

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
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Canada Research Chair strengthens Laurier Science

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WATERLOO – A Wilfrid Laurier University psychology professor whose research on controlling nausea and vomiting could benefit countless cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy has been awarded a Canada Research Chair.

During ceremonies in St. John's, Nfld., it was announced Tuesday that Dr. Linda Parker is the recipient of a Canada Research Chair in Behavioural Neuroscience.

“We are delighted with the appointment of Dr. Linda Parker as a Canada Research Chair. Dr. Parker is an experienced, productive researcher who has already made a major impact here at Laurier, and in the broader scientific community in Canada and internationally,” said Adele Reinhartz, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research. “As a Canada Research Chair, Dr. Parker will be in an even stronger position to contribute to the ongoing development at Laurier of its research in the area of science and health, including the teaching and training of undergraduate and graduate researchers.”

The tier one appointment provides Laurier with \$200,000 per year for the next seven years. Money from the renewable appointment will defray salary and research expenses and reduce Dr. Parker's teaching load, allowing more time to focus on research activities.

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Recognized as a leading researcher in the field of psychopharmacology and ingestive behaviour, Dr. Parker's Canada Research Chair will expand her study of how drugs affect the palatability of tastes and the neural basis of the prevention of nausea. Dr. Parker will also explore the neurobiological mechanisms that mediate the adverse effects of opiate withdrawal following acute exposure to morphine, as well as the potential of cannabinoids to interfere with vomiting produced by toxins and provocative motion.

The federal government pledged \$900 million in its 2000 budget to support the establishment of 2,000 Canada Research Chairs in universities across Canada. The goal is to enable universities, together with their affiliated research institutes and hospitals, to achieve the highest levels of research excellence and to become world-class research centres in the global, knowledge-based economy.