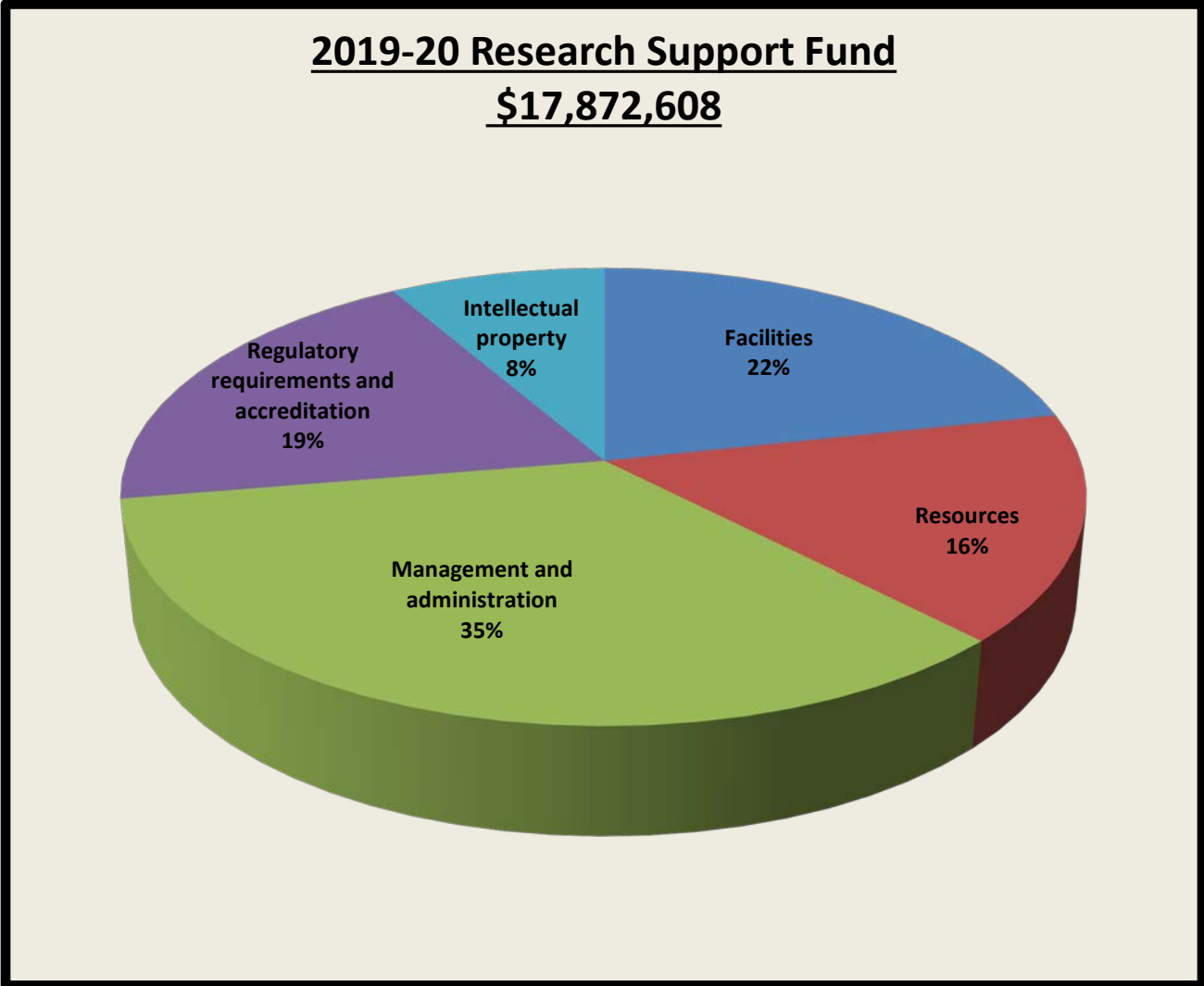


UALBERTA'S 2019/2020 FEDERAL RESEARCH SUPPORT FUND (RSF) REPORT

In 2019/20, the University of Alberta's Research Support Fund grant was \$17,872,608 and it was allocated to the following five categories:

1. Research facilities	\$ 3,862,472
2. Research resources	\$ 2,871,257
3. Management and administration	\$ 6,198,100
4. Regulatory requirements and accreditation	\$ 3,440,780
5. Intellectual property	\$ 1,500,000



Research Facilities

Emergency generator capacity update for Faculty of Engineering is necessary to handle research computing cooling requirements in server rooms. Enhanced reliability and confidence for Research Computing program can provide adequate backup and redundancy protocols. The Faculty of Engineering used Research Support Funds for the provision of space to enable high quality lab space support for the research enterprise. In 2019/20, Faculty of Engineering has completed the Design Phase. Construction phase will follow up in 2020. University of Alberta continued renewal and upgrading of Biological Sciences Aquatics Lab in 2019/20, which include controls and building automation, mechanical and electrical upgrades. The investment is crucial to meet and maintain compliance with Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) requirements.

Research Resources

The 2019/20 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. Approximate 1.8 million full-text downloads for 2019/20. Funds are being well used to meet researcher demand for access to the published research literature contained within the Elsevier Science Direct package.

Management and Administration Research

NACTRC provides support for information systems which help track grant applications, certifications and awards and financial costs.

GreenPhire ClinCard is a system for automated clinical trials participant payments and reimbursements through a reloadable credit card. It has the potential to significantly reduce the volume of manual payment requests currently sent to AHS Finance from study coordinators by automating the creation, authorization and loading of payments while retaining current internal control processes.

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.

RSF funds are used to help ensure Tri-Agency studies initiate in timely manner. Actual average assessment time by the HSA team was 6.3 days from start of assessment to assessment completion (assessment workflow amended from the previous year for the start of 2019/20 to include tracking of additional steps to reflect actual process workflow). Researchers receive access to health affiliate data and IT systems in timely manner so as to complete studies. In 2019/20, 497 approvals were processed and the average data approval time is 13.6 days after assessment completion.

Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation

Technical staff and support are provided for Health Sciences Laboratory Animal Services (HSLAS) preclinical research activities of research laboratories across the University of Alberta campus. This ensures that all the animal care and welfare standards set out by the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) are met or exceeded, and that the University of Alberta retains a current Certificate of Good Animal Practice from the CCAC.

Provide preclinical research services to researchers (approximately 140 researchers from 7 University Faculties). These services include animal husbandry and care, technical services, and training services for researchers and associated staff. Continue to maintain CCAC accreditation and a Certificate of Good Animal Practice that is necessary for University of Alberta researchers to access Tri-Agency grant funding.

In 2019/20, 140 Principal Investigators and 522 research staff utilized HSLAS facilities and preclinical research services. There were 267 Animal Use Protocols (AUPs) approved that included 31 new AUPs and 236 renewed AUPs, and 192 amendments to AUPs.

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 78 new reports of invention and filing 38 new patents in 2019/20. 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 \$1.5 M in non-dilutive funds needed to move technologies toward market. TEC Edmonton assisted client firms in securing \$31.6M in critical investment dollars needed to run their operations.