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March 2023



Alliance Innovations

A collaboration between OMAFRA and the University of Guelph

Stories of the Alliance people, places and programs generating impact in the agri-food sector in Ontario and around the world.

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Celebrating influential women in agriculture



Dr. Mary Ruth McDonald has been forging change in plant agriculture research for over two decades.

Named one of the 2022 [Influential Women in Canadian Agriculture](#), McDonald is a national expert in crop protection. She studies vegetable cropping in the unique farming conditions of the Holland Marsh, home to her fieldwork at the Ontario Crops Research Centre in Bradford. She has presented her research findings on crop pest management and vegetable production to groups around the world and developed longstanding relationships with growers.

For more than 10 years, McDonald has served as one of 12 research program directors for the Alliance. As with her counterpart directors, her leadership in supporting researchers through the funding application process is indispensable to the program.

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KTT funding call open

Knowledge Translation & Transfer

Funding Call Open - Submit Your Proposal

Call for proposals closes
Tues., April 11 at 1 p.m

The Alliance's Knowledge Translation and Transfer (KTT) Funding Program aims to accelerate the impact of agri-food and rural research. Applications are open for two funding streams:

1. KTT Research projects advance the science of KTT in the agri-food and rural sectors and contribute to the scholarly literature by developing or assessing KTT activities or approaches.
2. KTT Mobilization projects disseminate and mobilize existing research.

For more information on the KTT Funding Program, including how to apply, click the below button.

KTT Funding Program details

KTT funded projects: Getting science off the shelf

U of G researchers are using the KTT funding program to advance the science of knowledge translation and transfer, and create activities that support the dissemination of existing research in the agri-food and rural sectors.

[Explore previously funded KTT projects](#)

Growing Ontario Solutions: Highlighting #AllianceImpacts



Investing in a safe and secure
agri-food system

99.8%
accuracy rate of
test results

#AllianceImpacts

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Did you know?

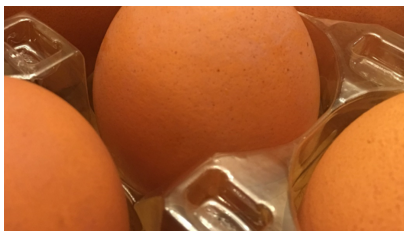
The Agriculture & Food Laboratory at U of G developed, validated and refined milk testing methods that are now used across North America?

Learn more about #AllianceImpacts in *Growing Ontario Solutions 2021/22*, a digestible summary of the Alliance's annual report.

Explore Growing Ontario Solutions



**U of G researchers apply
new method for detecting**



Salmonella bacteria

New University of Guelph research from the Agriculture and Food Laboratory has been shown to improve existing surveillance measures for preventing Salmonella outbreaks.

[Read more](#)

U of G data experts host four-day workshop to promote data reusability

Hosted at the
Ontario Dairy Research Centre



Well-designed and executed data management plans are paramount to ensure that any research data generated is findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable (FAIR). However, most research data is created solely to answer a research question; therefore, it is not typically in a format that is easily reusable for any future analysis.

To address this problem, Michelle Edwards, director of agri-food data strategy, and Lucas Alcantara, manager of research centre data, University of Guelph, launched a workshop to train researchers about reusability of collected data, including modifications to archived data that make it reusable.

The workshop ran Feb. 21-24 with 46 registrants.

Topics included:

- Metadata creation to ensure new data and their associated dashboards are *findable*
- Understanding the importance of data reusability and how to grow a FAIR data culture
- Basic R programming skills for data tidying
- Advanced research computing skills needed to develop an *R Shiny* interactive data explorer dashboard focused on improving data reusability and discovery.

With a funding grant from [Compute Ontario](#), equipment was purchased to host the workshop both online and in person, allowing researchers located across the province to attend. In-person participants gathered for training at the [Ontario Dairy Research Centre](#), which included a tour

Insight from
workshop
participants:

"The content on first 2 days was great to discuss, and it was nice to hear opinions from people with varying backgrounds and data needs. Having it at the farm was great and the tour with a data focus helped to highlight practical challenges of reusable data in a research environment. Food was great and it was nice to have it in-person."

focused on best practices and challenges of data collection at the centre.

Providing researchers with tools and training opportunities to show them how to make their data reusable will improve accessibility and reusability of research data. Opportunities to participate in hands-on programming workshops and to develop applications alongside subject matter experts fosters confidence to create reusable data for researchers, resulting in better science.

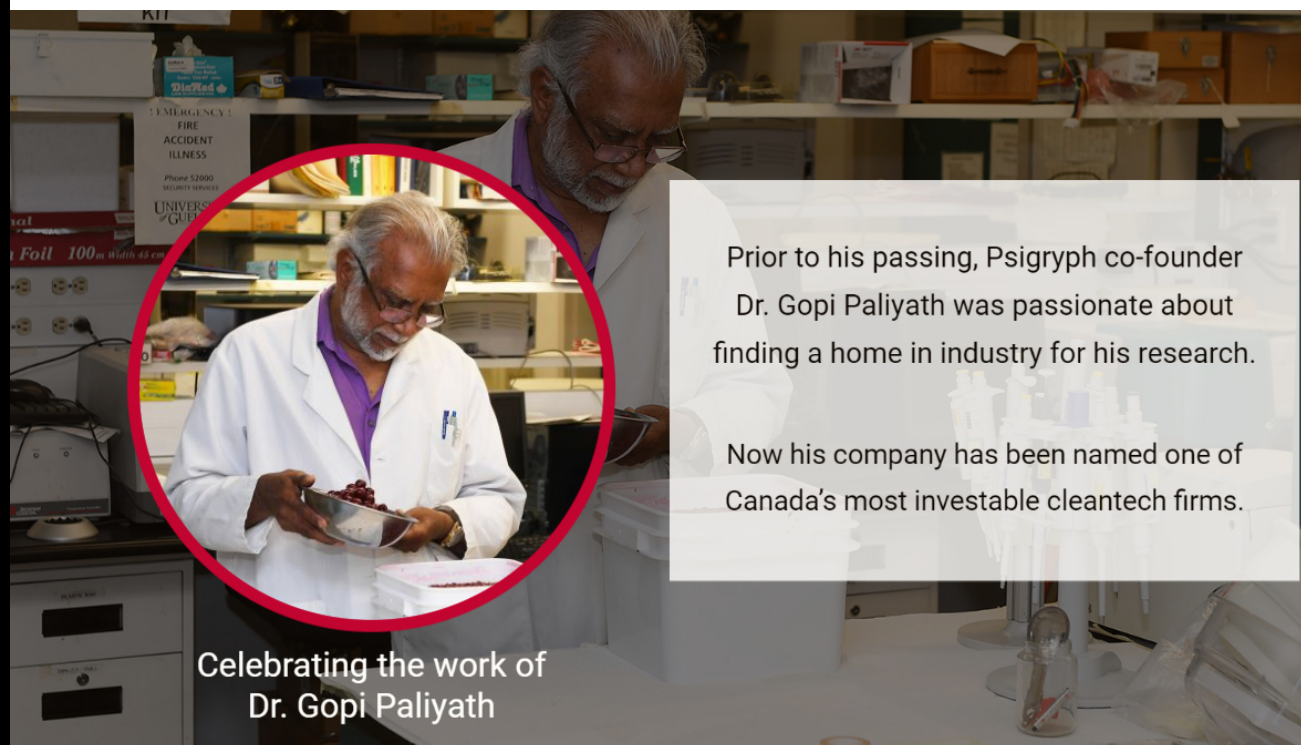
The workshop training materials are available for all to use.

"Really appreciated the fact that the basics were still covered."

"I love the diversity among the participants."

Data workshop training materials

READ: U of G spin-off named one of Canada's 50 most investable clean-tech companies



Psigryph, an innovative company built on University of Guelph research into naturally derived nanoparticles to deliver nutrition and medicine into cells, has been named one of Canada's most investable cleantech firms by cleantech accelerator Foresight Canada.

Psigryph's success is growing internationally thanks in part to several funding and entrepreneurship programs, including support from the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance, a collaboration between the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and U of G.

The innovative Guelph-based company was co-founded in 2018 by Department of Plant Agriculture researcher Dr. Gopi Paliyath, who passed away in September 2022, and

Support from the Alliance:

Dr. Paliyath used the following Alliance resources to conduct his research.

Tier 1: Research project operating funding

Gryphon's LAAIR: Funding for the development of new products, processes and technologies

entrepreneur Sean Thompson.

Continue reading

Upcoming events

Ontario Agri-Tech Pitch Competition

LIVE Friday March 24, 2023, from 10 am to 11:30 am EST
Conference Centre, 1 Stone Road West, Guelph, ON

An extension of
the Gryphon's
LAAIR Program

1 \$10,000

Best in Class

2 \$2,500

People's Choice Award

3 \$1,000

Finalist Award

Ontario Agri-Tech Pitch Competition
Friday, March 24, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Watch Online

The Research Innovation Office at the University of Guelph is excited to announce the Ontario Agri-Tech Pitch Competition in collaboration with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs.

By uniting farmers, academics, agri-tech entrepreneurs and investors, this event will raise awareness about the problems worth solving and showcase investible companies.

Join online to watch as the next generation of new Ontario-based agri-tech start-up companies battle it out to be best in class.

Register for the Ontario Agri-Tech Pitch Competition



Join us online this winter for one or multiple sessions from the [Skills for Research Impact](#)

Workshop Series!

March 21: Podcasting

March 28: Social Media

Register for Skills for Research Impact



Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education (AIAEE) April 26-29, University of Guelph

Hosted by the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development (SED RD) at the University of Guelph, the theme of *Technology, Pluralism and Inclusiveness in Agriculture, Food, and Environment* speaks to their goal of providing an engaging experience to learn about agriculture, food and environment from international and cross-cultural perspectives.

Register for AIAEE

Media

A selection of Alliance people, places and programs cited in popular and trade media.

Data Science: Promoting Early Disease Detection in Robotic Milking Systems (Feb. 21, U of G, Office of Research)

In research funded in part by the Alliance, Meagan King, a former post-doctoral researcher in the Department of Animal Biosciences, and Dr. Trevor DeVries analyzed robotic milking system data from Ontario dairy farms to determine disease-indicating behaviours, such as declines in rumination behaviour and overall activity.

Data Science: Protecting Water on Agricultural Land (Feb. 9, U of G, Office of Research)

Dr. Wanhong Yang, Department of Geography, Environment and Geomatics at the University of Guelph, created a GIS modelling tool that addresses the complexity of a typical watershed evaluation for beneficial management practices (BMPs), along with a user-friendly system developed for creating BMP scenarios and evaluating their effects and outcomes.

Nitrogen Management Research (Feb. 1, Ontario Grain Farmer Magazine)

Exciting progress has already been achieved with four new nitrogen-focused research projects supported, in part, by Grain Farmers of Ontario and the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance.

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This newsletter is produced by the University's Office of Research. The views expressed are the views of the University and do not necessarily reflect those of OMAFRA. Questions regarding the OMAFRA-University of Guelph Agreement can be addressed to omafra@uoguelph.ca.



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