**Progress on UCalgary IPG Project Objectives – 2019/20 report**        **Total IPG award: $1,699,206**

| Project name | Objective(s) | Allocated amount | Progress |
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| Indigenous Research Support Team | **Objective #1**<br>Establish the Indigenous Research Support Team to effectively support Indigenous faculty members and research being carried out in Indigenous environments<br><br>Priority area: Equity, diversity and faculty renewal | $261,516 | The IRST's mandate was defined, the first staff members were recruited and<br>outreach activities to internal and external groups were initiated. |
| Innovation and Entrepreneurship Initiatives | **Objective #1**<br>Establish the BIG IDEAS Lab (BIL), a forum for innovation team development<br><br>Priority Area: Innovation and commercialization activities | $447,090 | In this first year, two specialists were tasked to create and communicate tactical and strategic actions around student engagement in entrepreneurial activities, within the innovation community. The BIL Specialists worked closely with other units, students and staff across the University and with community partners to develop programming in line with the Innovation@UCalgary strategy. An array of events, classroom workshops and co-curricular activities engaged and informed students, staff and faculty members about innovation opportunities and supports. The first year of programming has demonstrated that a focused effort on community building leads to greater student engagement and an expansion of entrepreneurial culture on campus. |
| | **Objective #2**<br>Launch the WE Innovate program, an entrepreneurial development program for women in STEM<br><br>Priority Area: Innovation and commercialization activities | | In total, WELab Launchpad received 34 applications and accepted 74 participants (14 teams, 20 individuals) into the 5-week pilot program in early 2020. Teams were lead by female founders and/or had gender diversity within the team. The WELab program also had strong female mentors for the teams and leveraged university programming, resources, and networks to support women in entrepreneurship. |

| | | | Outcomes: After positive feedback from participants on the beta program and incorporating their feedback to make it even better, the WELab Launchpad expanded from a 5-week pilot project to six-month program (renamed Launchpad) that launched in September 2020. This second run of the program had a 33% female participation rate with 27 women and 50 men accepted into the program. |
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| Knowledge Engagement | **Objective #1**<br>Establish an Industry Liaison Office (ILO) to develop partnership opportunities with industry and advise researchers on partnership strategies.<br><br>Priority Area: Innovation and commercialization activities | $425,600 | Pilot has been successful to date. Established operational team and steering committee to develop campus wide ILO strategy. A partnership playbook is under development. Campus coordination and alignment is underway to implement collective outreach to key strategic industry partners. This has led to an increase in the number of agreements (research collaborations, animal licensing agreements, services contracts) and research dollars secured for University of Calgary. |
| | **Objective #2**<br>Establish a Knowledge Engagement (KE) team to develop partnership opportunities with community organizations and advise researchers on partnership strategies<br><br>Priority Area: Innovation and commercialization activities | | The mandate of the team has been defined and outreach to internal and external groups has begun. Key areas for service and support have been defined as: partnership matchmaking; research collaboration support; knowledge mobilization planning; and capacity building. Support activities has begun in each of these areas |
| IT Infrastructure | **Objective #1**<br>To balance file system network bandwidth, install a central high performance Ethernet network switch to reach multiple campus data centres.<br><br>Priority Area (s): Information resources, including digital resources, open access and | $210,000 | This network switch enabled research data from the Foothills data center (CHGI) and storage in Math Science data center to reach two HPC clusters for data processing. Researchers are now able to run their data 24/7 on HPC infrastructure. Additional purchases enabled an upgrade in power rating in server racks to accommodate HPC servers and an increase in HPC CPU cluster capacity |

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| Enhancements to the UC Clinical, Health Services and Population Health Research Platform Strategy | **Objective #1**<br>Reduce administrative burden for obtaining approval from Alberta Health Services for clinical studies by adding "AHS Module" to the UCalgary Research Ethics system and rolling out a new electronic harmonized ethics review process – REB Exchange - to improve efficiencies for researchers and Research Ethics Boards (REBs) for multi- site research in Alberta.<br><br>Priority Area (s): Information resources, including digital resources, open access and databases | $247,500 | The Alberta Health Services roll out of the medical record system EPIC has been pushed back and training of investigators and research staff will now take place in Q2 & Q3 of 2021. IPG funds were utilized to reduce the administrative burden to UCalgary clinical researchers for obtaining approval from Alberta Health Services for their clinical studies by adding an "AHS Module" to the UCalgary Research Ethics system.<br>Through the AHS module, appr. 3000 clinical research approval requests will be streamlined and issued faster, resulting in faster study start-up. The REB Exchange will be launched in Q1 2021 and will provide the technical solution for true research ethics reciprocity for Alberta by enabling the exchange of ethics files and board approval for multiple locations. |
| | **Objective #2**<br>Expand capabilities & capacity for clinical & population health research<br>a) Enhance Big Data capabilities of the Centre for Health Informatics<br>b) Enhance the capabilities of the Heritage Medical Research Clinic to support clinical research of disabling neurological disorders.<br>c) Add 3d/week injection and infusion program to meet needs of increasing number of brain and | | Big Data capabilities of the Centre for Health Informatics were enhanced by increasing data transfer speed to 100Gb/s through the addition of fast ethernet cables at 50 workstations. In addition to the observed results, the<br>high speed ethernet cables now support a real time COVID-19 tracker that pulls data from Alberta Health databases to inform public health decisions.<br>Infrastructure enhancements at the Heritage Medical Research Clinic have supported a total of 18 neurological disorders studies.<br>The infusion program has been gradually growing and now supports 9 |

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| | mental health studies requiring these drug administration routes<br><br>Priority Area (s): Information resources, including digital resources, open access and databases | | studies requiring infusions to administer the investigative drugs. The infusion program is now self sustaining and supports a part-time infusion nurse in the clinic. |
| EDI initiatives | **Objective #1**<br>Gather data and further develop processes related to supporting EDI for Canada Research Chairs and other EDI initiatives.<br><br>Priority area: Equity, diversity and faculty renewal | $107,500 | An application to join the Dimensions EDI pilot program was prepared in coordination with Provost's office, Vice-President (Research) office, Office of Institutional Analysis, and Office of Diversity, Equity and Protected Disclosure; the University was accepted into the pilot cohort in August 2019. Campus- wide committees have been established to begin planning for institutional EDI assessment in 2020-2022, including expanded EDI data collection and surveys of campus culture.<br><br>For the Canada Research Chairs program, a self-identification questionnaire and chairholders survey on supports and working conditions were distributed and completed with an 84% response rate. Results informed the update to the institutional EDI action plan, which was submitted in September 2019.<br>Additional processes, consultation, guidance and training resources are in development by an EDI specialist hired in May 2020 (delayed from 2019; to be reported in 2020-21 IPG report). |