

RESEARCH BULLETIN

May 14, 2020

For more information on any of the Research Bulletin items, please contact research@msvu.ca

UPCOMING VIRTUAL EVENTS AND WEBINARS

[NEW] Research Ethics Open Office

Click to access the session:

[Join Skype Meeting](#)

Trouble Joining? [Try Skype Web App](#)

RESEARCH ETHICS OPEN OFFICE

via Skype for Business

Open hour to drop in to discuss research ethics, student questions on process, applications, data management, online platforms, and more.

For one-on-one
consultations,
email Brenda Gagne
at ethics@msvu.ca.

10:30AM - 11:30AM

MAY 13

MAY 27

JUNE 10

JUNE 24

[NEW] Statistics Canada Research Data Centre (RDC) Alternatives: Conduct

Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2020

Time: 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM EDT

[Register for this webinar](#)

This webinar will be of particular interest to graduate students and faculty.

Recent physical distancing protocols pertaining to the COVID-19 Pandemic have meant that RDC researchers need to find alternative ways of carrying out their research. This webinar will be of interest to graduate students, librarians, faculty and researchers. The Real Time Remote Access (RTRA) program offers one alternative way to access confidential Statistics Canada data. Other options include using the Statistics Canada public use files and analyzing data from other sources. The presenters will discuss the differences between the data that can be accessed through the RTRA vs. the RDC. RTRA data is a very useful option for some types of questions but also has some important limitations. In addition, the presenters will highlight alternative sources of data from the U.S. and elsewhere that are similar to the Statistics Canada master datasets. These may be particularly useful for graduate students who may not be able to wait for the RDC to re-open but who need to conduct analyses that are more sophisticated than what the RTRA or public use files will permit.

Faculty Writing Workshop

Are you interested in attending a writing workshop for faculty? If so, the Research Office would like to hear from you! **Please confirm your interest as soon as possible by emailing Jessica.Long1@msvu.ca.**

The workshop will take place online for 2-3 hours. A minimum of 10 participants is required.

Workshop for Best Practices in Research During COVID-19

The Research Office is contemplating hosting a virtual workshop/discussion. We need to know a) if you're interested and b) what you'd like us to include.

MSVU-approved methods for:

- Data Collection: Surveys, Interviews, Focus Groups, etc.
- Secure Data Storage Platforms
- Collaboration for Research Teams
- Best Practices in Digital Informed Consent

If requested, we may be able to have folks present from administrative departments other than RESO, such as IT and S, for example.

Please confirm your interest as soon as possible by emailing Jessica.Long1@msvu.ca

ACENET Training

Check out upcoming training sessions [here](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Special Initiative PEG COVID-19

The PEG COVID-19 Special Initiative provides short-term and timely support for small-scale, stakeholder-driven partnerships through Partnership Engage Grants (PEG). This Special Initiative will allow researchers and their partners the possibility to address urgent and specific needs, as well as challenges or opportunities through collaborations. It will also provide a unique opportunity to foster knowledge exchange between postsecondary researchers and different sectors of society while including students, PhDs, PDFs and other HQPs on the COVID-19 crisis related issues, challenges and impacts.

Application deadlines are on June 15 and September 15. Further details, including application information, are available on SSHRC's website at the following link: <https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/peg-sep-covid-19-eng.aspx>

Nova Scotia Business Inc.: Productivity and Innovation Voucher Program

Nova Scotia Business Inc. will be accepting applications to the Productivity and Innovation Voucher Program starting **April 1st until mid-October**. The purpose of this program is to allow Nova Scotia registered companies to work with universities and access expertise they do not have in-house. The projects must demonstrate how they increase the productivity or innovation of a company's product, process or service. The program has two tiers, Tier 1 awards are for \$15,000 and Tier 2 awards are for \$25,000. Applications will be reviewed regularly while funding is available. If you have any questions about the program, please do not hesitate to contact our Industry Liaison Officer, Danielle Goodfellow at danielle.goodfellow@smu.ca

CALLS FOR PAPERS AND APPLICATIONS

Request for Proposals: Community-Based Research Projects in Cannabis and Mental Health

The Mental Health Commission of Canada has announced a request for proposal for community-based research projects in cannabis and mental health to support a holistic policy approach on the relationship between cannabis and mental health. The purpose of the Community-Based Research (CBR) funding is to address knowledge gaps in the relationship between cannabis and mental health. This opportunity is also aimed at building research capacity among people with lived and living experience of cannabis use and/or mental health problems and illnesses, and by other priority populations. The application deadline has been extended to **May 29th, 2020**, please click [here](#) to learn more.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

[NEW] Research Ethics Matters Newsletter – Spring 2020

Please see attached.

[NEW] Ethics Applications Restrictions – August 2020

Please be advised that the University Research Ethics Board will not be processing any new research ethics applications in August 2020.

The UREB will still process the following:

- COVID-19-related ethics applications
- Modifications (REB.FORM.002)
- Unanticipated Research Events (REB.FORM.008)
- Adverse Events (REB.FORM.007)
- Privacy Breaches (REB.FORM.015)
- Requests for Renewal (REB.FORM.003)
- Final Reports (REB.FORM.004)
- Changes to Study Personnel (REB.FORM.014)

Researchers should plan to submit new applications **NO LATER THAN JUNE 19, 2020** for any research proposed to start in August.

Forms are located online

at: <https://www.msvu.ca/en/home/research/researchethics/forms.aspx>

[NEW] Summit for Cancer Immunotherapy: New Dates Announced

After careful consideration, BioCanRx has decided to postpone the 2020 Summit for Cancer Immunotherapy (Summit4CI) in light of the ongoing effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The 5th annual Summit4CI was scheduled to be held November 7-9, 2020, in Montréal, Québec. The Summit will still take place in Montréal, but the new dates will be November 20-22, 2021.

If you have further questions, please contact BioCanRx at info@biocanrx.com. More details will be posted on the [Summit for Cancer Immunotherapy website](#) in the days to come.

COVID-19 Research Ethics Update

- The UREB continues to accept and review new applications, modifications, renewals and study closures.
- In-person participant interactions (recruitment and data collection) **must** be replaced with telephone, online communications or other **remote** measures. If your cleared protocol involves any in-person participant interactions, you **must** complete a modification request as soon as possible (REB.FORM.002). We are processing these requests as quickly as possible.
- Researchers with questions on online/remote platforms should contact Brenda Gagne at ethics@msvu.ca to confirm if the platforms are secure.
- Researchers should be aware that any data collected in this pandemic environment may alter, skew or contaminate your results, unless your focus includes COVID 19 questions. Further, researchers may need to address/disclose this in publications and other knowledge dissemination activities when documenting method and timeframe of data collection.
- If researchers are able to postpone recruitment and data collection, we **strongly** recommend doing so. Please let us know at ethics@msvu.ca and we will place your file temporarily on hold. If you need to postpone data collection and have questions about extending your funding, please contact research@msvu.ca.

- If it is not possible to postpone the research or modify participant contact, please contact us as soon as possible at ethics@msvu.ca with a formal request and full rationale. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Researchers with questions or concerns are encouraged to contact the Research Ethics Board via email at ethics@msvu.ca.
- As per the federal government advisory, research ethics applications directly addressing COVID-19, or pandemics generally, will be given first **priority** for ethics review.

COVID-19 Resources for Researchers

COVID-19 Resources for Researchers: <https://crdcn.org/covid-19-resources>

With an understanding of the challenges faced by members of the [Canadian Research Data Centre Network \(CRDCN\)](#) research community, this list of sources -- which includes government and non-profit resources, researcher-led initiatives and data resources -- is intended to complement the resources and information available through Vice-President Research Offices across the country (which may include rapid-response funding opportunities).

Portage COVID-19 Discussion

CARL has been working with the European Project, OpenAIRE, to provide a tracking and discovery service for Canadian research outputs. OpenAIRE is getting ready to launch a COVID-19 gateway very soon (<https://www.openaire.eu/openaire-covid-19-gateway?idU=1>). There is a Canadian portal (in beta) that will be part of the OpenAIRE Aggregation. Any COVID-19-related Canadian content will also be tagged and become part of the gateway. The Tri-Agencies have already contacted PORTAGE about the OpenAIRE gateway. They are very interested in using it to track the research they have started to fund related to COVID-19 in a comprehensive way has become a top priority for them.

UBC Press News

Check out the Spring [2020 UBC Press Newsletter](#).

Increase in Research Assistant Pay from Grants

Effective April 1, 2020, the Committee on Research and Publications has increased the floor of the undergraduate student research assistant pay rate to \$14/hr plus benefits.

CanCOVID Community

CanCOVID Community is a new initiative spearheaded by Canada's Chief Science Officer in order to optimize Canada's research response to the COVID-19 crisis. CanCOVID is Canada's federally-mandated, expert led COVID-19 research network made up of Canadian COVID-19 researchers, clinical collaborators, and healthcare stakeholders from across the country. Involvement in the CanCOVID network is currently by invitation only and restricted to verified members of the COVID-19 expert research and response community. However, those interested in joining the network are encouraged to complete the [electronic form](#) on the website to indicate their interest.

For more information, visit the [CanCOVID website](#).

MSVU FACULTY RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS

[NEW] [Dr. Shannan Grant Co-authors Article on Pregnancy and Weight Management](#)

Dr. Shannan Grant, Assistant Professor in Applied Human Nutrition, recently co-authored an article in the *Diabetes Communicator* titled, “Weight Management Guidelines for Patients With Gestational or Type 2 Diabetes During Pregnancy: Are the Current Guidelines”. The article was written in partnership with Diabetes Canada.

Please find Dr. Grant’s article attached.

[MSVU biology professor Dr. Tamara Franz-Odendaal receives funding from Canadian Space Agency to study bone density loss](#)

Dr. Tamara Franz-Odendaal, Professor of Biology at Mount Saint Vincent University, and NSERC Atlantic Chair for Women in Science and Engineering, has received a grant for \$150 000 from the [Canadian Space Agency](#) (CSA), through its Space Health and Life Sciences division, for a project titled “Understanding microgravity-induced bone loss through in vivo simulated microgravity experiments.” Read more [here](#).

Congratulations Dr. Franz-Odendaal!

IT&S CYBERSECURITY TIPS

[NEW] [Try a Password Manager for International Password Day](#)

May 7 was International Password Day. Password managers help you maintain unique and strong passwords for every website and system you use. For more on passwords and password managers, check out [the new Password Managers webpage](#) and [the Password Tips webpage](#).

[Conferencing Tools Intranet and Web Resources](#)

IT&S has added a [Conferencing Tools section](#) to the Working from Home intranet page. It provides guidance on when to use the tele- and web-conferencing solutions provided and supported by the University, and it provides some advice on using other conferencing tools.

Also see [the new Web Conferencing Safety Tips web page](#) for some ways to protect your privacy when participating in or hosting web conferences in general.

[New Videos by IT&S](#)

IT&S recently has published several new videos on Office 365 Stream, including:

1. [VPN Installation on Windows](#)
2. [Skype for Business Training](#)
3. [Skype For Business with External Participants on Cell phones](#)
4. [SharePoint at the Mount](#)
5. [Installing SPSS on a Mac](#)
6. [Installing SPSS on Windows](#)

7. [Installing Minitab on Windows](#)

For more information on using the VPN, Skype for Business, and other tools to help you work remotely, see [the Working From Home Intranet page](#).

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