



Research News

Dear colleagues,

In November we officially launched our eighth annual [Report on Research](#). Typically, this is delivered to you as a magazine-style report, however, because most of us are still working from home, we opted to change tactics and developed a new and enriched online report that continues to highlight the exciting research that has taken place in the past year. This searchable space provides information about research successes, partnerships and student research opportunities. We wish to thank everyone for working collaboratively with us to develop this comprehensive report.

We wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season, and look forward to working with you in 2021!

From all of us in the Research Office,

- Will, Sukh, Anita, Megan, Lincoln, Debbie, Troy, Alana & Danna

Research Training Recognition Funds awarded

Thank you to those who applied for Research Training Recognition Funds (RTRF), and to our adjudication team. Funds are available to faculty who hold multi-year try-agency research grants. These funds enable a reallocation of faculty workload. The winter 2020 RTRF recipients are:

- Gloria Ramirez
- Jonathan Van Hamme
- Catherine Ortner
- Matthew Reudink
- Tina Block

New graduate studies website

Based on feedback received from graduate students and graduate supervisors, we have redesigned the graduate studies website. The site contains all the necessary forms and resources that students and faculty require. Meet your [Graduate Student Mentors](#), stay up to date on the [impacts of COVID-19 on campus services and spaces](#), and easily access the [various health and wellness](#) supports available to you on campus.

Successful thesis defences

Thesis defences are continuing under the leadership of the individual programs according to new [guidelines on thesis defences](#).

Congratulations:

- **Natalia Popa (Antalovschi)**, MBA, "Factors affecting the price-to-earnings ratio."
- **Lorraine Weaver**, MEd, "Engaging communities in collaboration through online communities of inquiry."
- **Jackson Baron**, MScES, "Mapping invasive plants using RPAS and remote sensing."

COVID-19 research impacts

The Research Office is committed to providing up-to-date information designed to facilitate the continuation of faculty and student research during this global pandemic. [This website](#) will be updated regularly, and includes links to Tri-Agency pandemic response, information about research continuity planning, guidelines for research teams, travel awards, funding opportunities, and more. We advise you bookmark this page and check back regularly, as this situation is rapidly changing.

Research initiatives & events

Tap into Research

We are thrilled with the response to our virtual [Tap into Research series](#). If you have missed some of the great presentation, now is great

Gift of
Learning
50
EST. 1970



time to catch up using our [YouTube playlist](#).

The Tap into Research/Gift of Learning virtual presentations provide an opportunity for your research to reach new audiences. For more information about developing a Tap into Research presentation, contact [Danna Bach](#).

Rematriation of Indigenous women: Filmmakers and storytellers

When: Feb. 5, 1 - 2:30 pm

You are invited to participate in this webinar featuring guest speakers Dr. Dorothy Christian, Dr. Jules Arita Koostachin, and Doreen Manuel.

[Read more](#)



Project Management for Grad Students

When: Feb. 1 & 2, all day

Mitacs is providing free, online workshops for graduate students in BC. In this workshop, students will use a customized project planning tool to reach their project deadlines with energy and time to spare.

[Read more](#)

Presentation Skills for Grad Students

When: Feb. 11, all day

In this one-day course, theory is introduced in short bursts and participants spend the majority of time practicing their presentation skills while receiving immediate feedback.

[Read more](#)

Research News

BMO donates \$750K for Indigenous students at TRU

BMO Financial Group is donating \$750,000 to TRU to support scholarships, bursaries and awards for Indigenous health-care students and Indigenous undergraduate researchers.

BMO is dedicating \$400,000 to student awards for the **Knowledge Makers**, an award-winning mentorship program that guides Indigenous undergraduate researchers.



[Read more](#)

Sifting through dirt's DNA

A new Genome BC-funded project will standardize how environmental DNA is measured in microbial soil communities.

Lauchlan Fraser and **Jonathan Van Hamme** are leading novel research to enable more precise measurements of soil biodiversity.



[Read more](#)

New website supports essential health workers

The Nursing The Future website and online community has launched to establish an online network for new RNs and LPNs to find support, make connections and access professional development. Led by **Judy Duchscher** and supported by a team of students, new graduates and expert nurses, the site is supported by a grant from the Canadian Nurses Foundation and by administrative assistance from the Canadian Nurses Association.



[Read more](#)

Law professor finds success in Supreme Court of Canada

In February, **Ruby Dhand** was part of a legal team intervening in a charter challenge. The Supreme Court of Canada has now recognized the voices and rights of people with mental health or addiction histories in a precedent-setting ruling.



[Read more](#)

Grad research examines the need for more engaged voices

Lorri Weaver successfully defended her MEd thesis that explores how to encourage greater participation in public engagement activities.



[Read more](#)

TELUS sponsors graduate research fellows

TELUS is sponsoring a program that will pair graduate research fellows with businesses that want to reduce their carbon footprint.

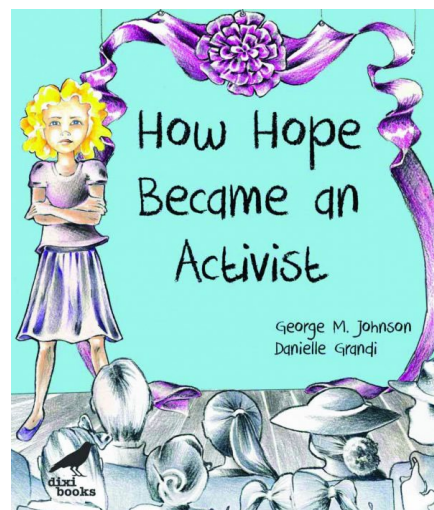


[Read more](#)

Children's books send a message of hope and empathy

George Johnson released his first children's picture book "How Hope Became an Activist" through UK publisher Dixi Books.

[Read more](#)



Communicating research

Send your images to Science Exposed

Eye-catching images from research projects across all fields of study can now be submitted to Science Exposed. The individuals or groups that most successfully combine creativity and science will be awarded a cash prize. The contest is hosted by NSERC and Acfas, and its goal is to foster a science culture in Canada by capturing vibrant research images that showcase the work of our talented research community.

Share your expertise

Media is reaching out to TRU routinely, searching for experts to speak on a variety of issues. Please make yourself easy to find by joining the [Experts List](#). For more information, please reach out to [Danna Bach](#), or take a moment and [simply register online](#).

Research in the media

Casatanet Kamloops | A graphic way to teach

Dec. 7 — TRU philosophy professor **Jeff McLaughlin** uses comic books to raise issues and ideas with students.

[Read more](#)

[Maclean's Magazine | What's next for carbon prices in Canada?](#)

Dec. 7 — In this compilation article of economic predictions for 2021, **Joel Wood**, associate professor, offers his thoughts on federal carbon pricing.

[Read more](#)

[CBC British Columbia | Zoo sheltering displaced snakes](#)

Dec. 5 — In October, BC Wildlife Park received 92 Great Basin gopher snakes and western yellow-bellied racers displaced from Lac du Bois grasslands due to construction of the Trans Mountain pipeline. **Karl Larsen**, professor of natural resource sciences speaks about the potential of working with Trans Mountain to rebuild a hibernacula for the snakes.

[Read more](#)

[Castanet Kamloops | Support website for nurses](#)

Dec. 3 — **Judy Duchscher** has observed the need for greater support for new nurses for years. At the end of November, she launched the national website and online community, Nursing the Future, to address this need.

[Read more](#)

[Radio NL | US election impact](#)

Nov. 18 & 19 — Radio NL speaks with political scientist **Robert Hanlon** about the changing relationship between Canada and China, and how it could look different under Joe Biden's administration. They also spoke with TRU law faculty member **Jeffrey Meyers** about what legal recourse Donald Trump has in the wake of the US election.

[Read more](#)

[Vancouver Sun | Rattlesnakes often give birth up to a kilometre away from their underground dens, research shows](#)

Nov. 18 — The Vancouver Sun interviewed **Dana Eye**, who is completing her master's degree at TRU, studying rattlesnakes, which are a species at risk in BC.

[Read more](#)

Castanet Kamloops | Award-winning Kamloops author releases first picture book

Nov 14 — **George Johnson**, a professor in the English and modern languages department, has written a book to inspire kids to make a difference.

[Read more](#)

Charles Adler Tonight | How the US election will change America and Canada

Nov. 9 — Media personality Charles Adler talks with **Jeffrey Meyers** regarding the response to the US election.

[Read more](#)

CBC Kamloops | Early childhood education centre tour

Nov. 4 — CBC's Shelley Joyce joins Dean of Education and Social Work, **Airini**, and early childhood education researcher **Laura Doan** for an on site tour of the future day care, early childhood education centre, and research space.

[Read more](#)

Funding news

Tri-Agency News

1. Tri-Agency (CIHR, SSHRC, NSERC) and CFI has launched a new [Integrated Calendar of Funding Opportunities](#) of principal funding opportunities and their joint initiatives for researchers, graduate students and post-doctoral fellow. Please bookmark this.

2. New Frontiers in Research Fund has launched [interactive dashboard](#) that highlights key data on NFRF competitions to date, providing valuable insights into how the fund is being awarded to the research community.

Seeking members for Indigenous Leadership Circle in Research

First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples are invited to submit expressions of interest to [participate in an interagency Indigenous Leadership Circle in Research](#). The Leadership Circle will advise the presidents of the three federal research funding agencies and the Canada Foundation for Innovation on the implementation of the Canada Research Coordinating Committee's [strategic plan](#) for strengthening Indigenous research capacity.

COVID-19 Research Impacts

For the most up-to-date- news on Tri-Agency response to COVID-19, please visit the following:

- [COVID-19 Impacts on SSHRC's Policies and Programs](#)
- [NSERC program information in relation to COVID-19](#)
- [CIHR: Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#)

Funding opportunities (external)

A calendar for [COVID related research grants](#) has been created, and features sponsored research opportunities on the novel coronavirus.

- The internal deadline for all applications is **two weeks prior** to the listed deadline. This allows time to receive critical review, obtain support letters and appropriate institutional approval. Please contact [Anita Sharma](#) or [Megan Prins](#) at the earliest opportunity to receive extensive grant development support.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Cooperation

[Housing Supply Challenge - Round 1: Data Driven – Solutions for Informed Decision Making](#)

Deadline: Jan. 20

Award amount: Up to \$100,000

The Housing Supply Challenge (HSC) invites citizens, stakeholders, and experts from across Canada to propose innovative solutions to the barriers that limit the creation of new housing. **Round 1 Challenge: The Data Driven round** invites applicants to submit data solutions or methodologies that improve the collection, sharing, analysis and integration, and/or presentation of data.

The broad definition allows participants to determine the solution that best fits the needs of the identified problem. We want decision makers to use the solutions to provide and maintain needed housing supply. Solutions should help government agencies, policy makers, private or not-for-profit organizations, etc. have a real impact on housing supply at a macro or a local level.

Objectives of this round:

- Identify and cultivate data solutions that positively impact housing supply that is affordable and meets people's needs.
- Provide funding and support to implement and scale the most promising data solutions that target housing supply decision makers.
- Create long-term partnerships to connect data expertise, housing expertise, and the communities that can enable housing supply initiatives.
- Create a culture of trust and openness in Canada to encourage the accessibility of housing data for everyone that might benefit from it.

CIHR

Spring Project Grant

Deadlines: March 4 (spring registration); April 1 (full application)

This program is designed to capture ideas with the greatest potential for important advances in fundamental or applied health-related knowledge, health care, health systems, and/or health outcomes. The best ideas may stem from new, incremental, innovative, and/or high-risk lines of inquiry or knowledge translation approaches. Please also see [Priority Announcements](#) that offer additional sources of funding for highly rated applications.

Team Grant: Food Security and Climate Change in the Canadian North

DEADLINE CHANGE: LOI: April 27 (successful LOIs will be awarded \$25,000 to develop a full application)

Award amount: Up to 1.5 million over 4 years

The goal of this initiative is to support multidisciplinary teams of researchers, knowledge users and/or partners to work together to address food security and climate change in the North.

Team Grant - Diabetes Prevention and Treatment in Indigenous Communities: Resilience and Wellness

Deadline: May 26 (LOI); successful LOIs receive up to \$35,000 to develop a full application; July 7 (full application)

Award value: Up to \$2 million

This competition will support Indigenous-led and community-driven research to define and integrate models of resilience and wellness into diabetes prevention and/or treatment approaches among First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples.

Team Grant – Indigenous Gender and Wellness

Deadlines: June 22 (registration); July 29 (full application). *Note: At least one team member must have attended the [Idea Fair and Learning Circle](#) in June 2019*

Award value: Up to \$500,000

Gender plays an important, but often overlooked role in Indigenous wellness. Indigenous concepts of gender have been negatively affected by colonization and the effects of gender on wellness have often been overlooked by research. This will provide funding for Indigenous-led teams to implement their ideas through research and action-oriented, community-based participatory projects that will improve wellness for Indigenous Peoples from a gendered perspective.

SSHRC

Connection Grants

Deadlines: Feb. 1, May 1, Aug. 1, Nov. 1

Award amount: \$7,000 to \$25,000 (events); up to \$50,000 (outreach activities)

Connection grants support events and outreach activities geared toward short-term, targeted knowledge mobilization initiatives. Events and outreach activities funded by a Connection Grant may often serve as a first step toward more comprehensive and longer-term projects potentially eligible for funding through other SSHRC funding opportunities listed in SSHRC's Funding search tool.

SSHRC Insight Development Grants

Deadline: Feb. 2

Value: \$7,000 to \$75,000/two years

Portal now open!

Insight Development Grants (IDG) enable the development of new research questions, as well as experimentation with new methods, theoretical approaches and/or ideas. IDGs foster research in its initial stages, but are not intended to support large-scale initiatives. Funding is available to both emerging and established scholars and 50% of the budget is reserved for emerging scholars.

Partnership Engage Grants

Deadlines: March 15, June 15, Sept. 15

Award amount: \$7,000 to \$25,000

These grants provide short-term and timely support for partnered research activities that will inform decision-making at a single partner organization from the public, private or not-for-profit sector. The partnerships supported through these grants respond to immediate needs and time constraints facing

organizations in non-academic sectors.

NSERC

NSERC Idea to Innovation (I2I) Grants

Deadlines: Jan. 6, March 30, June 22, Sept. 28

Award value: \$15,000-\$350,000*

**Applicants must contact [Lincoln Smith](#) to discuss partnerships, IP, and research agreements prior to applying for this grant*

The Idea to Innovation (I2I) grants will accelerate the pre-competitive development of promising technology originating from the university and college sector and promote its transfer to a new or established Canadian company. The I2I grants provide funding to college and university faculty members to support research and development projects with recognized technology transfer potential. This is achieved through defined phases by providing crucial assistance in the early stages of technology validation and market connection.

Alliance Grants

Deadlines: ongoing

NSERC is pleased to announce the opening of the next phases of [Alliance grants](#). Alliance grants are now open for [Option 1](#) applications requesting over \$20,000 annually from NSERC, and [Option 2](#) applications requesting support for up to 90% or 100% of the costs of the project are now open.

Alliance grants encourage university researchers to collaborate with partner organizations, which can be from the private, public or not-for-profit sectors. Please also see [slide deck](#) from NSERC Research and Innovation Development Officer, Pam Giberson's presentation at TRU. And an Alliance Grant application "[Top Tips](#)" document.

Government of BC

WorkSafe BC: Research Grant Competition Innovation at Work

Deadlines: Dec. 20 (optional LOI); Feb. 12 (full application)

Award value: \$50,000

These funds support small-scale research projects that lead to the development of practical solutions to address workplace health and safety issues. Research topics should align with WorkSafeBC [research priorities](#).

Government of Canada

[AgriScience Program - Projects](#)

Deadline: open

Award value: varies

The AgriScience Program is a program under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. The program aims to accelerate the pace of innovation by providing funding and support for pre-commercial science activities and cutting-edge research that benefits the agriculture and agri-food sector and Canadians.

[Heritage Canada: - Community Support, Multiculturalism, and Anti-Racism Initiatives Program](#)

Deadline: Jan. 12 (projects); Continuous (events)

These programs support the mandate of the Department of Canadian Heritage by building on Canada's strength as a diverse and inclusive society. The Program has three funding components: Events, Projects and Community Capacity Building. It also includes one separate initiative, the Paul Yuzyk Youth Initiative for Multiculturalism.

[Canadian Space Agency - Lunar Exploration Accelerator Program \(Leap\)](#)

Deadline: [Request for Proposals-Letter of Intent](#) (rolling to March, 2022)

The Canadian Space Agency is preparing Canada's space community and collaborating sectors, including Canadian companies, universities, research institutions, and other organizations, for potential roles in the long-term exploration of the Moon. The Lunar Exploration Accelerator Program (LEAP) was created to provide a wide range of opportunities for Canadian science and technology activities in lunar orbit, on the Moon's surface, and beyond. LEAP is looking to [foster innovation in areas of strength for Canada](#), like artificial intelligence, robotics, science and health.

[Foundations](#)

[Inuit Nunangat Research Program \(INRP\) – Call for Proposals](#)

The (INRP) is an Inuit-led component of [North by North](#), a program operated by the ArcticNet Network of Centres of Excellence. In tandem with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami's [implementation of the National Inuit Strategy on Research \(NISR\)](#), the INRP advances Inuit self-determination in research by creating space for Inuit to design research projects, develop partnerships to build capacity and strengthen the impact and effectiveness of Inuit Nunangat research for Inuit.

[Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research - Scholar Program](#)

Deadlines: Feb. 8 (LOI); March 22 (full application)

This program identifies and develops outstanding BC health researchers who are within five years from the start of their first institutional appointment as an independent investigator, it helps researchers start and develop new programs of research, and it protects researchers' time to conduct research, develop an independent research career and attract additional research funding. [Partnership opportunities are available.](#)

[Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research – Research Trainee Program](#)

Deadlines: Feb. 8 (LOI); March 29 (full application)

This program provides salary support for talented post-doctoral or health professional researchers and develops their careers in health research, it *Helps post-doctoral researchers increase their, and their labs', research productivity, and it prepares post-doctoral researchers for successful careers in research, biotech, health policy and more.* [Partnership opportunities are available.](#)

[Max Bell Foundation: Project Grants and Development Grants](#)

Deadline: Ongoing

Award amount: \$10,000-\$200,000/ 1-3 years

Project Grants support clearly defined activities designed to achieve a specific objective that aligns with the Foundation's mission and criteria and that seek to support projects with a high likelihood of informing public policy and practice.

Current program areas include: Health & Wellness; Education; the Environment.

Development Grants support organizations who wish to undertake short-term (typically 4 month) work that will better position them to succeed with larger projects (e.g., environmental scanning; background research; project planning; proposal development etc.). Development grants are described in more detail [here](#).

[Canada Mortgage and Housing Cooperation – Housing Supply Challenge - Round 1: Data Driven – Solutions for Informed Decision Making](#) to create data solutions that improve decision-making for housing supply across Canada.

The (HSC) invites citizens, stakeholders, and experts from across Canada to propose innovative solutions to the barriers that limit the creation of new housing. **Round 1 Challenge** invites applicants to submit data solutions or methodologies that improve the collection, sharing, analysis and integration, and/or presentation of data. The broad definition allows participants to

determine the solution that best fits the needs of the identified problem. We want decision makers to use the solutions to provide and maintain needed housing supply. Solutions should help government agencies, policy makers, private or not-for-profit organizations, etc. have a real impact on housing supply at a macro or a local level.

Fellowships

[Mitacs Elevate, Postdoctoral Fellowship Winter 2020](#)

Deadline: Jan. 13 (intent to apply and conflict of interest declaration); Feb. 19 (full application)

Award value: \$55,000 salary/stipend minimum

Mitacs Elevate is a postdoctoral fellowship with a customized research management-training component. Elevate fellows progress through the program in a cohort, giving them cross-disciplinary networking and peer-learning opportunities they might not have otherwise in their careers. Over the two-year fellowship, Elevate fellows divide their time between their partner organization project and university-based research with their faculty supervisor.

[Accelerate: Indigenous Initiative](#)

Deadline: Jan. 29

This initiative is part of Mitacs' [Accelerate Program](#), linking a student with a partnering organization on a research project co-developed by a faculty supervisor. This Indigenous call offers 75% of the matching funds if the student or the non-academic partner self-identifies as Indigenous.

For additional assistance with Mitacs applications, contact [Jennifer Tedman-Jones](#).

Funding opportunities (internal)

[The Thompson Rivers University Internal Research Fund](#)

Deadline: Jan. 15 annually

Award amount: \$3,000 - \$5,000.

A joint initiative of the Research and Graduate Studies office and the Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic, this fund provides a maximum of \$100,000 annually to support research with the principal aim of helping faculty become more competitive for external funding and scaffolding faculty development, especially in terms of tenure and promotion. Completion of an

IRF project should significantly widen the applicant's sphere of influence in terms of their research and scholarship. The IRF is a seed fund that is not intended to provide funding for major projects. *Those accepting IRF funding are expected to apply for complementary or future external funding support.*

Please find the Terms of Reference and Application Form in [Romeo](#).

Funding opportunities (students)

[BC NEIHR Indigenous Graduate and Postdoctoral Funding](#)

Deadline: Jan. 15

Award Value: \$17,000 (masters)

Funded by the CIHR Institute of Indigenous Peoples' Health (IIPH), the BC NEIHR is one of nine Indigenous-led networks across Canada that support research leadership among Indigenous (*First Nations, Métis and Inuit*) communities, collectives and organizations (ICCOs). The primary objective is to increase the number of ICCOs and Indigenous researchers (*students and investigators*) who hold health research funds.

[NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award Program \(USRA\)](#)

Deadline: Jan. 22

Award amount: \$7,500 (minimum)

The award amount has increased for 2021. This award provides funds for undergraduate students in the natural sciences and engineering to engage in research over a 16-week period over the summer (May to August). Several adjustments have been made to the application process, which can be read in full detail at tru.ca/myresearch.

Knowledge mobilization

Presentations

Nikku, Bala. (2020, November) The role of universities in community engagement during COVID-19 pandemic 2020. Keynote presented at Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University, Saudi Arabia.

Published books, chapters & articles

Bottos, E. M., AL-shabib, E. Y., Shaw, D. M. J., ***McAmmond, B. M.,** Sharma,

A., Suchan, D. M., . . . **Van Hamme, J. D.** (2020). Transcriptomic response of *gordonia* sp. strain NB4-1Y when provided with 6:2 fluorotelomer sulfonamidoalkyl betaine or 6:2 fluorotelomer sulfonate as sole sulfur source. *Biodegradation*, *31*, 407-422.

Dale, C., **Reudink, M. W.**, Ratcliffe, L. M., & McKellar, A. E. Effects of urbanization and nest box design on reproduction vary by species in three cavity-nesting passerines in the okanagan valley. *Canadian Journal of Zoology*.

Haverila, M., McLaughlin, C., Haverila, K. C., & Viskovics, J. (2020). Brand community motives and their impact on brand community engagement: Variations between diverse audiences. *Management Decision*.

Karupiah, P., Pathmanathan, S., & **Nikku, B. R.** (2020). Perception of sexual violence in tamil movies by malaysian indian viewers. *Null*, , 1-16.
doi:10.1080/14680777.2020.1850501

Sanderson, D., Mirza, N., & Correale, H. (2020). Indigenous land-based experiential learning in nursing education . *Journal of Nursing Education*, *59*(12).

Sharma, M. (2020). Masquerade of neoliberal concepts revealed: Self-regulation skills in Ontario's full-day kindergarten program. *Canadian Journal of Action Research*, *21*(1), 87-101.

Shuttleworth, C. M., Robinson, N., Halliwell, E. C., Clews-Roberts, R., Peek, H., Podgornik, G., . . . **Larsen, K. W.** (2020). Evolving grey squirrel management techniques in europe. *Management of Biological Invasions*, *11*(4), 747-761.

Teixeira da Silva, J. A., Bornemann-Cimenti, H., & **Tsigaris, P.** (2020). Optimizing peer review to minimize the risk of retracting COVID-19-related literature. *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy*.

Tomal, J. H., & Ciborowski, J. J. H. (2020). Ecological models for estimating breakpoints and prediction intervals. *Ecology and Evolution*.

Tsigaris, P., & Teixeira da Silva, Jaime A. (2020). Bibliometric analysis of a controversial paper on predatory publishing. *Performance Measures and Metrics*.

Vayro, J. V., Ziegler, T. E., Fedigan, L. M., Crotty, A., Fox, S. A., & Sicotte, P. (2020). Direct stacked investment is a flexible reproductive strategy for female colobus vellerosus. *International Journal of Primatology*.

** Indicates student author*