N E W S R E L E A S E

Wilfrid Laurier
University

NSERC awards 14 new grants worth $326,300 to Laurier research

New and renewed funding raises University's NSERC total to more than $1.225-million

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WATERLOO – The decision to establish a separate faculty of science at Wilfrid Laurier University appears to be producing the desired research outcomes. Results from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) 2001-02 funding competition give Laurier one of its highest success rates and dollar values.

Fourteen researchers will share $326,300 in new or renewed Individual Research Grants. Thirteen of the grants renew automatically for the next four years and the fourth renews for three. Over those three-to-four years, the grants will total more than $1.225-million. Both the one-year and multi-year totals exceed results from at least the last five years.

Laurier's success rate also sets a similar record. Sixteen researchers applied for funding and 14 – or 87.5 per cent – proved successful.

"I was especially pleased with our 90 per cent success rate and that all but one of the junior faculty members who applied were successful," said Barry McPherson, dean of graduate studies and research. "And since all but one of the funded research projects involve faculty in science, the results confirm that separating the larger faculty of arts and science in two has increased our research strength in the sciences."

NSERC is providing new or renewed funding to the following researchers:

- Jim Blackburn, department of physics and computing: Superconducting devices/chaos/instrumentation, $20,000 annually for four years.

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- Sydney Bulman-Fleming, department of mathematics: Algebraic properties of acts over monoids; $6,000 annually for four years.
- Siu-Cheung Chau, department of physics and computing: Dependable computer systems; $16,000 annually for four years.
- Mitali De, school of business and economics: Decision support systems for integrating environmental management systems and supply chain management systems; $10,000 annually for four years.
- Dmitri Goussev, department of chemistry: Pincer movements of group 8 metals; $40,000 annually for two years.
- Frédérique Guinel, department of biology: The role played by plant hormones in the regulation of symbiotic structures; $28,500 annually for four years.
- Angèle Hamel, department of physics and computing: Combinatorial methods for abstract data types and computational biology; $14,000 annually for four years.
- Keith Horton, department of psychology: Investigation of automatic retrieval in human memory; $16,000 annually for four years.
- Lucy Lee, department of biology: Assessment of fish health through proteomics; $31,500 annually for four years.
- Philip Servos, department of psychology: fMRI studies of somatosensory processing in human cerebral cortex; $30,000 annually for four years.
- Arthur Szabo, department of chemistry: Protein structure function studies with targeted unnatural amino acids; $55,000 annually for four years.
- Peter Tiidus, department of kinesiology and physical education: Mechanisms of estrogen influence on muscle damage and repair; $30,000 annually for four years.
- Marek Wartek, department of physics and computing: Heating effects in vertical cavity surface emitting lasers; $19,300 annually for four years.
- Anne Wilson, department of psychology: Determinants of subjective and objective time judgements; $10,000 annually for four years.

The Individual Research Grants recognize and promote the creation and use of new knowledge by supporting research in Canadian universities. More than 2,500 professors across Canada will receive $346-million over five years.

Laurier officially split the faculty of arts and science into two separate faculties in January 2000. The new administrative structure was implemented to allow researchers in both new faculties to more closely focus on teaching and research in their respective areas.

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