

WELCOME TO UNBC'S RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

Spring has arrived and we are waiting eagerly to see the changes it will bring to our landscape as well as to our Institution.

In my role as the VP Research, my goal has been to prepare UNBC for the new research realities and opportunities that exist internally and externally. While I am eagerly waiting to hear the competition results from CIHR, NSERC, and SSHRC, I have decided to focus on matters important to strengthening our internal research ethos. So what are we doing? Here is an update.

- The Research Advisory Committee (RACom) is established and working on your behalf. Dr. Robert Tait has agreed to be the co-chair of the committee. The RACom feels enhancing research culture and research funding are important to UNBC and has identified areas where we can improve the operation and management of services related to research.
- Post-Doctoral Fellow Guidelines are almost ready for you to review. We will be placing them on our website for your feedback.
- UNBC has decided to submit an Innovation Fund application to the Canada Foundation for Innovation. A team of researchers are working together with Office of Research staff to meet the deadlines of March 28th (LOI) and June 28th (full application).
- The Office of Research will provide the support of a Grant Developer and Writer. If you are planning a team grant or institutional grant, please let me know in advance.
- We are developing information materials on our research themes, research clusters, Institutes and Centres. These materials will be used for connecting with the community, public-sector and private sectors partners.
- We will create a position in the Office of Research, before August 2014, to expedite the process of research personnel recruitment. This person will be the "connecting link" with HR.

There are a number of opportunities coming our way with deadlines approaching fast. This communication highlights these opportunities. Our Associate Membership status with Mitacs will allow us greater flexibility for student exchanges (undergraduate and graduate) as well as the recruitment of post-doctoral fellows nationally and internationally. Mitacs now supports training opportunities in natural sciences, engineering and social sciences. Please contact Garth Frizzell in the Office of Research, Garth.Frizzell@unbc.ca, for more information. Please take advantage of these opportunities and expand your research team and collaborations.

As usual my last few statement is "UNBC research needs your support. Your support as a mentor, an applicant, a student, a staff member, a critic, a promoter or a partner are invaluable to enhancing our research culture. Research distinguishes us as a unique small university in Northern British Columbia, which is recognized by other Canadian universities".

Thank you for reading this newsletter and do connect with me if you wish to discuss any specific issue of interest to UNBC research community.

Ranjana Bird

"GOLD FOR GOLD" OPEN ACCESS PROGRAM

Publish for free with the Royal Society of Chemistry's "Gold for Gold" Open Access Program

Attention researchers interested in publishing in the Royal Society of Chemistry: As part of the Geoffrey R. Weller Library's subscription to the Royal Society of Chemistry's journal package, UNBC is eligible to participate in RSC's "Gold for Gold" Open Access program in 2014. We have received one voucher that can be applied to cover the complete cost of article publication and processing charges (APCs) for articles published in RSC's journals. This voucher will expire at the end of 2014. If you have a communication, full paper, review, or technical note that has been accepted for publication at RSC and would like to use the voucher to cover the APCs, please contact Heather Empey at Heather.Empey@unbc.ca or 960-6468.

More information about the "Gold for Gold" program can be found at: http://www.rsc.org/publishing/librarians/goldforgoldfaqs.asp?utm_source=promo-material&utm_medium=link&utm_campaign=mkt-mes-gfgfaqs.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2014

External Funding	Internal Deadline	Agency Deadline
SSHRC Connection Grants	n/a	Continuous Intake
CIHR Team Grant (LOI due Feb 12)	Jul 30*	Aug 6
CFI Innovation Fund	Mar 28*	Jun 27
CIHR Foundation Scheme 1st Live Pilot (registration)	n/a	Jun 23
NSERC CREATE Program	May 1*	Sept 22
NSERC Collaborative & Thematic Resources Support in Mathematics and Statics Program	May 1*	Sept 22
NSERC Engage Grants	no deadline	
Mitacs Accelerate Grant	no deadline	
Mitacs Accelerate Development Internship	no deadline	

*extra time required to prepare institutional letter of support/endorsement/intent

In an effort to reduce the funding gap that may exist for some existing grantees, CIHR has changed the funding start date for its 2014 Foundation Scheme live pilot and Transitional Open Operating Grant Program competitions from October 1, 2015 to July 1, 2015. Please note that the application deadlines have not changed.

FUNDING UPDATES

CREATE

The CREATE LOI deadline is May 1, with a full application by invitation only due in the fall. Please contact Harold Hume at Harold.Hume@unbc.ca if you are interested.

Objectives

The Collaborative Research and Training Experience (CREATE) Program supports the training of teams of highly qualified students and postdoctoral fellows from Canada and abroad through the development of innovative training programs that:

- encourage collaborative and integrative approaches, and address significant scientific challenges associated with Canada's research priorities; and
- facilitate the transition of new researchers from trainees to productive employees in the Canadian workforce.

Federal Funding Agencies Joint Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy

Summary

- This policy was developed to manage conflict of interest and to ensure confidentiality in the grant application review process (effective March 1, 2013). It was recently updated.
- The policy applies to review committee members, external reviewers and observers involved in the grant application review process.
- New: any individual under investigation for an alleged breach of funding organization policies is ineligible to participate in the review process at any of the four federal granting agencies.

The policy can be found at: www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/48047.html.

Mitacs

As the winter session comes to a close and the new fiscal year begins, UNBC's Office of Research has opened the door to increased opportunities for research funding. Starting April 1, UNBC has Associate Membership with Mitacs, a non-profit national research funding organization.

With our new level of Membership comes a range of new benefits that are now accessible to UNBC researchers.

New Opportunities:

- [Accelerate PhD Fellowships](#)
Up to three years of funding in one proposal, flexible timing, international students eligibility, and minimal administrative burden. Partner funds a minimum of \$36,000 over three years. Mitacs delivers this funding plus matching money to a supervisor as a research grant
- [Globalink Research Awards for undergraduate and graduate research at a university outside of Canada](#)
- [Globalink Research Awards for graduate research at a university in Canada](#)

Ongoing Opportunities:

- [Accelerate](#)
Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows work on four-month internship projects with a partner organization. Partner organization funds \$7,500, Mitacs funds \$7,500.
- [Student Access to STEP workshops](#)
1-2 day courses train graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in essential project management, entrepreneurial and personal skills for their future careers.
- [Globalink Research Internships](#)
Opportunities for undergraduates from around the world to pursue 12 week internships at UNBC.
- [Elevate](#)
Provides postdoctoral fellows the opportunity to lead a longer-term research project with a for-profit (and later this year not-for-profit) partner. Fellows receive a \$50,000 stipend/year and \$7500/year is available for research costs. Partner funds \$25,000, Mitacs funds \$32,500.

BC leads the country in Mitacs success. These are solid opportunities. For details and to develop your application, please contact: Garth Frizzell, Research Partnership and Innovation Officer, Garth.Frizzell@unbc.ca or 250-960-5103.

FEATURED RESEARCHER

A Sound Choice for a Wood Research Project



Over the years of standing in fields and playing bagpipes at different Highland Games competitions in Eastern and Central Canada, UNBC professor Ian Hartley was seemingly a world away from his present-day physics and forestry lab at UNBC.

A cross-appointed professor in UNBC's Ecosystem Science and Management Program and Physics Program, Dr. Hartley teaches in both disciplines and still manages to march to his own research tune. An exemplar of UNBC's multidisciplinary approach to academia, Hartley's research leverages his expertise in physics to investigate the acoustic properties of wood.

It is basic research, and it is timely. With the growth of incomes in Asia, China has become the world's largest musical instrument maker, and the worldwide market for musical instruments is growing.

Bagpipe music requires a reed—a thin vibrating strip of wood—to produce its sounds. Traditionally made of cane and bamboo, in recent years Dr. Hartley's beloved bagpipe has seen the introduction of synthetic reeds, which are made from plastic and carbon fibre. Low-end plastic reeds cost \$5-\$6, but a custom reed made of composites of plastic and carbon can cost up to \$125.

In addition to producing the signature sound, the reed of the bagpipe produces the questions: "What is the best substance for sound quality?" and "How can we use local material to bring music to the next level?"

This isn't just a lot of hot air; answering this type of question is the reason Dr. Hartley wants to study the physics of music. It has led him to study the acoustic properties of a number of bio-materials.

In one research program, he looked at the musical properties of wood that had been submerged in Ootsa Lake for decades. It was clear that after 50 years, the wood was no longer suitable for musical instruments.

Now Dr. Hartley is investigating a wide variety of wood samples. With help from an NSERC Discovery Grant, he has assembled the equipment he needs to compare the acoustic properties of these woods. In pursuing this work, he knows that there is very little work being done on the musical properties of BC wood... and almost none being done on bagpipes.

His timing may be perfect. With a world poised to rediscover musical instruments and a rich supply of wood in UNBC's region, BC may be home to the ideal material for making beautiful music. Hartley's passion for the pipes, coupled with his mastery of wood properties and physics, seems to be in the right place at the right time. A researcher whose work holds the potential to improve the sound of bagpipes is a researcher whose results are in tune with future demands.



NORTHERN HEALTH SCIENCES RESEARCH FACILITY

Laboratory News

A new mailing list has been created for laboratory users. This list is intended to reduce the number of lab-specific emails distributed through facstaff and the college mailing lists, and to ensure that non-staff lab users (e.g., research students) are kept informed. If you are a lab supervisor, a research lab user, or interface with laboratory function as part of your role, please go to <http://lists.unbc.ca> and subscribe to the labs@unbc.ca mailing list. Emails on this list will include:

- Identified safety issues and notices (e.g. implementation of the one-glove rule for public spaces);
- Changes to lab-related UNBC policies and procedures;
- Notifications of updates to the lab safety manuals (Biosafety Manual and Chemical Safety & Methodology Manual) and materials;
- Upcoming building maintenance affecting lab users (e.g. fumehood certifications);
- Lab materials and equipment available;
- Changes to Chemstores, waste, or other support systems/procedures;
- Reminders for the Laboratory Safety & Methodology Orientations.

This list will be the primary means of notification for lab-related announcements, but important information will be sent out on the other lists as needed.

Animal Care and Use Committee

The next ACUC meeting will be the first week of May (but no set date yet). Any new protocols, renewals, etc. are due on April 30th. These can be mailed to acuc@unbc.ca.