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Winnipeg Free Press

BU faculty nets prestigious national research funding

By: Cathy Arthur

Posted: **09/21/2017 3:00 AM**

Brandon University research projects in subatomic physics, vascular biology and fractional calculus have received significant federal funding through the Discovery Grant program.

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) awarded Discovery and Discovery Development Grants, totaling \$360,000 of support, to three projects led by BU faculty members.

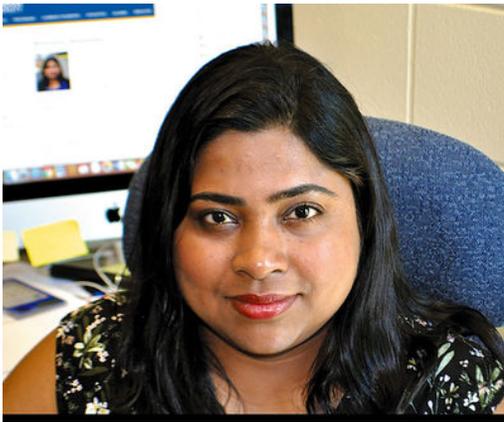


Chenkuan Li

Margaret Carrington received \$200,000 over five years to study new theoretical techniques that could allow scientists to better understand the interactions of subatomic particles. Mousumi Majumder received \$140,000 over five years for research on the vascular system that could be used to develop more effective drugs. Chenkuan Li received a \$20,000 Discovery Development Grant, as well as \$10,000 from BU's Office of the Vice President (Academic & Provost) to study an approach to integral equations that form the basis for physics and quantum field theory, among other applications.

"We are very happy to have NSERC funding for important research conducted at BU," Carrington said.

"NSERC support is vital for the continued success of the many productive research



Mousumi Majumder

programs that are ongoing at Brandon University."

In addition to funding important research, the grants will also help to create opportunities for students at BU.

"This NSERC Discovery Grant will allow two students who have been accepted to the Master of Science program at BU join my lab this fall," Majumder said. "The experience that they gain working on this project will be invaluable in their studies and their future careers."



Margaret Carrington

Additionally, three BU students received support for their research projects through the Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master's (CGSM) Awards:

Alisha Poole, of BU's Master of Science, Environmental and Life Sciences (MELS) program, received the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarship for her project, Proteases Involved in Glioma Migration.

Markus Sudermann, another MELS student, received the NSERC Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship to fund his project, Palaeoecology of Ellesmere Island during the Eocene.

Eva Goulet, of the Master of Rural Development program, was awarded the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Joseph Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship for her project, Family Violence in a First Nation Community of Manitoba.

The purpose of the CGS-M Awards is to develop research skills and assist the training of highly qualified personnel by supporting students who demonstrate a high standard of achievement in undergraduate and early graduate studies. They have a value of \$17,500 over one year.

"The level of achievement demonstrated by our faculty and our students is remarkable," said Dr. Austin Gulliver, Acting Dean of Science at BU. "We are extremely proud to have these and many other world-class research projects being conducted right here at

Brandon University." The announcement brings the total of BU faculty members leading active Discovery Grant or Discovery Development Grant research projects to 11.

"This marks of the continuation of a tremendous period of success for our researchers," said Dr. Heather Duncan, BU's Associate Vice-President of Research. "In 2016 our faculty members secured five new Discovery Grants, exceeding the total of the previous four years combined. This announcement by NSERC signifies another major accomplishment and is evidence that Brandon University research is increasingly being recognized nationally for its value and importance."

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