vice-President Research continues to lead and support impactful research, scholarly, and artistic work across the academy.

In 2019-20, I was proud to work alongside our esteemed faculty, researchers, and colleagues to advance several strategic initiatives, such as the refinement of our strategic research plan, a research life-cycle inventory of all programs, services, and supports (in collaboration with ICT and University Library), the revision of our Responsible Conduct of Research Policy, and the co-creation of an Indigenous Research Resource Collaborative (with the Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement). We’ve also focused on building mutually-beneficial partnerships with various stakeholders, including the Town of Canmore, Wanuskewin Heritage Park, and Dakota Whitecap First Nation. I invite you to read this report to learn about these and many of the other great successes and accomplishments of our university over the past academic year.

As we look to the future, I am eager and excited to work with our campus community to advance the many commitments contained in our strategic research plan, Discovery the World Needs, and other opportunities as they arise. Together, we will unleash discovery and continue to be the university the world needs.

Sincerely,

Karen Chad
Vice-President Research
University of Saskatchewan

IMAGE: Fungi to the Rescue Alana Krug-MacLeod, environmental biology student
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IMAGE: Magical Mystical Moss, Phaedra Cowden, PhD Student in Soil Science
Research Services and Ethics Office

The Research Services and Ethics Office (RSEO) serves the USask community by facilitating and promoting research success. Our team of highly skilled and dedicated staff support researchers and academic leaders in developing competitive proposals for innovative research that is safe and ethically sound.

**Snapshot**

- **6%** increase in new animal-use protocols, compared to last year
- **22%** increase in behavioural ethics applications
- **38%** increase in biomedical ethics amendments
- **128** internal review participants
- **1,467** newly funded research projects supported by RSEO
- **110,656** animals used in research and teaching
- **$650,000** in animal-order desk sales
- **$1,457,202** in COVID-related research funding at the end of 2019-20
- **$99,365,741** in research funding for our signature areas of research

**Plus** more workshops, training, online supports and improved policies, practices, forms and templates
Supporting Researchers and their Teams

The Research Services and Ethics Office (RSEO) undertook several initiatives over the past academic year aimed at better serving USask researchers and supporting research excellence across the institution, including:

**Tri-Agency Grants Management Solutions (TGMS) initiative workshops**

RSEO welcomed members of the Tri-Agency Grants Management Solutions (TGMS) team for two days in January 2020. USask was the first of 15 university and college visits planned by TGMS across Canada focused on identifying current pain points and validating the future needs and wants of Tri-Agency system users.

RSEO hosted three half-day Client Experience (CX) journey-map workshops, from the perspectives of applicants, reviewers and research administrators. 40 faculty, students and staff participated. These workshops also sparked an interest among research facilitators to work with RSEO to map internal processes in order to improve the CX experience throughout the research life-cycle.


The new TAGFA, which took effect April 1, 2020, is based on a principles-based approach to allow flexible use of grant funds in support of research activities.

Throughout 2019-20, RSEO worked closely with Financial Operations to prepare for the new TAGFA, including undertaking a gap analysis, modernizing procedures, and updating compliance forms and inter-institutional transfer templates. RSEO and Financial Operations also collaborated to prepare interactive workshops and online materials to educate researchers and support research administrators.

**NSERC New Alliance Program workshops**

NSERC unveiled a New Partnership Grant (Alliance) in 2019 to replace multiple partnership programs. RSEO worked with research facilitators to develop and deliver workshops aimed at helping researchers navigate the new application development and submission process.

**Improving how we close research projects and financial funds**

RSEO worked with Financial Operations to develop and implement new standard operating procedures (SOPs) for closing research projects. This new close-out process aligns RSEO processes in UnivRS with fund closures in Banner, USask’s financial system.

Within six months of implementation, the number of open grant projects and funds beyond their end date declined from 408 to 115. Improving the close-out process reduces the risk of deficits and breached terms and conditions. It also allows RSEO to better coordinate extensions as well as to avoid having returning research funds.

**Better supporting budget planning for research projects**

RSEO worked with Human Resources to develop a budget-planning document that summarizes compensation costs and benefits for research staff, postdoctoral fellows and undergraduate and graduate students.

Such compensation information was often difficult to find and understand, which often led to inaccurate estimates, budgets not aligned with USask policies, and far too much time spent finalizing budget sections of grant proposals. This new resource has allowed for a more straightforward budgeting process.

**Making helpful information more widely accessible**

RSEO continued to develop a number of short Knowledge Base (KB) articles answering frequently asked questions about both pre- and post-award administration.

RSEO also collaborated with the Library and Information and Communications Technology to develop a “Researching Remotely” webpage, providing helpful resources and links to support researchers working remotely due to COVID-19. This resource will now serve as the basis for the development of a more comprehensive, one-stop “Supports throughout the Research Life-cycle” webpage which should be completed by summer 2020.

**153 Training Sessions, plus critical supports for animal-based research**

The Animal Ethics Team provided 153 training sessions on various animal research-related topics, including: animal handling, surgical skills, anesthesia, euthanasia, new species information, and training on specific surgeries.

The Animal Ethics Team trained five senior-year veterinary students, with each of the trainees spending two weeks learning about laboratory-animal medicine, being trained in specific animal techniques, and learning USask’s processes for managing animal research, teaching and testing. They also trained two senior-year laboratory-animal residents in the final year of their residencies at institutions in the United States; as part of their residency, they had the option of undertaking training at other institutions. The Canadian Light Source (CLS) at USask is of particular interest for many veterinary students and visiting veterinary residents, as it is a unique animal-research resource unavailable at most other animal-research institutions.

The Animal Ethics Team supports animal-based research in numerous other ways, including supporting animal research at the CLS, blastomycosis research in mice, humanization of mice for HIV and COVID-19 research, and surgeries on rabbits, pigs and dogs.

**Public-Outreach Event: Animal-Human Relationship**

On October 18 and 19, 2019, USask partnered with Saskatchewan Polytechnic to deliver a free, two-day public-outreach event exploring the animal-human relationship, with an emphasis on the use of animals for research and teaching.

Over 260 people attended. The event included a “Three Rs & Animal Research” trainee symposium; an expert from Understanding Animal Research in the UK on “Why and How We Should Talk to the Public About Animal Research”; a special evening session focused on “New Therapies & Diabetes Research”; and a full-day event to explore “Ways of Knowing and Understanding the Animal-Human Relationship.”

Special thanks to our funders SHRF, NSERC, and Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research, and Amanda Plante, without whom this successful event would not have been possible.
815 grant applications submitted to external agencies, with support from RSEO

1,467 new funded research projects supported by RSEO

320 successful
268 awaiting results
227 unsuccessful

393 internally funded

764 externally funded

310 externally funded

$99,365,741 in research funding for our signature areas of research
(+4.3% from 2018-19)

$45,632,337
$9,508,151
$16,259,343
$17,436,438
$3,838,476
$6,690,997

Agriculture
Energy & Mineral Resources
Indigenous Peoples
One Health
Synchrotron Sciences
Water Security

$1,457,202 in COVID-related research funding at the end of 2019-20

- VIDO-InterVac: $1,214,793
- College of Medicine: $197,609
  - Psychology: $61,659
  - Emergency Medicine: $50,000
  - Medicine: $50,000
  - Community Health and Epidemiology: $17,000
  - Nutrition and Dietetics: $9,550
  - School of Rehabilitation Science: $9,400
- College of Arts and Science: $24,800
  - Computer Science: $20,000
  - Sociology: $4,800
- College of Pharmacy: $10,000
- College of Engineering (Mechanical Engineering): $10,000
Tri-Agency Results at a Glance

SSRHC Insight Grants

% Successful Applications

$ Awarded

NSERC Discovery Grants

% Successful Applications

$ Awarded

CIHR Project Grants

% Successful Applications

$ Awarded
Internal Review (IR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Submitted</th>
<th>IR Participants</th>
<th>Total Awarded</th>
<th>Successful IR Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSERC Discovery Grant</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>36 (65%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSERC Res. Tools &amp; Instruments</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1 (33%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSHRC Insight Grant</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4 (57%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSHRC Insight Dev. Grant</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5 (42%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSHRC Partnership Grant</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 (50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIHR Project Grant (Fall 2019)</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3 (75%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIHR Project Grant (Spring 2019)</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Cancelled due to COVID</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Events Organized and Supported by the Tri-Agency Leaders and Internal Review Specialists:

- NSERC Discovery Grant and RTI Grants Workshop – May 2019
- NSERC Discovery Grant Info Session (by Program Officers from NSERC) – May 2019
- NSERC Celebration Luncheon – May 2019
- SSHRC Appreciation Event – May 2019
- CIHR Project Grants Workshop for Fall 2019 – July 2019
- NSERC CCV and Full Application Workshop for DG and RTI applicants – Sept and Oct 2019
- SSHRC New Faculty Presentation – Oct 2019
- SSHRC Insight Development Grant Panel Discussion – Nov 2019
- CIHR Appreciation Event – August 2019
- CIHR Project Grant Spring Workshop – Jan 2020
- CIHR Town Hall – Feb 2020

Animal Ethics

Reviewing and approving Animal-Use Protocols

All research, teaching or testing that involves animal subjects or the use of animal tissue must be accurately described in an Animal-Use Protocol that is reviewed and approved by the University Animal Care Committee's Animal Research Ethics Board (AREB). No animal use can take place until the AREB issues a Certificate of Approval.

New Protocols

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Protocols</td>
<td>118 (+6% from 2018-19)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Annual Renewals

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Renewals</td>
<td>294 (+2% from 2018-19)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amendments

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amendments</td>
<td>355 (+15% from 2018-19)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) requires scientific-merit review of all new and four-year renewal research Animal-Use Protocols (AUP). All research AUPs that are not funded by a peer-reviewed agency are reviewed by the OVPR Scientific Merit Review Committee for Animal-Based Research. It reviewed 35 AUPs in 2019-20, an increase of 40% from 2018-19.

The CCAC also requires pedagogical-merit review of all new and four-year renewal teaching AUPs. All USask courses-for-credit that involve the use of animals require review by the Teaching, Learning and Student Experience (TLSE) Pedagogical Merit Review Committee (PMRC) prior to Animal Research Ethics Board (AREB) approval. The PMRC was established in spring 2019 and it reviewed six AUPs, with a phased-in approach to review the 30 active teaching AUPs.
Coordinating the shipment of research animals

The RSEO Animal Order Desk coordinates the shipment of animals to USask and also shipment of animals from USask to other institutions for collaborative research.

26,963 animals cared for in RSEO-managed facilities in 2019-20

RSEO’s Animal Care Services manages the Laboratory Animal Science Unit in the Health Sciences Building and the Animal Vivarium in the Collaborative Sciences Research Building.

Animals cared for in these facilities in 2019-20 included:
- 21,746 mice
- 3,648 fish
- 1,405 rats
- 43 frogs
- 36 ground squirrels
- 36 tiger salamanders
- 34 rabbits
- 15 skates

110,656 animals used in research and teaching at USask in 2019-20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2019-20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reptiles</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cats</td>
<td>373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogs</td>
<td>489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpacas, Goats, Llamas</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horses</td>
<td>882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rats</td>
<td>1,528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other mammals</td>
<td>1,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pigs</td>
<td>2,679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkeys</td>
<td>7,722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle</td>
<td>9,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birds</td>
<td>11,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amphibians</td>
<td>13,077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mice</td>
<td>18,547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish</td>
<td>20,353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickens</td>
<td>21,573</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
818 **new ethics applications** received

- **287 biomedical applications** (-8% from 2018-19)
- **531 behavioural applications** (+22% from 2018-19)

**Biomedical applications:**
- Full-board reviews: 54
- Delegated reviews: 183
- Exemptions: 50

**Behavioural applications:**
- Full-board reviews: 14
- Delegated reviews: 368
- Exemptions: 121
- Acknowledgments: 28

1,030 **amendments** processed

- **682 biomedical amendments** (+38% from 2018-19) with a significant spike after COVID-19 affected research protocols
- **348 behavioural amendments** (+28% from 2018-19)
1,128 ethics renewals processed

693 biomedical renewals (+9% from 2018-19)

435 behavioural renewals (-3% from 2018-19)

389 ethics closures processed

145 biomedical closures (-13% from 2018-19)

244 behavioural closures (same as 2018-19)
Expedited reviews of 39 **COVID-related ethics applications** at the end of 2019-20

**Ethics workshops and presentations for nearly 500 participants**

We delivered 16 presentations on topics including the application process, informed consent, Indigenous engagement and the TCPS2 principles. Over 400 people attended sessions organized by:

- Computer Science
- Dentistry
- Education
- Educational Foundations
- Edwards School of Business
- First-Year Research Experience (FYRE)
- Indigenous Studies
- Internal Medicine
- Kinesiology
- Mechanical Engineering
- Medical Residents
- Nursing
- School of Public Health
- School of Environment and Sustainability
- Surgery Residents
- Women's and Gender Studies

We also **started offering ethics training workshops in October 2019** and provided six workshops before the end of 2019-20, with 91 enrollees.

**Making ethics processes easier** for researchers

In 2019-20, we made several changes to make our ethics processes simpler for researchers, such as:

- Handling exemptions through email, rather than requiring full applications;
- Providing acknowledgments of research approved at other institutions;
- Improving various forms and templates;
- Fixing expiry dates for renewals (in response to feedback that researchers completing their work early or on time were being penalized by losing part of the year of approval);
- Continuing to improve the UnivRS ethics module during the current soft-rollout phase, with the aim of releasing it to researchers in 2020-21; and
- Undertaking a university-wide survey of researchers for their feedback on our ethics processes (this was completed at the beginning of 2020-21 and will inform further improvements).
Strategic Research Initiatives (SRI) supports the development of large-scale grants, nominations for faculty awards and recognition, enhancing the undergraduate research experience, and building research intensity at USask.

**Snapshot**

- **$43M** in funding secured for SRI-supported proposals
- **40** large-scale proposals submitted
- **$25M** portfolio of active research infrastructure development
- **3420** students enrolled in the First-Year Research Experience
- **32** national and international faculty award nominations supported
- **38** Undergraduate Student Research Assistantship (USRA) allocated
- **3** new Canada Research Chair (CRC) nominations, **1** renewal, **6** in recruitment

*IMAGE: Oh, the places you’ll go! Robin Owsiacki, DVM student in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine*
Strategic Research Initiatives

Strategic Research Initiatives (SRI) supported the development of 40 competitive large-scale grant proposals, 32 faculty awards nominations, and many strategic initiatives over the past academic year.

Centres Policy
A new Policy on Centres has been developed and is undergoing review by the appropriate committees across campus. This new policy will support the ongoing vitality of research centres while simplifying processes, providing greater support and flexibility. Complementary guidelines are being drafted alongside the policy.

Chairs Strategy
SRI’s review of the chairs program, followed by the completion of a Chairs Paper and recommendations, has informed the revision of USask’s policy on Chairs and Professorships as well as the tracking and management of all research chairs and fundraising efforts for the comprehensive campaign.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)
SRI is at the forefront of USask’s efforts to promote best practices in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in research. In 2019-20, SRI built capacity and provided leadership to USask by:

- Participating in the development of an Institutional EDI Action Plan.
- Developing a successful application to the Tri-Agency Dimensions program, securing Usask’s participation as one of 17 pilot institutions.
- Coordinating and continuing to implement USask’s CRC EDI Action Plan.
- Applying EDI leading practices for identifying and selecting of candidates for awards and recognitions nominations, leading to representation of women in 41% of nominations (-2% from 2018) with 15% of nominees identifying as Indigenous (+11% from 2018) and 25% identifying as a member of a visible minority (+3% from 2018).
- Providing EDI workshops for faculty, including co-sponsoring a lecture by Dr. Lisa Willis, and leading EDI workshops for upcoming large-scale grants.

Indigenous Research Strategy
SRI launched an Indigenous Research Strategy that involved developing resources and supporting researchers as they engage with Indigenous communities in their research, scholarly, and artistic works. In 2019-20, SRI successfully:

- Supported USask delegates in the development of Expressions of Interest to join the Tri-agencies Indigenous Reference Group, a national group dedicated to the culturally appropriate review of research.
- Coordinated feedback to NSERC’s Alliance program on national efforts to improve engagement opportunities with Indigenous communities.
- Established, coordinated and supported the cross-unit Indigenous Strategy Table, providing a new mechanism for collaboration between OVPR units, the Vice-Provost, Indigenous Engagement office, Connection Point and Financial Services.

We are excited to continue supporting this important work, which will enable the refinement and implementation of comprehensive services and programs covering partnership development, authentic engagement and protocols, proposal development, post-award management, ethics and data management, and payment of elders and research participants.

Incubating a Pathways to Equity Research Cluster
SRI played a leading role in incubating a Pathways Equity Research Cluster, which was established with an initial focus on Homelessness. Cluster activities accomplished over the past academic year include:

- Developing a cross-disciplinary and intersectoral cluster inclusive of scholars from Nursing, Law, Edwards School of Business, Urban Planning and Geography, Education. A workshop is scheduled for co-development of research project ideas with local community partners.
- Awarding seed grants to three community/university research proposals.

Undergraduate Research

The Undergraduate Research Initiative promotes and supports development of undergraduate research experiences through three impactful programs.

First-Year Research Experience (FYRE)
For the second year in a row, there has been a 25% increase in the number of students enrolled in FYRE.

Student Undergraduate Research Experience
In 2019-20, the OVPR supported 38 students with USRAs, leveraging $108K matched by faculty via college, Tri-Council, start-up or other funding for a total of $216K.

Most recently, SRI launched a new pilot program for all students undertaking faculty supervised research, SURE: Student Undergraduate Research Experience.

MentorSTEP
SRI’s new pilot program launched in partnership with STC, MentorSTEP offers Indigenous women students who are interested in STEM mentorship, professional activities and research internships with a focus on the mining community.

Funded by the International Minerals Innovation Institute via its Diversity and Inclusion program, the program admitted its first cohort of 16 students, supported by 24 mentors from USask STEM faculty and the Saskatchewan mining industry.

![First-Year Research Experience Enrolment](chart.png)
Institutional Grants & Awards

Grant Submissions
In 2019-20, SRI supported the development of 40 competitive large-scale grant proposals across 12 colleges and schools, including:

- 2 SSHRC Partnership Stage 2 proposals were submitted
- 2 NSERC CREATE Full Proposal submissions
- 3 CFI Innovation Fund submissions
- 5 proposals to Genome Canada LSARP Competition

Successful Grants
SRI played a pivotal role in preparing proposals which resulted in the university securing $43M in funding over the past year, including:

- $2.5M SSHRC Partnership Grant (Noble/Poelzer)
- $8.5M for Indigenous Health Research (Tait, A. King, Graham)
- $24M Genome Canada LSARP (Bett, Pozniak, Waldner)
- $1.9M NSERC Industrial Research Chairs (Waldner, Lindsay)

Awards and Recognitions
SRI assisted in celebrating and publicizing the outstanding research, artistic, and scholarly work of our campus community by supporting nominations to national and international awards, including:

- 32 nominations submitted
- 11 successes to date (9 results outstanding)
- 1 Arrell Food Award (Kochian)
- 1 Trudeau Fellowship (Battiste)
- 1 Royal Society of Canada’s Miroslaw Romanowski Medal (Pomeroy)

Infrastructure Development
Over the past academic year, SRI added new services and supports aimed at promoting the development of critical and cutting-edge research infrastructure across campus. Within six months, SRI:

- Provided coordination, budget development, and proposal development for over $40M of new research infrastructure.
- Managed the implementation of a $25M portfolio of active research infrastructure development.

Research Junction
Research Junction, which was launched in fall 2019, is a major initiative developed under the MOU between the City of Saskatoon and University of Saskatchewan. Highlights of its first year include:

- Launching the Research Junction website.
- Inaugural Research Junction Development Grant competition which provided $100K to five research projects co-led by City and USask partners, supported by partnership facilitation services.
- Reaching an agreement with the USask library to provide guidance for City staff to access library resources on and off site.
- Signing a Master Research Agreement that provided a template for all joint research projects and reducing administrative hurdles.
Innovation Enterprise (IE) initiates, develops, commercializes, and implements innovation, sustainable, and knowledge-based solutions generated by USask.

**Snapshot**

- 3 new student-led startup companies formed
- 193 hours of student entrepreneurship training
- 6 new academia-industry research collaborations generated by AIMDay
- 20 patent filings
- 74 patent families issued and active
- 6 new innovations out-licensed
- 48 active licenses under management
- 90 innovations available for licensing
- 136 new innovations in market potential assessment

*IMAGE: Toy Infirmary* Nicolas Leroy, master’s student in studio art
Programs and Supports

Summer Entrepreneurs

The Summer Entrepreneurs (SE) program was launched in May 2019. This program is a new and unique way of combining and leveraging several resources on campus – proprietary technologies and talented USask students with an interest in entrepreneurship – to bring innovations to market.

SE is designed to develop entrepreneurs by providing students with market-proven tools, training, and access to a USask invention to explore. Supported by an inventor, external business mentors, and advisors from the IE team, student-entrepreneurs are challenged to pinpoint a business opportunity, assess the market potential of their solution, and build a commercialization plan for it.

At the end of a summer, teams that show substantial and tangible market traction and strong desire to form a start-up have the opportunity to receive intellectual property rights under attractive terms. By bringing exciting new technologies, motivated students, and experienced mentors together in one space, the SE program is generating innovative new ideas, synergies, and collaboration that go beyond the program and the university.

Student Innovation and Business Analysts

Student Innovation and Business Analysts (SIBAs) are students of all years and fields of study who perform commercialization research projects on active innovation files in IE. Projects range from conducting market research and competitive analysis to summarizing reports on market trends, and beyond. This program promotes an entrepreneurial culture and offers undergraduate and graduate students a chance to explore dynamics of innovation and business development.

AIMDay

AIMDay is a unique academia/industry meeting concept initiated and successfully developed by Uppsala University in Sweden. Since hosting the first ever AIMDay in North America in March 2017, with a focus on the mineral sector, IE has hosted four more AIMday events in collaboration with University of Regina and Saskatchewan Polytechnic. USask AIMdays have generated 80 collaborations to date around a wide variety of industry questions and problems on the topics of imaging (Oct 2017), big data (Apr 2018), agriculture and technology (Oct 2018), and the internet of things (Mar 2019).

Over the past year, IE has finalized an additional collaboration agreement with Uppsala University, making USask the exclusive Canadian hub for AIMdays, with the purpose of implementing AIMday™ at other institutions across Canada. Both the University of Manitoba and Ryerson University are in the process of receiving training and our support to host their first AIMdays in the coming year.

In 2019-20, IE successfully integrated our NCS database into our Portal for Industry Engagement (PIE), a web-based portal providing an overview of USask research expertise, facilities, and services. Seamlessly integrating these two tools is designed to provide a more streamlined “front door” for our stakeholders to access our assets.

Stakeholder and Ecosystem Support

Fast License

In 2018-19, IE launched a Fast License model, an initiative designed to make our commercialization process smoother and quicker for our industry and startup partners. The Fast License is presented on our website, with both the term sheet and the full contract available for review by interested partners, involving transparent and industry-friendly terms.

In 2019-20, our Fast License model was the basis for the license we used in our Summer Entrepreneurs program. In that context, we received positive feedback when we shared the model with the 23 industry mentors engaged in the program and were able to accelerate startup licensing in the SE program as a result.

Co.Launch

In 2019-20, IE continued supporting the Co.Launch startup program at Co.Labs, the province’s first technology incubator. Over the past year, IE has collaborated with Innovation Saskatchewan to provide expertise and prize funding to two Co.Launch cohorts per year. This program provides mentored learning opportunities for early-stage businesses and founders so they can finetune their business idea and establish their teams.

IE’s goal in supporting Co.Launch is to participate meaningfully in growing the regional innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem, and to facilitate a pathway for the USask community to bring their business ideas forward for acceptance into the Co.Launch program.

Through the four cohorts that have moved through the Co.Launch program to date, we have seen a growth in USask entrepreneurs (current faculty, staff, or students) from 12 in the first 2018 cohort to a cumulative total of 53 by the end of 2019. Four startups led by USask participants have won cohort prize money, for a total $30K investment in USask startups out of the $60K in company investment sponsorship IE has provided.
Technology Transfer

Innovation Management
IE continues to expand approaches to commercialization and value generation in the work we do with campus researchers and industry partners, in our technology transfer processes, and in our programming initiatives.

As of April 30, 2020, IE has over 280 innovations under management. These include technologies in value path pre-evaluation, those actively being assessed for commercial potential, over 60 innovations currently available for licensing, and 68 innovations that we are involved in managing through licenses to startups or industry partners.

Within those innovations under our management, the portfolio includes 74 patent families issued and currently active, as well as 105 patent families in the process of approval in patent offices around the world.

A patent family can be thought of as the collection of all patents that derive from a single invention, including all of the separate patents and filings required globally. In total, patent families under IE management represent 255 issued and active patents!

Startup Portfolio Examples

**Excir Works**
Excir Works was founded in 2017 based on technology developed by Dr. Stephen Foley, an Associate Professor in USask’s College of Arts and Science. This technology allows for recovery of gold from consumer electronic waste in a novel and environmentally friendly process.

In 2019-20, IE continued playing an active role as a member of Excir's Board of Directors and by representing USask as a shareholder, helping guide the company through scale-up steps required to secure multiple rounds of investment and position the company for growth. Over the past academic year, Excir’s market valuation has risen from $17.5M to approximately $54M.

**Polytenna**
Polytenna is a technology which is s based on a radically different approach to fabrication of compact radio frequency (RF) antennas and devices using non-traditional polymer-based materials, enabling improved performance and increased functionality for various emerging wireless communication and sensor devices. This technology was invested by Dr. David Klymyshyn, a Professor in USask’s College of Engineering.

In 2019-20, IE continued working with this company to fine tune their intellectual property portfolio in response to changing markets in the fast-paced technology sectors.

**ABAzyne BioScience Inc.**
ABAzyne BioScience Inc. is a Canadian agriculture biotech company that develops leading patented synthetic Abscisic Acid (ABA) analogs for plant growth regulation applications.

This research portfolio is a product of 30 plus years of research led by Dr. Sue Abrams, Adjunct Professor and former Director of the Saskatchewan Structural Sciences Centre, which was initially conducted at the National Research Council (NRC) of Canada and subsequently at USask, all in collaboration with industry, academia and producer-based partnerships.

ABAzyne continues to conduct basic research with an expanding network of collaborators and strategic partners, including USask and it’s Global Institute of Food Security.

In 2019-90, IE worked with the NRC to facilitate and enable the transfer and licensing of intellectual property rights from both USask and NRC required for the company to advance.

**Prairie Tide Diversified Inc.**
Prairie Tide Diversified Inc. (PTD) is a natural products company started in 2010 founded on and fueled by the research of Dr. Martin Reaney, Professor in USask’s College of Agriculture and Bio-resources.

Based in Saskatoon, PTD is expanding the flaxseed grower’s market by creating revolutionary flaxseed products for small and large-scale consumers. Over the past ten years, the PTD product portfolio has grown to include novel flax snack foods, flax based dietary and health supplements, and oils for use by visual artists.

In 2019-20, IE worked with PTD to add a new license and patent to the family of technologies the company was founded on.

**Soteria MedTech**
Soteria MedTech was founded based on a technology developed by USask researcher Dr. Bill McKay, a novel medical device used to maintain a stable airway in people requiring life-saving respiratory aid.

**Vicia**
Vicia conducts breeding and development of novel ornamental and edible dwarf faba bean plants, founded based on Master’s degree thesis work conducted under the supervision of Dr. Bert Vandenburg, Professor in the College of Agriculture and Bio-resources.

**LubCan**
LubCan is based on a technology developed by Dr. Ajay Dalai, Professor in the College of Engineering, that allows production of a canola-based environmentally friendly and high performance bio-lubricant.
The International Research and Partnerships Office provides leadership, coordination, and support to advance the internationalization of the university’s core missions of research, teaching and learning, and service.

**Snapshot**

377 agreements administered with 203 institutions in 51 countries around the world

176 student mobility agreements managed

42 agreements developed or renewed last year

New agreements with **top institutions** in China, South Korea and India

31 incoming delegations from 22 countries hosted

2 Presidential trips facilitated

USask’s **1st** joint degree renewed

USask’s **1st** joint overseas degree program launched

USask’s **1st** integrated website on internationalization created

7 languages served

*IMAGE: A Budding Research Team* Michelle Gowan, Master’s student in archaeology and anthropology
Institutional Leadership

The growing appetite for internationalization as a central component of USask, alongside significant investment in this area, has elevated USask's international profile, research competitiveness, and accelerated new international partnership development.

The International Research and Partnerships Office (IRPO) plays a leading role in building an integrated approach to the university's internationalization strategy, advancing international research, and enhancing our reputation on the international stage.

The IRPO serves as a strategic resource for various USask units engaged in internationalization. In particular, the IRPO plays a leading role in the development and maintenance of international collaborations, facilitates international research activities and provides oversight to the university's International Blueprint for Action 2025.

In 2019-20, the IRPO is proud to have advanced many strategic initiatives, including:

- Provided strategic support on international initiatives to USask's senior administration, various administrative support units, research centres, and several academic units.
- Created the university’s first integrated website on internationalization.

Strategic Partnerships

Partnership agreements enhance the reputation and impact of USask by formally recognizing collaborations in teaching, research, and the student experience, and providing new collaborative opportunities for our teachers and researchers.

A top priority for the IRPO is to develop high-quality partnerships for our institution. In doing so, the IRPO has been a facilitator for USask faculty mobility and their international research collaborations through the development of the agreements needed for grant-funding applications.

Active Agreements

The 377 currently active agreements at USask represent collaborations with 203 institutions and organizations globally.

In 2019-20, the majority of our agreements involved collaborations in Europe (38%) and Asia (37%), and the top three countries with which we have active agreements are China (71), Japan (30), and France (25). The IRPO developed or renewed 42 agreements over the past academic year.

Academic Partnerships

The IRPO administers six types of academic partnership agreements ranging from MOUs to student and faculty mobility to joint/dual degree programs. MOUs represent the majority of agreements handled by the IRPO, followed by bilateral exchange and student mobility agreements.
In 2019-20, the IRPO developed 27 MOUs, 7 bilateral student exchange agreements, one other student-mobility agreement, three dual-degree agreements, one joint degree agreement, and three faculty/staff mobility agreements.

**Bilateral Student Exchange**

Bilateral student-exchange agreements directly impact the student experience and provide USask students with valuable opportunities to gain international and inter-cultural experience. Of our 97 active bilateral student-exchange agreements, the vast majority are located in Europe, followed by Asia and South America.

**Partnership Impacts**

Partnerships between USask and its international partners raise the university’s profile and reputation throughout the world.

The following highlights are several initiatives coordinated by the IRPO over the past year which continue to have significant impact:

- Coordinated the **University of the Arctic Thematic Network International Symposium** – hosted at USask in 2019, this high-profile event involved leaders from ~60 thematic working groups and 15 institutions across the Arctic nations, concerned with education and research in and about the North.

- Facilitated USask’s first joint overseas program, the collaborative **Master’s program in Water Security** with Beijing Normal University was launched in September 2019.

- Supported **student recruitment** activities by traveling to 21 cities and 25 high schools in China and Kazakhstan, delivering 24 presentations, attending 10 education fairs, and meeting 1,000+ students.

- **Supported USask’s Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) mission to Bangladesh** (Feb. 20), which leveraged partnerships with Bangladesh agricultural research institutes and led to the formation of the Bangladesh Advanced Technologies for Agriculture Research Consortium, and agreements with the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council of the Bangladesh Ministry of Agriculture.

- Explored collaborative research and technology commercialization opportunities with the **Jiangsu Industrial Technology Research Institute (JITRI)** in conjunction with Innovation Enterprise.

- Participated in the **8th Canada-Mexico Roundtable** on Indigenous Intercultural Higher Education (Oct. 19). Providing support and partnership advice to USask leaders from the Teaching, Learning and Student Experience (TLSE) division and Indigenous Engagement, the IRPO engaged with current Mexican partners and potential new ones to explore opportunities for graduate and undergraduate indigenous student mobility and joint research.
Participated in the Conference of the Americas on International Education (CAIE), Bogota, Colombia (Oct. 2019). Current and potential high-quality partners were engaged, and market intelligence from different Latin American countries was obtained from Canadian Trade Commissioners to support research collaborations and student recruitment strategies.

Supported the Summer University Research Initiative (SURI), an ongoing international partnership with the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar and Malaviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT), which brings top engineering and technology students from India for a three-month internship to work on active research projects with USask faculty members in the College of Arts and Science.

Developed, wrote, coordinated, and communicated presidential letters to all international partners expressing solidarity and support during the COVID-19 crisis and highlighting various research initiatives undertaken by USask researchers in combating COVID-19.

During the COVID-19 crisis, coordinated information from USask administrative units and developed ongoing communications and updates to all active international partners and foreign governments on USask actions and responses.

International Delegations

The IRPO hosts and manages all incoming visiting delegations to USask by developing visit itineraries and coordinating meetings with USask stakeholders. Visiting delegations may consist of personnel from an individual institution, multiple institutions or consortia, or diplomatic missions.

The IRPO also coordinates and supports many USask delegations travelling abroad (including Presidential and senior-administrative delegations, Colleges and Schools, research centres and institutes, and individual faculty members) by providing strategic advice, invitation letters, and information, and developing strategic objectives, itineraries, and briefing notes.

Outgoing Delegations

In 2019-20, the IRPO hosted 30 incoming delegations from individual institutions and organizations from 22 different countries, and one multi-institutional delegation consisting of 16 delegates representing 15 Latin American and Caribbean universities. The IRPO also coordinated two USask presidential international visits to South Korea and India.

In 2019-20, over 50% of the incoming delegations by individual institutions or organizations visiting USask were from Asia, followed by Europe. The top five countries sending delegations to USask were China (5), Japan (3), India (2), Bangladesh (2), and Norway (2). Furthermore, the majority of visiting delegations to USask over the past year were from universities abroad. Visits from foreign diplomatic missions comprised the second-largest category of visits.

The IRPO coordinated several international delegations over the past academic year. Select highlights include:

- Coordinated the USask Presidential visit to South Korea in conjunction with the Premier of Saskatchewan’s provincial mission. President Stoicheff visited three of South Korea’s top universities – Seoul National University, Yonsei University, and Konkuk University.

- Coordinated the USask Presidential visit to India in conjunction with the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) Vice Chancellors’ Summit and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Higher Education Summit.

- Collaborated with provincial government to provide briefings and/or arrange visits from diplomatic visitors from around the world. In 2019-20, the IRPO supported visiting delegations from such countries as China, India, South Korea, Philippines, Mongolia, and the Ukraine.

- Welcomed a delegation led by High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Canada (Jul. 19), who visited a number of USask signature research centres.

- Participated in CALDO mission to Colombia, Chile, Panama and Mexico (Sep./Oct. 19) – the IRPO worked closely with student recruitment to promote the University and engage with higher education institutions from Latin America, through institutional meetings, oral presentations, and meetings with prospective students.

- Hosted CBIE-ELAP delegation (Nov. 2019), consisting of 16 delegates representing 15 Latin American and Caribbean institutions and two Canadian Trade Commissioners. Because of the visit, five new institutions requested ELAP partnerships with USask.
International Blueprint

The IRPO plays a leading role in overseeing and implementing the university’s International Blueprint for Action 2025.

Several initiatives were pursued over the past academic year to advance the strategic priorities outlined in this foundational document, including:

Signature Events
USask hosted a Global Signature Workshop:

• Forest-Water-Energy Nexus Workshop hosted by SENS and including presentations by representatives from the Chilean government

USask hosted 100 visiting professors from 80 institutions in 20 countries during the 2019-20 academic year.

• Two Visiting Professor Talks were presented to audiences of students, faculty, and staff. Sessions encompassing food futurism and innovation as well as the Internet activities of children were delivered.

• A second Visiting Professors Reception was held during our 3rd annual People Around the World (PAW) conference. Over 75 people attended (USask staff, faculty and, students) to network with our visiting professors and to view highlights of their research.

People Around the World (PAW) 2020 – Sustainability the World Needs
Development in Action was held (Feb. 6 and 7) at Marquis Events Centre and hosted by the IRPO with sponsorship from the Global Institute for Water Security (lead sponsor); the Global Institute for Food Security; the Colleges of Agriculture and Bio-resources, Arts and Science, Medicine, and Pharmacy and Nutrition; Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy; and the Office of the Vice-President Research. The conference had the largest number of participants to date with 165 attendees.

This year, 9 Project Grants for creating or expanding international partnerships were awarded:

• 100% have drawn non-USask and series funding totaling $1.03 M and represent a 514% ROI,
• 26 student and HQP development opportunities have been created, and
• Collaborators in 34 countries have been engaged.

28 Travel Awards totaling $101,303 were awarded to faculty and staff members in December 2019. A requirement to address the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals has been incorporated into the International Blueprint Funding Competitions to ensure USask engagement in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

International Benchmark Snapshots
Following the success of the 2018 pilot project with the College of Arts and Science, International Benchmark Snapshot reports for the Colleges of Medicine and Engineering are under development and projected to be completed this June.

These snapshots aggregate international activity data into a strategic tool informing college internationalization strategy in service of the International Blueprint and University Plan. These reports will be disseminated to the colleges and their senior administrators for feedback and follow-up on the facilitation of international opportunities by the IRPO.

A requirement to address the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals has been incorporated into International Blueprint funding competitions to ensure USask engagement in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

International Research

Research Projects
Over the past academic year, the IRPO began collecting data on all research projects entered in UnivRS which: (1) were funded by an international entity, (2) engaged international collaborators, or (3) occurred abroad (e.g. field work, etc.). These data have not been collected before.

Sixty-seven international research projects awarded funding during the 2019-20 fiscal year and each were individually assessed according to criteria around gender, equity, Indigenization, training opportunities for students and other HQP, and whether the project was considered community development work.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
An ongoing project will leverage structured language processing, limited subjective assessment, and cross-validation to align international research projects from January 2019 onward with applicable UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The International Research team at USask has integrated the UN’s SDGs into the international research framework to drive awareness, research, entrepreneurship, and education.

Integrating the UN’s SDGs provides a unique opportunity to work with our campus community and stakeholders to fulfill our missions to provide knowledge, build skills, and support the cultivation of global citizens. This initiative will also enhance USask’s Impact Rankings through Times Higher Education.

Strengthening Research Administration
Standard research operating grants are no longer the primary source of the university’s research funding. The federal and provincial governments have increasingly turned their attention to other types of funding programs which are more international and complex in nature. As a result, administrative burdens have substantially increased in volume and complexity, having much higher accountability regulations and expectations.

In order to keep pace with increasing demands of international research funding opportunities and to complement the diversity and growth of USask research, an International Research Specialist focused on the SDGs has been recruited.
In 2019-20, International Research Specialists facilitated opportunities with funders including: Academics Without Borders; Fulbright; Global Affairs Canada; International Development Research Centre (IDRC); Horizon 2020; Mitacs; Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute; IC Impacts; UK National institute for Health Research; Universities Canada; and several USA funding agencies such as: National Institute of Health (NIH); United States Agency for International Development (USAID); Department of Defense; Department of Agriculture; and more.

Influencing Global Research Through Collaboration

The IRPO works to increase institutional research collaborations and links between the university, private sector, higher education, research initiatives and overseas governments.

These collaborations occur across and between a number of disciplines, industries, and sectors. They serve as a key component of our institution’s strategy to deliver global solutions, impactful research, and to unleash discovery the world needs.

### International Research Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Awarded (in millions CAD)</th>
<th>Award Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019-2020</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>400</td>
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</table>

### International Publication Collaborations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collaboration Type</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Scholarly Output</th>
<th>Citations</th>
<th>Citations Per Publication</th>
<th>Field-Weighted Citation Impact</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International collaboration</td>
<td>48.4%</td>
<td>8,344</td>
<td>99,676</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>1.73</td>
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<tr>
<td>Only national collaboration</td>
<td>22.9%</td>
<td>3,943</td>
<td>27,954</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>1.05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Only institutional collaboration</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
<td>3,814</td>
<td>26,806</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single authorship (no collaboration)</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>1,139</td>
<td>2,802</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>0.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Research Profile and Impact (RPI) works closely with researchers, researcher leaders, and communicators across campus to tell the university’s research story and build the university’s research profile provincially, nationally, and internationally through strategic and targeted communications.

**Snapshot**

- **16.6M** viewers (Cision) for USask research stories over the year - up **7%** from 2018-19
- **600,000** viewers for one water security story, with **183M viewers/month**
- **>90,000** hits by international journalists on USask’s 23 news releases featured on EurekAlert
- **11** issues of Discovery Digest opened **440,000** times
- **2.5** million unique visitors per month (Cision) for RPI Indigenous health research stories.
- **35** articles in The Conversation Canada read by 824,000 readers—**56%** increase in reads/article
- **14** Young Innovators stories in The StarPhoenix, and also seen by over 36,000 on Twitter
- **>60** times Images of Research were used by communicators, plus dozens of times for major national ad campaigns, recruitment, websites, and social media
- **4** writing workshops attended by **115** students, faculty and staff
- **>15** research-related stories since the onset of COVID-19

*IMAGE: Nurse Mom* Michelle Gowan, Master's student in archaeology and anthropology
Telling Our Research Stories

RPI works closely with researchers, research leaders and communicators across campus to tell the university’s research story and build the university’s research profile provincially, nationally and internationally through targeted communications strategies that include news releases, articles, events, videos, and speeches.

Promoting COVID-19 research at USask
RPI shared stories from across campus on the many ways USask researchers are helping to address the pandemic, including:

- VIDO-InterVac’s vaccine research and major new funding federal and provincial funding for research and vaccine manufacturing;
- Engineering’s research to rapidly develop reusable personal protective equipment;
- research at AgBio and the Saskatchewan Structural Sciences Centre to produce hand sanitizer;
- creation of a COVID-19 protection strategy targeted at Indigenous peoples;
- creation of a COVID-19 digital archive by history researchers;
- advice from computer scientists on coping with COVID-19 stress;
- lending of Global Institute for Food Security equipment for Saskatchewan Health Authority testing;
- VIDO-InterVac sanitizing N95 masks for healthcare workers;
- telehealth support offered by physiotherapists and other health professionals for patients with MS, Parkinson’s and spinal injury;
- Global Institute for Food Security lent equipment to the SHA;
- music department video by the Greystone Singers.

An RPI video on VIDO-InterVac’s efforts to find a COVID-19 vaccine has been viewed 34,000 times on YouTube, by far the most viewed USask video during that period. RPI also assisted two research teams—one in history and one at VIDO-InterVac—in producing videos which will be used by the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) to promote COVID-related research by CFI-funded researchers.

Highlighting Research Success Nationally and Internationally
USask is working this year with a new metrics provider, Cision, so there are no individual news release comparators with the previous year. However, RPI’s more than 70 research news releases garnered significant coverage, particularly in areas such as infectious disease, water security, and food security. Among them:

- Our story “Climate activist Greta Thunberg and USask scientist John Pomeroy discuss glacier decline” had 183 million UVPM and had a total reach of 573,000 (this figure combines print, broadcast and digital views) around the world. (UVPM is the number of individuals who visit online news sources in a given month, combining actual and estimated numbers.)
- Our release on USask professor Peter Robinson developing the first app of Chaucer’s The Canterbury Tales was viewed more than 8,450 times on EurekAlert, and received worldwide coverage including British newspapers The Times, The Telegraph, The Daily Mail and the American Smithsonian Magazine. The story appeared on Phys.org with more than 5,000 Facebook shares. Tracked by Cision, the total reach was 234,000 and 9.2 million UVPM.
- Sociologist Colleen Dell’s study into PTSD service dogs and veterans’ substance abuse garnered significant social media. Tracked by Cision, the total reach was 28,200 and 5.8 million UVPM.
- EurekAlert: RPI subscribes to EurekAlert, the science news website of the American Association for the Advancement of Science which publishes peer-reviewed science news from around the world. From May 2019 to April 2020, 23 USask press releases posted on EurekAlert were viewed 90,920 times, mainly by journalists who use the site as a source of news.

Focusing on Indigenous Health Research
RPI has put a major push on supporting Indigenous health research initiatives. Over the past year, RPI has produced news releases that include: the CIHR-funded Networks of Excellence for Indigenous Health Research (of which USask is the coordinating centre for the country); a new Indigenous research chair for the College of Nursing; $3.6M from CIHR for Indigenous-related research projects; and a COVID-19 prevention program led by Indigenous health leader Carrie Bourassa. Combined, those news stories generated a total of nearly 2.5 million unique visitors per month or UVPM, as measured by Cision.

Promoting International Research
- News releases on USask research agreements with the leading water research institute in India and with a South Korean institute on vaccine research;
- News releases on Nazeem Muhajarine’s work in Mozambique and in mapping stillbirth rates around the world;
- Nine international students profiled in Young Innovators series;
- News release on NSERC CREATE students launching a balloon simulating a space mission, and profiling a Nigerian student space team participant in the Saskatchewan government’s Inside International Education Newsletter;
- Partnered on Graduate Student Recruitment Guide and research slide decks for international presentations.

Supporting a USask Research Culture
Through numerous initiatives including participation on committees related to rankings, sustainability, and internationalization, RPI contributes to building a culture of research. Each month, RPI includes an “Accolades” section of Discovery Digest, highlighting major awards and distinctions for USask researchers. In other initiatives, RPI promoted:

- Royal Society of Canada Fellows through a news release, video and Ottawa event with four USask water researchers addressing 100 alumni;
- Banting and Vanier scholarship winners; and
- appointment of Dr. Carrie Bourassa to the COVID-19 national task force.
**Telling our Stories in The Conversation:**
Promoted researcher participation in this independent academic newswire involving 27 Canadian universities:

- As of April 30, the overall one-year readership of 35 USask articles in The Conversation Canada and sites abroad was more than 824,221. Four articles garnered more than 60,000 reads each.
- Numerous stories were re-published or followed by media outlets e.g. Global News, Big News Network, Salon, World Economic Forum, HuffPost España, Medical Xpress, Phys. org, The National Interest. Several online sites and news aggregators republished stories including The Weather Network (more than 65,000 readers), Firstpost, (23,300), Inverse (11,400) and University Affairs (1,400).
- The majority of readers were in the U.S. (34%), Canada (22%), India (6%), UK (5%), Australia (4%), and France (4%).
- One example is that we had a worldwide audience of 81,500 for physics and engineering physics professor Michael Brady’s article about quantum computers, and almost 73,500 reads for PhD student Toluwase Olukayode’s piece on food security.

RPI hosted Scott White, *The Conversation Canada* Editor-in-Chief, for a series of four storytelling workshops for 115 researchers. RPI also produced a short video of White explaining about the benefits of writing for The Conversation.

**Leveraging Profile Through Partnerships**

**Young Innovators Series with The StarPhoenix**
Published 14 stories that highlight USask graduate student research achievements in signature areas, and 4 stories are in progress. The stories were regularly picked up by major national media, and shared widely by government officials/agencies, funding partners, and communicators across campus. Tweets were seen by over 36,000 people and engaged with over 450 times.

**Mitacs**
RPI highlighted Mitacs-funded research projects such as The Muskrat Hut project on accessible remote kitchens and washrooms in northern First Nations communities, a Mitacs-funded student who did research on advances in transforming waste into green energy, and student research on empowering women through effective advertising.

**TEDx University of Saskatchewan**
RPI highlighted 12 USask researchers’ work with the public through TEDx Talks, providing strategic communications planning, management and support for the first TEDx on our campus which attracted 500 people. For example, USask psychology professor Lorin Elias’ TEDx Talk “The lefts and rights of everyday life” reached almost 28,500 views on YouTube.

**Research Junction**
RPI supported collaboration between USask and City of Saskatoon by announcing Research Junction, the first research funding under the joint MOU, and writing a news release about the first seven joint projects. More than 600,000 people views the content (UVPM from Cision).

**Picasso Symposium**
RPI partnered with the Remai Modern on an international art symposium featuring art alumnus and Picasso print expert Frederick Mulder and other Picasso experts. Due to the pandemic, the symposium has been postponed until next year.

**Industry West Magazine**
RPI established a new partnership which resulted in a major story on food security, with other stories planned.

**Other Major Research Profile-Building Activities**

**2020 Images of Research Competition**
Students, faculty, and staff from across campus—from ten colleges, three research centres, and one administrative unit—submitted 106 images of research, scholarly, and artistic work. Now in its sixth year, the competition added a new category—Arts in focus—images which represent the researcher’s artistic work with a focus on music, drama, art and art history, and the humanities.

The contest website attracted over 12,000 visitors from 43 countries, and from every province and one territory in Canada. More than 1,700 people cast a vote in the Viewer’s Choice category. Seven judging panels (faculty, staff, students, and community members) awarded cash prizes for winning images.

Contest photos were used for USask’s Be What the World Needs advertising campaign, with ad placements in the Globe and Mail, Maclean’s, and a variety of publications in Saskatoon, Regina and Calgary. The images were also made available to communicators as part of a collection of brand assets, and were downloaded 62 times and used on the USask.ca homepage, banners, social media, templates, and recruitment materials.

**Discovery Digest Newsletter**
Our monthly newsletter highlighting USask research, scholarly, and artist work was distributed to almost 6,000 graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, faculty, and staff across campus, as well as elected government officials and key federal and provincial partners.

Discovery Digest is a well-read source of USask research news. Over the past year, the newsletter emails have been opened over 440,000 times, with the most popular edition being the December 2019 issue with more than 16,000 opens in one day. As well, the rate at which readers click through to specific articles is on par with the industry standard for digital newsletters.

**National profile-building through research advertorials**
“A food-secure tomorrow” – RPI produced an advertorial for the Globe and Mall, featuring multidisciplinary computational agriculture work by USask computer scientists, plant breeders and the USask Plant Phenotyping and Imaging Research Centre (P2IRC) at the Global Institute for Food Security.
Community Relations and Engagement (CRE) strengthens and builds community-university relationships in Saskatoon’s inner city aimed at growing social, educational, economic and health equity through research and experiential learning.

**Snapshot**

- Communicated with **214** community engaged scholars
- Engaged **172** community partners
- Welcomed **900+** visitors to Community Relations and Engagement at Station 20 West
- 5 “KM in the AM” learning and networking sessions with **133** members
- 74 patent families issued and active
Engaging with our Community

Community Relations and Engagement
In 2019-20, the Office of the Vice-President Research welcomed the Community Relations and Engagement (CRE) Office to its portfolio.

This office, which is located in one of Saskatoon’s core neighbourhoods at Station 20 West, is co-located alongside many other community partners including: HEP Good Food Inc., Elizabeth Fry Society, the Boxcar Café, Quint Development Corporation, the Saskatoon Mothers’ Centre, and two Saskatoon Health Region programs (KidsFirst and Our Neighborhood Health Centre).

Collectively, the tenants of Station 20 West endeavour to contribute to social and economic revitalization in Saskatoon’s core neighbourhoods. Co-locating at Station 20 West allows partner organizations convenient collaborative opportunities and the benefits of shared facilities and equipment.

Key Initiatives

Supporting and Celebrating Community-Based Research
The CRE Office plays a key role in communicating directly with 214 community engaged scholars and 172 community partners and welcomes over 900 visitors to our Office at Station 20 West each year.

In 2019-20, we celebrated the tremendous accomplishments of a long-standing community-university partnership between the Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City (CLASSIC) and the College of Law—the CRE Office encouraged them to apply for the UK based Professor Sir David Watson Award for Community University partnerships, and they won the international award that was presented in the United Kingdom in December 2019.

Over the past academic year, we continued to help community and academic stakeholders collaborate for maximum impact—from improving traditional food access for urban Indigenous people, to the development of a strategy to advance health service delivery in the area of organ donation and transplantation focused on Indigenous peoples, to the knowledge translation and evaluation of complex partnership work related to reconciliation, homelessness and poverty elimination.

Advancing Community-Campus Engagement Nationally
The Manager of the CRE Office served as the inaugural co-chair of the Executive Committee of Community Campus Engage Canada (CCEC), collaboratively leading the development of CCEC’s first strategic plan, and securing a Mitacs Accelerate post-doc exploring scalar learning and advancing local and national communities of practice.

KM in the AM
The CRE Office plans regular learning and networking sessions focused on knowledge translation and mobilization that attract professionals, and post-secondary faculty, staff and students. KM in the AM is a community of practice that involves 133 individuals and in 2019-2020 offered five learning and networking sessions.

Reconciliation Saskatoon
The CRE office has participated in the Reconciliation Saskatoon partnership of 100+ members since 2016.

In 2019-20, the CRE Office convened the Learning Sub-Committee of Reconciliation Saskatoon, collaboratively offering monthly learning opportunities related to the TRC Calls to Action and our shared reconciliation journey in Saskatoon. The CRE Manager is one of five members of Reconciliation Saskatoon’s Pathway Forward Stewardship Committee which, guided by Survivors and Elders, stewards a 4-year path forward for the partnership. The CRE staff volunteer at the annual Rock Your Roots Walk for Reconciliation on National Indigenous People’s Day (June 20th).

Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership (SPRP)
The CRE Office is an active member of the SPRP Leadership Team, convener of the SPRP University Action Team on an ad hoc basis, and brokers community-campus connections for the partnership related to research, student capacity and knowledge translation.

Throughout 2019-20, this partnership focused on planning and organizing to realize the ambitions laid out in its local poverty elimination plan released in February 2019. USask students, staff and scholars were mobilized by the CRE Office to support the development of the strategy and the ongoing work to operationalize and evaluate it.

Safe Community Action Alliance (SCAA)
Initiated in 2017 by the City of Saskatoon Mayor’s Office and the Saskatoon Board of Police Commissioners, the SCAA involves 35 agencies with an interest in safety and well-being in Saskatoon. As of September 2019, the SCAA’s focus via two working groups is housing and crystal meth. The CRE Office became the University representative to the SCAA in 2019 and we are in the early days of involvement with this partnership.

In early 2020, the partnership released “A Community Response to Crystal Meth in Saskatoon” which is a detailed report with 29 strategic actions. The SCAA’s attention turned to mobilizing to support Saskatoon’s most vulnerable in mid-March 2020 amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Saskatoon Inter-agency Response to COVID-19, Vulnerable Populations Strategy
The Saskatoon Inter-Agency Response is dedicated to meeting the needs of people who are especially vulnerable to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The CRE Office is the university liaison to the Saskatoon Inter-agency Response to COVID-19, brokering, informing and advising as needed (e.g. the CRE Office brokered a research partnership focused on homeless shelter safety amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, and advised the Division of Social Accountability within the College of Medicine on their COVID-19 knowledge mobilization strategy).

Vulnerable Old People Group (VOPG)
The CRE Office was instrumental in the creation of the Vulnerable Old People Group (VOPG), a group of 20+ partners. In 2019-20, one of several exciting outputs involved getting 20 iPads to residential school survivor households in Saskatoon to strengthen their social connection with and participation in essential community work throughout physical isolation.
The Office of the Vice-President Research is pleased to include images by our researchers on the cover and through this annual report. These images are from our Images of Research Photo and Imaging Competition. You can view all the submissions online.

1. **Fungi to the Rescue** Alana Krug-MacLeod, environmental biology student
2. **Etthén (Caribou) meat** Emiliana Bomfim, doctoral student in oncology
3. **A new peptide antifungal?** Hiruni Deeyagahage, doctoral student in Veterinary Microbiology
4. **Land of Milk and Honey** Lisa Birke, professor in art and art history
5. **A Distributary Runs Through It** Lorne Doig, research scientist at the Toxicology Centre
6. **Aerial Assists** Mark Ferguson, communications specialist with the Global Institute for Water Security
7. **Oh, the places you’ll go!** Robin Owsiacki, DVM student in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine
8. **A Budding Research Team** Michelle Gowan, Master’s student in archaeology and anthropology
9. **Nurse Mom** Michelle Gowan, Master’s student in archaeology and anthropology
10. **The Moment** Nat Banting, professor in curriculum studies
11. **Toy Infirmary** Nicolas Leroy, master’s student in studio art
12. **Magical Mystical Moss** Phaedra Cowden, PhD Student in Soil Science