MAC EWAN RESEARCHERS RECEIVE FIRST NSERC GRANT

Edmonton—Grant MacEwan University is proud to announce that two academics, Dr’s Jonathan Withey and Samuel Mugo have received a $200,000 research grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC). This is the first NSERC research grant where MacEwan faculty members are the principal researchers.

With growing public concern for the presence of antibiotics and hormones in the environment, their multi-faceted project seeks to develop a practical approach for the detection, tracing and destruction of antibiotics and hormones in biowaste.

The project represents part of a much larger collaboration with Highmark Renewables Research, and other members of the Biowaste to Energy for Canada Integration Initiative (BECii), a unique, not-for-profit clean energy corporation that brings together institutions and organizations with an interest in the bio-energy sector.

Part of the success of this award rests on the new laboratory and research facilities at MacEwan, added as part of the implementation of the B.Sc. degree program. The project will heavily involve MacEwan undergraduate students who are studying for science degrees at the University. “This project provides an excellent opportunity to combine teaching and research at MacEwan in a meaningful way,” said Withey. “Students will gain direct, hands-on research skills working on a project of real significance to agriculture and the environment.”

The Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Industry stated, “Our government supports innovation because it creates jobs, improves the quality of life of Canadians and strengthens the economy. These new partnerships will provide skills training for the communities in which they are based, position Canadian institutions as a destination for top research talent and give local businesses access to the knowledge and resources they need to innovate and commercialize.”

Dr. Jonathan Withey received his MA and DPhil in Organic Chemistry from the University of Oxford. Dr. Samuel Mugo received his undergraduate degree from Jomo Kenyatta University in Kenya and his PhD from Memorial University of Newfoundland.

NSERC is a federal agency whose vision is to help make Canada a country of discoverers and innovators for the benefit of all Canadians. The agency supports more than 28,000 students and post-doctoral fellows in their advanced studies. The Council promotes discovery by funding more than 11,800 professors every year and fosters innovation by encouraging more than 1,500 Canadian companies to participate and invest in post-secondary research projects.

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