

Connaught Fund 2010 Annual Report

The Connaught Fund originated from the sale of U of T's Connaught Laboratories in 1972 for approximately \$29 million. Since then, the University has grown the fund to become one of the largest of its kind in Canada. Using Connaught Funds, U of T has invested more than \$117 million in our scholars and their research.

Like so many research funding sources, the economic downturn of 2008-2009 caused the University of Toronto to curtail endowment payout of the Connaught Fund. Emergency reserve expendable funds were employed to support existing Connaught graduate scholars and a minimum level of activity in the new faculty programs. A summary of program expenditures since 2008-09 is attached as Appendix 1.

The Connaught Committee (membership attached as Appendix 2) has used the opportunity of the past academic year to consult and to assess anew the potential of the Fund to contribute to the University's highest research aspirations. They have developed a new program architecture that will ensure the Connaught Fund meets the needs of the University community today and into the future – and that this unique resource will provide the greatest impact to research activities at the U of T.

This new program lineup is being fine-tuned by the Connaught Committee and will be officially launched in the coming months and implemented as funds are available through the resumption of endowment payout.

New Architecture Will Strengthen Future Impact

The underlying principles of the new program structure are to:

- **promote research excellence** and **enhance recruitment and retention** of emerging and established scholars
- **raise the profile of research and innovation** for U of T and the Connaught Fund
- design research funding programs that **address unmet needs** and do not duplicate existing funding opportunities
- expose diverse communities to **distinguished international scholars**
- span disciplines to achieve **comprehensive and transformative impact**
- establish mechanisms for **measuring impact** of Connaught-funded initiatives

In addition to the continuation of the **McLean Award Program**, the new programs are:

- * **Connaught International Graduate Scholarship** (up to \$1M annually)
 - up to 10 international doctoral students selected annually from across all disciplines; each award is renewable up to 5 years
 - funding includes differential tuition/fees and a stipend
 - annual event for named scholars; inclusion in other Connaught events

- * **Connaught New Researcher Program** (up to \$1M annually)
 - Competitive funding opportunity for scholars early in their career (pre-tenure)
 - 3 levels of award: \$50k/year, \$25K per year, \$10K per year

- * **Connaught Innovation Awards** (up to \$500K annually)
 - proof of principle/development funding for projects with strong commercial potential
 - projects should be have societal impact/outcome to improve the quality of life for humanity
 - conducted in partnership with the Innovation & Partnership Office within the VPR portfolio

- * **Connaught Summer Institutes** (up to \$150K annually)
 - program to bring together international graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, other scholars; build networks
 - provide intellectual benefit and profile

* **The Connaught Strategic Research Initiative**

A key feature of the new program lineup involves the following three initiatives, which are to be harmonized and integrated as a trio of programs focused on issues of importance to global society and will be identified through a process of internal and external stakeholder engagement. These programs are intended to enhance the University's profile as a research institution addressing questions that are important to Canada and the world.

- **Connaught International Symposia** (up to \$200,000 annually)
 - theme-based, peer reviewed competition
 - include Connaught Graduate Scholars
 - eligible expenses to include marketing/promotion of initiative, perhaps travel costs for leading researchers/experts and also trainees

- **Connaught Distinguished Visiting Scholar** (up to \$200,000 annually)
 - To attract a leading scholars or scientist to the U of T research community
 - to include conducting seminars, research allowance, offset accommodation expenses, etc.

- **Connaught Research Cluster Program** (up to \$600,000 annually)
 - external peer reviewed competition for to enable networking/collaboration to advance the U of T's contribution to the critical question
 - deliverables should include an action plan for major research funding opportunities that will firmly establish the U of T's pre-eminence in the field(s)

**Appendix 1
Program Expenditure Summary**

	2008-09	2009-10
INCOME:	4,130,098	1,212,368
EXPENDITURES:		
Graduate Student Scholarships	923,334	452,852
Start-Up Grants	1,100,000	120,000
New Staff Matching Grants	1,245,084	501,851
Connaught Research Fellowships (Social Sciences)	99,000	0
International Symposia Grants	50,000	0
McLean Award	50,000	50,000
TOTAL	3,467,418	1,124,703

Appendix 2
Connaught Committee Members

Chair	Professor R.Paul Young Vice-President, Research
Representing Senior Administration	Professor Cheryl Misak Vice President and Provost
Representing Senior Administration	Professor Ulli Krull Vice Principal, Research, UTM
Representing the Chair of Governing Council	Ms. Nancy Lockhart Frum Development Group
Dean, School of Graduate Studies	Professor Brian Corman Dean, School of Graduate Studies
Humanities	Professor Robert Gibbs Director, Jackman Humanities Institute
Life Sciences	Professor Reinhart Reithmeier Chair, Department of Biochemistry
Physical Sciences	Professor Peter Martin CITA/Department of Astronomy & Astrophysics <i>(Professor Michael Luke, Dept of Physics- on leave)</i>
Social Sciences	Professor Mayo Moran Dean, Faculty of Law
Secretary to the Committee	Ms. MayLiza Baak Director, Institutional Initiatives