



OFFICE OF THE
VICE-DEAN
RESEARCH
REPORT

2012

J. Rodrigo
05

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OVDR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

VISION

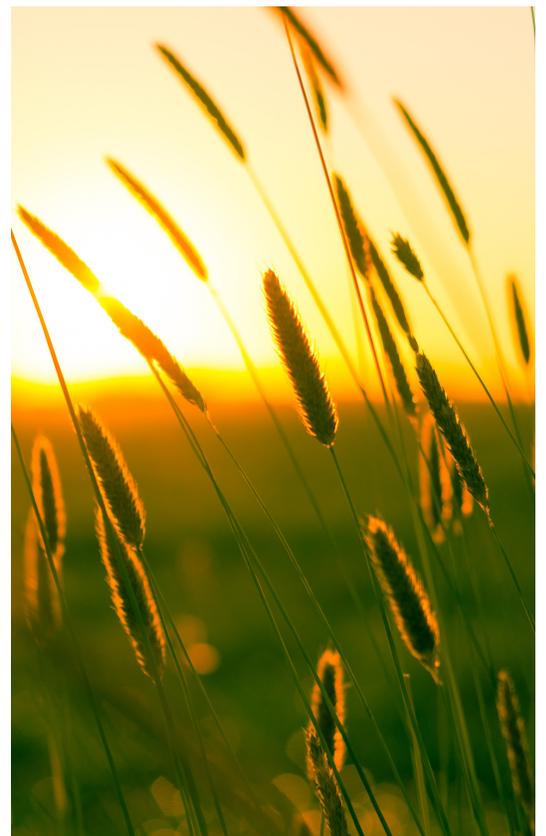
We excel at strengthening the research capacity in the College of Medicine by providing optimal support for the research community with transparency, accountability, and equity.

MISSION

We are leaders in the development and advancement of essential initiatives that foster an equitable and transparent culture of research excellence in a premier research university in Canada. We enable meaningful health research across the College of Medicine and encourage interdisciplinary collaboration, seeking to empower and engage our faculty, staff, and students to challenge the boundaries of knowledge creation.

VALUES

- Accountability
- Inclusivity
- Transparency
- Collaboration
- Ethics
- Respect
- Professionalism
- Equity
- Excellence



WORDS FROM THE VICE-DEAN

Since establishing the office of Vice-Dean Research which now encompasses the research office and graduate studies office in 2016, our office has matured dramatically – growing from a staff of three, to our current team of nine exceptional team members. Among our many efforts, we have developed and refined our current suite of eleven unique initiatives designed to support the research efforts of our incredible College of Medicine faculty, students, and staff.

As many of our initiatives and awards complete their first and second cycles, we have already witnessed a strong return on our investment. As researchers have time to disseminate results and apply for external funding, we anticipate an even greater impact.

Our faculty, students and staff are working to find solutions to problems, improve the health of our communities, mentor the next generation of physicians and researchers, and change the world.



This is the first of our OVDR annual reports.

MAREK RADOMSKI
MD, PhD, DSc, Dhc
Vice-Dean Research, College of
Medicine

ASSISTANT DEAN GRADUATE STUDIES

The position of Assistant Dean Graduate Studies was established July 2017, with the goal of improving our suite of supports for graduate students and the supervisors who mentor them. We have strived to both increase the number of students supported as well as the level of support provided. This has been made possible through partnering with supervisors and university programs as well as increased engagement with external funding agencies.

While new fiscal realities present challenges, we remain committed to maximizing the impact of support for graduate students who represent the life blood of our college's research enterprise.



RESEARCH MANAGERS

The Research Manager provides leadership and oversight for the OVDR, which strives to provide a high standard of excellence in the Research arena. This position is a key support to the Vice-Dean, ensuring operations are efficient and effective, and that they harmonize with the strategic goals of the College of Medicine and the University of Saskatchewan. This position focuses on the continued development of the Research Portfolio within the College through supports and initiatives created and administered by the OVDR.

We thank Carolyn Pytlyk (far right) for her contributions while Megan Truscott (far left) was on leave and wish her all the best in her next endeavour. We welcome Megan back and look forward to the year ahead.



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

RESEARCH-ACTIVE FACULTY:

309

NUMBER OF FACULTY AWARDED PROJECTS IN 2018/2019:

269

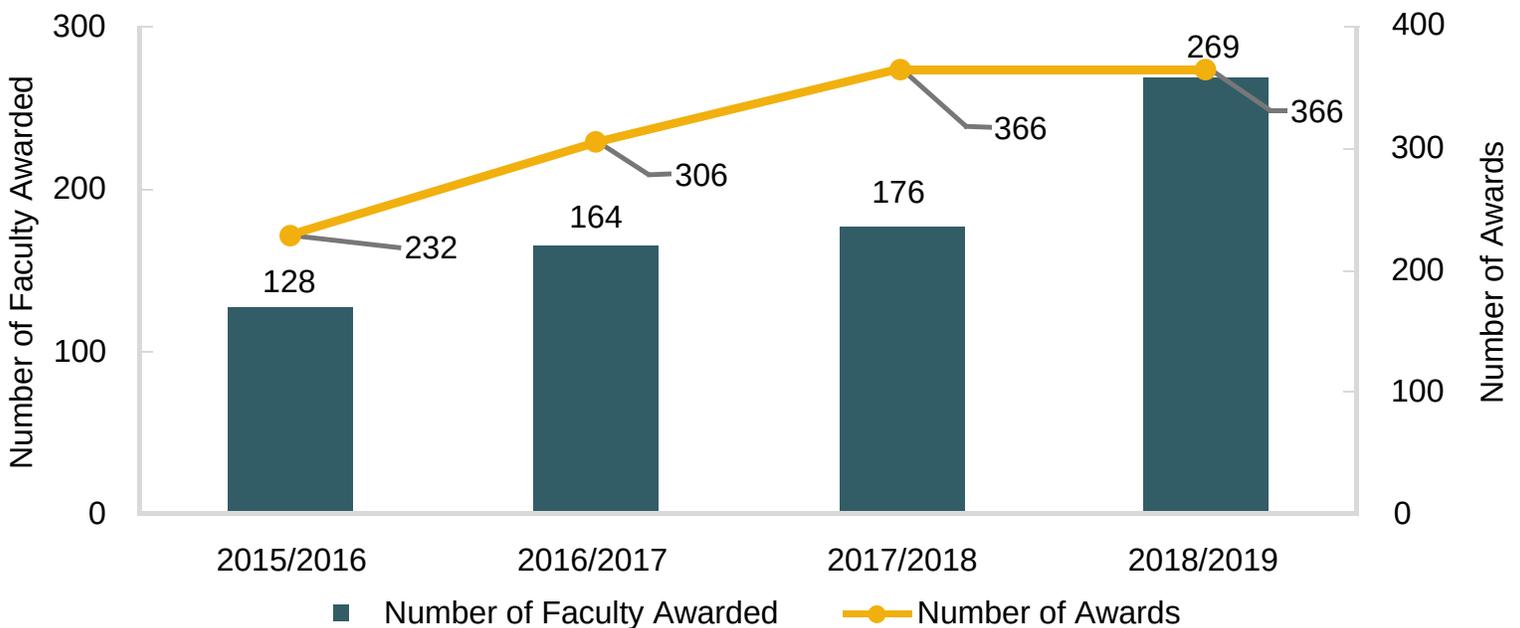
CoM researchers have shown an increase in both dollar amounts and number of research projects funded through external and internal initiatives.

Gathered data show an increase in number of faculty receiving awards, and the number of faculty awarded over the past four fiscal years. This includes 366 new awards in 2018/2019 compared to 232 in 2015/2016.

The number of CoM faculty receiving new awards has increased year over year, up to 269 in 2018/2019 from 128 in 2015/2016.

RESEARCH FUNDING AWARDED TO COM FACULTY IN 2018/2019:

28,701,019



THE STATISTICS

The University of Saskatchewan's College of Medicine has made significant investments in health research. Since 2016 the CoM has developed a series of initiatives to support health researchers by providing bridge funding, researcher start-up packages, seed funding, as well as trainee (undergraduate, graduate, postdoctoral) research support.

The University has already realized significant return on these investments.

In 2016, the U of S College of Medicine held 26 Tri-Agency grants, but after consistent investment through 2019, they now hold 59. This significant increase in external funding improved the U of S ranking from 14th to 12th place in the MacLean's 2019 University Rankings in the Medical/Science Grants category.

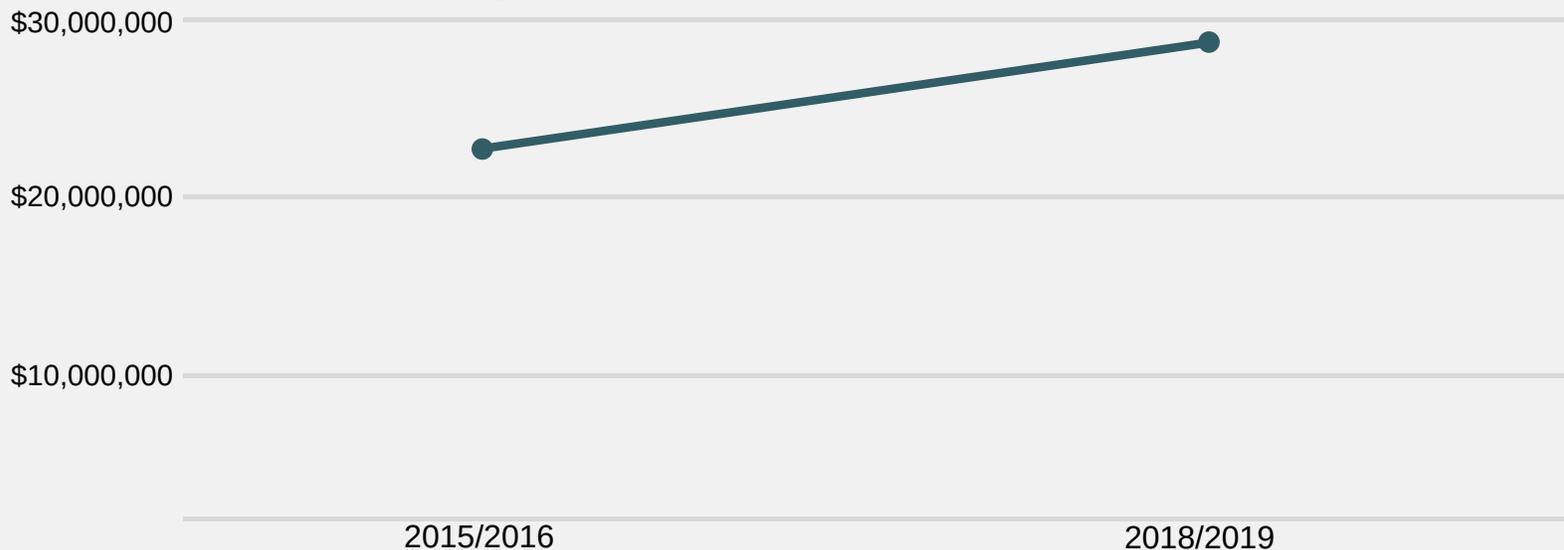
This significant increase in external funding contributed to the University's improvement from 15th to 14th place in the U15 overall.

12TH

the U of S is now ranked 12th in
McLean's 2019 Medical/Science
Grants Category

TOTAL REVENUE

Since 2016, the college's total external research funding dollars received has increased from \$22,740,805 to \$28,701,019.



FACULTY INITIATIVES

01

RESEARCH STARTUP FUNDING

03

COMBRIDGE
College of Medicine Bridge Funding

02

COMRAD
College of Medicine Research Award

04

SUPPLEMENTAL PUBLICATION FUNDING

GRADUATE/POSTDOCTORAL INITIATIVES

01

COMGRAD
College of Medicine Graduate Student Award

03

INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

02

COMTA
College of Medicine Travel Award

04

PARENTAL LEAVE GRANT

UNDERGRADUATE INITIATIVES

01

DEAN'S PROJECTS
Dean's Summer Research Projects and MD Research Experience

03

INTERDISCIPLINARY SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM

02

BIOMEDICAL SUMMER RESEARCH PROJECTS

RESEARCH STARTUP FUNDING

New researchers often require institutional support to establish productive research programs in advance of generating external research funding.

Negotiated as part of the compensation package, the OVDR accepts applications to provide funding for startup costs and equipment for a maximum of the first three years of a new faculty members research program.

Startup funding is a valuable recruitment incentive when seeking to attract world-class faculty members.

OVDR FACULTY STARTUP INVESTMENT

\$3,450,975

Since 2016, the OVDR has provided startup \$3,450,975 in startup funding to

—

16

College of Medicine Faculty

—

\$4,049,094

Allowing faculty members to launch their research programs, having secured \$4,049,094 to date

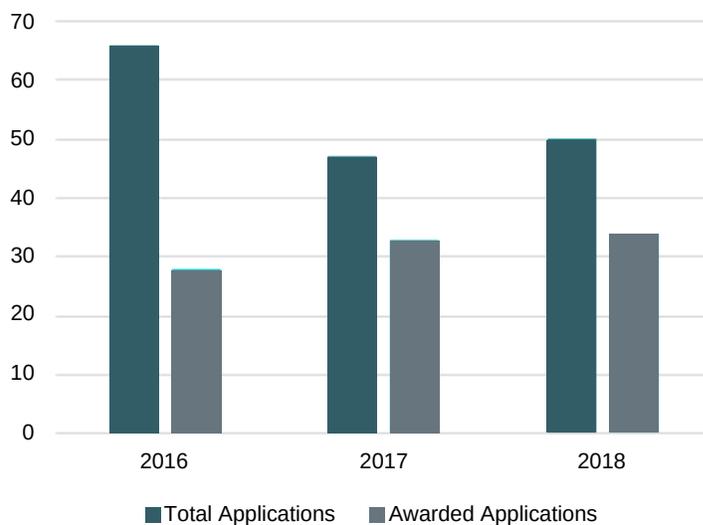
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE RESEARCH AWARD (COMRAD)

A competitive funding opportunity open to all faculty members with a primary academic appointment in the College of Medicine. The purpose of the CoMRAD is to provide seed funding for novel pilot and/or feasibility studies that will facilitate future applications to external funding sources on a provincial, national, and global level.

As 2018 and some 2017 awards are still ongoing, ROI data is calculated from completed 2016 and 2017 projects.

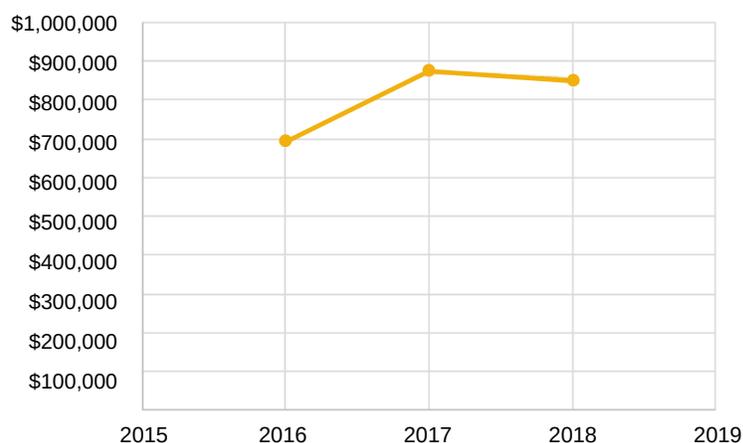
FUNDED PROJECTS

Since the initiative's initiation in 2016, the OVDR has funded ninety-five CoMRAD projects.



OVDR FUNDS COMMITTED

From 2016 to 2018 the OVDR committed \$2,419,584.10 to fund this initiative.



RETURN ON INVESTMENT

57

Submissions for external funding

—

13

Successful external funding applications

—

\$3,039,275

Total external funding dollars received so far

DISSEMINATION

CoMRad Funding has resulted in the following:

27

PUBLICATIONS

43

ABSTRACTS

54

CONFERENCE
PROCEEDINGS

30

NEW OR EXPANDED
COLLABORATIONS

52

INVITED
LECTURES

COMBRIDGE

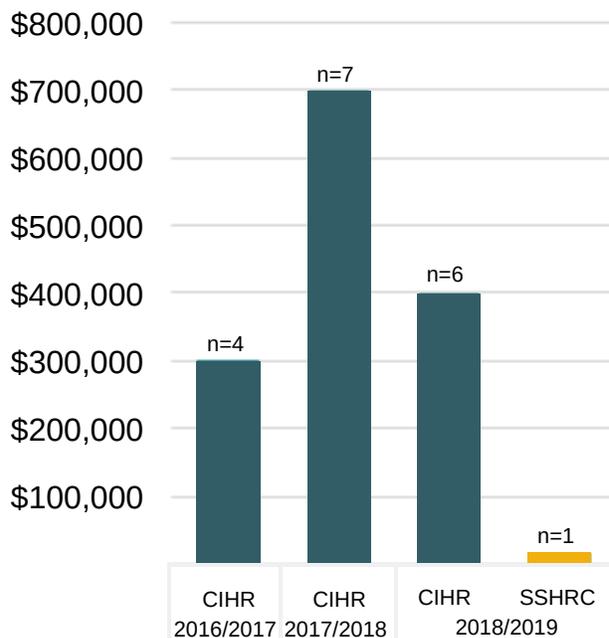
Initiated in 2016, the COMBRIDGE program seeks to support research excellence and encourage application for Tri-Agency funding. Based on availability, Bridge Funding can be obtained by College of Medicine faculty who received a high score in a Tri-Agency competition but were not funded to assist their re-application efforts.

FUNDED PROJECTS

The OVDR has funded eighteen COMBRIDGE projects since 2016. Seventeen of these have supported CIHR Project Grant re-applications, and one a SSHRC Insight Grant.

OVDR FUNDS COMMITTED

Awarded amounts are dependent on availability of funds, competition program, and number of eligible applicants. To date, \$2,419,611 has been awarded by the COMBRIDGE program.



RETURN ON INVESTMENT

9

To-date, the COMBRIDGE program has facilitated 9 Tri-Agency re-submissions

—

3

successful Tri-Agency applications, resulting in

—

\$2,769,303

total external funding dollars

PUBLICATION FUNDING

Since 2017, the Publication funding has helped support faculty produce:

52

PUBLICATIONS IN OPEN-ACCESS JOURNALS

4.01

AVERAGE JOURNAL IMPACT FACTOR

128

PUBLICATION CITATIONS

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE GRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD (COMGRAD)

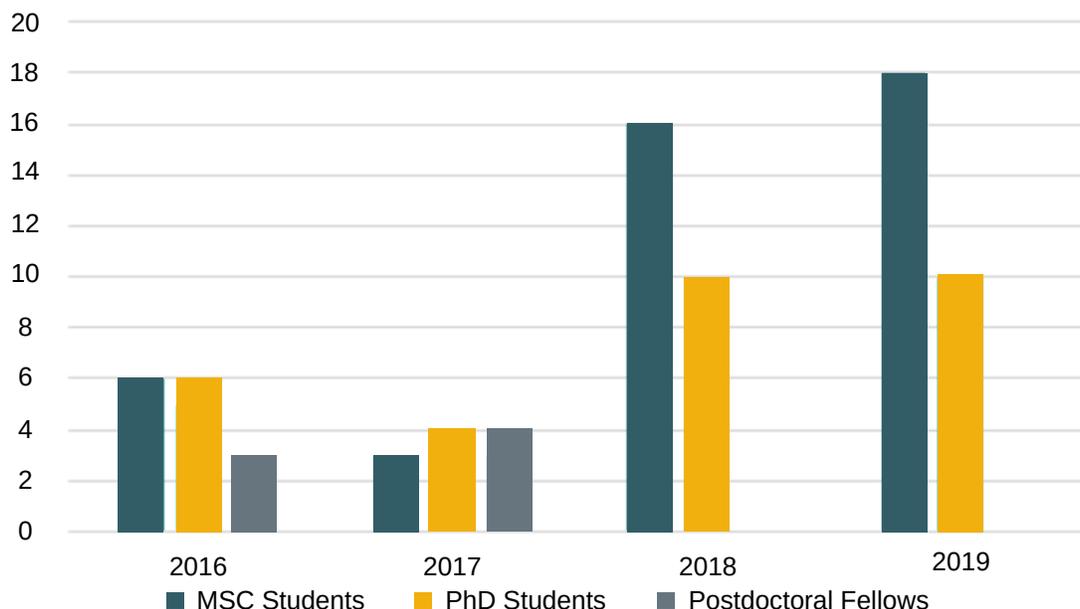
The College of Medicine Graduate Research Award is a competitive funding opportunity available to College of Medicine graduate students. The purpose of the CoMGRAD is to provide support to graduate students and faculty supervisors from the College of Medicine (CoM) who demonstrate a passion for research that has been, or will be, translated into advancements in science.

FUNDED TRAINEES

To date, CoMGRAD has supported 78 graduate students and Postdoctoral Fellows.

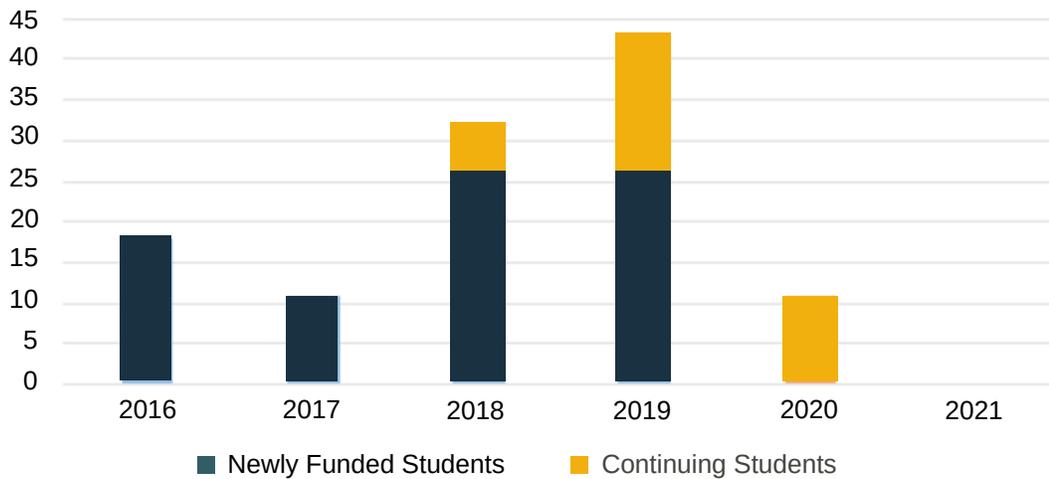
In 2018, the CoMGRAD guidelines were amended so the program would only support graduate students and would no longer support Postdoctoral Fellows.

In order to maximize the number of students supported, the program was also revised to a cost-sharing funding model, where the faculty supervisor contributes 40% of the award value.



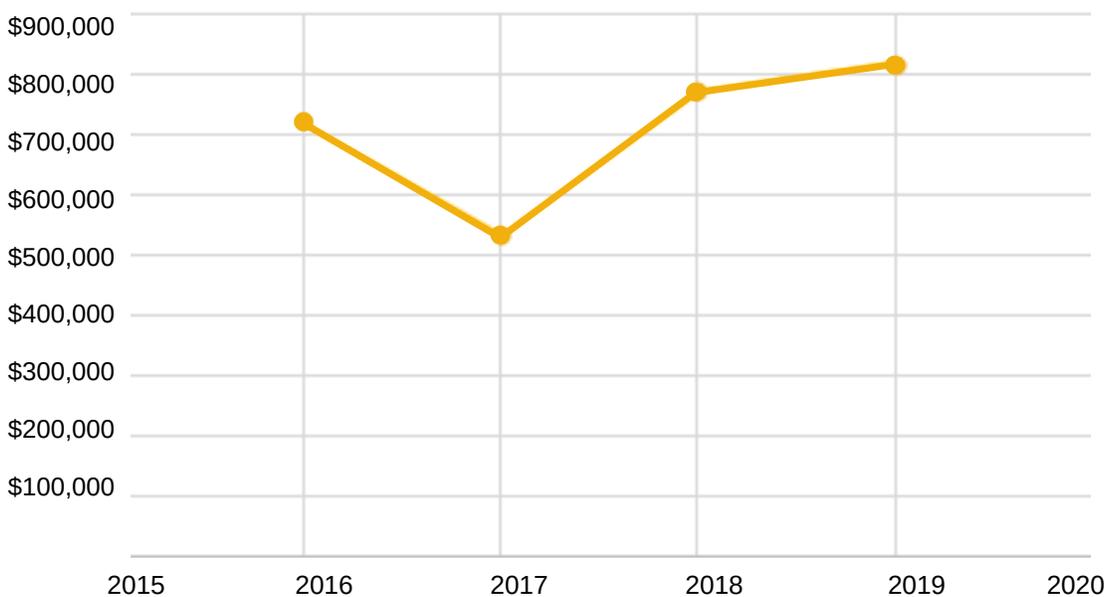
ONGOING COMMITMENT

In response to student feedback, CoMGRAD funding was modified in 2017 to provide multi-year awards. Master's students may now receive funding for up to two years, and PhD students up to three years.



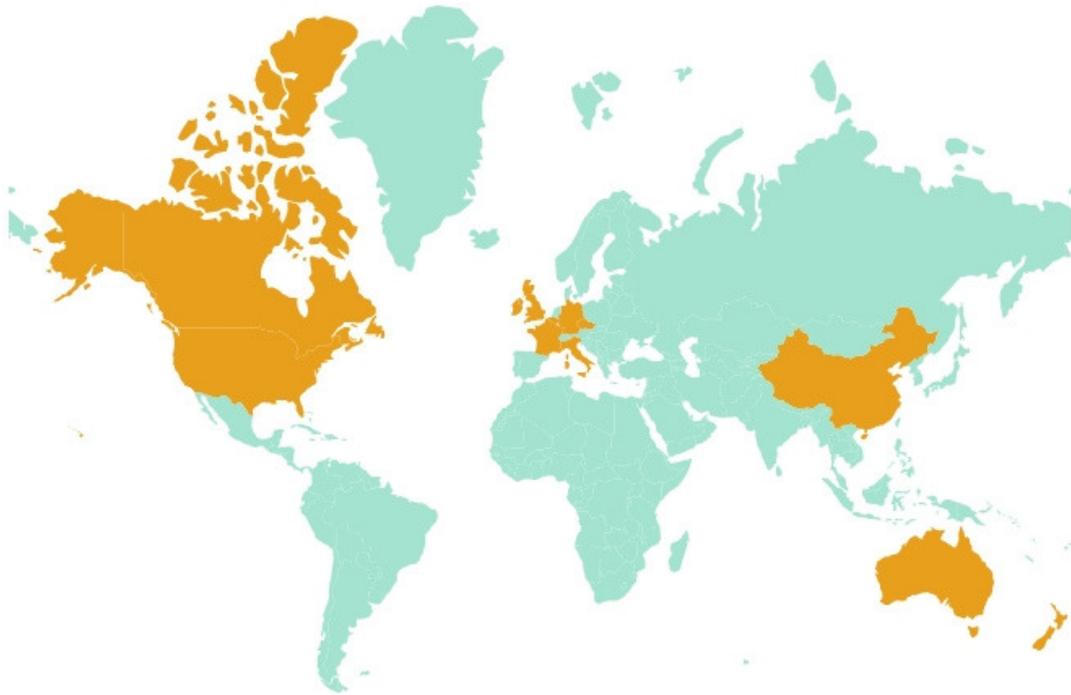
OVDR FUNDS COMMITTED

The OVDR has invested \$2,842,000 to support CoMGRAD trainees since 2016.



COLLEGE OF MEDICINE TRAVEL AWARD (COMTA)

Graduate Students and Post Doctoral Fellows in the College of Medicine are encouraged to participate in national and international scientific conferences and workshops. Trainees may apply to the Conference Travel Fund for up to \$1,500 to support students attending scientific meetings.

**79**

students funded to attend scientific meetings in

—**13**

unique countries

—**606,788**

total kilometers travelled by our students since 2017

INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

The Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Scholarships (IGS) are intended to support graduate students who are conducting interdisciplinary research co-supervised by a faculty member from the CoM and a faculty member from the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition (CoPN). These scholarships are intended to increase dynamic interdisciplinary research projects being completed by competitively selected individuals.

The OVDR has supported four students through this initiative between 2017 and 2019 so far.

PARENTAL LEAVE GRANT

The College of Medicine has implemented a progressive parental leave program intended to support graduate students with growing families.

CoM graduate students may apply for financial assistance during a leave to serve as the primary care-giver immediately following the birth of a child prior to the completion of the student's program.

Since piloting this program in September 2018, three students have been granted parental leave funding.



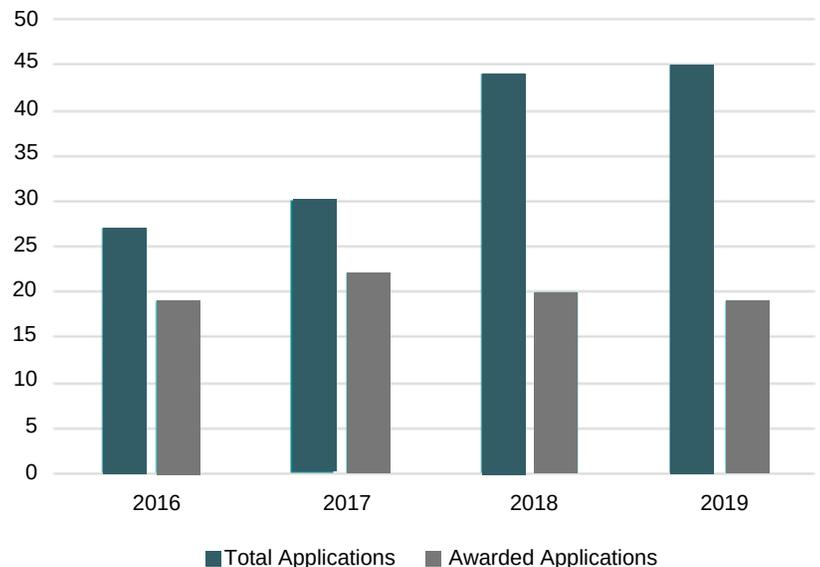
BIOMEDICAL SUMMER RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Biomedical Summer Student Research Program is intended to assist in the research training of our undergraduate students enrolled in the Anatomy and Cell Biology, Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology, Physiology, and Pharmacology programs.

The intent of these awards is to give students valuable research experience and to encourage them to continue on to a graduate studies program.

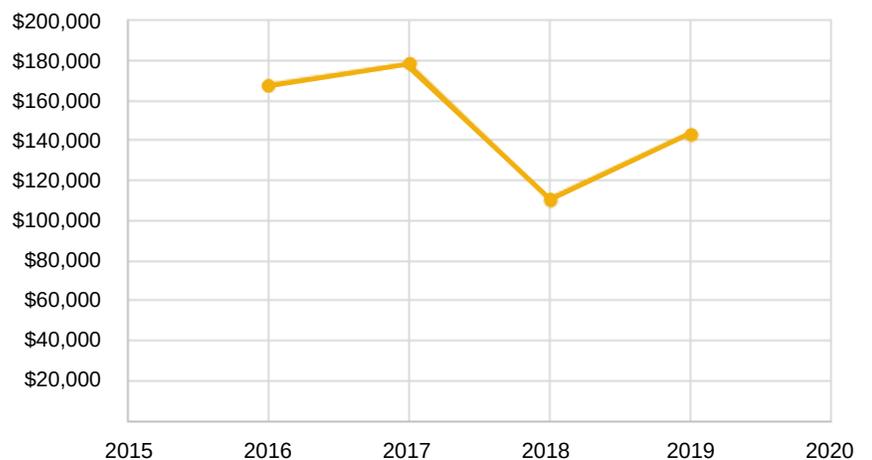
FUNDED PROJECTS

The Office of the Vice-Dean Research has supported 80 undergraduate Biomedical Summer Research Projects since 2016.



OVDR FUNDS COMMITTED

From 2016 to 2019 the OVDR committed \$599,919.66 to fund this initiative.

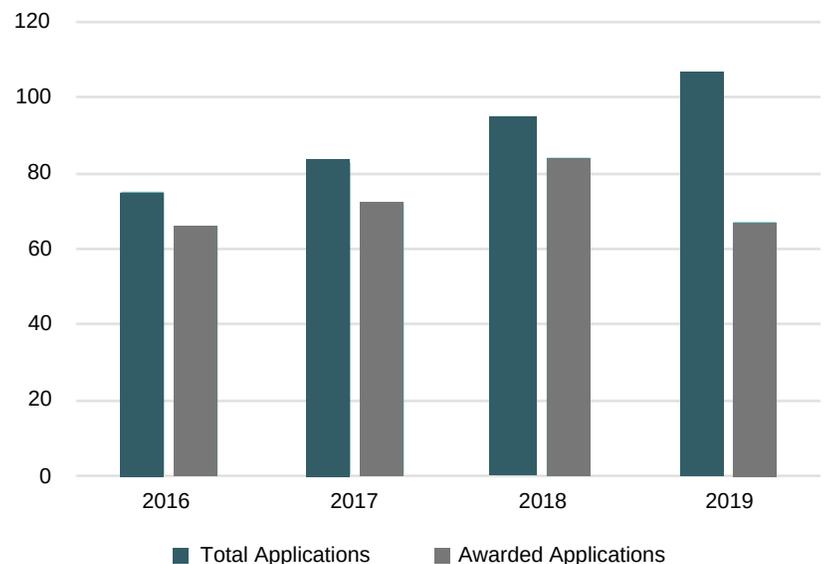


DEAN'S SUMMER RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Dean's Summer Research Projects provides undergraduate medical students' exposure to scientific research. The program is intended to foster a spark and ignite a passion for research in our medical students, facilitating an understanding of the vital role research plays in today's health care. This program is open to all first and second year undergraduate medical students.

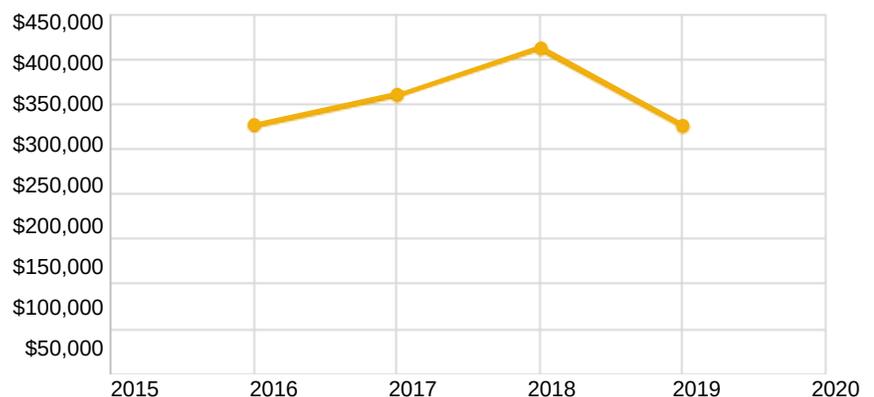
FUNDED PROJECTS

The Office of the Vice-Dean Research has supported 289 undergraduate Dean's Summer Research Projects and Experiences since 2016.



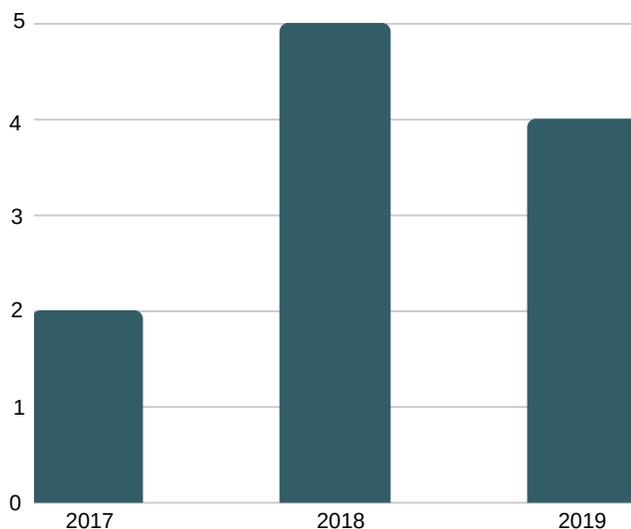
OVDR FUNDS COMMITTED

From 2016 to 2019 the OVDR committed \$1,425,650 to fund this initiative.



INTERDISCIPLINARY SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Interdisciplinary Summer Research program, founded in 2017, provides competitive undergraduate salary awards to provide research training of summer students enrolled in either the College of Medicine or the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, co-supervised by a faculty member from both colleges.

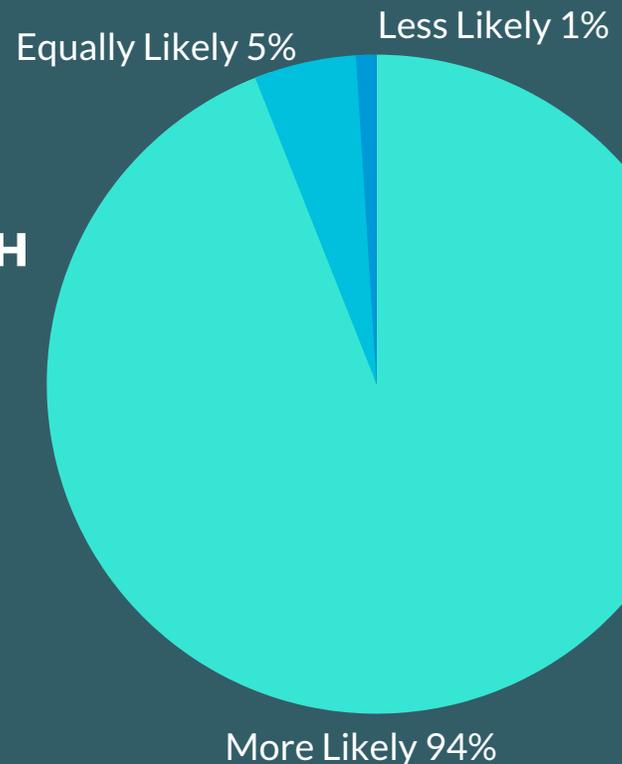


FUNDED PROJECTS

Thirteen Interdisciplinary projects have been funded since 2016, with the program cost of \$85,050.50 shared evenly between the College of Medicine and College of Pharmacy and Nutrition.

THE VALUE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

DID YOUR SUMMER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE MAKE IT MORE LIKELY THAT YOU WOULD PURSUE RESEARCH IN THE FUTURE?



IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

"Completing a research project taught me practical applications of research methodology as well as the chance to build confidence in a more professional setting."

"Along with experience working in the research field, by participating in the Deans Summer Research program, I received excellent mentorship and networking opportunities. Having students involved in research endeavors is crucial to promoting future medical innovations in our province and should be encouraged for both research supervisors and students."

"I went in expecting it to be a lot of hard work, and it was just that. The practical skills, valuable knowledge and connections I've gained, however, made every second in the lab worth it."

ADVANCEMENTS IN EQUITY DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

"All persons, regardless of disability mental or physical, religion or religious creed, family status, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, race or perceived race, nationality, place of origin, ancestry, colour, receipt of public assistance, and gender identity..." (Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission) are valued for their individuality and contributions to the diversity and functions of the College of Medicine.

A GUIDING FORCE

Recognizing the need for specialized knowledge of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) issues in research, the Research Equity and Diversity Specialist role was established to raise awareness, develop and share resources, and help researchers address sex, gender, diversity, and inclusion within their research. OVDR equity, diversity, and inclusion activities and initiatives since September 2018 include:

01

GUIDANCE

Providing workshops, as well as advice and assistance with the sex and gender requirement of grant applications to individual faculty.

02

SELF-REFLECTION

The OVDR is in the process of assessing their internal funding programs and policies to evince best practices in EDI.

03

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

Implementing a sex and gender requirement within the CoMRAD competition, mirroring that required by external competitions in order to better prepare researchers to apply for national funding.

04

FUNDING SCHEMA

A sex and gender focused funding stream has been added to CoMRAD and CoMGRAD funding programs to encourage research excellence in these areas.

05

FOSTERING COMMUNITY

Developing capacity through formation of Sex and Gender Champions groups for researchers and students, and connection of groups to national networks.

EDI QUESTIONS AND UPDATES

For research resources specific to Sex and Gender and EDI, please visit our new OVDR resource website: <https://medicine.usask.ca/research/resources.php> or contact our Research Equity and Diversity Specialist: erin.prosser-loose@usask.ca/306-966-2621

OVDR INVESTMENT IN INDIGENOUS RESEARCH

The OVDR is dedicated to responding to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. In an effort to define and address the present and emerging health needs in Indigenous communities of Saskatchewan, the OVDR has defined Indigenous Health Research streams in both the CoMRAD and CoMGRAD programs, and continues to seek other opportunities to encourage and support research excellence in Indigenous Health.

\$81,222

CoMRAD: Indigenous Research Funding Stream

\$19,000

CoMGRAD: Indigenous Research Funding Stream

\$693,654

Start-Up Packages for Indigenous Researchers

TBD

The OVDR has committed funds to support the incoming Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Developmental Origins of Health and Disease in Indigenous People

The University of Saskatchewan's main campus is situated on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The OVDR thanks our donors, the Tri-Agency Research Support Fund, and the College of Medicine for our funding. Our work and the consequent returns on investment to students, faculty, the College, the University, the scientific community and the public at large, are made possible only through their generosity.

The OVDR extends its thanks to Shelley-May Neufeld for preparing this report, and to all our OVDR staff; without their dedication, enthusiasm and creativity our office would have nothing to report about.



Left to Right: Chelsea McGinnis (*Research Impact Analyst*), Carolyn Pytlyk (*Acting Research Manager*), Shelley-May Neufeld (*Faculty Project Coordinator*), Megan Steeves (*Research Manager*), Marek Radomski (*Vice-Dean Research*), Chantal Jantzen (*Graduate Programs Coordinator*), Erin Prosser-Loose (*Research Equity & Diversity Specialist*), David Cooper (*Assistant Dean Graduate Studies*), Bruna Bonavia-Fisher (*Research Faciliator*), Cathy Fulcher (*Executive Administrative Assistant*)
On Leave: Keleigh Garcea (*Faculty Project Coordinator*)

COVER ART

By Professor José Rodrigo García, MD, PhD, from his collection *Landscapes of the Brain*. Professor Rodrigo is Professor of Research AD HONOREM in the Cajal Institute in Madrid, Spain, and was a pupil of renowned Spanish neuroscientist, Santiago Ramón y Cajal. Upon retirement in 2006, Professor Rodrigo began his artistic career in the field of painting.



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