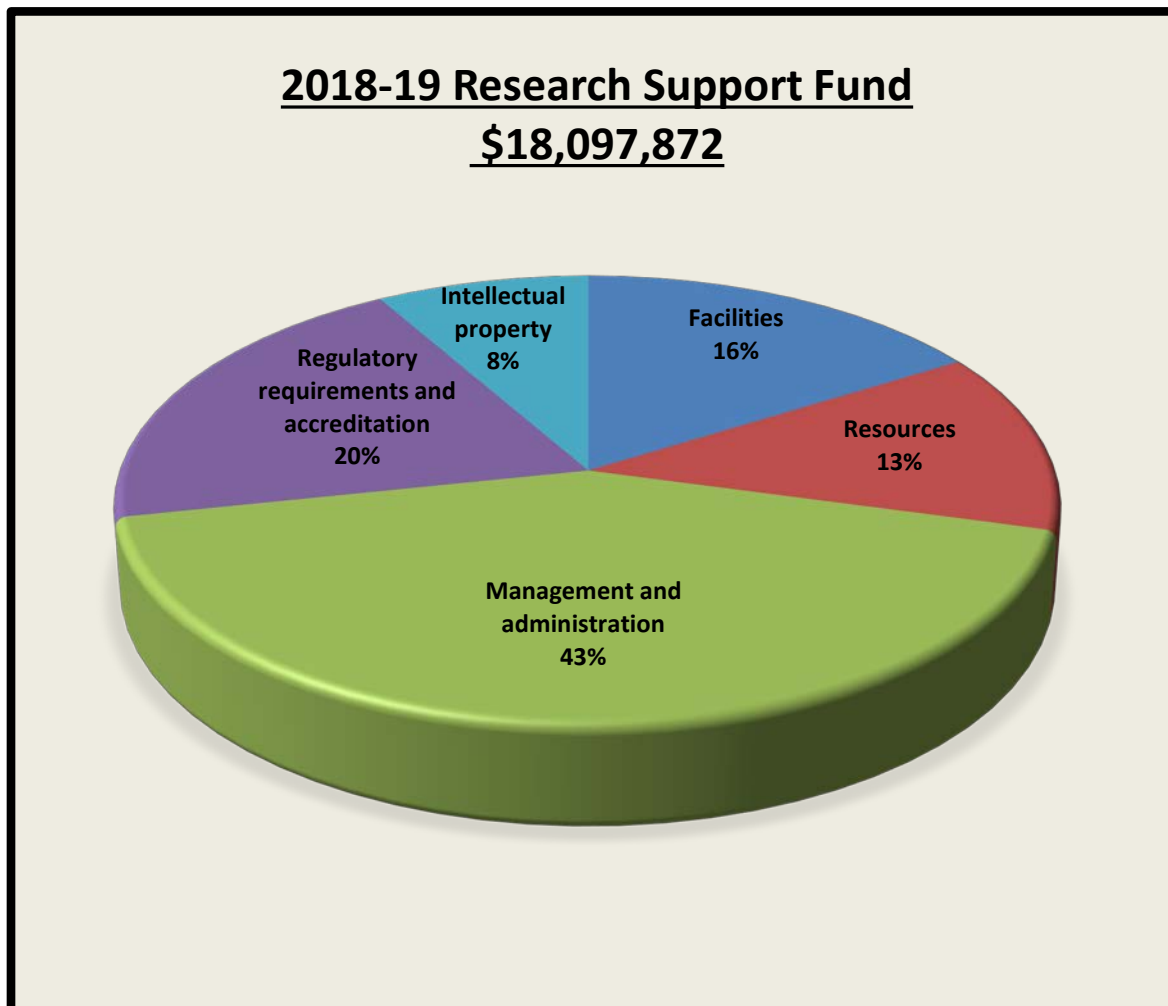


# UALBERTA'S 2018/2019 FEDERAL RESEACH SUPPORT FUND (RSF) REPORT

In 2018/19, the University of Alberta's Research Support Fund grant was \$18,097,872 and it was allocated to the following five categories:

1. Research facilities	\$ 2,920,282
2. Research resources	\$ 2,369,038
3. Management and administration	\$ 7,687,495
4. Regulatory requirements and accreditation	\$ 3,621,057
5. Intellectual property	\$ 1,500,000



### ***Research Facilities***

As part of the ongoing comprehensive reorganization of the faculty, redevelopment and renewal of all Faculty of Engineering space is necessary to provide the additional research spaces required to support a growing professoriate and the associated research community. The Faculty of Engineering used Research Support Funds for the provision of space to enable high quality lab space support for the research enterprise. Specifically, funds were directed to the I.F. Morrison Structures Lab. The I.F. Morrison Structures Lab is integral to the success of the Civil & Environmental Engineering Department. The University of Alberta's structural engineering group is the pre-eminent structures group in Canada and ranks within the top three in North America. The Structures Lab was built almost 50 years ago and has seen little updating since then. In 2018-19 year, with consultants, Faculty of Engineering has completed a preliminary concept study and a Project Scope report. Currently working through two design stages: schematic design (SD) and detailed design (DD). Faculty of Engineering expects that these design phases will be completed in second quarter of 2020 and will proceed to construction. Project completion is expected in end of third quarter of 2021.

The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering expends approximately \$20M per year on research activity, the majority of which is in partnership with companies working in the construction, advanced structural materials, natural resource, and related industries. These renovations will enable these programs to continue. An important impact is the updating of the facilities to enable high level research support to the research enterprise.

### ***Research Resources***

The 2018-19 RSF funding was used for ongoing participation in the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) and ongoing renewals of licenses for databases and electronic research journals. Researchers continuously refer to these journals which are essential at any research-intensive institution. The journals represent the current thought and discovery relating to a variety of scientific research. Without the Research Support Fund, the cost of many of these journal acquisitions at University of Alberta Library would be prohibitive.

### ***Management and Administration Research***

Research Support Fund funding provided to the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences (ALES) ensures a high level of financial and human resources administrative services is provided to researchers. This support directly impacts the faculty's effectiveness and efficiency in managing research funds and personnel. Without this funding the research group would experience a high level of administrative burden effectively redirecting their attention away from research activities. The Faculty of ALES has approximately 125 researchers across a diverse spectrum of social science and natural science disciplines, understanding the various funding models, grants, and different research personnel required to administratively support ALES research continues to be imperative asset for ALES success.

## ***Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation***

The Research Support Fund improved clinical research in Alberta administered by the Northern Alberta Clinical Trials Research Centre (NACTRAC). NACTRC is a joint venture between the University of Alberta and our affiliate, Alberta Health Services (AHS). The two institutions serve our clinical investigators to increase the number of studies they undertake, streamline processes and provide education. NACTRC's Phase 1 unit is among the few clinical research units in Canada located within a major tertiary care facility: in this case, the University Hospital. Our Tri-Agency funded investigators have access to a 3,300-square-foot, eight-bed ward designed to assess drug safety, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and tolerability in a controlled environment where they can conduct Phase 1–4 studies on their own or use NACTRC staff with their full range of clinical investigations experience.

NACTRC also provides oversight for human research activities led by the Quality Management in Clinical Research (QMCR) unit. This unit's objective are to ensure clinical research at the University of Alberta are conducted according to the highest scientific and ethical standards (TCPS2), complies with local, national, and international policies as well as governing statutes and regulations, and that internal quality systems are comprehensive, appropriate, and effective. The QMCR is vital to supporting our investigators undertaking clinical research funded through the Canadian Institute for Health Research.

NACTRC also provides space and other indirect supports to the QMCR and members of the Strategy for Patient Oriented Research (SPOR) data platform. This "one-stop shop" provides investigators with the information they need and simplifies the overall process for initiating, implementing or conducting clinical research studies and reducing administrative and regulatory burden on our investigators.

In 2018/19, investments have been made in identifying a Clinical Trials Management System (CTMS) that will significantly reduce the administrative burden on investigators so that they can meet their regulatory requirements for their interventional studies.

## ***Intellectual Property***

TEC Edmonton, a joint venture of the University of Alberta and City of Edmonton, is the commercialization agent delivers business development and technology transfer services to companies and innovators in the greater Edmonton region. TEC Edmonton's comprehensive programs help University of Alberta researchers become more successful: they get technologies to market faster, their businesses are more valuable, and the companies have a higher survival rate. One of the major ways that TEC Edmonton provides benefits to the University of Alberta is to assist in securing research grants that have a potential commercial component and for which funders require business plan information.

TEC Edmonton, as the official technology transfer office of the U of A, has strengthened the university's intellectual property portfolio by processing 100 new reports of invention and filing 54 new patents in 2018/19. TEC Edmonton has played key roles in assisting University of Alberta researchers in the formation of eleven new university spin-off companies and in raising \$1.7 M in non-dilutive funds needed to move technologies toward market. TEC Edmonton assisted client firms in securing \$58.2M in critical investment dollars needed to run their operations.