

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



Ontario Research Fund helps Laurier researchers study brain function

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WATERLOO — A researcher at Wilfrid Laurier University who is working with colleagues to study how perceptual and motor systems are organized in the human brain has been awarded a grant through the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation.

Dr. Philip Servos, Laurier psychology professor and Canada Research Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience, has been awarded an Ontario Research Fund–Research Infrastructure Grant worth \$199,210 to help fund multi-modal imaging equipment for research into brain function.

Servos is director of the Laurier Centre for Cognitive Neuroscience, one of Canada’s premier centres for the study of the brain mechanisms behind thought and cognition.

He and the team of researchers in the Centre are using an innovative approach to combine information from numerous imaging systems (functional magnetic resonance imaging, high-density EEG, and transcranial magnetic stimulation) to answer fundamental questions about how perceptual and motor systems are organized in the human brain.

The Ontario Research Fund grant will help fund equipment that will provide unprecedented information about brain function, which, in turn, will help health practitioners develop new treatments for patients suffering from brain damage.

“This equipment will allow researchers at Laurier to tackle questions about human brain function in new ways,” says Servos. “It will also act as a linchpin to foster new and what are sure to be fruitful collaborations between scientists at Laurier and their colleagues at other research institutes in Canada, the U.S., and Europe.”

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“Dr. Servos’s novel approach to studying brain function by integrating data from a number of different techniques has the potential to significantly improve our understanding of how the brain works, both in its normal state and when it’s damaged,” says Dr. Deborah MacLatchy, dean of Laurier’s Faculty of Science. “It’s the kind of research we do best at Laurier — focusing on fundamental research, which, when applied, can have huge benefits for all of us.”

The Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation has announced \$22.1 million in funding to support 138 Ontario Research Fund projects. The province matches funding commitments made by the Canada Foundation for Innovation through the Research Infrastructure program. Project funding is shared among the Canada Foundation for Innovation (up to 40 per cent), the province (up to 40 per cent), and the research institutions and industry partners (at least 20 per cent).