



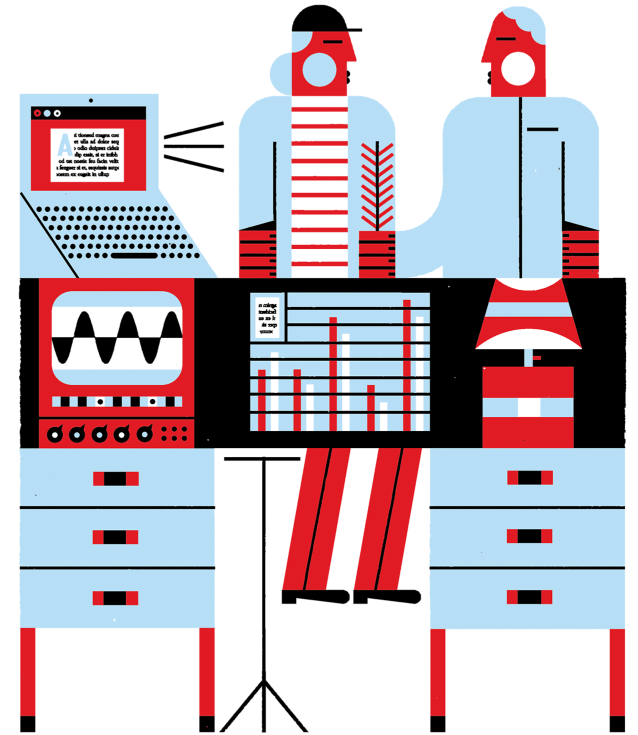
# Council of Chairs of Canadian Earth Science Departments – CCCESD Meeting

Breanna Gricken, Program Officer, RTI, Ship Time, NRS, NSERC

Elizabeth Boston, Director, NSERC, Mathematical, Environmental and Physical Sciences

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## Research Grants and Scholarships

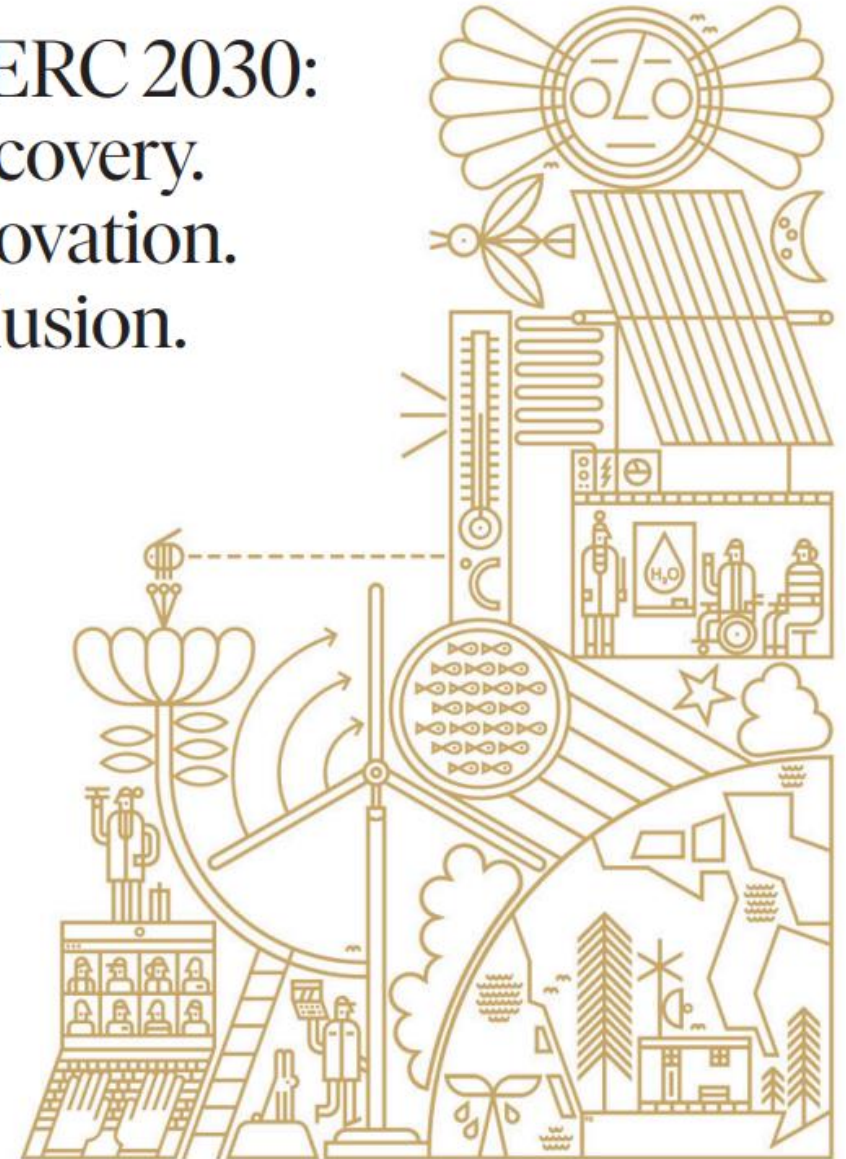
# Highlights

### Personnel Changes and Updates:

- Marc Fortin is the new Vice-President, Research Grants and Scholarships, effective August 22, 2022.
- Robin Craig is the new Associate Vice-President, Research Grants and Scholarships, effective August 29, 2022
- Dr. Imogen Coe is NSERC's inaugural Scholar in Residence, as of August 2022. Dr. Coe will apply her expertise to support NSERC's policies, programs and strategic initiatives

# Our new strategic plan

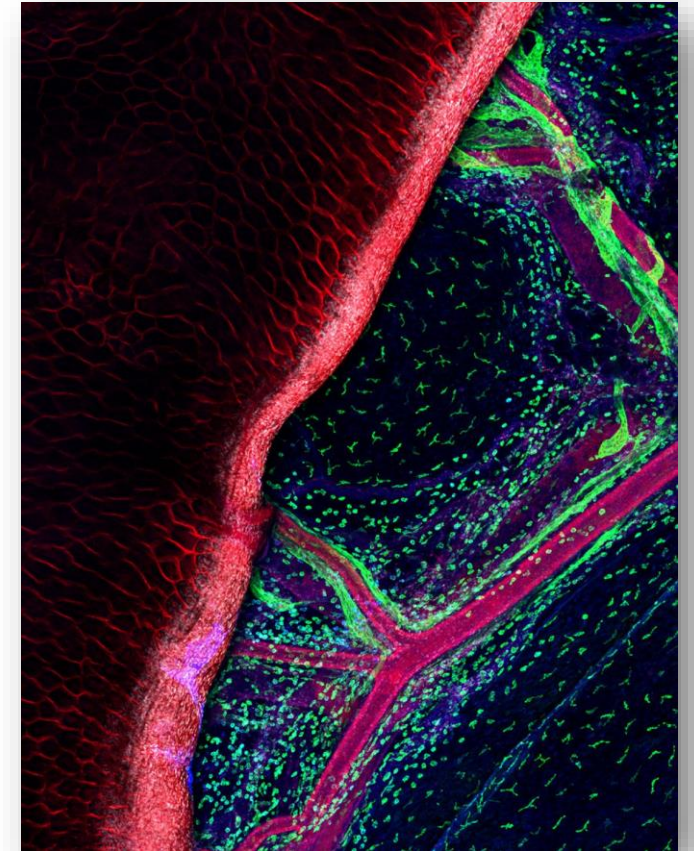
- NSERC 2030:  
Discovery.  
Innovation.  
Inclusion.





## Our vision for the future

- An agile agency that is steadfast in its support for investigator-driven discovery research while enabling quick responses to emerging Canadian research priorities.
- A strong, harmonized research infrastructure that reflects the increasingly interdisciplinary and dynamic nature of scientific research.
- A diverse and inclusive research ecosystem that expands the existing talent pool, welcomes researchers with a range of expertise, finds common space for mutually respectful exploration and decolonizes research practices to support First Nations-, Inuit- and Métis-led knowledge creation and innovation.



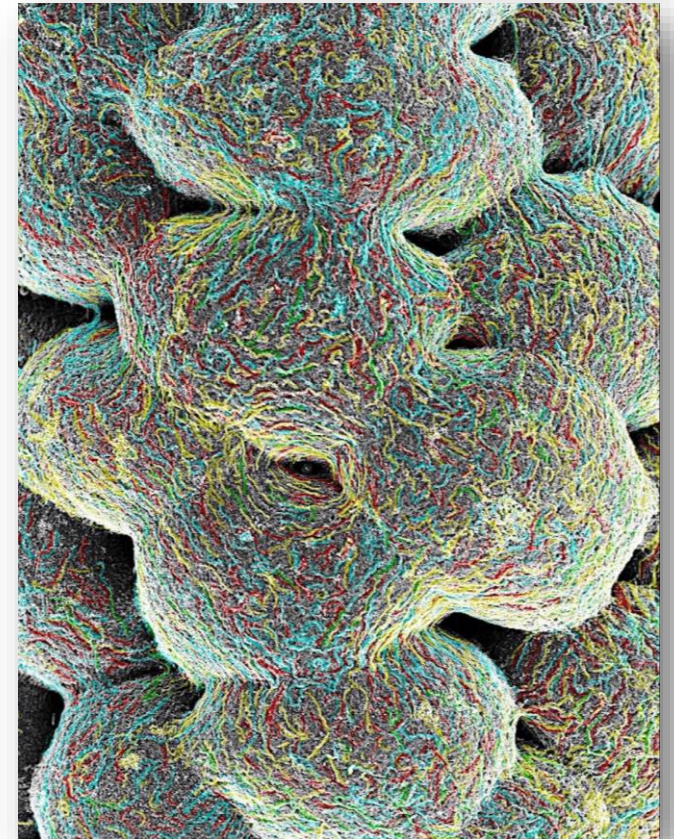
*Tree of life*  
Image by Keerthana Harwalkar, YuQi Li and  
Matthew Lok-Man Chang  
McGill University

NSERC 2030: Discovery. Innovation. Inclusion.

## Our focus

*NSERC 2030* is built around five pillars:

1. Support research excellence that strengthens Canada
2. Expand, diversify, and nurture Canada's talent pool
3. Translate discovery into impact
4. Mobilize knowledge on a global scale
5. Empower our organization and our people



*Everything is deeply intertwined*  
Image by Olga Sirbu  
University of Toronto

## Research Grants and Scholarships

# Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

- Council Standing Committee on EDI (CEDI) met on September 13
  - Engagement with Canadian Black Scientists Network
  - Engagement with other agencies' Advisory committees
- Advancing development of NSERC's Accessibility Plan, in coordination with SSHRC and CIHR
- Update to NSERC's guide on integrating equity, diversity and inclusion considerations in research
  - New section: Equity, diversity and inclusion considerations for research teams
- Agency-sponsored study selected by ISED for assessment by the Council of Canadian Academies (CCA) in 2023
  - Title: Evidence-Based Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Practices for Impactful Change in the Post-Secondary Research Ecosystem
- Coordinated annual report to CRCC on Tri-agency EDI Action Plan implementation (September 20)
- In progress: updates to Bias in Peer Review training module, coordinated by CIHR



## NSERC guide to incorporating equity, diversity and inclusion considerations in research

Two primary sections:

- 1) EDI considerations at each stage of the research process
- 2) EDI considerations for research teams

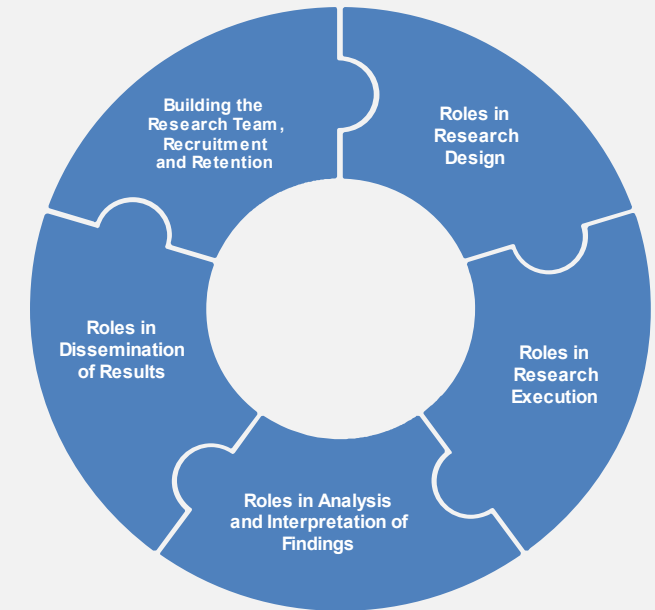
The new guide provides:

- information on how EDI considerations in research promote research excellence
- detailed guidance and examples relevant to the natural sciences and engineering disciplines
- links to key resources

[EDI considerations at each stage of the research process](#)



**Figure 1.** EDI considerations in the research process



**Figure 2.** EDI considerations for research teams

# Guidelines on assessment of contributions to research, training and mentoring

Released in May 2022, the new Guidelines:

- Promote NSERC's support of research excellence in Canada and incorporate the principles of the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)
  - Recognize and value a broader range of contributions, including outreach and mentoring, emphasizing their quality and impact
  - Permit applicants to select from a broader variety of contributions and suitable indicators to demonstrate their impact
  - Clarify eligible interruptions in research, training and mentoring
- 
- These guidelines replace the Policies and Guidelines on the Assessment of Contributions to Research and Training and the Guidelines for the Preparation and review of Applications in Engineering and the Applied Sciences



# Research Security

- Espionage and foreign interference activities pose real threats to Canadian research integrity, intellectual property and business interests.
- Since 2018 the federal granting agencies have been working with the **Government of Canada - Universities Working group** to ensure the security and integrity of publicly funded research in Canada. In September 2020, the Working Group published the **Safeguarding your Research** portal – [science.gc.ca/safeguarding-your-research/](https://science.gc.ca/safeguarding-your-research/), an evergreen resource where guidance and tools are shared with the research community
- The **National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships** were developed in consultation with this working group and applied in July 2021 to the NSERC Alliance grants program. Applicants with one or more private sector partners must now submit a Risk Assessment Form with the application. [https://www.science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h\\_98257.html](https://www.science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_98257.html)
- The granting agencies are also reviewing their security policies and procedures, following national and international best practices.



# Research Security

All researchers and administrators are encouraged to consult the following resources for more information on how to safeguard research and innovation:

- [Safeguarding Your Research Portal](#): guidance, information, tools, case studies, and self-directed courses.
- [National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships](#): tool to integrate national security considerations into the development, evaluation, and funding of research partnerships
- [Safeguarding Science](#): Interactive workshop from Public Safety Canada
- [Canadian Centre for Cyber Security](#): Hosts resources on the cyber threat environment, including interactive content, publications, alerts, and advisories
- [Canadian Cyber Security Tool](#): Voluntary self-assessment survey

# 2. Competition 2022 Results





## 2022 Competition Results

# Thank You!

## 2518 Discovery Grants (DG) Applications

468+ Evaluation Group (EG) Members

12 950+ Reviews by EG members

6687+ External Reviewers Reports

*I'd like to offer my sincere thanks to all committee members and external reviewers for their hard work and dedication in the 2022 Discovery Grants competition, which was conducted virtually. Your tremendous efforts during these unprecedented times have helped keep Canada's research enterprise strong in the midst of this pandemic. I hope that you, your families, and your colleagues are safe and healthy, and remain so in the future.*

**– Alejandro Adem, NSERC President**

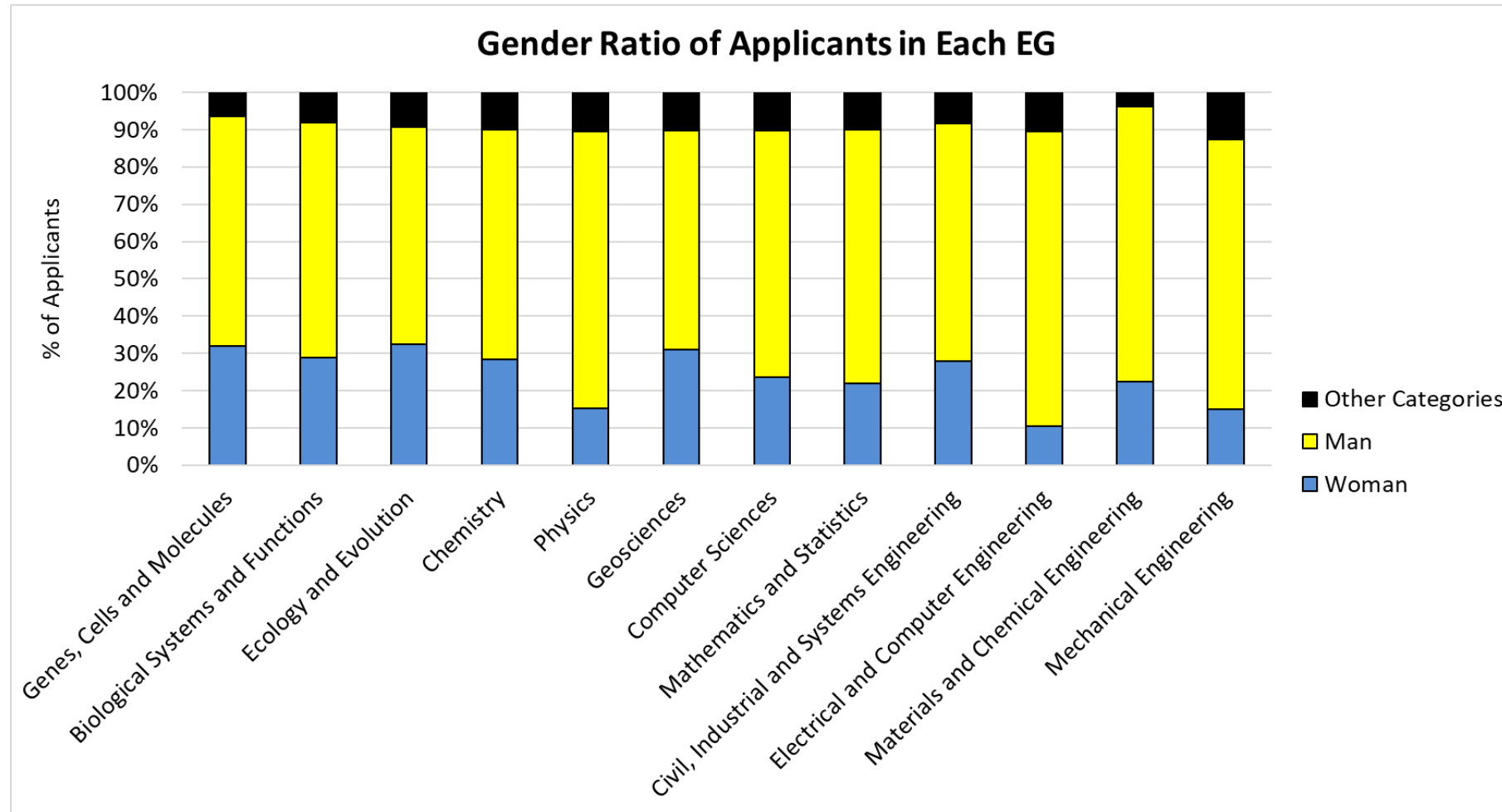
## 2022 Competition Results

# Overall DG – Results by Applicant Category

	Early Career Researcher (ECR)	Established Researchers (ER)			Total
		Not Holding a Grant (ER-NHG)	Returning (ER-R)	All Established Researchers	
# of applications	837	474	1207	1681	2518
# of awards	529	192	994	1186	1715
Success Rate	63%	41%	82%	71%	68%
Average Grant (yearly)	\$28,386	\$33,868	\$43,292	\$41,766	\$37,638

## 2022 Discovery Grants Results – Overview

# Overall DG – Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)



## 2022 Competition Results

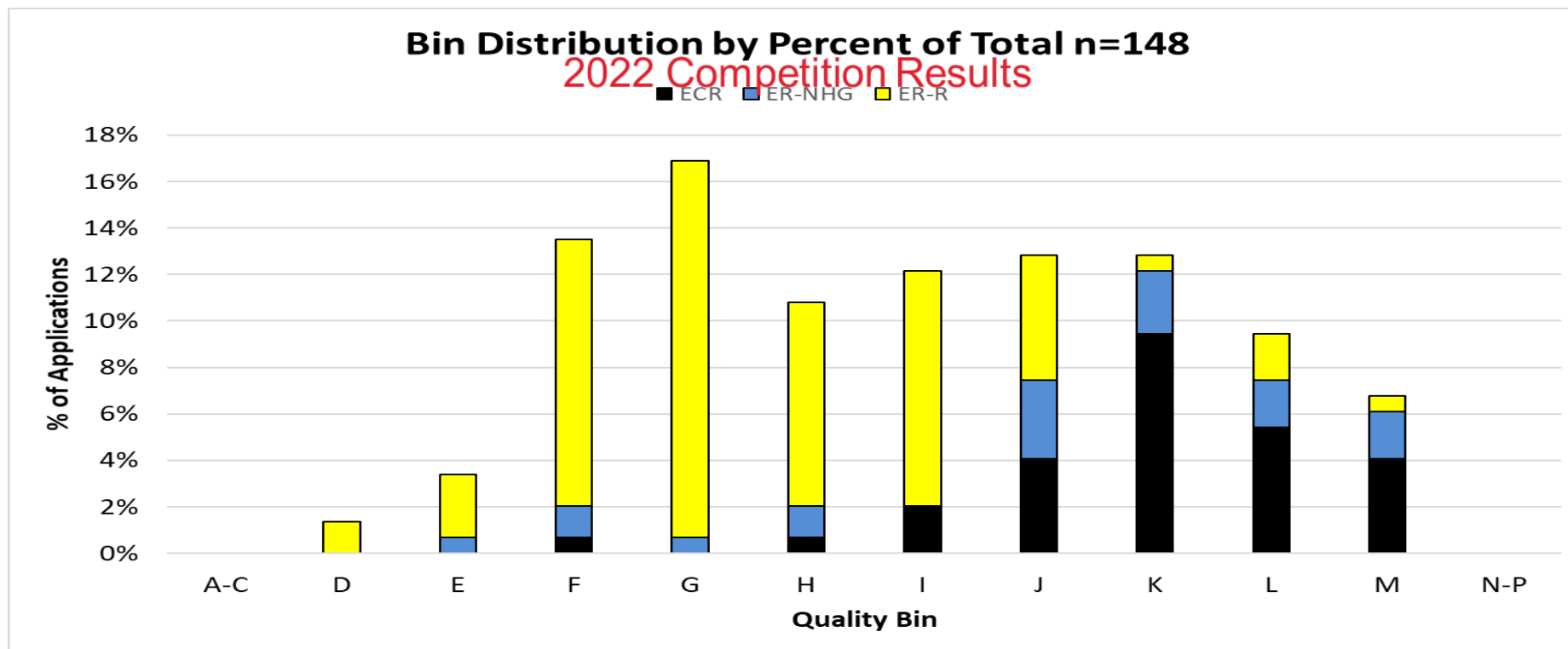
# Overall DG – Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

		Women	Men	Other Categories
Early Career Researchers (ECR)	Number of Awards	294	502	41
	Success rate	65%	63%	51%
Established Researchers Returning (ER-R)	Number of Awards	251	824	132
	Success rate	82%	82%	82%
Established Researchers Not Holding a Grant (ER-NHG)	Number of Awards	84	340	50
	Success rate	40%	41%	38%

## 2022 Discovery Grants Results by EG

### EG1506 – Geosciences

	Early Career Researcher	Established Researchers (ER)			Overall
	(ECR)	Not Holding a Grant (ER-NHG)	Returning (ER-R)	All Established Researchers	
<b>Success Rate</b>	64%	52%	92%	84%	79%





## 2022 Competition Results

# Research Tools and Instruments (RTI)

Program webpage:

[https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/professors-professeurs/rtii-oiri/rti-oir\\_eng.asp](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/professors-professeurs/rtii-oiri/rti-oir_eng.asp)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Budget	\$30.5M	\$25.1M	\$25.3M	\$30.7M	\$25.3M	<b>\$25.0M</b>
# Appl.	748	1043	1005	893	811	<b>713</b>
# Funded	241	208	210	248	201	<b>207</b>
Success Rate	32%	20%	21%	28%	27%	<b>29%</b>
Funding Rate	33%	21%	22%	29%	25%	<b>29%</b>

## 2022 Competition Results

# Statistics Package

**For more information on DG and other Research Grants results:**

- The 2022 competition statistics package and dashboards are live:  
[https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/professors-professeurs/discoverygrants-subventionsdecouverte/index\\_eng.asp](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/professors-professeurs/discoverygrants-subventionsdecouverte/index_eng.asp)

Contact [resgrant@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:resgrant@nserc-crsng.gc.ca) if you have any questions.

# 3. Programs and Policy Updates



## Research Grants and Scholarships

# 2023 Discovery Grants Competition

- As the global pandemic situation remains fluid, to ensure effective and timely delivery of the 2023 Discovery Grants competition and the safety of participants, the Discovery Grants review meetings will take place by videoconference once again this year over 4 weeks starting January 30, 2023
- NSERC is committed to maintaining a peer review process of the highest quality, including fairness and consistency between evaluating committees and across competition years
- Over 3200 Notices of Intent were received for the 2023 Discovery Grants competition, moving closer to pre-pandemic numbers

**Contact:** [resgrant@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:resgrant@nserc-crsng.gc.ca)

### NSERC Discovery Grants Program 2023 Important Dates

Notification of Intent: August 2, 2022

Application : November 1, 2022

Announcement of results: April 2023

## Research Grants and Scholarships

# Highlights

- **Research Tools and Instruments (RTI):** Successful CY2022 applicants and co-applicants will not be able to apply to the 2023 RTI competition
- Following the [Tri-Agency Research Data Management \(RDM\) Policy](#), NSERC's **Subatomic Physics (SAP)** Individual and Project grants have been selected to pilot the submission of Data Management Plans for Competition 2024
- Following the release of the revised [Guidelines on the assessment of contributions to research, training and mentoring](#) (May 6, 2022) the program literature and peer review manuals for Discovery Research Programs were updated to provide a web link to these guidelines. No other updates are planned for the 2023 competition, but further updates will occur in preparation for future competitions



## Program Updates

# Support for Early Career Researchers (ECRs)

- Early Career Researchers are applicants who have held an independent academic position for 5 years or less.
  - Five year window adjusted for any eligible delay in research
  - All eligible leaves taken (e.g. parental, bereavement, illness of applicant or family) are now credited as twice the amount of time taken (*started Fall 2020*)
- NSERC devotes additional funds to support ECRs through
  - Increases to Discovery Grants
  - Discovery Launch Supplement
- ECRs re-applying for the first time have the option of extending their DG by one year with funds in addition to the Discovery Grants one-year extension with funds due to COVID-19.

## Program Updates

# Delays in research and dissemination of research results

- Eligible leaves of absence (e.g., maternity and parental leave, personal illness, chronic illness, mental illness, or disability associated with reduced research activity, leave taken by applicant for family-related illness, bereavement, and extraordinary administrative duties) are those taken within the last six years.
- COVID-19-related impacts on research and training are considered eligible delays.
- The impact of delays is taken into consideration in the assessment of contributions to research and/or training.

## Program Updates

# Delays in research: Leaves of absence attachment

Applicants who have reported an eligible leave of absence or delay in their CCV are entitled to an attachment that must be used to list **only** *supplemental contributions to research and to training* beyond the last six years, for a period equivalent to the duration of the leave or delay.

- Contributions to research: list of presentations, interviews and media relations, publications, intellectual property and recognitions
- Contributions to training: list of supervisory activities

## Program Updates

# Optional Extensions to Discovery Grants due to COVID-19

- **With funds: extensions offered to all eligible active DG holders (2022/23)**
  - 1 year with funds at previous level
  - Offered by NSERC to grantees in the last year of funding**Contact:** [resgrant@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:resgrant@nserc-crsng.gc.ca)
- **Without funds: extensions for grantees in their automatic 1 year for the residual use of DG funds**
  - 1 year time only
  - Via Research Grants Officers
  - For grantees not receiving additional funds**Contact:** [grantsadministration@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:grantsadministration@nserc-crsng.gc.ca)

## Program Updates

# Northern Research Supplements (NRS)

- **Objective:** To augment and promote Canadian university-based northern research, training, and community outreach by recognizing the added costs unique to conducting research in the Canadian North.
- **Recent changes:**
  - **Selection Criteria updated:** weighted scoring applied to each criterion; will provide more detailed feedback to applicants
  - **Application Process:** submit with DG application and CCV in Research Portal - no longer separate through Online System (Deadline: November 1<sup>st</sup>)
- Up to \$25,000/year for duration of the DG award
- NRS awards based on peer-review consideration of logistical costs & recognizing outstanding contributions to outreach, engagement, collaboration, & communication initiatives with northerners

Contact: [EnviroSciences-SciencesEnviro@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:EnviroSciences-SciencesEnviro@nserc-crsng.gc.ca)



## Program Updates

# Ship Time Program (STP)

### Objective:

- Assists with the high costs associated with chartering research vessels in Canada and abroad, in support of on-going Discovery research programs

### Description:

- **NEW: Selection Criteria updated - with weighted scoring applied by committee & more feedback provided to applicants**
- **NEW: CCV has replaced the Form 100**
- Applicants must hold a Discovery Grant (or be successful in current DG competition)
- Duration usually one year (potential for 2 years of funding, if justified)
- Deadline: September 1st

Contact: [EnviroSciences-SciencesEnviro@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:EnviroSciences-SciencesEnviro@nserc-crsng.gc.ca)

## Program Updates

# DND\*/NSERC Discovery Grant Supplements

- Supports unclassified university-based research dedicated to the development of non-weapon specific technologies with dual-use applications in defence and security target areas.
- Each supplement valued at \$120,000 over 3 years (\$40,000 per year)
- Eligibility
  - Researchers applying to current DG competition
  - Proposed research must fit within DND defence and security target areas
- Internal DND committee will select recipients

**Contact:** [dndsuppmdn@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:dndsuppmdn@nserc-crsng.gc.ca)

\*DND, Department of National Defence

## Program Updates

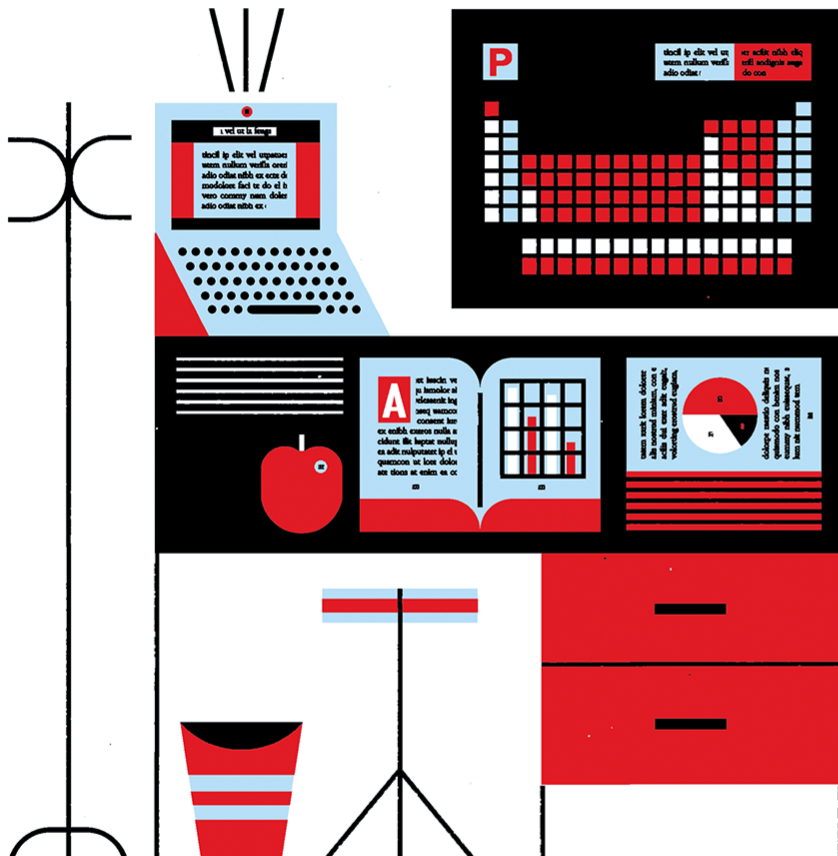
# Discovery Development Grant (DDG)

- Small Universities only
- No separate application is required → offered according to DG results
- \$15K/year for 2 years
- May hold twice throughout career
- Need letter of support from their university, indicating what additional measures will be taken to support the individual's research program

**Contact:** [ddg-sdd@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:ddg-sdd@nserc-crsng.gc.ca)

Distribution of the offered awards by Evaluation Group

Evaluation Group	Pilot					2020	2021	2022	Total (to date)
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019				
19					1	1	1		3
1501	8	2	3	3		6	4	2	28
1502	4	6	5	10	4	11		5	45
1503	3	3	9	5	4	6	1	3	34
1504	3	4	3		2	2	3	3	20
1505	3		6	3	1	2	2	2	19
1506	5	4	5	2		2	3	3	24
1507	8	6	6	6	4	7			37
1508	5	5	3	1	3	1	2	3	23
1509	2	3	5		2	3	3	3	21
1510	4	1	4	2	1	4	1	1	18
1511	5	4	3		2		2		16
1512	7	5	2	2		2			18
<b>Total Awards</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>306</b>



# Questions?

**Elizabeth Boston**

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