



## **SHARCNET awards more than \$400,000 in research fellowships**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Shared Hierarchical Academic Research Computing Network (SHARCNET) is pleased to announce the awarding of \$415,164 in fellowships to researchers at its partner institutions.

Matching contributions by successful applicants amounted to \$234,380, bringing the total amount of support for research at SHARCNET institutions to just under \$650,000 in this fifth round of funding, and further strengthening the number and quality of research personnel involved in high-performance computing at SHARCNET institutions.

Hermann Eberl, SHARCNET Chair in Biocomputing in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Guelph, was one such successful applicant.

"As a newcomer to SHARCNET, I am extremely impressed with the level of support this organization provides," said Eberl. "The Fellowships program is just one aspect of the larger support system that makes SHARCNET so valuable to the research community. It enhances our research programs and helps significantly to attract students."

To date, 123 fellowships have been awarded, with over \$2.6 million dollars in financial support from SHARCNET.

SHARCNET Executive Director, Carmen Gicante, confirmed the importance of these programs to the SHARCNET community and to Canadian research in general.

"The SHARCNET Fellowship Awards not only ensure innovative usage of SHARCNET systems, but also help to attract and retain leading national and international researchers at SHARCNET institutions."

Dr. Eberl was attracted to the University of Guelph from the German National Research Center for Environment and Health, through the SHARCNET Chairs program, and because of exceptional research support programs like the fellowship awards.

For details on individual awards and total institutional allocations, please see:

<http://www.sharcnet.ca/research/roundVresults.html>

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## **BACKGROUNDER**

### **About the SHARCNET Fellowships Program**

Introduced in 2001, this initiative is designed to increase the number and quality of research personnel involved in high-performance computing at SHARCNET partner institutions, and to maintain optimal usage of SHARCNET's computing infrastructure. Though only full-time faculty at SHARCNET partner institutions can apply for fellowships, awards do not focus exclusively on faculty researchers, but provide financial support for a variety of personnel necessary to the research process. Opportunities include:

- **Research Fellowships:** To allow a faculty member to 'buy out' a substantial fraction of their teaching load for 1 or 2 academic terms, in order to focus more time on research.
- **Senior Visiting Fellowships:** To attract and support world-class, "distinguished" international researchers who wish to visit a SHARCNET institution for an extended period, or support visiting faculty on sabbatical leave from their home institution.
- **Postdoctoral and Graduate Fellowships:** To assist in attracting the best trainees to work with SHARCNET researchers.
- **Undergraduate and Co-op Fellowships:** To allow excellent undergraduate students to become involved in SHARCNET research projects during the summer months, or during a co-op term within their degree program.

Applications are evaluated through peer review system by a Fellow Selection Committee, which includes representative researchers from across SHARCNET partner institutions.

The SHARCNET Fellowships program is made possible by an investment of the Ontario government through the Ontario Research and Development Challenge Fund.

### **About the Ontario Research and Development Challenge Fund ([www.ontariochallengefund.com](http://www.ontariochallengefund.com))**

Created by the Ontario government, the Ontario Research and Development Challenge Fund promotes world-class research of interest to the private sector; encourages collaboration between the private sector and research institutions; attracts and retains top scientists and enables talented young scientists to pursue their research interests; and helps Ontario's research institutions build their R&D capacity, so they are able to obtain funding from other sources. Through the Challenge Fund, the province is investing \$484.3 million in 113 research projects. Private sector and research institution partners are investing an additional \$1.2 billion bringing the total value of Challenge Fund supported research projects to \$1.7 billion.