



March 13, 2024

VPR Report to Senate # 718-March 20, 2024

Brock's Latest Canada Research Chair

It is with immense pleasure that I announce that Karen Patte, Associate Professor of Health Sciences, has been appointed as [Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Child Health Equity and Inclusion](#). The Chair position recognizes Dr. Patte as an excellent emerging world-class researcher. In this role, Dr. Patte will be investigating the interactions between individual, social, and environmental factors, including policies and programs at the school and government levels, that affect youth health and behaviours, including topics related to mental health, substance use, sleep, physical activity, screen use, and bullying.

Research Funding Announcements

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and the Canadian Grapevine Certification Network (CGCN) have announced \$2.4 million funding for three projects led by Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute researchers through the [Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership \(SCAP\) AgriScience Cluster](#). This Cluster funding is matched by industry funds through Ontario Grape and Wine Research Incorporated (OGWRI) and in-kind support from various industry partners. Congratulations to the following researchers and their teams whose projects are designed to strengthen Canada's grape and wine industry:

- Debbie Inglis, Director, CCOVI and Professor, Biological Sciences, "Wine flavour modification through non-traditional yeasts, oenological treatments, and taint remediation"
- Wendy McFadden-Smith, Adjunct Professor of Biological Sciences and CCOVI Professional Affiliate, "Grapevine trunk disease: an under-rated threat to the Ontario grape industry?"
- Jim Willwerth, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, "Selection of superior grapevine material using traditional field evaluations and genomic/metabolic signatures for cold resilience"

Dr. Ian Patterson, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, has been awarded an [NSERC Alliance International Grant](#) for his partnership with Associate Professor Fasséli Coulibaly at the Biomedicine Discovery Institute of Monash University in Australia. Their project, "Characterizing an insect-specific virus to deliver RNA to target cells" has high potential for impact and is of global importance and benefit to Canada. The research capitalizes upon the state-of-the-art equipment located in the Brock-Niagara Validation, Prototyping and Manufacturing Institute.

Brock University was awarded a total \$477,654 for [nine research projects](#) through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)'s Insight Development Grant

program. Congratulations to the following principal investigators and their research teams and to Brock researchers who are collaborating with colleagues across the country:

- Curtis Fogel, Associate Professor, Sport Management, Faculty of Applied Health Sciences, "From Systemic Negligence to Systemic Change: Community Anti-Violence Advocates' Perspectives on Preventing Sexual Assault in Junior Hockey in Canada"
- Neta Gordon, Professor, English Language and Literature, Faculty of Humanities, "Mapping AnnMarie MacDonald"
- Rajiv Jhangiani, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education, "Assessing the Maturity and Capacity of Ontario's Post-secondary Sector to Support Open Educational Practices"
- Hunter Knight, Assistant Professor, Child and Youth Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, "Carcerality, Colonialism, and Cognition: Analyzing the Cultural Cognitive Structures that Uphold the Logics of Seclusion in Schools"
- Gary Libben, Professor, Applied Linguistics, Faculty of Social Sciences, "New Techniques to Take the Pulse of Written Language Production in Canada"
- Caitlin Mahy, Professor, Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences, "Developing and Validating Behavioural Measures of Young Children's Procrastination"
- Liam Midzain-Gobin, Assistant Professor, Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, "Building Inter-National Sovereignty: The Case of the Big Salmon River"
- Teegawende Zeida, Assistant Professor, Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, "Aging and Welfare: Analyzing Intergenerational Political Support for Health Financing Policies in Canada"
- Dawn Zinga, Professor, Child and Youth Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, "Mapping Competitive Dancer Development: A Multidisciplinary Examination of Training Trajectories, Injury, Social Comparison, and Well-being"

International Women's Day

International Women's Day provided an opportunity to reflect on the many ways women are pillars of the research world: as investigators, scholars, mentors, assistants, research administrators, and participants. At Brock University, our women researchers are using their creativity and innovation to make breakthroughs in all areas of life. Half of Brock's current Canada Research Chairholders and all Chancellor's Chairs for Research Excellence are women. See Brock News for profiles of 12 of [Brock's amazing women researchers](#).

Indigenous Research Grant Call for Proposals

This is the final call for applications for Brock University's 2023-2024 Indigenous Research Grant (IRG), which provides funding to Indigenous researchers and to those undertaking research or creative activities in any discipline or topic that relates to Indigenous Peoples. Applications for this year will be accepted until March 15th, 2024. Full details are included in the [Indigenous Research Grant Program Syllabus 2023-2024](#) and the [Indigenous Research Grant Application Instructions 2023-2024](#).

Summer Student Research Scholarship

I am thrilled to announce a new initiative in collaboration with Niagara Health Knowledge Institute (NHKI). Together, we are co-funding the [Niagara Health Knowledge Institute/Brock University Summer Student Research Scholarship](#). This \$10,000 award will fund an undergraduate student to participate in a research-focused placement with the NHKI for a period of 12 weeks between May and August. This is a terrific experiential education opportunity for a student to contribute to a key community partner while exploring potential career paths in the Niagara Region. Encourage students to apply through the [electronic submission form](#) by March 28.

Research Security Working Group

In light of the federal government's release of the new [Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern](#) and other updates in the research security field, the Office of the Vice President Research (OVPR) has convened a Research Security Working Group. Chaired by Associate Vice President Research, Debbie O'Leary, the working group includes many stakeholders from across the research community, including research administrators, researchers, marketing and communications specialists, and university risk management. The working group aims to provide planning and direction on the successful implementation and administration of research security guidelines as defined by government agencies and granting councils and in alignment with external and internal leading practices.

Research Management System (RMS) Progress and Invitation for Researcher Testing

The first phase of testing has commenced for the Research Ethics and Animal Care modules. This user acceptance testing is being done by the project team. The next step will involve input from principal investigators to test the design and offer critical feedback. This input will enhance the ongoing administrative testing and is intended to limit functional issues and ensure an optimal user experience once fully launched.

Researchers who have recently submitted applications to a Research Ethics Board or the Animal Care Committee will soon be invited to re-submit that study through the RMS and to provide feedback. Participants who volunteer for this testing will be the first to view the new system and have their feedback influence system refinements. All participation can be completed remotely or in person, at the participant's preference, and access to system support will be available. Please express your interest in participating to RMS Implementation Project Manager, Ramsey Bediako Apau via rbediako@brocku.ca.

Events and Outreach

The [Building Better Research workshop series](#) collaboration between the Library and the Research Enterprise continues to provide expert guidance and rich discussions for faculty, graduate students, and researchers across campus. On February 29, Lori Walker, Manager, Research Ethics presented on [Tips and Traps: Ethical Challenges in Compensating Online Research Participants](#). I found it an informative session about bots, suspicious data, and issues related to compensation of online participants. On March 21, Debbie O'Leary, Associate Vice-President Research will present [An Introduction to Responsible Conduct of](#)

[Research](#). Register for this and other upcoming workshops on [ExperienceBU](#). Connect with [Jayne Morrish](#) (Office of Research Services) or [Denise Smith](#) (Brock Library) to access past recordings or to suggest new topics.

On February 29, I delivered opening remarks at the Research Impact Learning Network event, "[Community Innovation: Moving beyond traditional research boundaries for impact](#)," co-hosted by the Office of Research Services, Brock LINC, and the Department of Chemistry. This event's speaker was Dr. Cynthia Goh, who shared her experiences and expertise on technology-based community innovation and entrepreneurship to create value that extends beyond traditional academic strategies.

On March 4, I had the privilege of attending and delivering opening remarks to the Mapping Niagara's Economic History and Assets in a Changing World workshop hosted by the Niagara Community Observatory (NCO). Approximately 60 industry experts and community leaders attended this lively and engaged event. The focus of the workshop was to inform the final revisions of working papers and improve the impact of our future knowledge mobilization.

An exciting agricultural research project funding announcement is scheduled for March 15.

Staff Announcements

It is my immense pleasure to announce the appointment of Jasmine Little as Manager, Sponsored Research and Internal Programs. Jasmine has been serving in this role on an acting basis since November 2022, and her official appointment is a testament to her exceptional performance and dedication to our research community.

Jasmine began her career in Brock's Research Enterprise in 2020 as Research Officer in the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Portfolio. She brings a wealth of knowledge regarding research administration and the research funding landscape, as well as institutional knowledge from holding various positions throughout the university (including the Faculty of Education and Student Financial Services) - as well as project management experience from roles held outside Brock. Please join me in extending heartfelt congratulations to Jasmine on her well-deserved appointment. I have no doubt that she will continue to excel in this role and lead our Office of Research Services team to even greater success.

M. McGinn
Acting Vice-President, Research