



Academic Council
Research Update
September
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Office of Research Services



Research Excellence Awards

Research Excellence Awards

- The Research Excellence Awards (REA) are prestigious awards granted annually to recognize up to three tenured and/or tenure track faculty members for their outstanding contributions and achievements in research while at Ontario Tech University.
 - Three Categories:
 - **Emerging Researchers:** Individuals within the first six (6) years of their first independent academic appointment and are pre-tenured. This award recognizes both early excellence in research and future promise.
 - **Mid-career Researchers:** Individuals who are between the seventh and twelfth (7-12) years of their first independent academic appointment. This award recognizes recently established research programs that are opening up new fields or insights of inquiry.
 - **Established Researchers:** Individuals who are beyond the twelfth (12) year of their first independent academic appointment (i.e. 13th year and beyond). These awards recognize recent national and/or international leadership in research in the last 6 years. These awards are not intended to be career research awards.
- Award Recipients 2023
 - Emerging Researcher Category: [Dr. Theresa Stotesbury](#), Assistant Professor, Faculty of Science
 - Mid-Career Researcher Category: [Dr. Martin Agelin-Chaab](#), Professor, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
 - Established Researcher Category: [Dr. Ahmad Barari](#), Professor, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
- Research Excellence Awards Event – October 18, 2023, 5:00 – 6:45, location TBD.





Research Excellence Chairs 2023

Research Excellence Chair Recipients 2023

- Ontario Tech University has established a Research Excellence Chairs Program to recognize and retain outstanding researchers at Ontario Tech University. The program has two streams and is designed to enable researchers to complete a major research program or project. Further, the program is meant to emphasize the importance of research at Ontario Tech in strategic areas, while highlighting and promoting the outstanding achievements of our scholars and the university's commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.
 - **Two Categories:**
 - **Stream 1 (Transform):** Open to previous Chairholders, including, Canada Research Chairs, Industrial Research Chairs and those who have been awarded and completed an Ontario Tech University Research Excellence Chair.
 - **Stream 2 (Ignite):** Open to all Tenured and Tenure-Track (TTT) faculty members at Ontario Tech University.
- Award Recipients 2023:
 - [Dr. Shilpa Dogra](#), Associate Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences
 - [Dr. Salma Karray](#), Professor, Faculty of Business and IT
 - [Dr. Andrea Kirkwood](#), Professor, Faculty of Science
 - [Dr. Atef Mohany](#), Professor, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
 - [Dr. Pierre Côté](#), Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences





Research Policy Updates

Research Data Management (RDM)

- [Tri-Agency RDM Policy](#) launched in March 2021 with the following Requirements and Timeline



- **[Institutional RDM Strategy:](#)** Each post-secondary institution and research hospital eligible to administer CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC funds is required to create an institutional RDM strategy and notify the agencies when it has been completed.
 - ACTION: Ontario Tech University developed a [Research Data Management Institutional Strategy](#) through consultation with the Research Committee, Faculty Survey (N=75; 6 Faculties), Targeted Faculty Member Feedback (N=20; 6 Faculties), Research Ethics Board, Animal Care Committee, Radiation Safety and Biosafety Committee, Library, IT, and the Office of Research Services.
- **[Data Management Plans](#)** - DMPs - For certain funding opportunities, the agencies will require DMPs to be submitted to the appropriate agency at time of application, as outlined in the call for proposals. Resources are available in the [Library](#) and the [Office of Research Services](#) (grants team).
 - [Ontario Tech RDM Template \(DMP Tool\)](#) created with consultation with faculty members, Research Ethics Board and other key interest groups. Research Ethics Board Streamlined process for RDM:
 - **Option 1** – Answer questions in REB application related to data management, or; **Option 2** – Append the DM template and skip all data manage questions on application. **Researchers choose one option only to eliminate duplicate effort.**
- **[Data Deposit:](#)** Grant recipients are required to deposit into a digital repository all digital research data, metadata and code that directly support the research conclusions in journal publications and pre-prints that arise from agency-supported research.
 - [Ontario Tech RDM Repositories](#) and support is offered via the Library.





Safeguarding Research Updates

Research Security

- Background:

- Canada's academic research environment is open and collaborative
- Espionage and foreign interference activities pose real threats to Canadian research integrity, intellectual property and business interests.
- The Government of Canada, federal granting agencies, research institutions, and researchers have a shared responsibility to safeguard Canadian research.
- Research should be **as open as possible** and **as safeguarded as necessary**.

New Measures to Enhance Research Security - Federal

The **February 2023 tri-ministerial statement** on protecting Canada's research requested new measures:

- “Research grant applications proposing to conduct research in a sensitive research area will not be funded if any of the researchers working on the project are affiliated with a university, research institute or laboratory connected to military, national defence or state security entities of foreign state actors that pose a risk to Canada's national security.” Clear guidance will be provided by the Government of Canada in the coming months to ensure that the research community can appropriately comply with these new measures once they are implemented.
- **The Government of Canada, granting agencies, and research community have a shared responsibility to:**
 - Protect the integrity of our research ecosystem and to safeguard it from activities that undermine its principles of openness, transparency, merit, academic freedom, and reciprocity; and,
 - Ensure that research security measures (new and existing) do not lead to discrimination against or profiling of any member of the community.
- **Key Considerations:**
 - [National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships](#) published by ISED in 2021 to help funders, universities and research evaluate potential risks to research security. Tri-Agency examines Research Risk and Partners Risk.
 - **NEW Foreign entities of concern list** - to be announced fall 2023 with compliance by January 1, 2024. It is a list of foreign state connected universities, research institutes and laboratories that are believed to pose a high risk of theft, unwanted knowledge transfer and interference in researcher.
 - **NEW Sensitive Research List** - a clearer list and definition of [sensitive research areas](#) is anticipated Fall 2023. Some examples are dual use technologies, critical minerals, critical infrastructure, and human-subject data research.
 - **Ontario Tech Action:** Hiring Safeguarding Research Position through the Research Support Fund Research Security. Anticipated Start Date Fall 2023.



New Updates Province Update on Safeguarding Ontario Research

- September 6th, 2023 update on Safeguarding Ontario Research, The Honourable Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities. Next Steps for the Province:
 - **Improved research security requirements in the application** for ORF/ERA programs. It enables applicants to provide additional context about the potentially problematic collaborations. Province reviews research team collaborations/affiliations. Going forward non-disclosure of collaborations/affiliations will result in project ineligibility.
 - **New attestation and risk reduction/mitigation initiative** - new stage in adjudication process whereby projects that are identified as high-risk will have an opportunity to describe the risk mitigation strategies that were, or will be, implemented to mitigate those risks. Going forward, the ministry will work with institutions to explore whether identified risks for a given application can be addressed before funding decisions are made.
 - **Spot Audits:** in support of new risk reduction/mitigation initiative, additional transfer payment agreement provisions will be added to enable spot audits to confirm compliance with agreed upon risk reduction/mitigation measures.
 - **Disclosure of the Institutions foreign relationship:** Institutions must annually disclosure active research agreements with foreign entities (e.g. governments, research entities and corporations). International student programs, student exchanges and service agreement excluded from this requirement.



Examples of Research Security Resources

All researchers and administrators are encouraged to consult the following resources for more information on how to safeguard research and innovation:

- **Safeguarding Your Research Portal**: guidance, information, and tools, and case studies.
- **Safeguarding Science**: Interactive workshop from Public Safety Canada
- **Canadian Centre for Cyber Security**: Hosts resources on the cyber threat environment, including interactive content, publications, alerts, and advisories
- **Canadian Cyber Security Tool**: Voluntary self-assessment survey
- **La cybersécurité en milieu universitaire**, a free online course offered by SERENE-RISC and the University of Montreal from April 28 – November 30, 2021 (French only)
- **Public Safety Canada**: Research Security Information Updates
- **Open source due diligence**: To help researchers conduct open source due diligence.
- **Ontario Safeguarding Research**: Outlines provincial requirements for security.





Research Committee Updates

Research Committee Updates

- Two Main Priorities identified for the 2023 – 2024 Academic Year
 - Research operations review and input in to align with best practices
 - Research Communications review and input with the goal to increase research visibility at Ontario Tech University.
- Revised IP Policy Draft for Consultation
 - The University's Intellectual Property Policy (Current IP Policy) was originally approved by the Board of Governors in 2003.
 - In 2016, the Intellectual Property Policy Committee (IPPC) was struck to review and update the IP Policy. The IPPC produced a draft for consultation in 2018 (the 2018 Policy Draft). In the intervening period other drafts were created in light of direction from government and University leadership. The University has picked this back up following a lull due to COVID exigencies, and it was determined in 2022 to revert back to the 2018 Policy Draft for review with the IPPC, to ensure that the 2018 Policy Draft was current and internally consistent with University practices and law in the area.
 - The IPPC met between November 2022 and May 2023 and arrived at an updated IP Policy draft for recommendation to Academic Council (the Revised Policy). This Revised Policy has come before the Research Committee for information and review, needs one more review by the IPPC and then will be moving forward the review and approval process including anticipated to go to PAC in October and back to AC for more in depth consultation this fall.





Research Funding Update – Fact Book

Factbook

Factbook		
	2023	2024 YTD
Tri-Council		
NSERC	\$4,414,012	\$4,136,690.00
SSHRC	\$1,155,333	\$705,223.00
CIHR	\$635,313	\$558,652.00
CFI	\$212,157	\$0
CRC	\$1,270,000	\$1,040,000.00
TIPS	\$375,000	\$374,875.00
Other Federal Government	\$3,299,046	\$3,080,902.00
Total Federal Government	\$11,360,860	\$9,896,342.00
MCU	\$92,626	\$363,616.00
OCE/OCI	\$573,200	\$0
Other Provincial Governments	\$774,603	\$250,862.33
Total Provincial Governments	\$1,440,429	\$614,478.33
Industry	\$1,066,085	\$967,913.36
Industry - ACE	\$4,818,679	\$2,256,193.76
Associations, Societies & Foundations	\$2,889,434	\$1,996,195.60
Research Donations (Advancement)	\$336,290	
Other	\$1,267,927	\$513,428.13
Total Other Sources	\$10,378,414	\$5,733,730.85
In-Kind	\$1,117,763	\$387,769.00
TOTAL	\$24,297,466	\$17,016,089.18





Thank You