

NEWS RELEASE



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CONTACT

Abby Goodrum, Vice-President, Research
Wilfrid Laurier University
519-884-0710 ext. 3601 or agoodrum@wlu.ca

Kevin Crowley, Director, Communications & Public Affairs
Wilfrid Laurier University
519-884-0710 ext. 3070 or kcrowley@wlu.ca

Laurier chemistry professor receives CFI funding for new equipment

WATERLOO – Laurier chemists will benefit from a new high-resolution nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrometer thanks to funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation's (CFI) Leaders Opportunity Fund.

Laurier chemistry professor Dmitri Goussev received the \$196,533 equipment grant for the NMR spectrometer, which analyzes chemical compounds.

"I am excited by the CFI's investment in research at Laurier. The equipment represents a valuable addition to Dr. Goussev's suite of advanced tools that will expand university research in clean and sustainable chemical technologies," said Abby Goodrum, Laurier's vice-president: research.

Goussev works with "transition" metals – such as rhenium, ruthenium and osmium – which are found in the middle section of the periodic table. These metals have special properties that help speed up other chemical reactions and create reactions that would not otherwise occur.

"I'm interested in developing metal complexes with catalytic properties for hydrogenation reactions," said Goussev. "For example, plant oils can be hydrogenated and then converted into new products, such as bio-diesel. This hydrogenation process will be useful for other chemists to use in other industries, such as food, cosmetics and fuel."

Goodrum says the research will be extremely valuable to Ontario and Canada as Laurier's projects represent the cutting edge of chemical research.

"The research conducted by Dr. Goussev, his colleagues and his students will improve our understanding of green chemistry and the development of clean technologies – this will have a profound impact not only on the commercialization of environmental technologies and processes, but also on basic research in chemistry."

About CFI

Created by the Government of Canada in 1997, the Canada Foundation for Innovation strives to build the nation's capacity to undertake world-class research and technology development to benefit Canadians through investments in state-of-the-art facilities and equipment in universities, colleges, research hospitals and non-profit research institutions.

The Leaders Opportunity Fund helps universities attract and retain top researchers. With this program, universities can put together competitive packages of research support that are essential to attract today's best research talent.