

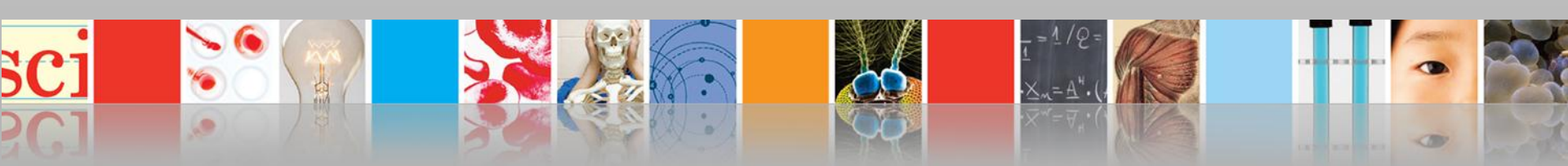
# NSERC Update



# Carleton University

October 16, 2015

# Dave Bowen – Team Leader NSERC




# Presentation Overview

- NSERC Updates and New Initiatives
- Competition results – 2015
  - Geosciences Evaluation Group (EG1506)



# Reorganized Website

Natural Sciences and Engineering  
Research Council of Canada



Canada

Search

Students and Fellows ▾ Professors ▾ Business ▾ Information for ▾ About ▾

Home

Login ▾


Discover /

We invest in scientific discovery and talent for the benefit of Canada – science and engineering at the frontier of knowledge.

Innovate /

We ensure businesses are the first to know – use discoveries to accelerate R&D.

### Featured News



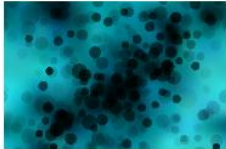
**Governor general announces Canada's top natural sciences and engineering researchers for 2015**

February 17, 2015

Celebrated research includes ground-breaking chemical theories, computers that think like humans, and new production of medical isotopes.

### Latest News

[+ See all news](#)



**Zooming in on cancer cells**

April 2, 2015

Minister Holder says Government will increase investment to create jobs in sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics


March 18, 2015

Minister Holder announces new Open Access Policy for research

February 27, 2015

Search for the next Vice-President of Research Partnerships

February 11, 2015



**New NSERC funding for arctic observing and research for sustainability**

March 24, 2015

Government of Canada supports over 75 science and engineering research teams

February 10, 2015

NSERC announces increase in postdoctoral fellowships offers for 2015

February 4, 2015

# NSERC 2020

## Goals (revised July 2015)

- Foster a science and engineering culture in Canada
- Build a diversified and competitive research base
- \*NEW Bridge the generational gap
- Strengthening the dynamic between discovery and innovation
- Going global

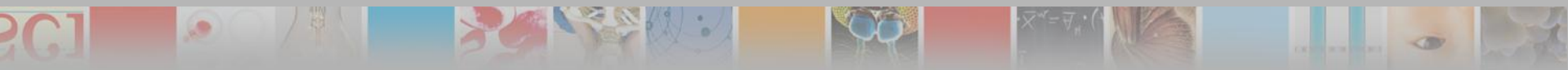




# Research Portal

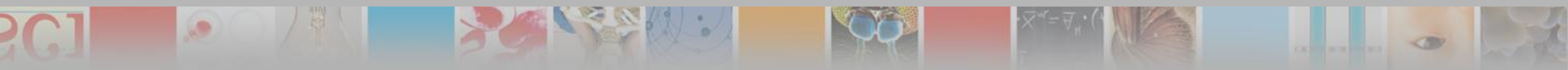
## NSERC programs on Research Portal:

- NEW: Research Tools and Instruments
- Discovery Grants
- Subatomic Physics
- Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master's



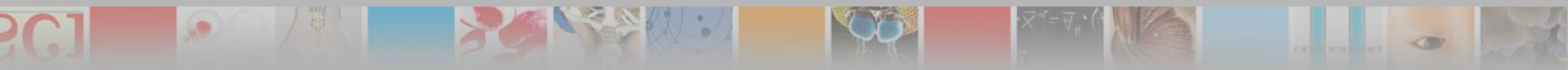
# Research Portal & CCV Enhancements

- Users can unlock their Research Portal accounts
- Improved RGO/SLO functionalities (e.g. filters)
- CGS M referees can save a draft report
- Import publication data from databases
- Improved formatting of PDFs
- Standardized format for reporting publications
- Allows symbols and formatting



# Discovery Grants Program Evaluation

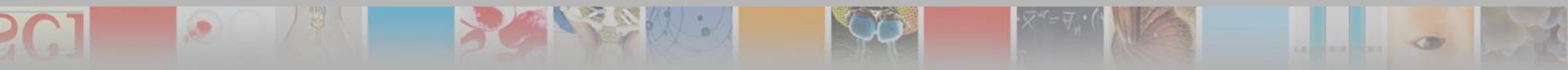
- Discovery Accelerator Supplement:
  - definition refined
- Support for Early Stage:
  - evaluation-related improvements started
- HQP/Training:
  - evaluation-related improvements started, further analysis underway;
- Peer-review-related efficiencies:
  - high priority next step





# Discovery Grants Budget Allocation

- Preparing to launch a review of the budget allocation methodology
- **Goal:** ensure the program remains effective, accountable and that funds are used optimally
- Opportunity to introduce new factors to allocate funds among the 12 Evaluation Groups
- Discipline comparisons and allocations to be informed by quantitative indicators and expert judgment



# Discovery Frontiers

# Current theme: “New Materials for Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency”

- Initiatives capitalize on emerging opportunities in key areas
- One-time funding for a defined period
- Supports teams doing interdisciplinary, discovery research
- Next competition planned for 2017

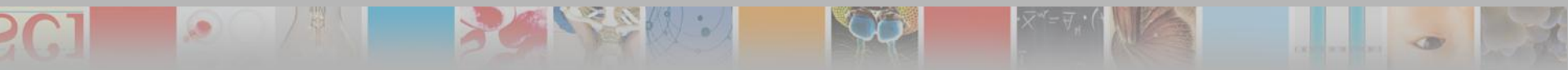
# CGS M: Revisiting the Design

- Continue with current competition model (reviews devolved to universities), and develop a comprehensive quality monitoring scheme
- Develop an allocation formula that takes into account research excellence
- Other issues to explore: Process for single review of applications and portable awards



# Postdoctoral Fellowships

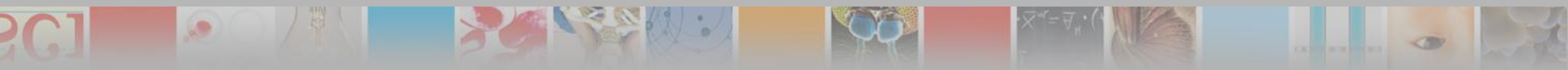
- 180 offers this year, up from the 130 PDF offers made in 2014
  - NSERC will continue to fund PDFs at an increased rate as budgets permit
- The value of a PDF is now \$45,000 per year
- Application pressure more manageable since one application is allowed





# Discovery Development Grants

- Promote a diversified base of high-quality research in small universities
- Foster a stimulating environment for research training in small universities
- \$10K/year for 2 years

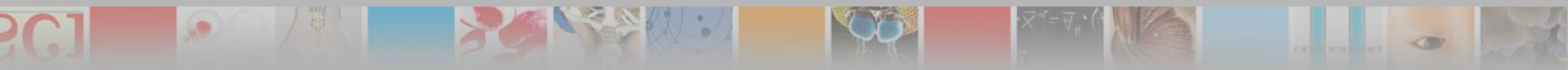


# Program News – Team Grants

- Starting with the 2016 competition, Team Grant applications no longer accepted through the Discovery Grants Program
- All new applications must be for individual Discovery Grants
- Existing Team Grants will continue until completion

# Paid Parental Leave

- Increased from 4 months to 6 months
- Starting April 1, 2015
- For graduate students and postdoctoral fellows
- Applies to scholarships and fellowships as well as those paid from supervisor grant





# Geosciences Evaluation Group

## EG1506



Conseil de recherches en sciences  
naturelles et en génie du Canada

Canada

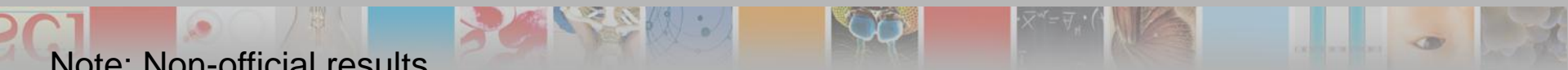
# Discovery Grants Overall Results – 2015 Competition

<b>Data<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Success Rate</b>	<b>Average Grant</b>
Early Career Researchers ( <b>ECR</b> )	65%	\$26,191
Established Researchers ( <b>ER</b> )		
Renewing their grant ( <b>ER-R</b> )	82%	\$35,109
Not Holding a Grant <sup>2</sup> ( <b>ER-NHG</b> )	38%	\$26,756

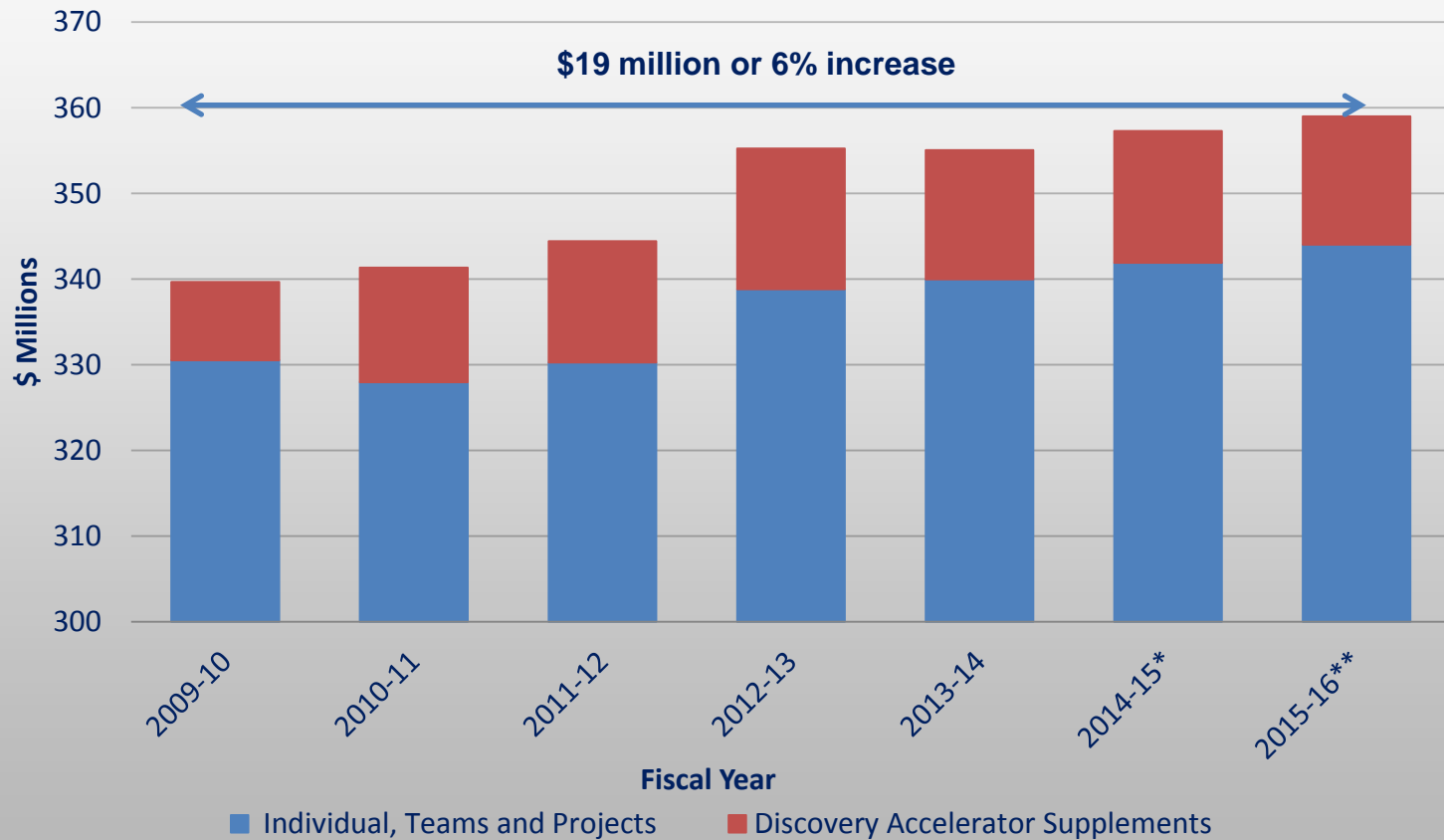
1. Includes Discovery and Subatomic Physics (Individual and Team) Grants, but excludes the Subatomic Physics Projects.

2. Includes returning established unfunded applicants and experienced researchers submitting a first application.

Note: Non-official results



# NSERC Discovery Grants Funding (millions of dollars)

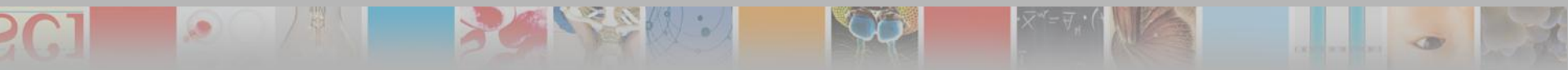


\* Expected expenditures.

# Geosciences DG Results

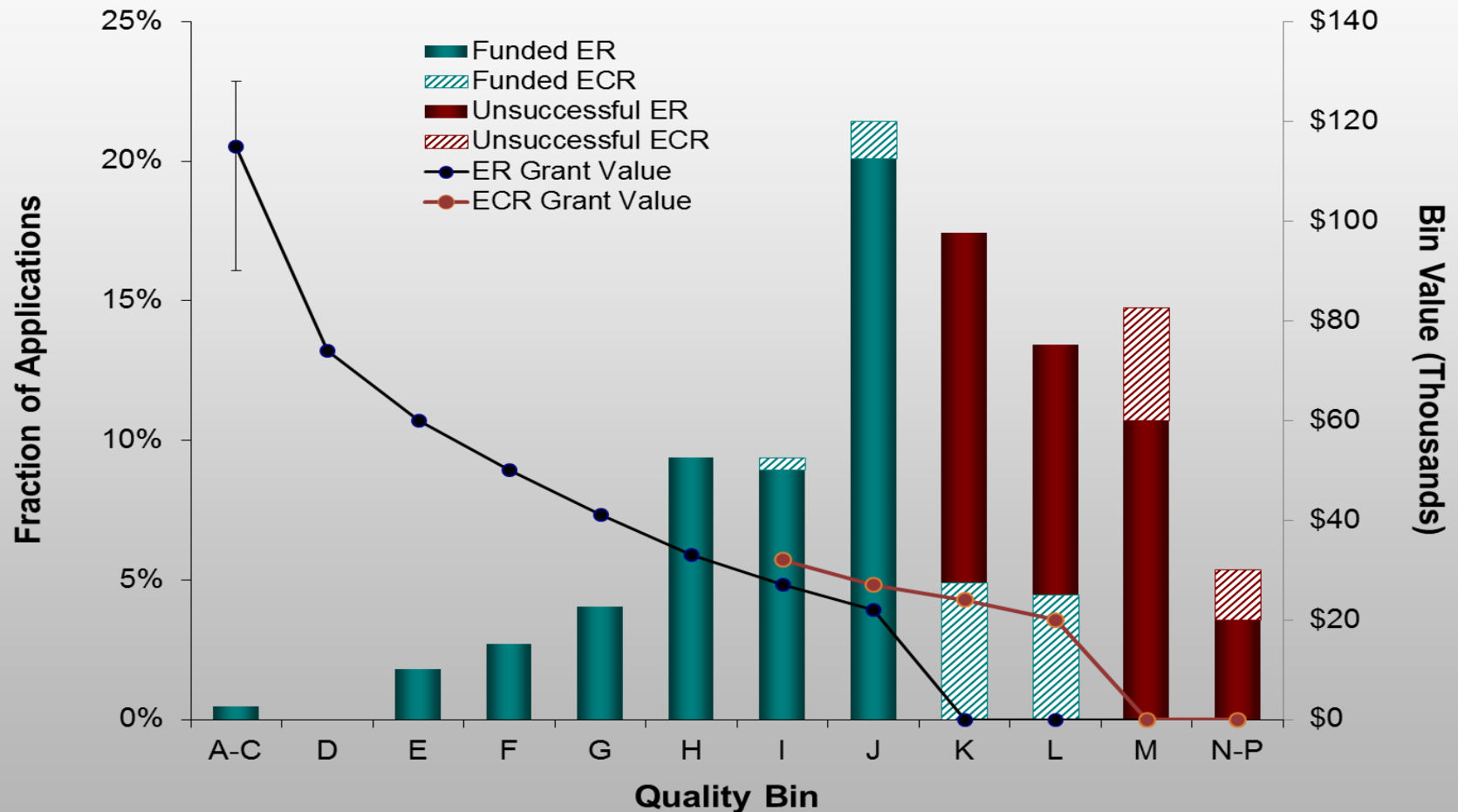
## Competition 2015

Geosciences (EG 1506)	Early Career Researchers	Established Researcher		Overall
		Renewals	Not Holding a Grant	
# of Applications	38	98	88	224
# of Awards	25	76	30	131
\$ Awarded	\$573K	\$2,437K	\$756K	\$3,766K
Success Rate	66%	78%	34%	58%
Average Grant	\$22,930	\$32,067	\$25,200	\$28,751



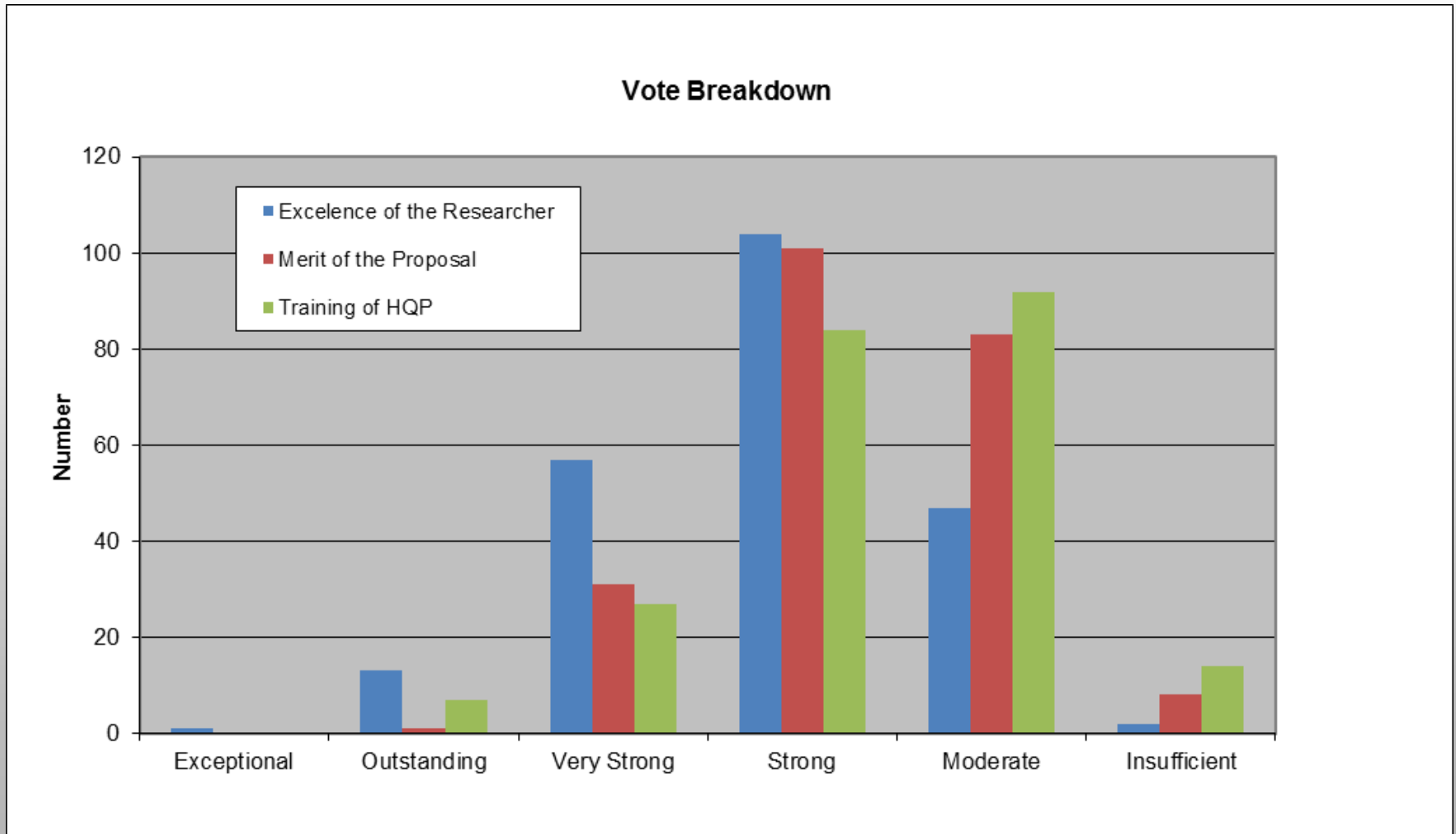
# Results and Statistics – Geosciences

## 2015 Discovery Grants Competition



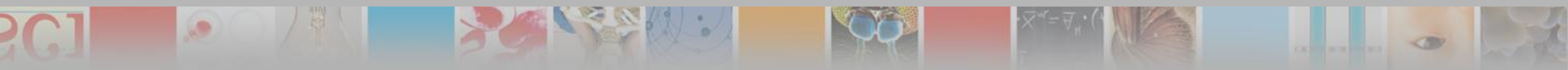
# Results and Statistics – Geosciences

## 2015 DG Competition



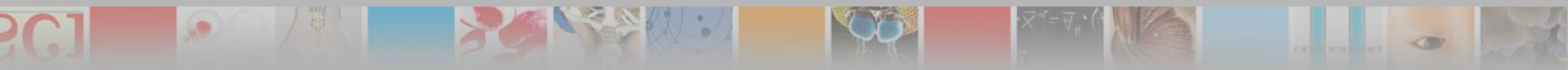
# Discovery Accelerator Supplements (DAS) results

- \$120,000 –typically over three years
- Up to 125 Supplements per year
- Geosciences EG members reviewed all applications and recommended 16 applicants for a DAS
- Executive Committee makes the final decision using the EG recommendations
- Objectives of the DAS program
  - *Highly original and innovative research programs,*
  - *Show strong potential to become international leaders within their field*
- The Geosciences Evaluation Group recommended its full quota of 13 DAS awards



# Research Tools and Instruments

- Smaller national competition with quota of applications per university based on:
  - number of NSERC-funded natural sciences and engineering researchers at institutions
  - minimum quota of two applications
- Quota numbers increased from 2014 due to increase in budget
- Researchers can be on more than one application
- Criteria for evaluation remain the same

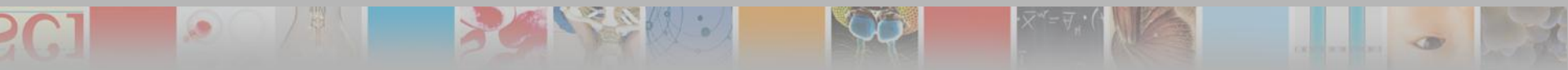






# Research Tools and Instruments (RTI) 2015 Competition – Environmental Sciences

Number of Applications	92
Number of Awards	27
Success Rate	29%
Total Amount Requested	\$8,109,983
Awarded Amount	\$2,750,194
Success Rate	34%



# Northern Research Supplements (NRS)

- To augment and promote Canadian university-based research and training by providing extra support to DG-holders conducting research in Canada's North
- To recognise extra logistical costs in the North and to encourage outreach and interactions with Northerners
- NSERC has consolidated existing Northern funding within the NRS Program: \$2.1 million annual budget in 2015
- 131 Northern researchers currently supported, with supplements ranging from \$10k and \$25k per year
- Awards at the upper end of the range recognize researchers whose programs have higher logistical costs (e.g. working in the High Arctic) **and** those who make outstanding contributions to outreach and interactions with Northerners (e.g. well-justified and clearly budgeted outreach initiatives)

