

# The IDEAlogue

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2013

**Langara.**

THE COLLEGE OF HIGHER LEARNING.



Langara students explore faculty research at the 2012 Scholarship Showcase. Photo by Tomo Tanaka.

## Be Inspired.

### SECOND ANNUAL LANGARA SCHOLARSHIP SHOWCASE

Join us on November 7 to celebrate scholarly projects and applied research at the second annual Langara Scholarship Showcase. Connect with colleagues, learn about on-going and past projects, and get information on research opportunities. Come by and get ready to be inspired!

Date: November 7, 2013  
Time: 10:30 am to 1:30 pm  
Venue: A Building, Main Foyer

## Inspire Others.

Are you involved in exciting applied research or a unique scholarly project? Do you have students who are conducting interesting research as part of their studies? Or are you looking for a great opportunity to give your research poster a second life? Be part of the Langara Scholarship Showcase!

We're looking for faculty, staff, and students who are involved in scholarly activities to share their work, show off their accomplishments, trade ideas with colleagues, and generate interest in applied research. Whether your work is old or new, we want to experience it.

If you'd like more information or you're interested in participating, contact Marg Heldman at 604.323.5499 or Tomo Tanaka at 604.323.5313. We're looking forward to hearing from you! To book your space in the showcase email Veronica Yeung at [vyeung@langara.bc.ca](mailto:vyeung@langara.bc.ca).

## About IDEAlogue

The *IDEAlogue* shares and promotes news about scholarly projects and applied research happening in our Langara community. We aim to shine a spotlight on faculty, staff, and administrators here at the College who are reaching out and applying their knowledge and learning to the world beyond the classroom – whether it be through community partnerships, educational leave, or experimental research.

We also aim to connect Langara scholars with information about the potential funding available to them, so if you're working on a project please let us know by getting in touch at [scholarlyactivity@langara.bc.ca](mailto:scholarlyactivity@langara.bc.ca).

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### NSERC, SSHRC, AND CIHR

Langara has received funding eligibility approval from NSERC, SSHRC, and CIHR. Lots of funding opportunities available. Check their website for details and deadlines.

### EDUCATION LEAVE 2014

The next call for Education Leave was sent out via the Chairs' listserve shortly. Deadline for proposal is November 15, 2013.

### LFA LANGARA RESEARCH COMMITTEE FUND

Looking for help with research expenses? Why not apply for Langara Research Committee funding? Check the website for more details.

Get the recognition and support you deserve.

Have a great idea? Working on a community project? Presenting a paper at a conference? Know someone else from the Langara community conducting research? We want to know. Get the recognition and support you deserve. Contact us at 604.323.5249 or [scholarlyactivity@langara.bc.ca](mailto:scholarlyactivity@langara.bc.ca).

## A Langara First for Research.

### KELLY SVEINSON AND RYAN CAWSEY WIN FUNDING FOR APPLIED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Congratulations to kinesiology instructor Ryan Cawsey and chemistry instructor Kelly Sveinson, who have successfully secured funding for their applied research projects.

Ryan secured a \$3000 grant from the British Columbia Applied Research and Innovation Network (BCARIN) to begin a project measuring the importance of torsion adapters in lower leg prostheses. The adapters allow for the prosthetic ankle joint to twist along the longitudinal axis of the limb, affecting the comfort and walking ability of the amputee wearing the device. The project will be conducted in partnership with the Vancouver-based Barber Prosthetics Clinic, with the assistance of prosthetist David Moe.

"We hope this project will have a direct impact on the quality of life for people wearing lower leg prostheses," said Cawsey. "This research will better inform patients, prosthetists, and insurance providers in BC, and elsewhere in Canada."

The project is entitled "*Investigating the Functional and Physiological Importance of Torsion Adapters in Prosthetic Limbs for Transtibial Amputees.*"

Kelly Sveinson, whose work was highlighted in the last issue of the *Idealogue*, has also received a \$3000 grant from BCARIN for his work exploring the science of biochar production and use. Kelly uses an experimental reactor on campus at Langara to convert specific solid wastes into biochar, a form of carbon that is removed from the atmosphere that has climate change potential. Biochar has also been shown to have soil benefits, and so may be a valuable amendment for agriculture or forestry applications. His project is called "*Development of High Performance Plant Growth Media Enhanced with Biochar and Fungi.*"



Kelly Sveinson works with the on-campus reactor.



Ryan Cawsey works with a student volunteer on a project investigating postural control.

Photos by Jennifer Oehler.

## Ethical Review of Research at Langara

### AN UPDATE FROM THE RESEARCH ETHICS BOARD

By John Russell, Philosophy Instructor and Chair of the Langara College Research Ethics Board.

Research involving humans that is conducted at Langara or under its auspices will now undergo formal ethical review before it commences.

In September 2012, Langara established a Research Ethics Board to review research involving humans that is conducted by its faculty, staff, or students. The Langara College Research Ethics Board (LC-REB) has been appointed by the Office of the President to conduct these reviews. It meets bi-monthly and has reviewed and approved seven research proposals so far. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for May 31st, July 26th, September 27th, and November 29th, and deadlines for applications are two weeks prior to the meetings. Forms and other information about ethics review at Langara are available at [www.langara.bc.ca/about-langara/research-ethics-board](http://www.langara.bc.ca/about-langara/research-ethics-board).

A separate process is currently being developed for "course-based research" involving humans, which is not reviewed by the LC-REB. This review will be limited to research involving humans that is conducted solely for pedagogical purposes. Instructors who wish either to require or allow their students to conduct research involving humans as part of their coursework will soon submit their course proposals for ethical review to a course-based ethics review panel. A pilot process for review and approval of course-based research should be in place later this year. More information about course-based research review will be available shortly on the Langara website.

Langara faculty and staff can also expect to have research ethics education programs become a part of professional development activities. As part of the College's professional development program, Professor Emeritus

Will Van Den Hoonaard from the University of New Brunswick gave a talk on April 24th about the challenges that REBs face with regards to research review. Professor Van Den Hoonaard is much in demand internationally as a speaker and has conducted extensive research on the how the institutional operation of REBs can interfere with social science research and academic freedom. Professor Van Den Hoonard was invited to Langara in part to provide advice for how newly established REBs can avoid these pitfalls. Suzanne Kennedy (lawyer, Davis and Co.) gave a talk on research and confidentiality and privacy law. John Russell also gave a talk describing the processes for research ethics review at Langara. His presentation "Does My Research Require Ethics Review?" is available on the LC-REB website.

If you have any questions about ethical review of research at Langara, please contact John Russell, Chair, Langara College Research Ethics Board at [jrussell@langara.bc.ca](mailto:jrussell@langara.bc.ca) or 604-323-5453.

## In the Spotlight - Dr. Jessica Kalra

Health Sciences and Biology instructor Dr. Jessica Kalra has an established scholarly activity record in the area of targeted treatments for breast cancer. She collaborates with the Department of Experimental Therapeutics at the BC Cancer Research Centre.

Dr. Kalra has been awarded an Education Leave for 2013/14 to further pursue her research in the biotechnology sector, as well as computational approaches to biology. During her leave she will be associated with Stanford University, and will be working on the development of a textbook.

**Idealogue:** What is the inspiration for your scholarly activity?

**JK:** I get to interact with a diverse group of people regularly, such as students and faculty from other departments. As a result I'm able to see research questions through the fresh eyes of other biology enthusiasts, budding scientists, and non-scientists alike so new and innovative ideas are in constant supply. I find inspiration from the people I work with and the information that I am continuously gathering for my courses. As a teacher/instructor I feel like I have a license to be a life-long learner, and this puts me in a great position to act on simple curiosities, whether they are through research or through further education.

**Idealogue:** What do you hope to get out this work?

**JK:** I am hoping to gain a better understanding of genomics and proteomics to facilitate the research I do, and to develop a more applied perspective for the purposes of teaching genetics in today's rapidly changing science landscape. Because I will be focusing on systematic biology and bioinformatics in this upcoming year, I hope I will be able to serve as a bridge between Langara's departments of computer science and biology. Through these efforts I hope to lend support to one of Langara's newest programs – bioinformatics.

**Idealogue:** What kind opportunities are there for students to get involved in your area of research?

**JK:** I recently read an article by Thomas Friedman in the *New York Times*, the author states: "increasingly the world does not care what you know... the world only cares about what you can do with what you know." This statement very simply sums up where I see myself going as an instructor and facilitator – I hope to use my research as an avenue to advocate scientific literacy and applied studies so that my students are able to develop practical skills, using what they learned at Langara to build a strong career in their own futures. At this time, I have only scratched the surface of how I might be able to pursue this objective using my current work. For example, I use the data generated by my research projects to build case studies for my pathophysiology students. I also have two-second year students acting as volunteer research assistants, which is helping them develop skills in data collection that will be necessary for them to pursue graduate work in the future.

As my own work advances, I can see these opportunities expanding. With more funding in the area of applied research, and partnerships with places such as the BC Cancer Research Center, I will be able to cultivate meaningful projects for my students and in this way support those interested in pursuing scientific research, giving them a chance to experience the world of practical science early in their careers.



Dr. Jessica Kalra. Photo by Shamit Sthankiya.

### More about Jessica:

- Ph.D. in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (BC Cancer Research Centre/UBC)
- M.Sc. in Anatomy and Cell Biology (University of Western Ontario)
- B.Sc. in Biology (University of Waterloo)
- Past Associations: Canadian Cancer Society, Nelson Mandela Children's Fund

### THE NSERC ARTI GRANTS ARE BACK!

ARTI stands for Applied Research Tools and Instruments, and if you need equipment – regardless of what your research interest is – you should consider applying for an ARTI grant. The funding can be used across all subject areas, from humanities and social sciences to engineering, and all applications must be submitted to NSERC. The deadline for application is December 10, 2013. Contact Margaret Heldman at [mheldman@langara.bc.ca](mailto:mheldman@langara.bc.ca) for more information.



## YOUR SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY STEERING COMMITTEE

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Janet Douglas    | Faculty, Social Service Worker                             |
| Vivian Feng      | Librarian, Coordinator, Reference & Instructional Services |
| Margaret Heldman | Dean, Faculty of Science                                   |
| Ian Humphreys    | Vice-President, Enrolment and Business Development         |
| Ian McBain       | Dean, Faculty of Social Science & Management               |
| Brad O'Hara      | Vice-President, Academic & Provost                         |
| Indira Prahst    | Dept. Chair, Sociology                                     |
| John Russell     | Chair, Langara College Research Ethics Board               |
| Kelly Sveinson   | Faculty, Chemistry   |
| Tomo Tanaka      | Division Chair, Creative Arts                              |
| John Falcus      | Faculty, Langara School of Management                      |
| June Parnell     | Faculty, School of Nursing                                 |
| Lynn Kitchen     | Manager, Custom Training                                   |

### Contact Us

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For more information, visit the Scholarly Activity site at [www.langara.bc.ca/about/scholarly-activities.html](http://www.langara.bc.ca/about/scholarly-activities.html)

## Call for Proposals for the Eleventh Competition of the Innovation Enhancement Program

Deadline for submission: 3 September, 2013

Langara joined the ranks of Canadian colleges now eligible for Tri-Council (NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR) funding in support of applied research. NSERC eligibility allows Langara to apply for significant project funding from the Innovation Enhancement (IE) Grants of the College and Community Innovation (CCI) Program. The deadline for an Application for Entry-Level Grants for the eleventh competition is 1 November, 2013. The objective of the CCI is to increase innovation at the community and/or regional level by enabling Canadian colleges to increase their capacity to work with local companies, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It supports applied research and collaborations that facilitate commercialization, as well as technology transfer, adaptation, and adoption of new technologies. Each college may only submit one proposal. To that end, the Scholarly Activity Steering Committee (SASC) is looking for concept proposals in the areas supported by NSERC's IE program. Whatever proposal Langara decides to support will be an important first step in developing an institutional profile as a college wherein scholarly activity occurs, enhances undergraduate instruction, and adds value to our community. Interested parties should submit electronic proposals (max length

500 words plus a budget consistent with IE Program requirements) by 3 September 2013 to Veronica Yeung, SASC Administrative Assistant, at [vyeung@langara.bc.ca](mailto:vyeung@langara.bc.ca). It should include:

1. project objectives;
2. an indication of work to date;
3. current or potential small-to-medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) who will act as contributing partners;
4. the educational opportunities entailed, and;
5. the possibilities for extending the project in ways that include other researchers and research students at Langara.

An SASC sub-committee will consider proposals, and proposers should be prepared to attend a 60-minute meeting with the sub-committee at which they will make a presentation and answer questions about the proposal. The proposer of the project which has the greatest potential for success while falling within the context of Langara's mandate will be asked to submit an Application for an Entry-Level Grant. Any questions regarding this initiative should be directed to Margaret Heldman, Dean, Faculty of Science, at [mheldman@langara.bc.ca](mailto:mheldman@langara.bc.ca) or local 5499.

### For Reference:

CCI Program: [www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/RPP-PP/Info-Info\\_eng.asp](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/RPP-PP/Info-Info_eng.asp)

CCI Program Innovation and Enhancement Grants: [www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/RPP-PP/CCI-ICC\\_eng.asp](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/RPP-PP/CCI-ICC_eng.asp)

## Langara Joins Launch of BC Research and Innovation Network

Langara has become a founding member of the British Columbia Applied Research and Innovation Network (BCARIN).

BCARIN's mandate is to connect member institutions – 11 colleges in BC, the Justice Institute, and Yukon College – with business and community organizations who seek to solve "real world" problems that demand skill in research and innovation. The network has appointed its first executive board, which will be co-chaired by Thor Borgford, Dean of Science and Technology at Douglas College, and Langara's Dean of Science Margaret Heldman.

"The BCARIN initiative will grow applied research capacity within the Colleges and fellow institutions," said Borgford and Heldman. "It will produce greater direct engagement of students and faculty with their communities, and promote an extensive sharing of knowledge and resources. Importantly, the network aims to enhance business productivity and improve the outcomes sought by community organizations."

For more information on BCARIN visit [www.bcarin.ca](http://www.bcarin.ca).