



## Press Release

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### **Brock researchers receive grants for science research**

A Brock University team that conducted breakthrough plant research is among those receiving grants from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), announced in London, Ont. June 26.

A \$165,000 NSERC Discovery Grant will enable biologist Michael Bidochka and his team to continue investigating the fungus *Metarhizium*, which is known to kill soil-born pests.

Two years ago, the team discovered that the fungus also transfers nitrogen from insects into plants' root systems, making the fungus a natural fertilizer as well as an insect repellent in agriculture.

"We are hoping to implement our research findings into commercial applications of these fungi for plant growth promotion and general plant health," says Bidochka.

Eleven Brock University researchers received Discovery Grant funding totaling \$1,275,000 over 2014-2019.

"Our success rate for those already holding a grant is an impressive 82 per cent, higher than the national average," says Joffre Mercier, associate vice-president research of natural and health sciences. "This attests to the leading-edge quality of our researchers' work and our growing reputation as a research-intensive university."

The grants cover a wide array of research in the fields of mathematics, biology, psychology, chemistry, statistics and kinesiology. Subject areas include photosynthesis, sleep deprivation and food and beverage behaviour.

NSERC's Discovery Grants Program supports ongoing research programs that have long-term goals as opposed to a single short-term project or collection of projects. These grants "recognize the creativity and innovation that are at the heart of all research advances, whether made individually or in teams," says the agency.

For details on Brock's Discovery Grant results, see the story in The Brock News (<http://www.brocku.ca/brocknews/?p=28744&preview=true>).

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