

January 11, 2021

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Report to Senate
January 19, 2022

Happy New Year, colleagues, and welcome back after what I hope was an enjoyable holiday season. It was surely on many minds that the pandemic has pitched another curveball, to which all universities in Canada are responding. The high case counts and foreseeable public health consequences are of course serious, and are being treated seriously; yet I also look ahead with some optimism to moving past this surge and resuming more normal activities when conditions and public health orders permit. May we get there soon.

1. Canada Research Chair appointments announced

I am delighted to note that Brock University has had five Canada Research Chair appointments confirmed, four of them new appointments and one a reappointment.

Brock University's newly announced CRC appointments are:

- Dr. Matthew Kwan, Child and Youth Studies (Youth Mental Health and Performance, Tier II CIHR)
- Dr. Paula Duarte-Guterman, Psychology (Behavioural Neuroscience, Tier II NSERC)
- Dr. Danielle Sirianni Molnar, Child and Youth Studies (Adjustment and Well-Being in Children and Youth, Tier II SSHRC); and
- Dr. Newman Sze, Health Sciences (Mechanisms of Health and Disease, Tier I CIHR)
- Dr. Michael Holmes, Kinesiology (Neuromuscular Mechanics and Ergonomics, reappointed to Tier II NSERC)

All new applicants were moreover awarded funding through the CFI-JELF (Affiliated) program. Congratulations to these colleagues on this excellent news!

An additional Brock University Canada Research Chair nomination has moreover been submitted to the CRCP, while three further Chair positions are in the recruitment phase, with another internal call noted below.

2. Canada Research Chair CFP: NSERC Tier I

An [internal call for proposals](#) was launched in December for a Tier I Canada Research Chair (NSERC). Proposals are invited from all academic units, and are due from Faculties, along with internal rankings, by March 14, 2022.

3. Amended Brock Stage 2

On January 3, Ontario's provincial government moved to a [modified version of Step Two](#) of its Roadmap to Reopen, in response to surging infections of the Omicron variant.

In response to this change and related public health advice, Brock University has temporarily returned to an [amended Stage Two](#) (opens a .pdf) of its pandemic operating guidelines. For the research enterprise, this primarily means the reinstatement of an authorization process for international and inter-provincial travel, and of the research activity review process that was employed prior to September 2021. Access to facilities will continue to prioritize program completion for graduate students in research degrees. Detailed information is found in the Research section of the Brock Coronavirus [FAQ page](#).

4. Canada Foundation for Innovation CFP: JELF (Unaffiliated)

A call for applications to the Unaffiliated stream of CFI's John Evans Leadership Fund (JELF) was launched in December.

The Unaffiliated stream of the CFI-JELF program provides individuals or small groups (up to three researchers) with the necessary infrastructure to conduct their research program, under the [JELF program criteria](#). The Affiliated stream of JELF is drawn from the same institutional envelope, and is dedicated to applications from incoming Canada Research Chairs. Brock's proportionally large expansion in its CRC cohort has placed some pressure on its existing JELF allocation, as noted above in item (1) of this report.

We anticipate making up to \$260,000 of Brock's JELF envelope available for this call. Applications of any value ranging from a minimum of \$40,000 up to a maximum of \$260,000 are permissible. These are envelope amounts, and thus reflect 40% of the total supported project costs under the CFI 40-40-20 funding model.

5. Responsible Conduct of Research: Federal framework and Brock policy update

In December 2021, the Tri-Agencies released the five-year update of the federal Responsible Conduct of Research [framework](#). A review of Brock's 2018 RCR policy will shortly commence in the Office of the VPR, beginning with an assessment of any changes to Brock's policy necessitated by revisions to the federal framework.

Changes to Brock RCR policy, if any, would be enacted by Senate at the recommendation of the Research and Scholarship Policy Committee. R&SPC will also be consulted in the drafting process over the coming weeks and months, among a number of other consultations important for a policy of this kind.

T. Kenyon, Vice-President, Research