

## Four Manitoba Companies Receive Funding for COVID-19 Research

**May 3, 2021** - Research Manitoba is investing and leveraging more than a half-million dollars to support the provincial COVID-19 response by championing local industry-academic research partnerships.

Research Manitoba's \$361,442 investment will support four COVID-19 Innovation Proof-of-Concept grants, as well as leverage \$165,000 from other sources to provide a total of \$525,442 to support this vital work.

This support for four innovative Manitoba-based companies will create opportunities for employment and talent development, industrial research and technology collaborations to advance virtual lifestyle programming, COVID-19 testing, personal protective equipment (PPE) and infection prevention.

1. **Chronic Disease Innovation Centre (CDIC)**/Fusion Group/ Wellness Institute/University of Manitoba, \$99,892  
Leveraged funds from industry: \$25,000  
*Can virtual lifestyle programming limit collateral health damage from the COVID-19 pandemic: a pilot study*
2. **Intrinsic Analytics Inc.**/St. Boniface Research Centre/University of Manitoba, \$75,000  
Leveraged funds from industry: \$25,000  
*Evaluation of a Novel Saliva Based Test for Detection of SARS-CoV-2*
3. **Protective Textiles International (PTEX)**/St. Boniface Research Centre/University of Manitoba, \$100,000  
Leveraged funds from industry: \$25,000  
*Copper-Infused Reusable Protective Face Mask for Prevention of SARS-CoV-2 Infections*
4. **utR Biotech**/University of Manitoba, \$86,550  
Leveraged funds from industry & Mitacs: \$90,000  
*Development and characterization of utRAP technology - a nanoparticle platform for preventing SARS-Cov2 infection in airway and vasculature*

"Investments in COVID-19 research are critical to Manitoba's pandemic response," said Ralph Eichler, Minister of Economic Development and Jobs. "Our government will continue to support these research investments which will help create solutions to keeping Manitobans safe."

"Advancing COVID-19 research has been a worldwide priority this past year," said Karen Dunlop, CEO, Research Manitoba. "Manitoba continues to contribute to these global efforts by investing locally through opportunities such as our COVID-19 IPoC program, which brings together talented Researchers and industries to create partnerships that have the potential to create innovative solutions to keep Manitobans safe and to build capacity for a healthy future."

## **Contacts**

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## **Background**

On April 8, 2020, a [\\$5,000,000 COVID-19 Research Fund](#) to support Manitoba's response to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic was announced by the Manitoba Government and Research Manitoba. The funds for the COVID-19 Innovation Proof-of-Concept Grants are included in the Manitoba COVID-19 Research Fund.

## **Research Manitoba:**

[Research Manitoba](#) is a provincial funding agency, which strives to champion the Manitoba research community, supports early career researchers and graduate students in Manitoba and coordinates funding of research in health, natural and social sciences, engineering, and the humanities. Our organization also fosters partnerships to advance and strengthen Manitoba's resources, assets, and innovations. Research Manitoba's goal is to become the most improved province in research.

## **Learn More About the Companies:**

- Fusion Group: <https://fusiongroup.ca/>
- CDIC: <https://changinghealthcaredelivery.ca/>
- Wellness Institute: <https://wellnessinstitute.ca/>
- Intrinsic Analytics: <https://intrinsicanalytics.com/>
- Protective Textiles International (PTEX): <http://ptexint.com/>
- utR Biotech: <http://utrbiotech.com/>