



UNIVERSITY OF  
**TORONTO**

Division of the Vice-President  
Research and Innovation

# **Navigating the University of Toronto's Internal Grant Landscape**

January 8, 2026  
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

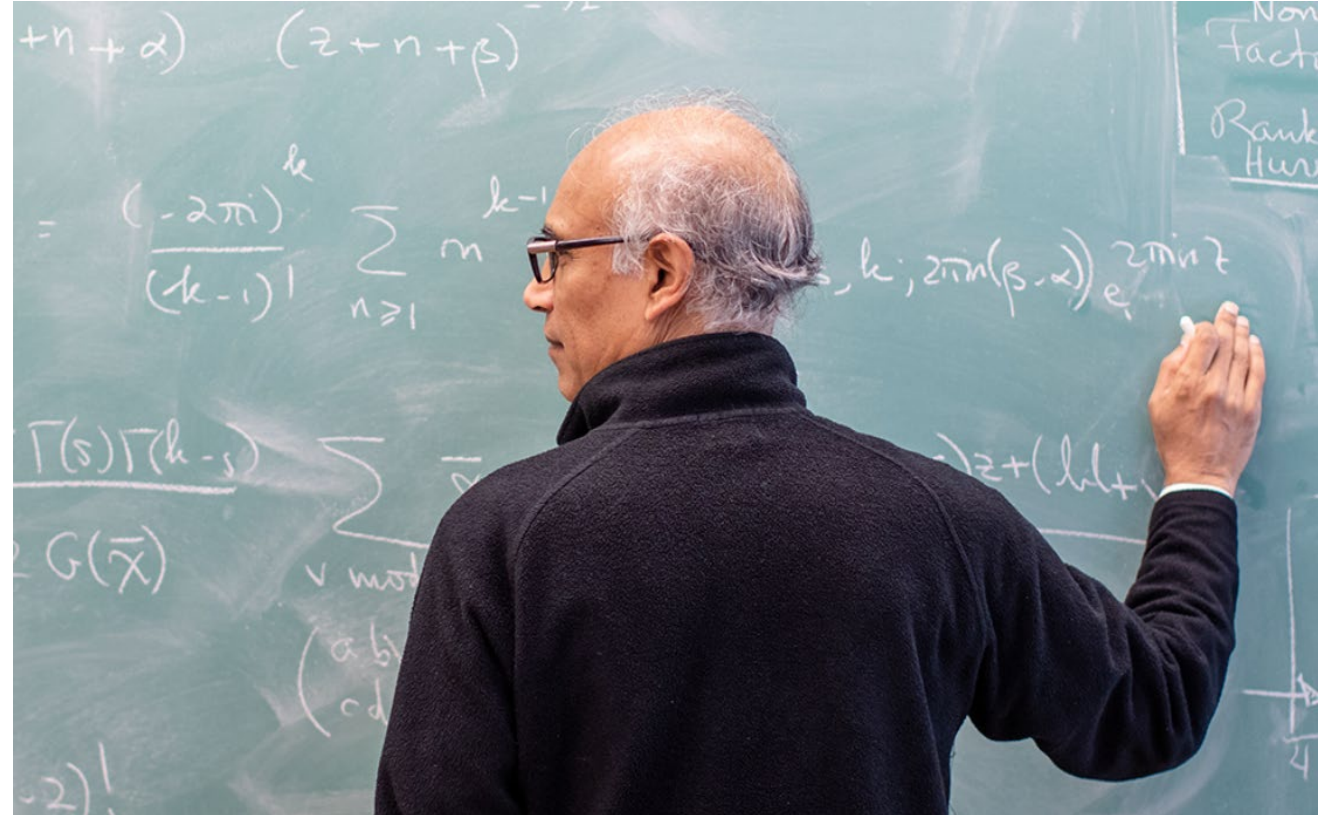
**Jeremy Knight and Michael Hussey**  
Research Services Office, VPRI





The Connaught Fund is the largest internal university research funding program in Canada. The Fund supports graduate students, early-career researchers, interdisciplinary teams, and innovators to meet the challenges facing our global society.

The Connaught Fund was founded in 1972 with the sale of the Connaught Medical Research Laboratories for \$29 million. Since then, the Fund has supported thousands of innovative research projects with social impact across the university.



# Connaught Leadership

## Connaught Committee

- Chaired by the Vice-President, Research & Innovation, and Strategic Initiatives
- Membership comprises senior academic administrators, faculty members, and other University community representatives spanning all disciplines and campuses
- Overall management, strategic direction, and stewardship of the Connaught Fund and related funds, including program design and final decision on all Review Panel funding recommendations

## Connaught Review College

### Standing review panels comprising U of T faculty members

- Humanities
- Physical Sciences & Engineering
- Social Sciences
- Life Sciences: Molecular, Cellular, and Integrative Biology
- Life Sciences: Social, Cultural, Environmental, and Population Health Research

### Competition-specific panels with external experts as required

## Connaught Secretariat

### Led by the Assistant Vice-President, Research Services, with support from RSO staff

- Administers Connaught grant competitions
- Coordinates committee & adjudication meetings
- Establishes and monitors funded award accounts

# Connaught Funding Opportunities



## People

International Doctoral Scholarship

PhDs for Public Impact  
Fellowship Program

New Researcher Award

Mid-Career Researcher Award

McLean Award



## Partnerships

Community Partnership  
Research Program

Major Research Challenge for  
Black Researchers



## Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Innovation Award

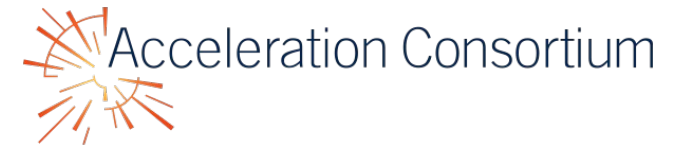
U of T Early-Stage Technology  
(UTEST)

# Other Centrally-Administered Internal Programs

- **Division of the Vice President, Research & Innovation (VPRI)**
  - [Major Research Project Mobilization \(MRPM\) Fund](#)
    - Supports pre-award costs, e.g. grant writing, for priority Tri-agency programs
  - [University of Toronto Excellence Award \(UTEA\)](#)
    - Summer undergraduate research awards, coordinated at the Divisional level
  - [Derrick Rossi Innovation Awards](#)
    - Proof-of-concept projects with innovation/commercialization aims
- **Office of the Vice-President, International (VPI)**
  - Range of funding programs, to drive international collaboration:
    - <https://international.utoronto.ca/resources-and-opportunities/for-faculty/>

# Institutional Strategic Initiatives (ISIs)

- High-impact, interdisciplinary research networks designed to tackle grand challenges and complex societal issues that require collaboration across multiple academic disciplines.
- Many ISIs have their own internal funding programs. Eligibility to apply to these opportunities will vary, and you are encouraged to connect with the ISIs to learn more.



# ISIs – Example Funding Programs

- **Acceleration Consortium (AC):** <https://acceleration.utoronto.ca/programs>
  - Includes grants dedicated to the social sciences & humanities, and to EDI initiatives
- **Data Sciences Institute (DSI):** <https://datasciences.utoronto.ca/>; see Funding & Support
- **Emerging & Pandemic Infections Consortium (EPIC):** <https://epic.utoronto.ca/opportunities/>
- **Inlight:** <https://smhr.utoronto.ca/opportunities/>
- **TRANSFORM HF:** <https://transformhf.ca/opportunities/>
- **Tanenbaum Institute for Science In Sport (TISS):** <https://tiss.ca/for-researchers/research-accelerator-fund/>

# U of T Faculties and Departments

Many divisions within the University have their own internal funding programs. Typically, these programs are only available to researchers appointed to that respective division. Examples include:

- **Faculty of Arts & Science:** <https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/faculty-staff/research-supports-services/find-funding#internalfunding>
- **Temerty Faculty of Medicine:** <https://rhse.temertymedicine.utoronto.ca/funding-opportunities>
- **U of T Scarborough:** <https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/research/internal-funding-programs>
- **U of T Mississauga:** <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/research-innovation/funding-awards/faculty/internal-funding-faculty>

# Key Features of Internal Funding Programs

- Many internal programs focus on building new or developing existing collaborations, both within U of T and with external partners. Think about who your partners and collaborators are, and whom you'd like to work with in the future.
- Interdisciplinary research is another hallmark of internal funding programs. Bring diverse disciplines together, break down “institutional silos”.
- A primary objective of most U of T internal funding programs, e.g. seed grants, bridge grants, incentive grants: to better position the awardee to secure external research funding (e.g. Tri-agency) as a result. When applying, be specific about what external funding opportunity(ies) you will apply to in the future, and how this internal award will help you with that external proposal.

# Major Research Challenge for Black Researchers



- **Purpose:** To support U of T's Black researchers in addressing and developing solutions to major research challenges. To seed new research collaborations that will advance the initiative and enhance competitiveness for subsequent external funding opportunities.
- **Eligibility:** Projects must be led by a Black researcher at the U of T, with a team consisting of faculty representing a minimum of two SGS divisions incl. junior and senior faculty member
- **Value:** Up to \$250,000. Applicants may request \$50K, \$100K, or \$250K, depending on scale of the initiative
- **2026 Submission timeline:** NOI – February 9<sup>th</sup>  
Full application – April 15<sup>th</sup>



## Inaugural Awardee – 2022:

Prof. Notisha Massaquoi from the Department of Health & Society at U of T Scarborough

# Connaught Major Research Challenge Award Recipients

## 2024-25

**Rachel Goffe – Human Geography**

*Re-envisioning the Terraqueous Caribbean*

**Beverly Essue – Institute of Health Policy,  
Management and Evaluation**

*Leveraging Global Cancer Insights to Strengthen  
Financial Protection Research:  
A Community of Practice Approach*

**Myrte de Alfred – Mechanical and Industrial  
Engineering**

*Proposing a sociotechnical model for investigating  
systems equity*

## 2023-24

**Janelle Joseph – Kinesiology and Physical  
Education**

*Mobilizing Black and Global South Women's Leadership*

## 2022-23

**Notisha Massaquoi – Health and Society**

*Reimagining Black Health in Canada: critical  
interdisciplinary engagement in societal and  
infrastructural factors in Black Canadian health  
outcomes to support domain knowledge toward the  
reduction and elimination of Black health disparities*

# Thank you!



For Connaught inquiries, please visit our website <https://connaught.research.utoronto.ca/>  
Or contact us at any time at [connaught.secretariat@utoronto.ca](mailto:connaught.secretariat@utoronto.ca)