

Office of the Vice-Principal Research & Innovation's  
Annual Report (April 2022-March 2023):

# **Transforming UTSC**

# Meet THE OVPRI TEAM!

## SENIOR LEADERSHIP



Irena Creed  
VPRI



Grace Skogstad  
Interim AVPRI-SIP



Ken Welch  
Interim AVPRI-RFI



Shaun Young  
DIRECTOR

## ADMINISTRATION



Suhail Asrar  
MANAGER OF OPERATIONS  
& PROJECT MANAGEMENT



TBD  
EA to the VPRI



Kristine Peruzzi  
ASSISTANT TO VPRI



Carmen Siu  
RESEARCH OPERATIONS &  
FINANCIAL OFFICER

## GRANT DEVELOPMENT



Sharon George  
MANAGER, RESEARCH  
SERVICES & PARTNERSHIPS



Jovana Drinjakovic  
RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION  
OFFICERS



Anika Mifsud  
RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION  
OFFICERS



TBD  
EDITORIAL & PROPOSAL  
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

## RESEARCH ACCELERATION



TBD  
MANAGER, RESEARCH  
ACCELERATION



Fay Dai  
STRATEGIC RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT  
OFFICERS



Cintia Cristia



Jason Darby

RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP & BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS



Brice Rousseau

## AWARDS & COMMUNICATION



TBD  
RESEARCH AWARDS &  
HONOURS OFFICER



Joshua Van Ry  
RESEARCH SERVICES  
OFFICER

## VIVARIUM



Michelle Wodzak  
DIRECTOR

## THE HUB



Donovan Dill  
OPERATIONS LEAD



Jenefer Savoeung  
HUB PROGRAM COORDINATOR

**UTSC's vision is to constructively disrupt the status quo, connect the world, and advance transformative change for the good of all.**

**UTSC is transforming the campus to improve the health of people and the planet by integrating the UN SDGs into the DNA of our campus.**



## Five design aspirations are guiding this transformation.

- 1. Leverage our place**
- 2. Model the way**
- 3. Capitalize on strengths**
- 4. Empower action**
- 5. Catalyze Social Change**

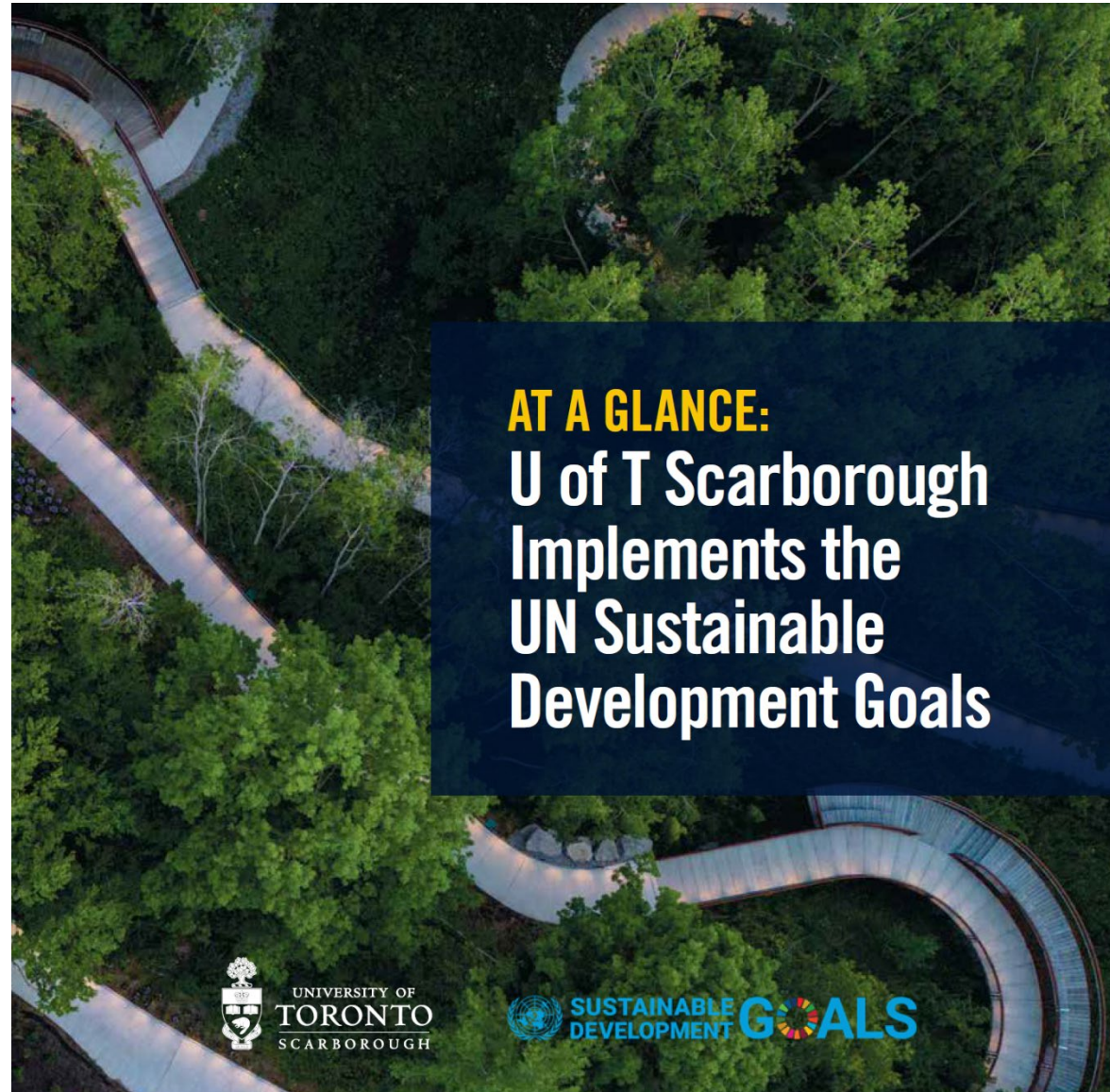


**We are a global leader in sustainability!**

**U of T ranked 2nd in the world in first-ever QS sustainability ranking!**



We recently celebrated our successes in sustainability at UTSC.



**AT A GLANCE:**  
**U of T Scarborough  
Implements the  
UN Sustainable  
Development Goals**





**We are enabling additional progress.**

**One way is to help achieve the  
transformation is via the  
“institutes for Resilient and Inclusive  
Societies and Ecosystems.”**

**iRISE**

# We engaged in a number of conversations with the UTSC community about iRISE and its inaugural institutes.

iRISE

Institute for Environment, Conservation, & Sustainability



**Imre Szeman,**  
Director,  
Professor, Human  
Geography

Institute for Inclusive Health & Well-Being



**Charles Trick**  
Interim Director,  
Professor, Health  
and Society



**Allison Crawford**  
Incoming Director,  
Associate Professor,  
Health and Society

Institute for Inclusive Economies & Sustainable Livelihoods



**Caroline Hossein**  
Interim Director,  
Associate  
Professor, Global  
Development  
Studies



**Sergio Montero Munoz**  
Incoming Director  
Associate Professor,  
Human Geography

We estimate **829** members of the UTSC campus community and the broader U of T community were consulted



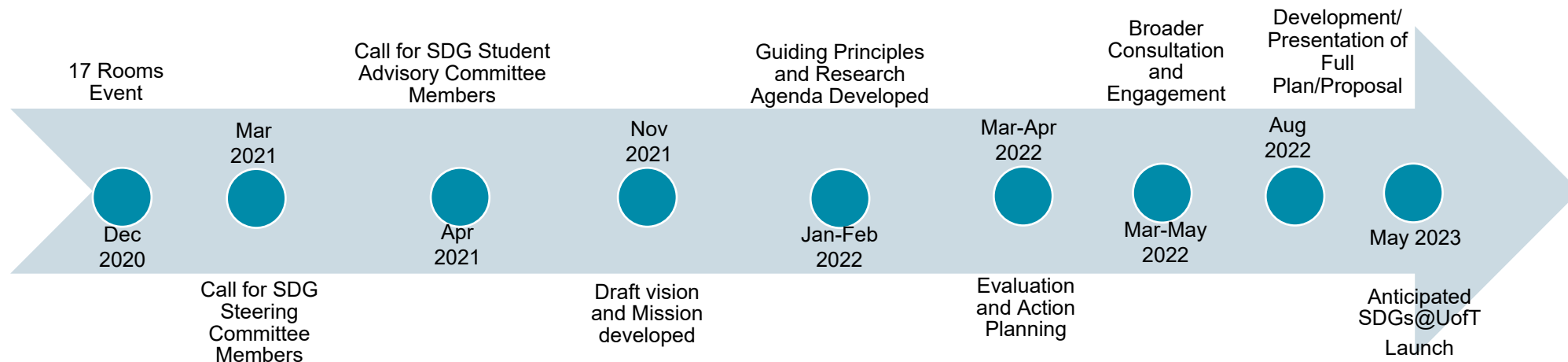
# We also continued conversations on a proposal for an institutional strategic initiative (ISI) on the SDGs

## SDGs @ U of T

Academic Lead: Erica Di Ruggiero



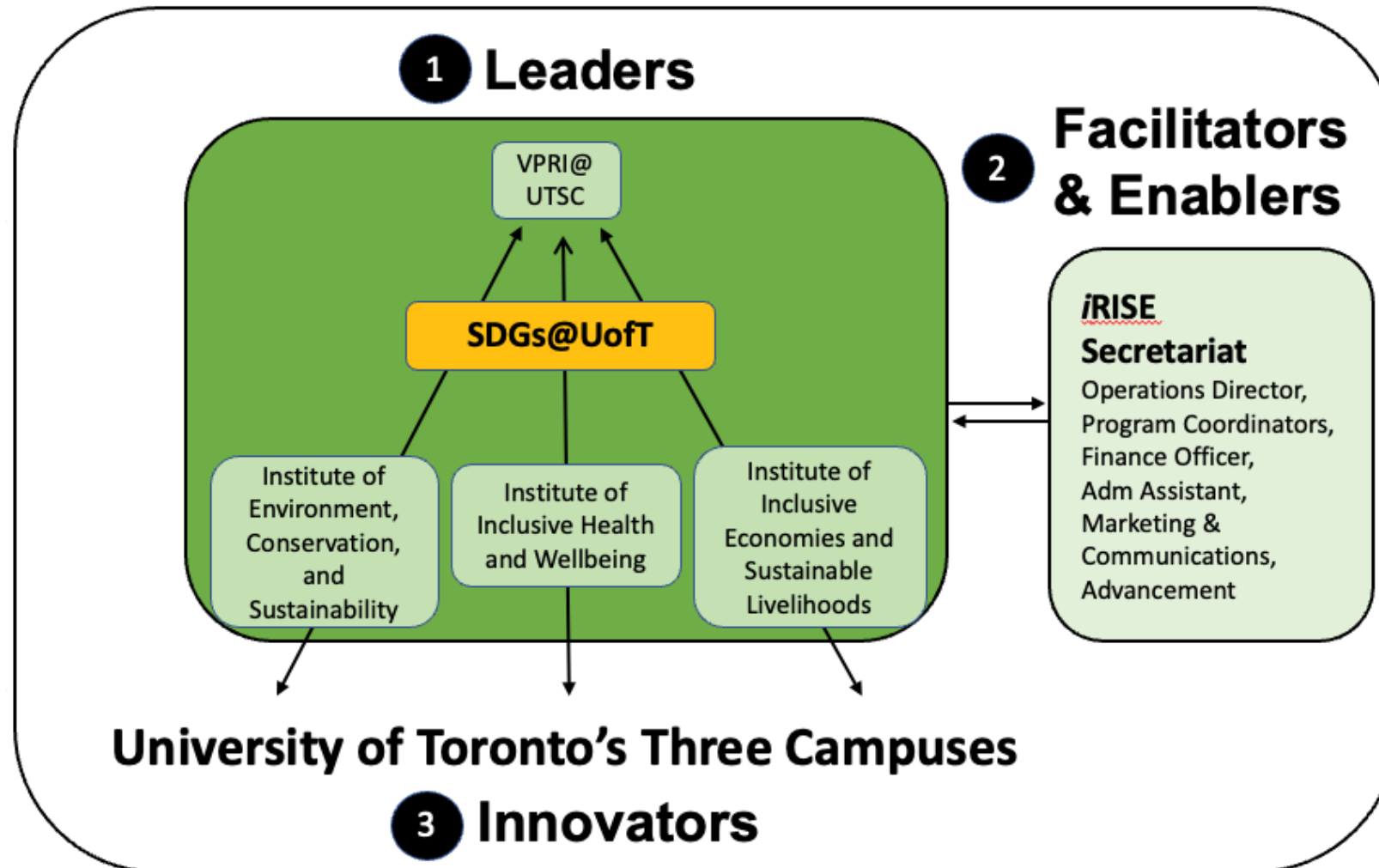
Associate Professor,  
Dalla Lana School of Public Health,  
Health and Society



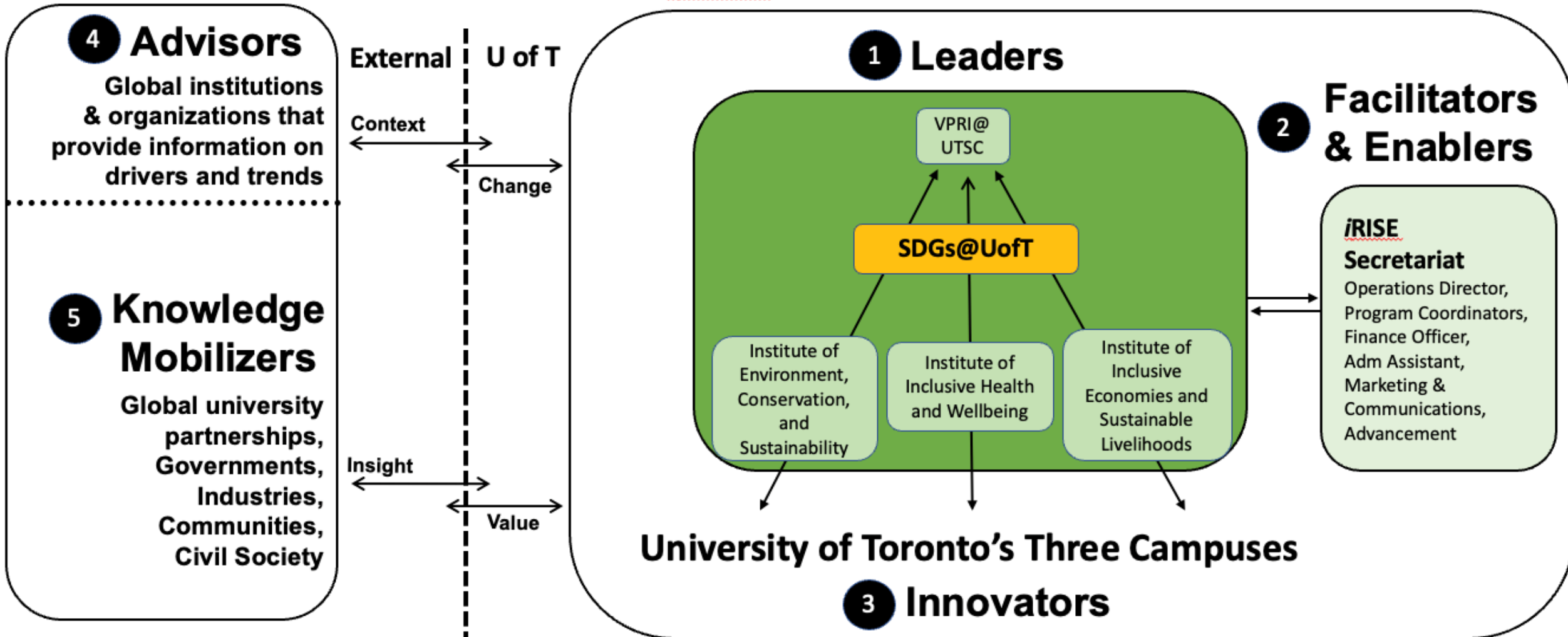
We will be seeking approval for this ISI at the Central Leadership Table on **May 4, 2023**

# The SDGs@UofT will be part of iRISE

**iRISE**



# The SDGs@UofT will be part of iRISE



**We are working hard to further transform UTSC.**

**Proposed  
Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Sustainability Transitions**

Dr. Patricia Romero-Lankao



**Proposed Research Program:**

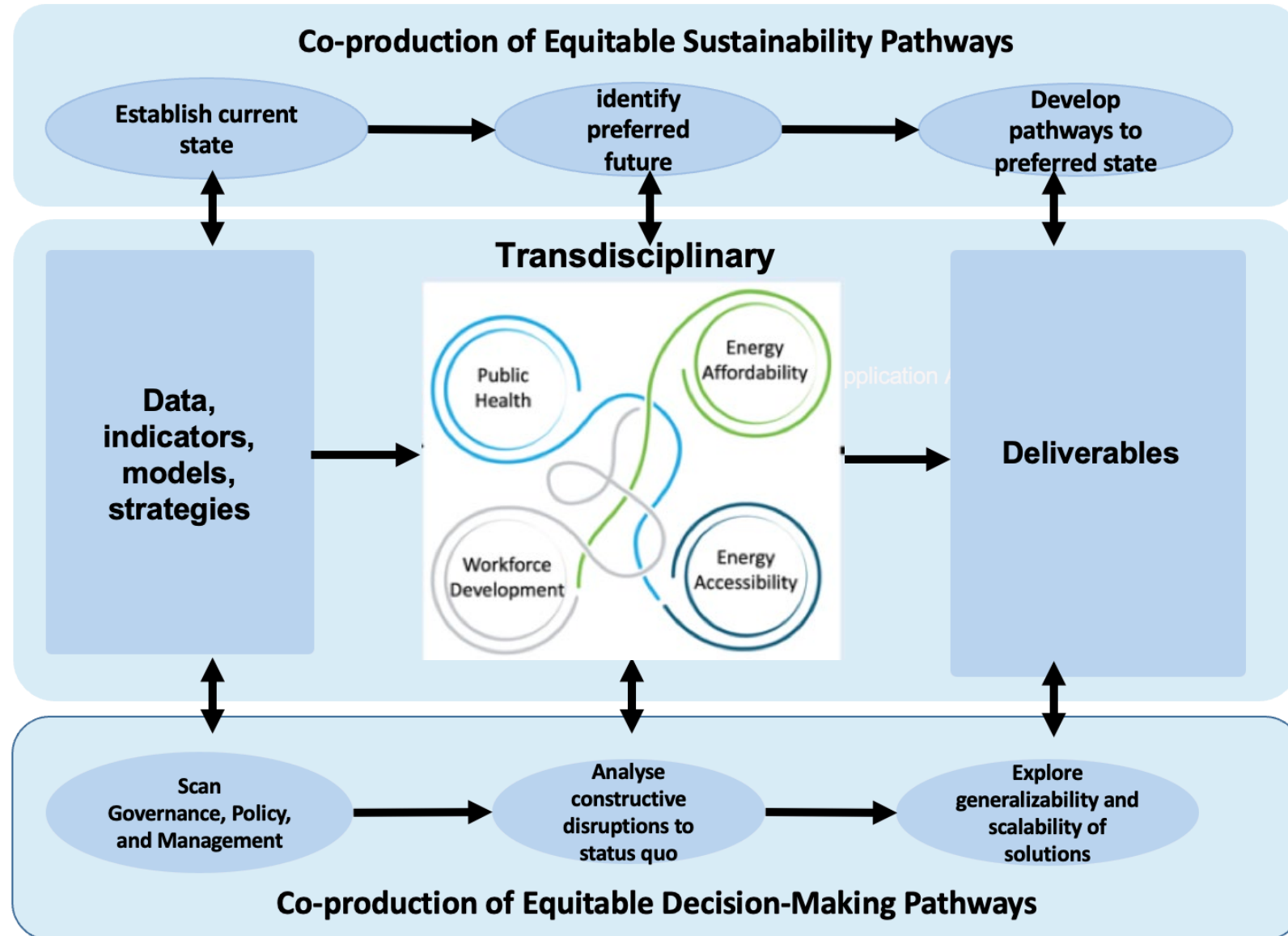
**JUSTICE: Just Urban Sustainability Transitions Centred in Equity**

**Paty is joining UTSC as of July 1, 2023, as a Professor in the Department of Sociology**



# We are working hard to further transform UTSC.

## Community



# We've invested in new clusters of scholarly prominence.

2022



## *Water Pathways*

### **Cluster Leads:**

Mathew Wells (Physical & Environmental Sciences)  
& Cosima Porteus (Biological Sciences)

**Funding:** \$600,000



## *Flourish: The Arts and Social Wellness Cluster*

### **Cluster Lead:**

Andrea Charise  
(Health & Society)  
**Funding:** \$528,440



## *The Clinical Research and Evaluation Cluster*

### **Cluster Leads:**

Michael Best (Psychology) & Zindel Segal (Psychology)  
**Funding:** \$600,000



## *Suburban Mobilities Cluster*

### **Cluster Lead:**

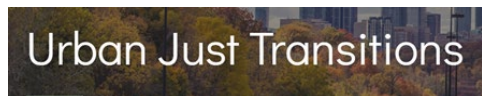
Steven Farber  
(Human Geography)  
**Funding:** \$600,000



## *The Centre for Environmental Research in the Anthropocene*

### **Cluster Leads:**

Marc Cadotte (Biological Sciences) & Myrna Simpson (Physical & Environmental Sciences)  
**Funding:** \$580,000



## *Urban Just Transitions from Scarborough to the Globe*

### **Cluster Leads:**

Matthew Hoffmann (Political Science) & Laura Tozer (Physical & Environmental Sciences)  
**Funding:** \$590,040

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES TOWARD FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Sustainable Farming and Food Futures Cluster

## *Sustainable Food and Farming Futures Cluster*

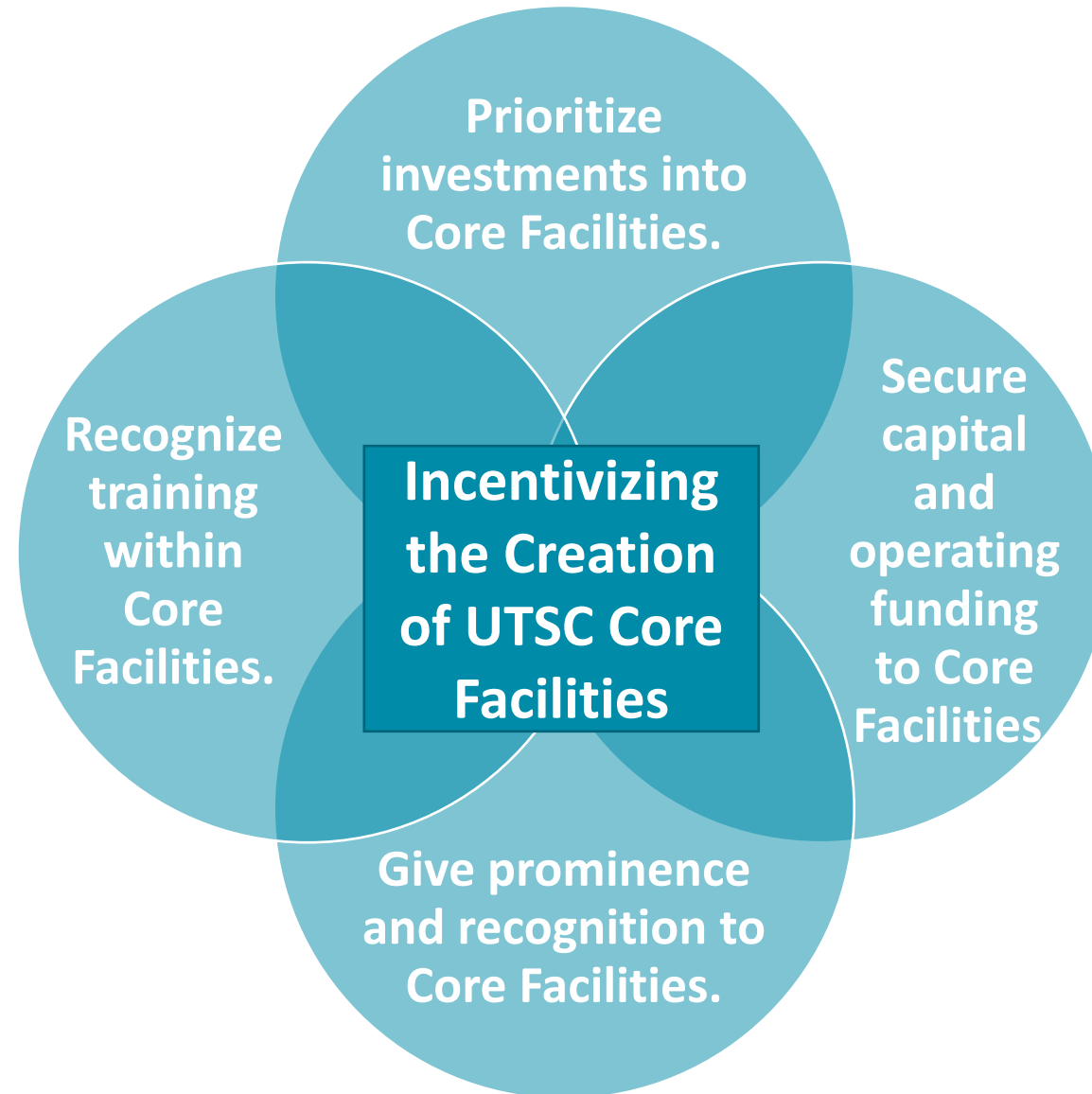
### **Cluster Leads:**

Jayeeta Sharma (Historical and Cultural Studies) & Marney Isaac (Physical & Environmental Sciences, Global Development Studies)  
**Funding:** \$1,200,000

# We continue to support our faculty and research community.

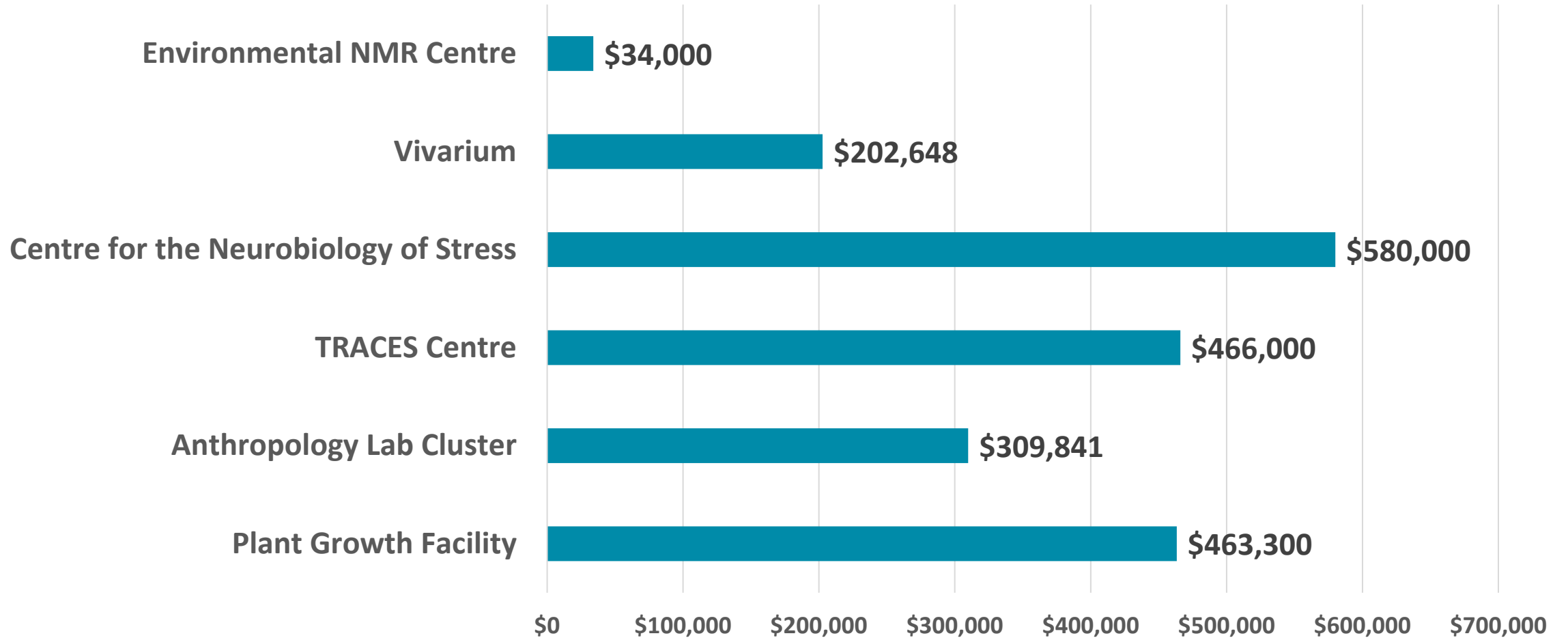


# We are also supporting the creation of new UTSC Core Facilities

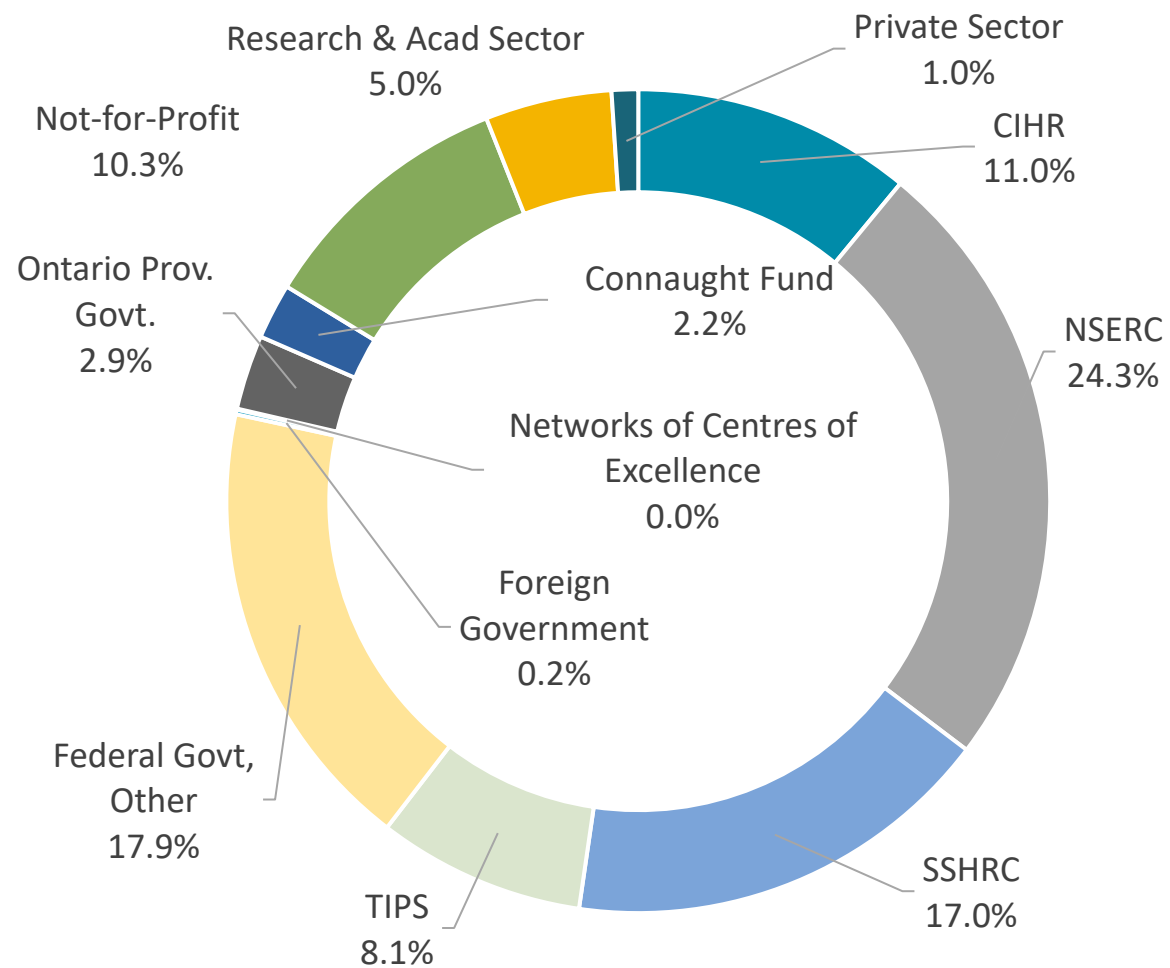
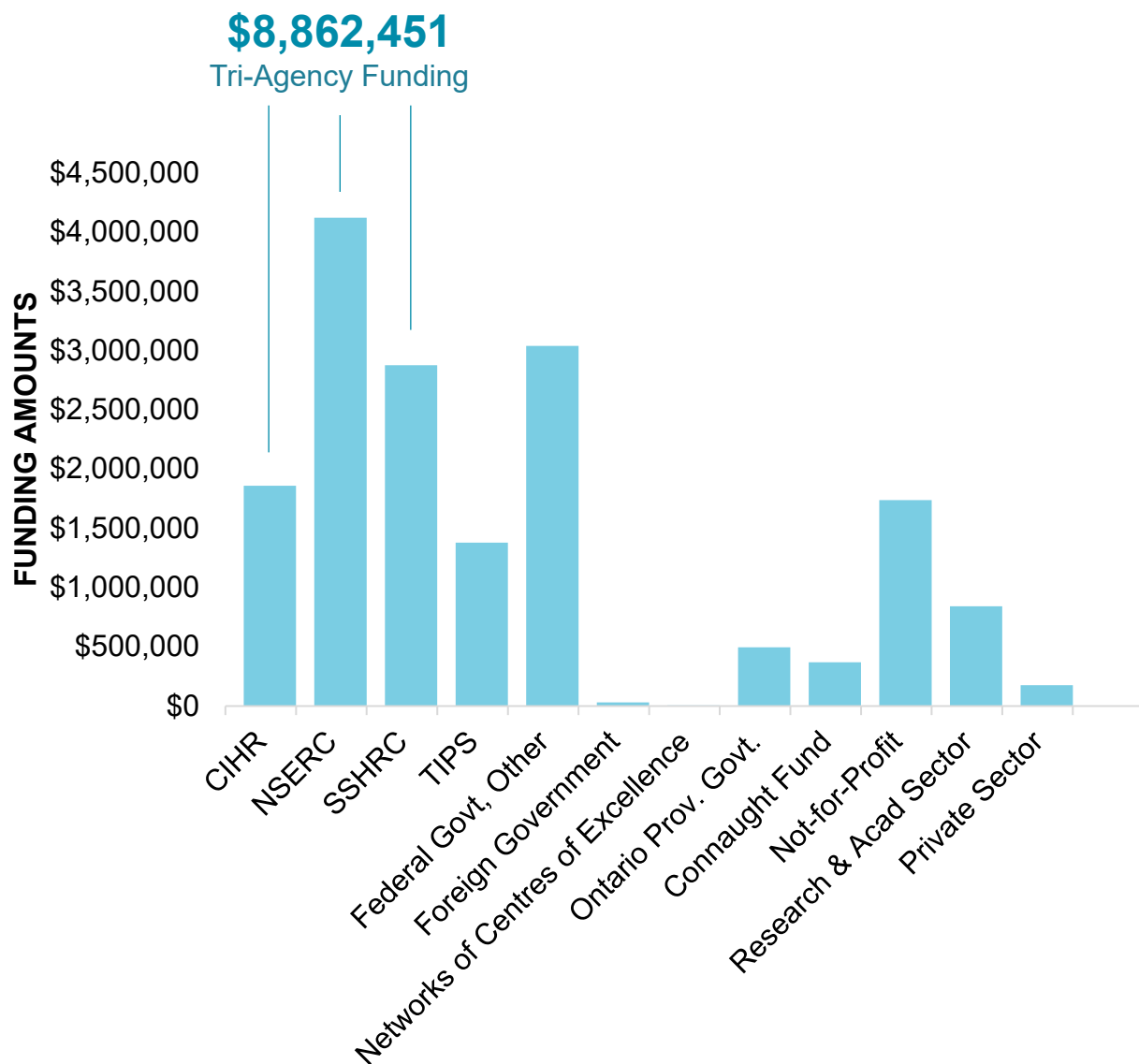




# We invested over \$2M in UTSC Core Facilities to ensure our researchers had the needed infrastructure, tools, and techniques.

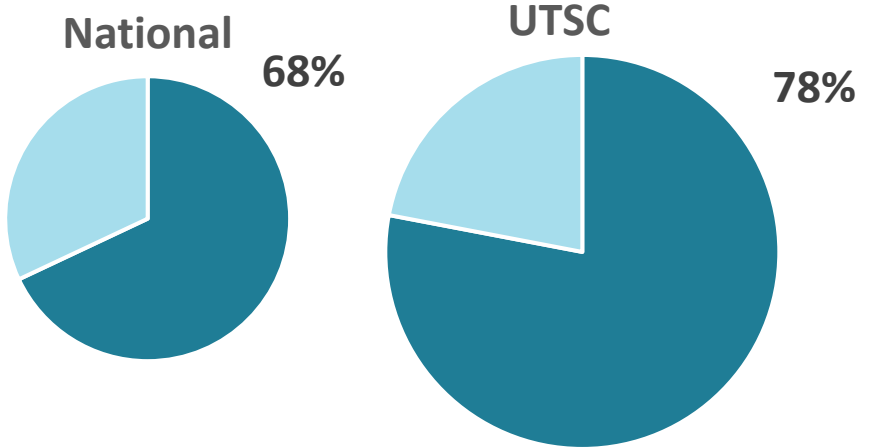


# UTSC 2022-23 total annual research funding was \$16.9 million\*, with ≈52% of it coming from Tri-Agency sources.

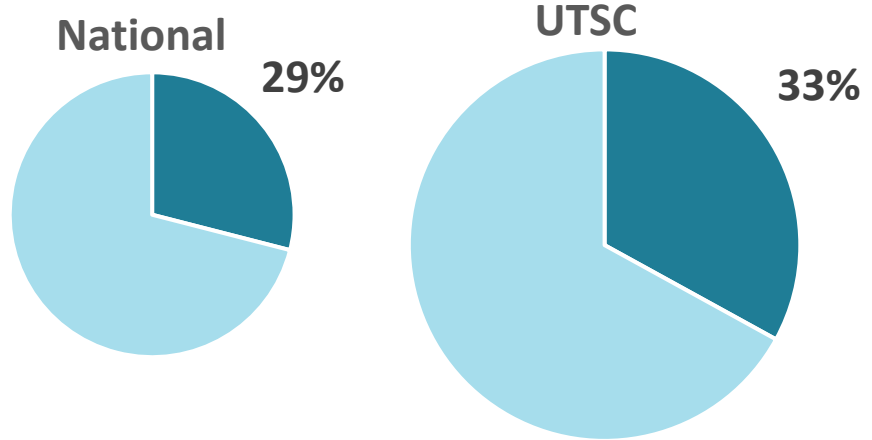


Note: 2022-23's final figures are pending upcoming competition results.  
Data source: VPRI Dashboards, April 2023

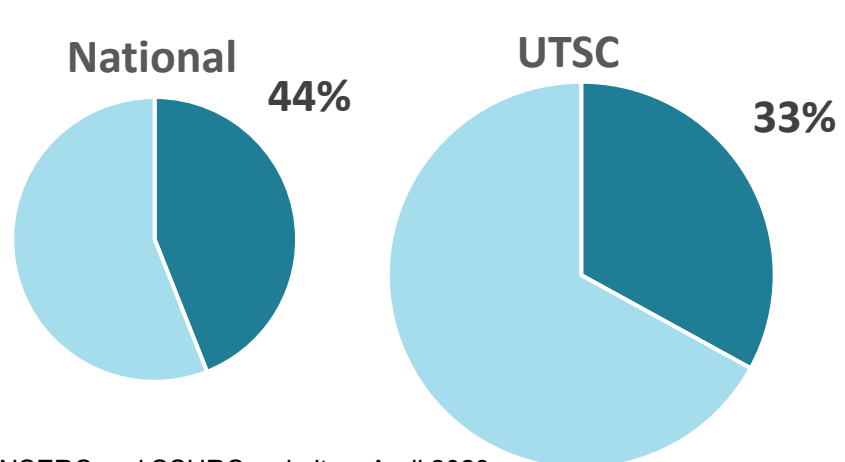
**NSERC Discovery Grant**



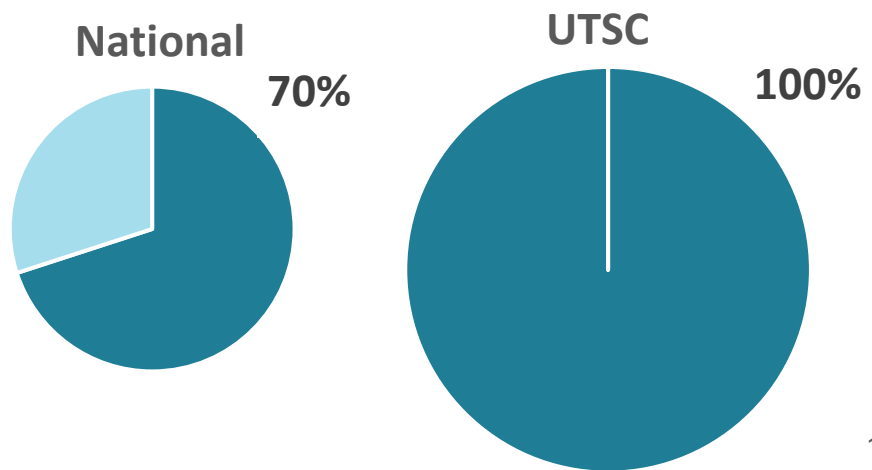
**NSERC RTI Grant**



**SSHRC Insight Grant**

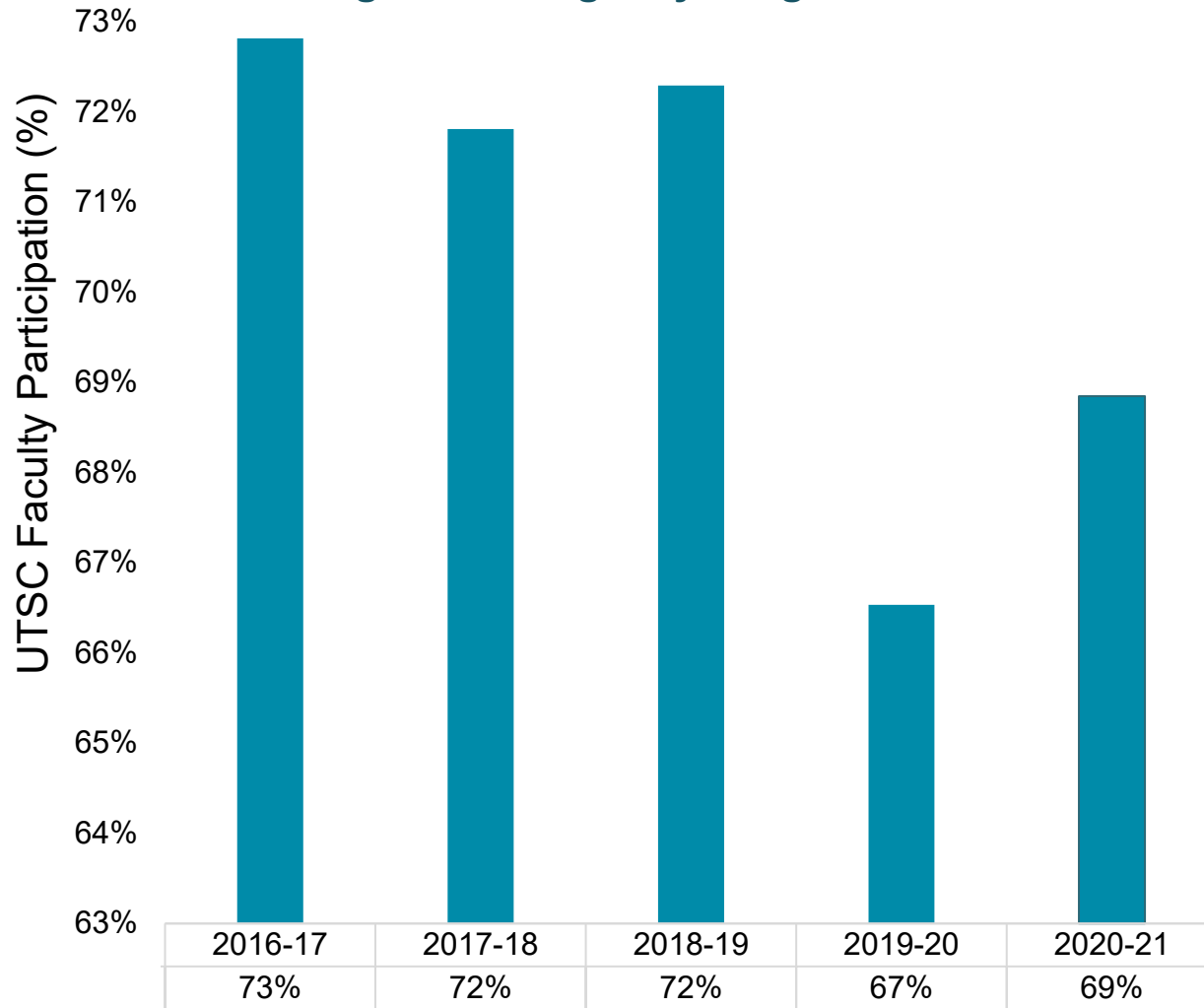


**SSHRC Connection Grant**



# We are pursuing areas where we can reach new heights.

## UTSC Faculty Member Participation in CRC-Eligible\* Tri-Agency Programs



**GOAL:**  
Increase Participation in  
CRC-Eligible Tri-Agency Programs



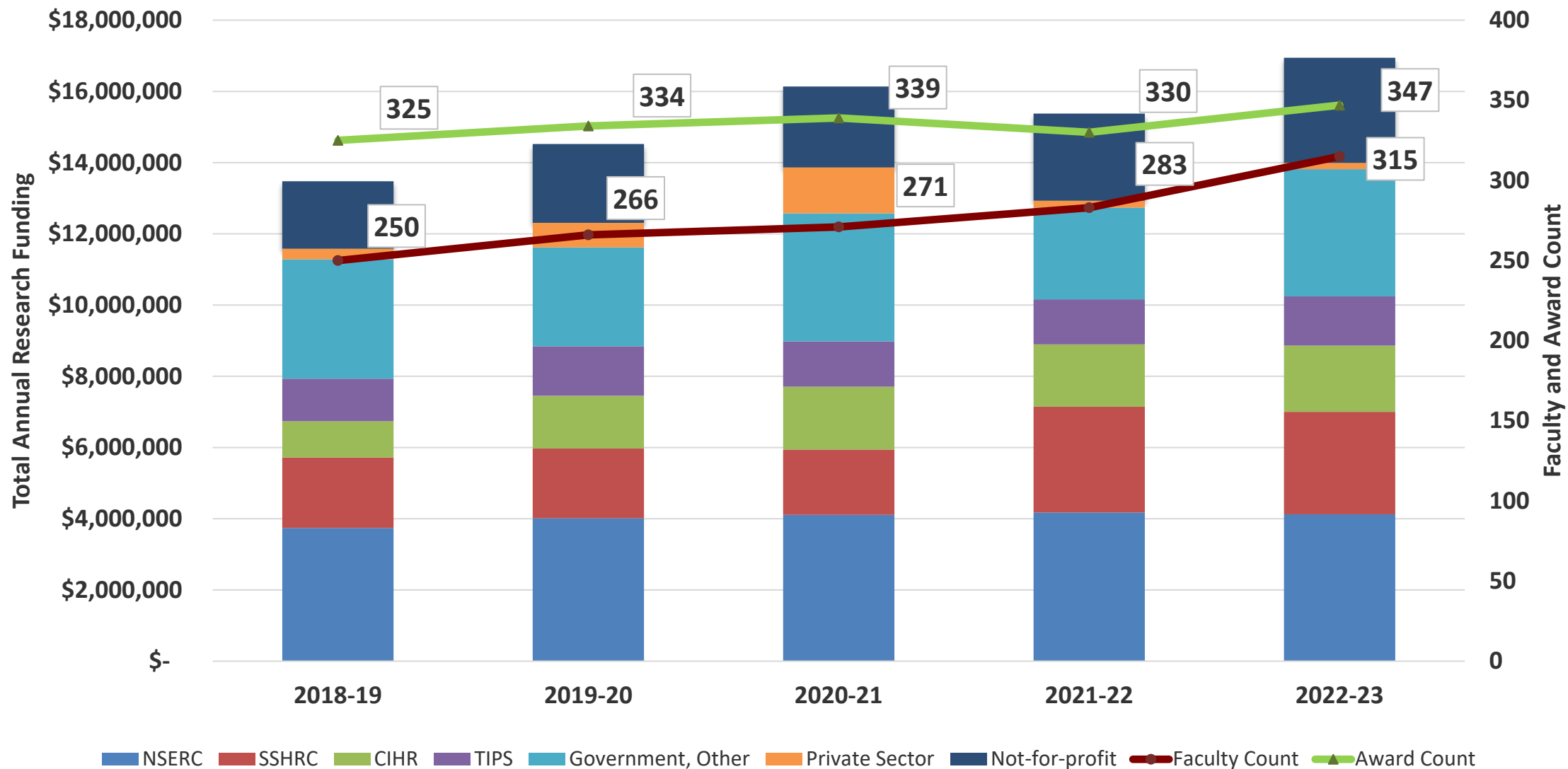
Note: Faculty Participation data is currently only available until 2020-21.

\*CRC-ineligible Tri-Agency Programs: [https://www.chairs-chaires.gc.ca/program-programme/research\\_funding-financement\\_recherche-eng.aspx#exclusions](https://www.chairs-chaires.gc.ca/program-programme/research_funding-financement_recherche-eng.aspx#exclusions)

Data source: VPRI Dashboards, March 2023



# With these supports, UTSC faculty's research productivity continues to increase.

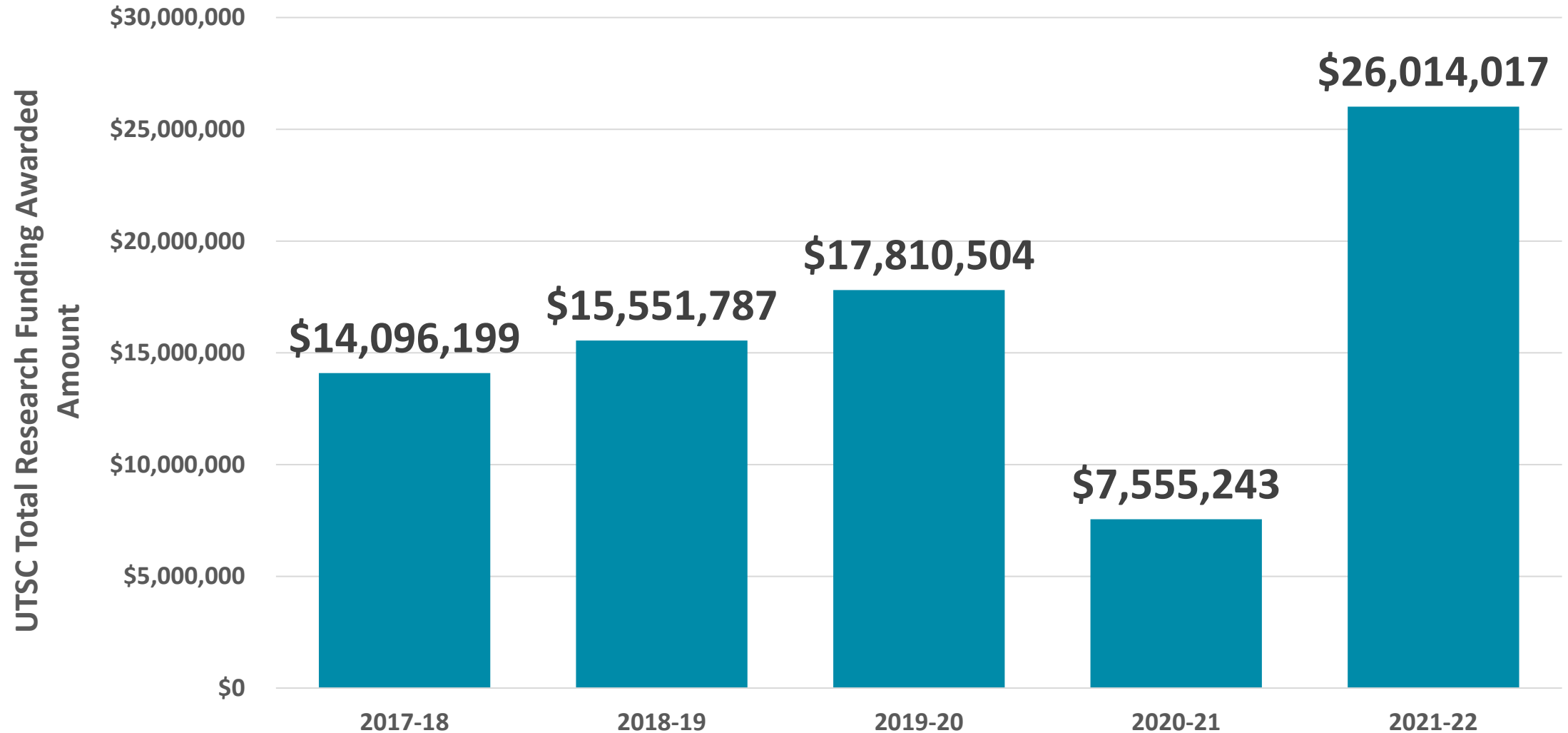


\* : 2022-23's final figures are pending upcoming competition results

Data source: VPRI Dashboards, April 2023.

Our 315 research faculty were awarded 347 grants.

# Total \$ of newly awarded grants variable, but on the rise.



Note: Total Awarded Amount data is currently only available until 2021-22.

Data source: VPRI Dashboards, April 2023.

Plus 0.5 M awarded plus 15.8M pending for learner experiential and entrepreneurial learning opportunities.

# We continue to support our innovators through the campus accelerator, The Hub.



Combined revenues and investment of Hub Start-ups

**\$3.05 M**

Total Companies in Residence

**87**

Companies graduated **30** New companies **53**

Total percentage of companies with women founders

**36%**

Total percentage of founders identifying as people of colour

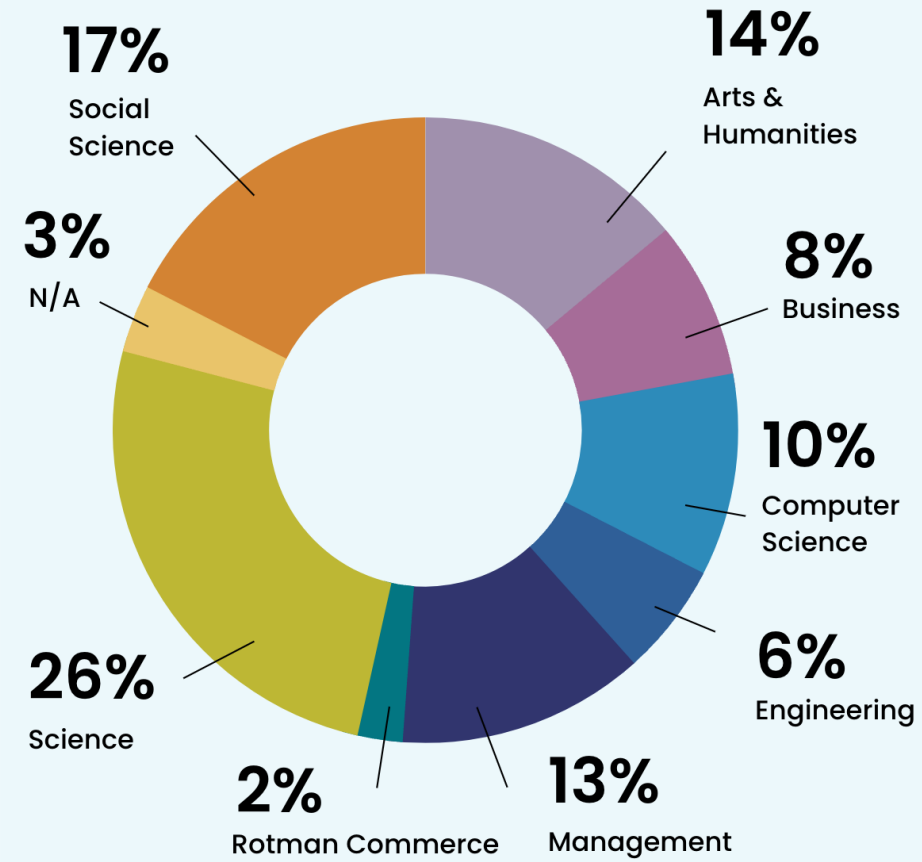
**81%**

Total participants in Hub events in 2022-23 **993**

Total events **48**

## The Hub End of Year Report, 2022 - 2023

Founders in The Hub by discipline, 2022-2023



# The Hub continues to stimulate the growth of trailblazers in the innovative space.



## Neurokin

Maria Khandaker (top) and Shupa Rahman, co-founders of Neurokin

A one-stop information shop for marginalized neurodivergent people who identify as women, 2SLGBTQ+ and/or people of colour.



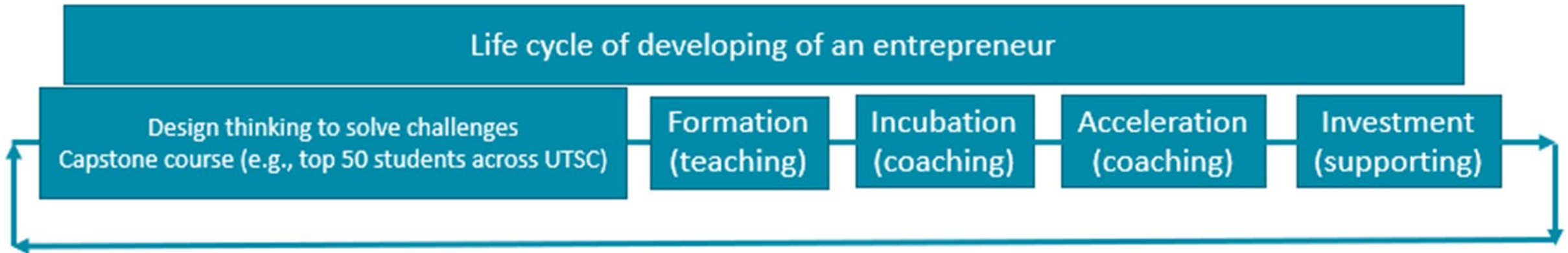
## mhapy

Chijindu Ukagwu, founder of mhapy.

The company created a chatbot named Ruby that tracks users' mental health symptoms the way nurses do

And we are working to further enhance our innovation ecosystem.

A key element of these efforts is a proposal for a new  
Centre of Inclusive Excellence in  
Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Leadership (CIEIEL)





We and our partners are invested in the future of work....



**SWITCH: EaRTH flips the switch for cleaner automotive technologies and mobility solutions**

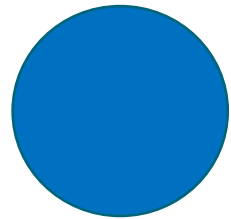
Promoting careers in the automotive and mobility sector to high-school and postsecondary students





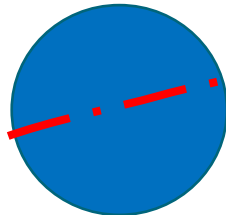
... and are supporting the development of the next generation of workers.

**EaRTH SWITCH:**  
**\$1.3M PROJECT SUPPORTED BY**  
**\$500,000 OVIN FUNDING**



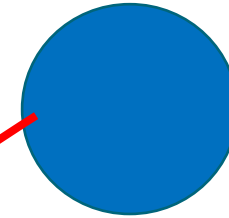
**East TORONTO**

University of Toronto,  
Centennial College  
240 Grades 10-12 students,  
200 Post-secondary students,  
22 Internships



**OSHAWA-  
PICKERING**

Ontario Tech University  
120 Grades 10-12  
100 Postsecondary  
4 Internships



**PETERBOROUGH-  
KAWARTHA LAKES**

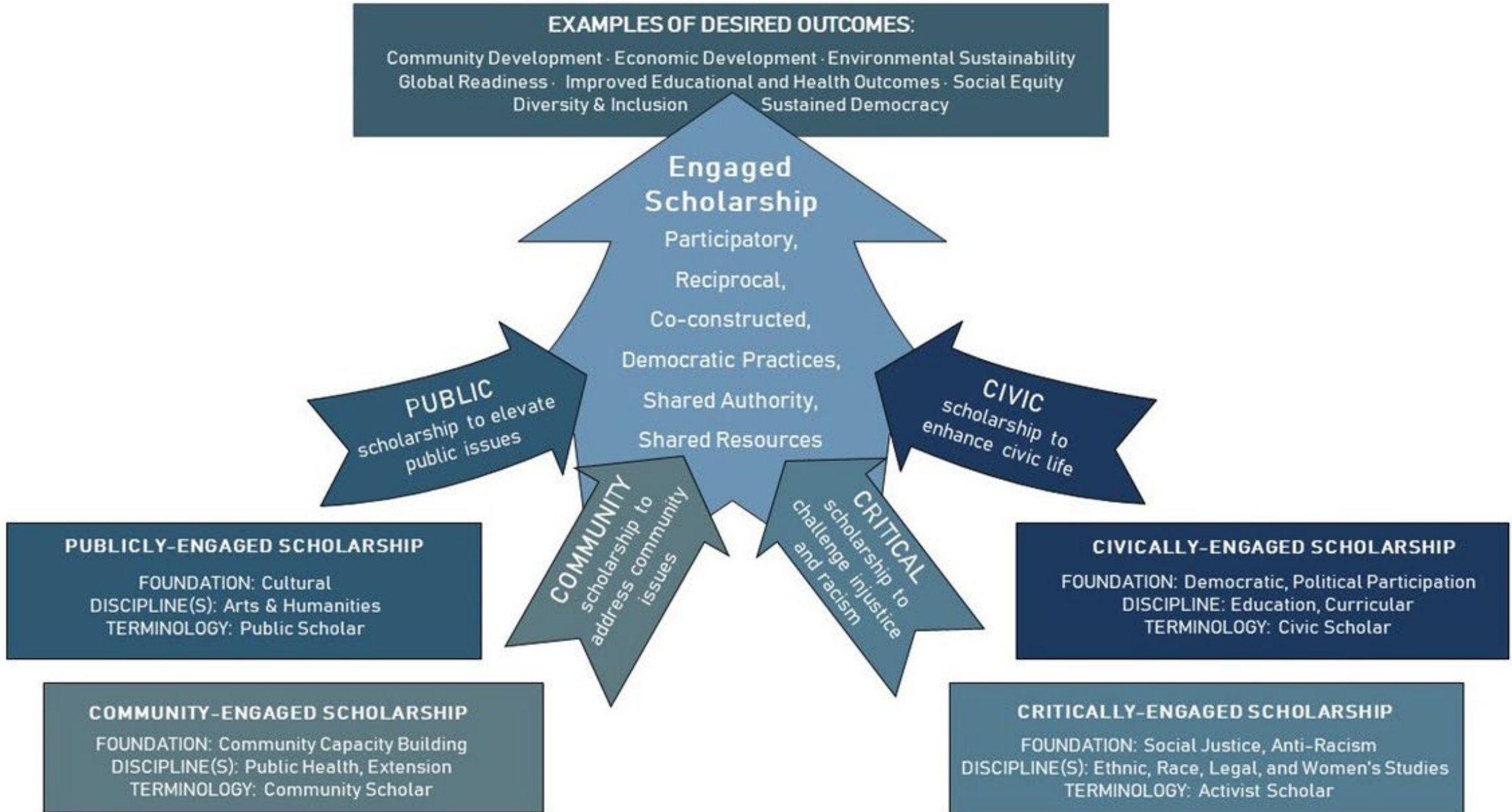
Trent University, Fleming College  
240 Grades 10-12 students,  
200 Post-secondary students,  
4 Internships

We are engaging the community to advance scholarship and innovation.

**Engaged Scholarship:**  
Towards  
Inclusive Excellence  
in Research



# PESI is diverse in practice, focus and scope.

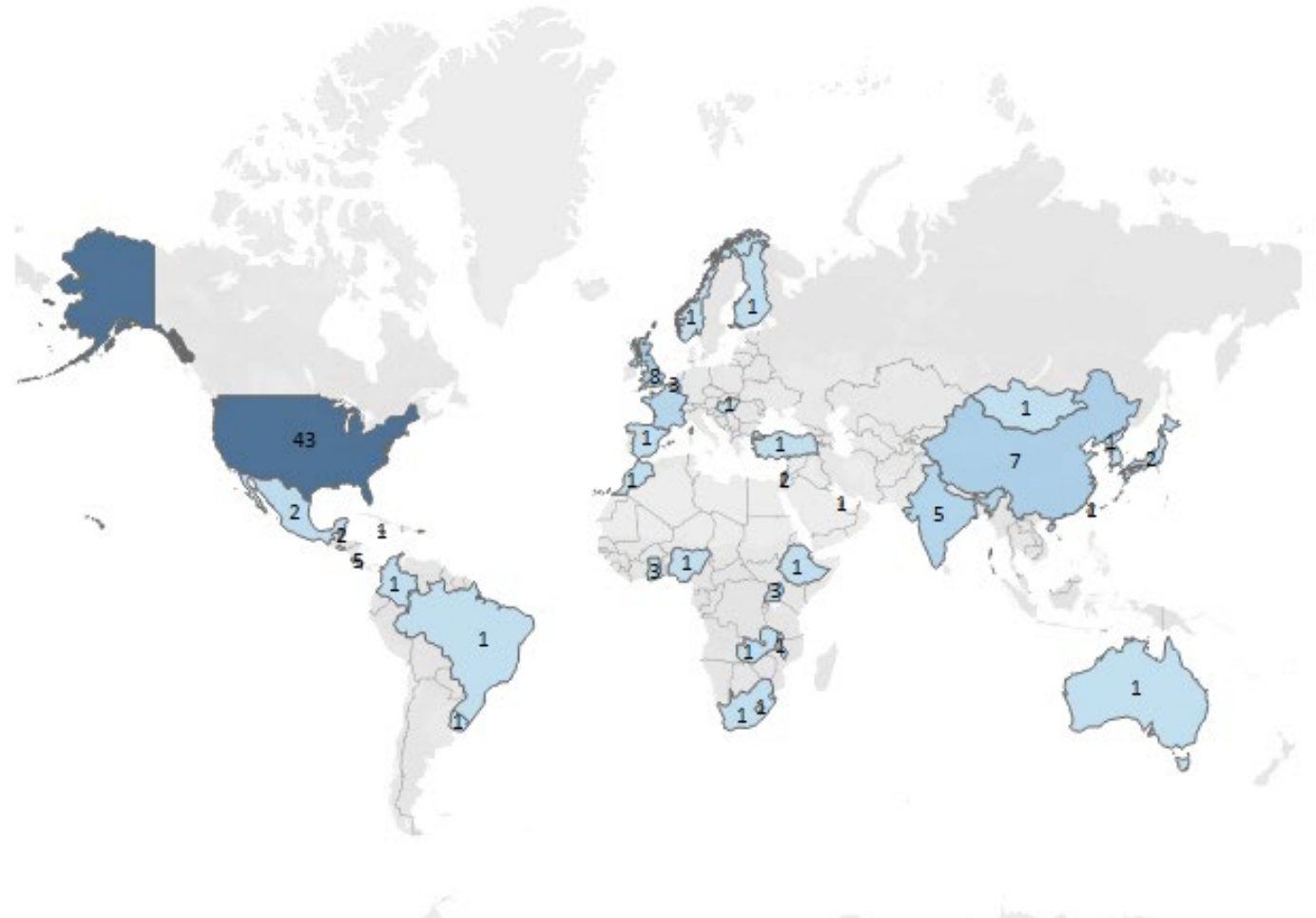




# Our faculty are engaging in more international research.

## Active Awards by Country (2022-23)

- Our faculty is actively engaged in international research
- Top research locations
  - United States - 43
  - Great Britain - 8
  - China - 7
  - Costa Rica - 5
  - India - 5
  - France - 4
  - Belgium - 3
  - Ghana - 3
  - Uganda - 3
  - Belize - 2



# We continued our Celebration of Research Excellence Lecture Series.



**Mark Campbell**  
*Arts, Culture and Media*



**Andrea Charise**  
*Health & Society*



**Artur Izmaylov**  
*Physical & Environmental Sciences*



**Scott MacIvor**  
*Biological Sciences*



**Alan Saks**  
*Management*



**Jessica Wilson**  
*Philosophy*

# We awarded our high-performing faculty.

## UTSC Principal's Research Award



**Mark Schmuckler**  
*Psychology*

## UTSC Research Recognition Award



**Cendri Hutcherson**  
*Psychology*

## UTSC Pre-Tenure Faculty Research Awards



**Cassandra Hartblay**  
*Health and Society*



**Sara Saljoughi**  
*English*

## UTSC Research Excellence Faculty Scholars



**Patrick McGowan**  
*Biological Sciences*



**Hanno Rein**  
*Physical & Environmental Sciences*



**Christina Guzzo**  
*Biological Sciences*



**Oleksandr Voznyy**  
*Physical & Environmental Sciences*



**And we celebrated faculty that received prestigious national and international recognitions.**



## **Notisha Massaquoi Department of Health & Society**

**2023 YWCA Toronto Women of Distinction Award  
for fighting inequities in health-care**

A community-based health researcher who is interrogating anti-Black racism of those navigating institutional structures and systems in Canada.

**And we celebrated faculty that received prestigious national and international recognitions.**



**Wisdom Tettey**  
**Principal UTSC, Department**  
**of Political Science**  
**African Scholars Award**  
**Distinguished Influencers Award**



**Maydianne Andrade**  
**Department of Biological**  
**Sciences**  
**African Scholars Award**  
**Distinguished African-Caribbean Award**

And we celebrated faculty that received prestigious national and international recognitions.



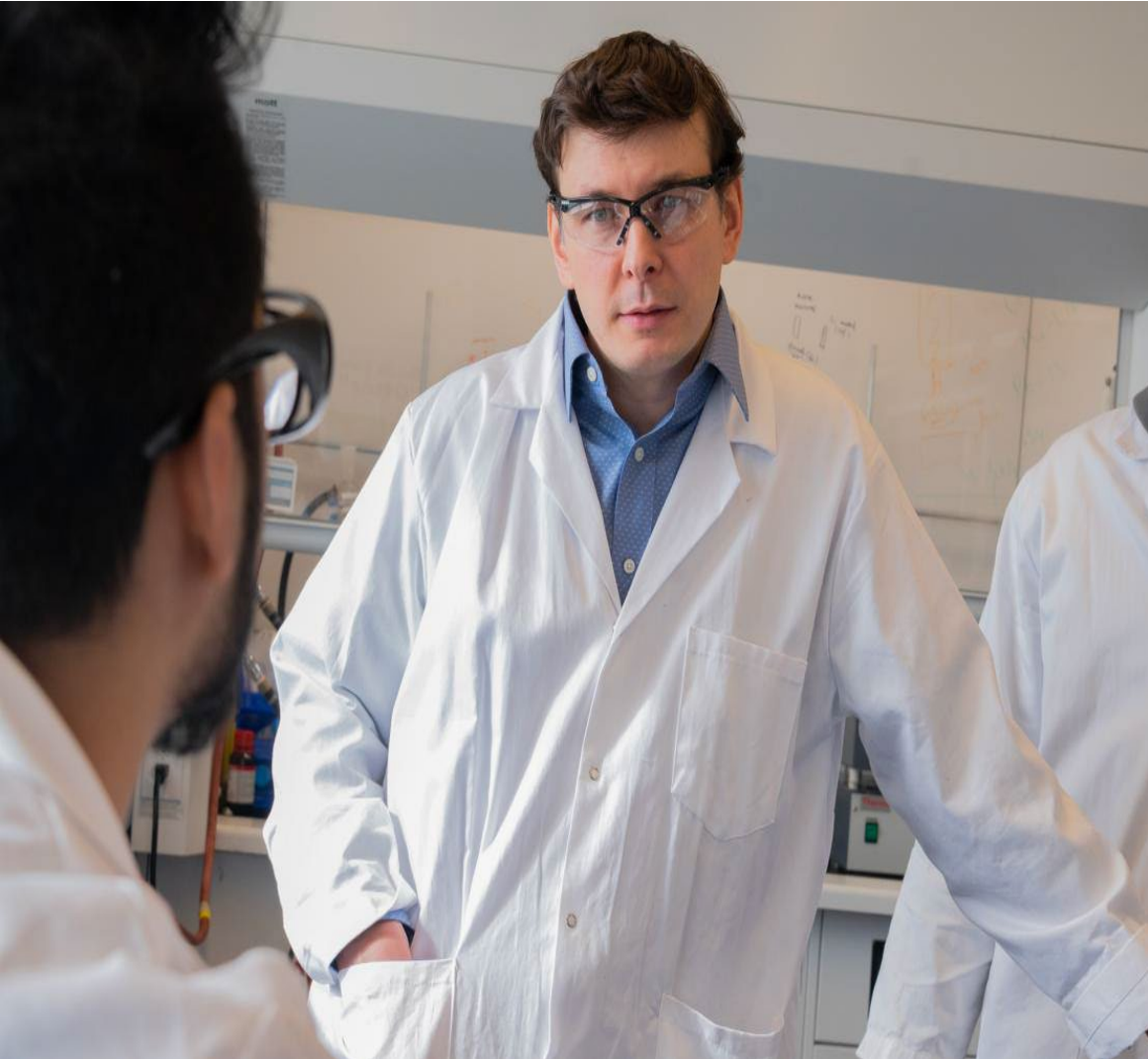
## Ashton Anderson Department of Computer and Mathematical Sciences

**CS-CAN-INFO-CAN  
Outstanding Career Computer Science Research  
Prize**

Computational social scientist who has pioneered computational methods to quantify online phenomena including **political polarization**.



And we celebrated faculty that received prestigious national and international recognitions.



## Alex Voznny Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences

**Chemical Institute of Canada  
2023 Strem Award**

Chemist who has advanced our understanding of artificially grown **colloidal nanocrystals**, which are particularly useful in LEDs, solar cells and certain types of lasers, among other applications.

**And we celebrated faculty that received prestigious national and international recognitions.**



## **Myrna Simpson Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences**

**Geochemical Society  
Clair C. Patterson Award**

Environment scientist who is using nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and mass spectrometry to address knowledge gaps related to global environmental change, pollutants and contaminants.

**And we celebrated faculty that received prestigious national and international recognitions.**



## **Aisha Ahmed**

### **Department of Political Science**

**Royal Society of Canada**  
**College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists**

Political scientists who focuses on the intersection of Islamists and economies. She was named one of Toronto's most inspiring women in 2017 by Post City Magazine and won Muslim Woman of the Year at the Muslim Awards of Excellence MAX Gala a year later.



**And we celebrated faculty that received prestigious national and international recognitions.**



## **Diana Valencia**

### **Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences**

#### **Guggenheim Fellowship**

Physical scientist who studies the interior of planets, its composition and how it evolves – including ways in which it might enable the emergence of life.

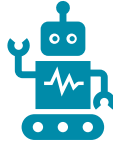
# We are focused on building regional innovation districts, including EaRTH and HeART.



# As we look forward to the next year, we have selected the following strategic priorities to further advance the research vision and mission of the campus.



Complete the optimization of the organization of the OVPRI.



Review research institutes, centres and clusters and core facilities to ensure they conform to our guidelines.

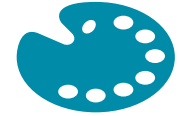


Complete a space audit to and develop a plan to support the needs of UTSC

Pursue CFI major infrastructure grants.



Create & operationalize a new innovation lifecycle website that provides a “one-stop shop” for fundamental information related to the innovation enterprise



Launch the Centre for Inclusive Excellence in Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Leadership



Develop a strategic action plan for internationalization.



Develop a strategic action plan for iRISE



Develop a strategic plan for the National Academy for Inclusive Leadership.



Build and put into action a road map for the 2025 Scarborough Global Summit.



Develop a plan to have a United Nations University node located at UTSC