

March 15, 2022

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Report to Senate  
March 23, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

The time has changed, the days are warming and lengthening, the end of classes for Winter approaches, and Spring is visible just ahead. With our newsfeeds awash in heartbreaking and alarming reports from the conflict in Ukraine, it is a relief to note also some happy successes for Brock researchers, including the first two items below: that Dr. Andrea Doucet and Dr. Karen Patte have been named the winners of the 2022 Brock University awards for Distinguished Research and Creative Activity, and Early Career Research and Creative Activity. Congratulations, Drs. Doucet and Patte! It was a great pleasure to endorse the recommendations of the committee that reviewed such excellent nominees.

**1. Distinguished Research and Creative Activity Award: Dr. Andrea Doucet**

Professor Doucet (Sociology) holds a Canada Research Chair (Tier I) in Gender, Work, and Care at Brock, and is the Principal Investigator in the ongoing seven-year SSHRC Partnership Grant project “What is the Best Policy Mix for Diverse Canadian Families with Young Children? Re-imagining Family Policies.” Her work on the sociology of the family is recognized as transformative of Canadian scholarship on the subject. Since 2016 she has published three books, with another in progress and a fifth under contract, as well as nearly 30 refereed articles and chapters, while supervising 10 postdoctoral researchers, half of whom were awarded SSHRC or Banting Awards.

**2. Early Career Research and Creative Activity Award: Dr. Karen Patte**

With research programs and impact focusing on child health, obesity, epidemiology, and latterly the effects of COVID on adolescent mental health, Professor Patte (Health Sciences) is a significant contributor to Brock’s remarkable and growing strength in child health research. Awarded a prestigious Ontario Early Researcher Award in 2018, she has already held over a million dollars in research funding as a Principal Investigator (and over five million on grants as a collaborator). Dr. Patte has published 54 articles since 2016, 17 of them as first author. She is moreover a highly active supervisor of graduate and postdoctoral researchers, with whom she often co-publishes, and a committed mentor.

**3. CIHR Project Grant awards**

Congratulations also to Dr. Karen Campbell (Psychology) and Dr. Valerie Michaelson (Health Sciences) were both successful in the Fall 2021 CIHR Project Grants application round. [Jointly they were awarded over \\$440K](#) in research funding to support research on age-related decline in associative memory, and spirituality as a social determinant of health.

**4. 2022 Women in STEM**

I would like to express thanks and congratulations to Mariana Garrido de Castro (PhD candidate, Biological Sciences) and the team of co-organizers, Amanda Williams, (MSc

student, Biotechnology), Hannah Charnock (PhD candidate, Biological Sciences) and Shawna Hopper (MSc student, Applied Health Sciences), of February's 2022 Women in STEM event at Brock. As in previous years, the event was organized to coincide with the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. In an expanded format from its single-day model last year, the event featured 9 sessions over a week, engaging over 280 participants, ranging from elementary school students to professors, including 9 Brock professors and staff, 20 industry contributors, and 25 student volunteers. These participants represented 28 different STEM fields altogether. Brock's Women in STEM organization now has a [page on ExperienceBU](#). These graduate researchers continue to demonstrate extraordinary leadership and to enrich the culture of research and learning at Brock, and across the academy.

#### **5. Federal granting council responses to war in Ukraine**

The Presidents of the three federal research granting agencies have issued a [joint statement](#) announcing a Special Response Fund for Trainees (Ukraine). The fund provides support for graduate and postdoctoral researchers whose work in Ukraine has been delayed, and for grant-holders supervising trainees who will be unable to return to Ukraine due to the conflict. The agencies have also undertaken not to enter into agreements with Russian research institutions at this time.

#### **6. Program launch: Match of Mind**

The [2022 Match of Minds](#) program has now launched, with applications due - no, it's not a joke - on April 1. Match of Minds is a program that has stood the test of time at Brock, because it is fundamentally an excellent idea. The program pairs a research supervisor and a student on a defined project of inquiry, with adjudication criteria that explicitly flag the importance of "meaningful opportunities to engage in theoretical and empirical or discovery-based learning and develop research skills." Match of Minds builds capacity for established researchers and collaborative mentoring opportunities for students. I look forward to seeing the outstanding projects that emerge from this year's round.

#### **7. CFP: Mapping New Knowledges**

The 17<sup>th</sup> annual [Mapping New Knowledges](#) graduate research conference is soliciting proposals for presentation. This important event includes oral and poster presentation options for graduate students, as well as research skills development and learning workshops. I would ask that you please share the link and CFP, and plan on attending!

#### **8. TCPS2 Revised Training Program**

I draw attention also to the recent launch of [TCPS2: CORE-2022](#), the revised federal Research Ethics training program. This training is recommended for REB members and administrators, and for researchers intending to work with human participants.

#### **9. Public outreach, advocacy and engagement**

On February 15 I appeared as an invited witness before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Science and Research. The [themes of my remarks](#) were the value of the federal granting agency model in Canada; the importance of leadership on the underrepresentation of Indigenous and black scholars, among others; the need for a process

to determine how major scientific infrastructure is supported in Canada; and the key role that medium-sized research universities play in Canada's economy, culture, and society.

On March 1, I joined Dr. Inglis, Director of the Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute, in an interview with *University-Industry Engagement Advisor*, a small publication specializing in collaborations between universities and partners sponsoring contract research. The interview grew out of February's *Research Infosource* story on Brock's recent growth in corporate research revenue.

Also on March 1, Associate Vice-President Michelle McGinn gave a presentation, "Establishing and Maintaining Your Research Team," through the Building Better Research series organized jointly by the Library and the Office of Research Services.

T. Kenyon, Vice-President, Research