



Research & Scholarship Newsletter

March 2022

Research Administration 101: Tips for Drafting a Strong Letter of Support

What is a Letter of Support? As a requirement for a grant submission, some funding agencies may require letters of support. Generally, the expectations for a letter of support are to: 1) provide substantive information about the proposed partnership along with the means and appropriateness of the support, 2) describe College and/or Institutional commitment to provide time release for new investigators, and 3) detail any matching and/or in-kind funding requests. There are generally two types of letters of support:

- ✓ Letter from knowledge-user partners who state that they will provide in-kind and/or monetary support, or
- ✓ Letter from an organization or individual person that supports the idea of the research project.

What should a Letter of Support look like? Letters of support are normally 1 to 1.5 pages in length and are to the point, outlining the intent of the letter, the necessary background details, relevance, and impact. Letters often end with a statement showing excitement and/or enthusiasm for participation in the research project and for the potential research findings. For more information on writing letters of support for a grant, visit the CIHR website [here](#).

A strong letter of support should include the following information:

- ✓ Funding agency and funding program
- ✓ Title of grant
- ✓ Names and affiliations of all team members, including collaborators and organizations (if applicable)
- ✓ Project goal and objectives
- ✓ Description of how the project aligns with an organization. For example, a letter of support from USask and the College of Nursing should align with the USask plan, USask signature areas, and College of Nursing signature areas.
- ✓ Total dollar amount of matching/in-kind contribution and how this contribution will be used (if applicable)

Researcher Q & A

Tatum Wildeman, BSN – MN (Thesis-based)



Q: Tell us three quick facts about yourself.

1. I am a professional contemporary dance artist and currently the artistic director of The Saskatchewan Dance Project.
2. I teach dance to the USask Dance Team, at Ignite Danceworks Inc., contemporary drop-in classes, and a Northern Dance Program.
3. My research integrates dance as a tool for improving mental health and wellness for Indigenous youth living in northern Saskatchewan.

Q: What is the best part of taking your graduate nursing education? What are you looking forward to the most about finishing your program?

A: The best part of taking graduate nursing education is the ability to be creative and innovative through research that could potentially improve the health of individuals. I am most looking forward to being able to further my research by pursuing a PhD following the completion of the Master's program.

Q: Why did you choose the University of Saskatchewan to pursue your graduate nursing education?

A: I felt comfortable returning to USask for my graduate education as I had an amazing educational experience in undergraduate studies. I was pleased that the program was offered online and asynchronously, which allowed me to continue to work as a nurse and keep dancing while in school full time.

How do I request a Letter of Support from the College? The College of Nursing can also provide a letter of support; to obtain such a letter, contact the office of the Associate Dean Research and Graduate Studies [here](#) well ahead of an internal deadline and **at least 15 working days prior** to submission. Prior contact and discussion with the Associate Dean Research and Graduate Studies is required for any matching/in-kind contributions requests and before a letter of support will be provided.

Questions? Please contact [Raeleen Wilson](#) if you have any questions or require assistance.

Strengthening Indigenous research capacity

The Tri-Agencies have released “[Setting New Directions to Support Indigenous Research and Research Training in Canada](#)”. Within this plan, four new strategic directions have been identified through a national dialogue on research that involved extensive consultation and engagement with First Nation, Métis, and Inuit communities across Canada. These directions include the creation of new Indigenous research programs, the introduction of guidelines for merit review of Indigenous research, the extension of funding eligibility to Indigenous organizations, and a revised [Tri-Agency Policy Statement 2](#) on ethical conduct of research with Indigenous peoples. More information, including the objectives for each direction, can be found [here](#).

OVPR launches new planning initiative

The USask Office of the Vice-President Research has committed to building on successes and maintaining momentum, services, and supports to realize the goal of becoming a research-intensive university. As such, a multi-year service planning initiative has been launched. This six-phase initiative includes a series of consultation and engagement opportunities to better understand the research-related needs and expectations of USask scholars. Interested in learning more? Check out the initiative [website](#) for details.

Stay Connected!

Learn more about our Nursing Research and Scholarship? Check out our [Webpage](#) and [Research Snapshot!](#)
Keep on top of upcoming funding opportunities? Join the USask Health Science and/or Social Science [listserv!](#)
Do you engage in Patient-Oriented Research? Join the SCPOR [Affiliated Researcher Alliance](#) (ARA)!

Help us Celebrate Success!

Submit something for yourself or on behalf of someone else. No success is too small to submit!

[Submit a success today!](#)

Once the form is submitted, we will work with you to determine the best way(s) to communicate and celebrate the items. If a submission is received on behalf of someone else, the individual will be contacted in advance of circulating the news publicly.

Key Contacts:

[Dr. Pammla Petrucka](#): Interim Associate Dean Research and Graduate Studies

[Amanda McDonald](#): Administrative Assistant – Research and Graduate Studies

[Raeleen Wilson](#): Administrative Coordinator – Research and Graduate Studies

[Robin Thurmeier](#): Research Facilitator (Pre-Award)

[Caitlin Olauson](#): Research Coordinator (Post-Award)

[Jill Brown](#): Graduate Program Coordinator

[Kylie Kelso](#): Marketing and Communications Specialist

[Tammy Morrison](#): Financial Analyst

[Nicole Shapka](#): Strategic Business Advisor – Human Resources

Celebrating Nursing Research & Scholarship Success!

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

In the News...

Funding Success! Drs. Shelley Spurr and Jill Bally receive a Diabetes Canada grant! Learn how Shelley and Jill are co-leading a project with researchers and community members to create Indigenous community-led and culture-based Type 2 Diabetes education and self-management tools for youth.

Congratulations Shelley and Jill! More information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Funding Success! Drs. Anthony de Padua, Geoffrey Maina, and Marcella Ogenchuk receive SHRF Solutions Innovation grants!

Three University of Saskatchewan (USask) College of Nursing research teams have received over \$140,500 of combined Solution Innovation funds from the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF) over the next year. 100% of USask College of Nursing grant submissions were successful in this competition. Congratulations to Anthony, Geoffrey, and Marcella! More information can be found [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

Nursing Students receive Indigenous Achievement Awards: On March 10th, the Indigenous Student Achievement Awards brought together the USask community to honour students for their academic achievement, leadership, research, resiliency, and community engagement. Three Nursing students were honoured at this event. Congratulations to Amanda Nelson for the Leadership Award, Tina Shaw for the Research Award, and Jodie Sierzycki for the Community Engagement Award! More information available [here](#).

March 8th was #InternationalWomensDay! Drs. Marie Dietrich Leurer and Sithokozile Maposa were highlighted on the College of Nursing social media channels for their important work in this area. Details can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

March 14th to 20th was #BrainAwarenessWeek! Tish King and Jennafer Klemmer were highlighted on the College of Nursing social media channels for their important work in this area. Details can be found [here](#).

March was #NationalKidneyMonth! Dr. Carol Bullin was highlighted on the College of Nursing social media channels for her important work in this area. Details can be found [here](#).

Nursing Research Spotlight

Innovations in Health Systems and Education Research



Mary Ellen Labrecque RN (NP), PhD

Assistant Professor

College of Nursing Campus: Saskatoon, SK

My research focuses on rural and remote nursing practice (including advanced practice nursing) and the delivery of primary health care to address the determinants of health of populations in rural and remote communities.

Community-Engaged Health and Nursing Research



Schroder Sattar PhD

Assistant Professor

College of Nursing Campus: Regina, SK

My research focuses on mobility, falls, and functional outcomes in older adults with cancer, as well as exercise interventions to improve functional performance for this population.

Health Equity Research



Holly Graham RN, BA, BScN, MN, PhD, R.D.

Indigenous Research Chair in Nursing

Psychologist

Associate Professor

College of Nursing Campus: Saskatoon, SK

I work with community (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) partners to improve Indigenous health (physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual) and wellness.

A selection of peer-reviewed journal articles indexed in Scopus from 2021:

- Dagne, S., Aliyu, J., Menber, Y. and 3 more. (2021). Determinants of growth monitoring and promotion service utilization among children 0–23 months of age in northern Ethiopia: unmatched case-control study. *BMC Nutrition*, 7 (1).
- Bally, J.M.G., Burles, M., Spurr, S. and 4 more. (2021). Keeping hope possible toolkit: The development and evaluation of a psychosocial intervention for parents of infants, children and adolescents with life limiting and life threatening illnesses. *Children*, 8 (3).
- Li, H., Glecia, A., Balbuena, L. (2021). Confirmatory Factor Analysis of the Affective Liability Scale-18 in a Community Sample of Pregnant and Postpartum Women. *Women's Reproductive Health*, 8 ,(4) 294-307.
- Ogunkorode, A., Holtslander, L., Ferguson, L. and 5 more. (2021). The suitability of the health belief model as an assessment framework for women with breast ill-health. *International Journal of Women's Health and Reproduction Sciences*, 9 (4), 249-257.
- Engler-Stringer, R., Black, J., Muhajarine, N. and 13 more. (2021). The good food for learning universal curriculum-integrated healthy school lunch intervention: Protocol for a two-year matched control pre-post and case study. *JMIR Research Protocols*, 10 (9).
- Engler-Stringer, R., Black, J., Muhajarine, N. and 14 more. (2021). Erratum: The good food for learning universal curriculum-integrated healthy school lunch intervention: Protocol for a two-year matched control pre-post and case study (*JMIR Research Protocols* (2021) 10:9 (e30899) DOI: 10.2196/30899). *JMIR Research Protocols*, 10 (11).
- Alebel, A., Demant, D., Petrucka, P. and 1 more. (2021). Does undernutrition increase the risk of lost to follow-up in adults living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa? Protocol for a systematic review and meta-analysis. *BMJ Open*, 11 (12).
- Shiferaw, W.S., Akalu, T.Y., Desta, M. and 3 more. (2021). Effect of educational interventions on knowledge of the disease and glycaemic control in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus: A systematic review and meta-Analysis of randomised controlled trials. *BMJ Open*, 11 (12).
- Alotaibi, A.M., Promdet, P., Hwang, G.B. and 6 more. (2021). Zn and N Codoped TiO₂Thin Films: Photocatalytic and Bactericidal Activity. *ACS Applied Materials and Interfaces*, 13 (8), 10480-10489.
- Patir, A., Hwang, G.B., Lourenco, C. and 3 more. (2021). Crystal Violet-Impregnated Slippery Surface to Prevent Bacterial Contamination of Surfaces. *ACS Applied Materials and Interfaces*, 13 (4), 5478-5485.

April Awareness Days

Throughout the month of April, watch the College of Nursing social media feeds for stories linked to:

- ❖ World Health Day
- ❖ Earth Day
- ❖ National Oral Health Month

Follow our social media channels for more details!

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

Contact Kylie if you have a research story that you would like to share for any upcoming awareness dates!

DID YOU KNOW? Discovery Digest

- ✓ The USask Research Profile and Impact office publishes a research-focused digital newsletter each month highlighting all the great research taking place across campus?
- ✓ Learn more [here](#).
- ✓ If you would like to be included in Discovery Digest, connect with [Kylie](#).



Important Dates:

College of Nursing Activities

Lunch and Learns (12:00-1:00 pm)

April 4: USask OVPR – Ethics in Research

Speaker: Nick Reymond

RSVP by April 1, 2022

The above events are available to all within the College. Contact Amanda to RSVP!

Upcoming Research Events

Apr 13: SSHRC Matters will provide a panel discussion on anti-racism and anti-oppression research at USask. Register [here](#) for this event.

Apr 28: Pediatrics Child Health Research Trainee Day showcases research from students across USask. Abstracts are due March 25 and can be submitted [here](#).

May 5: USask 2022 Life and Health Sciences Research Expo is an annual showcase of basic, translational, clinical, applied, and social and population health science. Further information available [here](#).

May 25: OVPR Communications Workshop – Plain Language for Researchers will provide faculty and trainees with the tools and knowledge to learn how to achieve clarity and impact when telling your research story by using plain language. Further information (including registration link) available [here](#).

Jun 8 to 14: JBI Comprehensive Systematic Review Training Program is designed to prepare health sciences researchers, clinicians, librarians, graduate students and other individuals involved in quality and practice portfolios to develop, conduct and report systematic reviews of evidence. The program will be delivered virtually this year. Registration and payment are due by May 2, 2022. Contact [Lisa Keeping-Burke](#) for further information.

Jun 22 to 24: World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Viral Hepatitis. This gathering will highlight this issue and effect change, Indigenous people, including those with lived and living experience of viral hepatitis, clinicians, researchers and policy-makers. [Registration](#) and [Abstract](#) submissions are currently open.

Jun 29: OVPR Communications Workshop – Social Media for Researchers to learn more about the tools, techniques and benefits of using social media to engage audiences with your research. Further information (including registration link) available [here](#).

Upcoming Grant Competitions

SCPOR Learning Health System Project

Mar 8: Online Information session

Apr 5: EOI Deadline

Sep 5: Submit to UnivRS

Sep 15: Submit to funder

IDRC Proposals for Research Teams for Women RISE

Mar: Call launched

Apr 12: Concept Notes due to funder

Jul: Proposals due

USask OVPR Research Junction

May 17: Submit to UnivRS by this date for College approval

Contact Robin for details.