

CONCORDIA

CHANCELLOR'S BUILDERS CIRCLE AND FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

FALL 2021



BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

Find out how Concordia is poised to lead



IN THIS ISSUE

Take pride
in our community's
accomplishments

Discover
pioneering
research

Learn about
new gifts to the
Campaign for Concordia

Plus more!

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHANCELLOR

As we turn the corner on the pandemic and regain some sense of normalcy, I hope that you and your loved ones are well.

One year ago, I credited our community's resolve as it found novel ways to weather the health crisis and help our students adjust to virtual coursework.

Now, with a record 7,000 new graduates joining our alumni family of 230,000, I salute our community for its remarkable work in furthering Concordia's mission as Canada's next-generation university.

President Graham Carr deserves a special nod for his leadership over the past year. As you will see in these pages, Concordia has made extraordinary strides under his watch. Support from our Campaign for Concordia co-chairs, Gina Cody, MEng 81, PhD 89, Andrew Molson and Lino Saputo Jr., BA 89, has also been invaluable. As chair of our Board of Governors, Helen Antoniou's guidance to our beloved institution has been fundamental.



Other key leaders include Anne Whitelaw, BFA 87, GrDip 92, PhD 96, who was recently appointed provost and vice-president, Academic, and Mourad Debbabi, our new dean of the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science.

Our executives are advancing Concordia with fresh ideas and bold thinking. As our new School of Health takes shape, the search for an inaugural dean contributes to our momentum.

When you consider Concordia's place in the world of post-secondary teaching, learning and research, I think you'll agree: There's never been a more promising time for our university.

From the feats of our award-winning alumni to the visionary commitments of our donors, I hope you enjoy reading about the many ways Concordians are improving society and making the world a better place.

Best wishes for a safe and happy fall season.

Jonathan Wener, BComm 71
Concordia Chancellor

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Our podcasts: concordia.ca/alumni/podcasts

Our publications: concordia.ca/alumni/ourpublications

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concordia.ca/campaign

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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The last time we sent this newsletter to members of our Chancellor's Builders Circle, resilience in the face of adversity was foremost on our minds.

We've not seen the end of the pandemic yet, but as I reflect on what Concordia has accomplished over the past 18 months, I believe strongly that we are poised for even greater success.

We're privileged to have an engaged community committed to taking Concordia to new heights, and to have dedicated supporters who want to help us realize our ambitious goals.

Concordia graduated a record number of students this past spring, welcoming close to 7,000 new alumni into our global network. We thank our university faculty, staff and all those who helped our students surmount unprecedented challenges to take this important life step.

Our staunch commitment to advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals was affirmed when Concordia placed 62nd out of 1,115 institutions worldwide in the April 2021 *Times Higher Education* Impact Rankings.

To move the university towards a more equitable and inclusive future, we established our Equity Office and the President's Task Force on Anti-Black Racism, and launched the second phase of our Indigenous Directions Action Plan.

In the midst of the pandemic, we opened our Applied Science Hub on Loyola Campus. The building is a locus of transdisciplinary research and training, housing numerous labs and research units, our new Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering, a pre-pilot bioprocessing facility, and wet-lab space for our prize-winning innovation incubator, District 3.



Despite the challenges of the past year, we significantly increased our Co-op and other work-integrated initiatives en route to ensuring that by 2025, every Concordia student has at least one experiential learning opportunity before they graduate.

Our faculty, students and alumni continued to win major prizes and awards. And we laid the ground for further success with the launch of our Next-Gen Cities Institute and board approval to create a new School of Health.

These developments build on Concordia's strengths and reputation as the best North American university under 50 years old, according to the 2021 QS Top 50 Under 50.

Key stakeholders in our community continue to make the *Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen Now* the most successful in our history, allowing us to create meaningful opportunities for students and faculty to thrive.

As you read the following pages, I hope you take pride in how your support is helping Concordia lead as Canada's next-generation university.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Graham Carr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a stylized "C" at the end.

Graham Carr
President and Vice-Chancellor
Concordia University

CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

Thanks to the support of our dedicated and generous donors, a record \$211 million has been raised for the **Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now.**



BMO Financial Group gave \$2.5 million for student internships and financial literacy. This gesture of support in honour of the late **L. Jacques Ménard**, BComm 67, LLD 06, will fund research at the new L. Jacques Ménard–BMO Centre for Capital Markets at the John Molson School of Business and encourage experiential learning at the Faculty of Fine Arts through the BMO Fine Arts Internship Program. Ménard served as Concordia's chancellor from 2011 to 2014 as well as president emeritus of BMO Financial Group, Quebec



Led by executive director Paul Marchand, the Doggone Foundation made a gift of \$1.96 million to expand the Elspeth McConnell Fine Arts Awards and the internship experiences they facilitate at the Faculty of Fine Arts. The gift also established the annual Bill McLennan Northwest Coast Travel Award, which will provide the opportunity for a select graduate student to deepen knowledge of Indigenous art and cultures in British Columbia.

Hydro-Québec made a gift of \$500,000 to support the Hydro-Québec Chair in Smart Grid Security: Detection, Prevention, Mitigation and Recovery from Cyber-Physical Attacks. The chair will oversee Concordia researchers focused on safeguarding Quebec’s power grid from cyberattacks.



Barry F. Lorenzetti¹, founder of BFL Canada, gave \$500,000 to create a new Centre for Women Entrepreneurship and Leadership at the John Molson School of Business. Led by co-directors **Louise Champoux-Paillé²** and **Ingrid Chadwick³**, the centre will develop gender-related collaborative projects, present proposals to advance women in entrepreneurship and leadership, and promote partnerships between the business community and academia to bridge research and practice.

A gift of \$471,033 from the Chamandy Foundation will provide critical support to the Indigenous Land-Based Education Program, an initiative that seeks to promote Indigenous community development and the next generation of Indigenous leadership.



After a one-year hiatus, the **Concordia Golf Classic** returned on September 7. Thanks to the generous support of sponsors and participants, **\$400,000 was raised for students** — the second highest total in the tournament’s 17-year history.

Richard Paterson, BComm 64, made a gift of \$322,750 via American Friends of Concordia to support the Indigenous bridging program, which helps remove barriers to post-secondary education and facilitate access to select programs, most notably in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The program aims to identify concrete actions to foster a more accessible, inclusive and welcoming institutional environment for Indigenous students, faculty and staff at Concordia.

Kenneth Woods, MBA 75, LLD 17, donated \$153,028 through his Flash Fund Foundation to provide further support to Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management Program (KWMPM) students at the John Molson School of Business, as well as new support for varsity student athletes at Concordia.

The Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec pledged \$150,000 to establish a Sustainability Ecosystem at Concordia. The ecosystem will unite industry experts, support-service providers, task forces and specialists to share and advance knowledge in sustainability.

Photo by John Craven



A \$150,000 gift from the Jean Paul Riopelle Foundation has established the Jean Paul Riopelle Foundation Fund at Concordia's Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling (COHDS). The fund will support an innovative and multi-channel project, driven by top students, that will celebrate and document Jean Paul Riopelle's life and artistic legacy.

More than \$200,000 of support from Mitch Kendall and Mark Sherman will fund bursaries for female undergraduates at Concordia who are residents or former residents of On Our Own, a Montreal-based non-profit that provides subsidized housing, programs and services for young parents.

The Inspirit Foundation gave \$110,000 to support an Indigenous journalist position over the next two years at Concordia's award-winning Institute for Investigative Journalism.



Paul Haddad, BEng 94, gave \$100,000 to support students at the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science. The Paul Haddad Bursary in Electrical and Computer Engineering will provide \$5,000 to two undergraduate students on an annual basis, and the Haddad Family Scholarship will fund five annual scholarships of \$2,000 to top computer science undergraduate students.



A new award honouring a beloved professor raised more than \$52,000. When **José Garrido** announced his retirement from Concordia's Department of Mathematics and Statistics after 35 years, former students and colleagues joined forces to create an actuarial mathematics award in his honour.



NEXT PHASE FOR INDIGENOUS DIRECTIONS ACTION PLAN

In 2019, the university announced the launch of its Indigenous Directions Action Plan — Concordia’s Path Towards Decolonizing and Indigenizing the University. The creation of this living document signalled a commitment to move the institution towards a more equitable and inclusive future.

Updated on June 9, 2021, with guidance and input from the Indigenous Directions Leadership Council and members of the Indigenous Directions Office, the Action Plan’s next phase includes a series of recommended actions to be completed between now and 2024.

These concrete steps, from increasing the number of Indigenous tenure-track faculty members by 50 per cent over the next three years to developing and implementing a recruitment strategy for

Indigenous students, reflect Concordia’s commitment to upholding the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s 94 Calls to Action and the UN’s Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

“Concordia remains deeply committed to the implementation of its Indigenous Directions Actions Plan and the building of respectful and mutually beneficial relationships with the Indigenous community,” says Manon Tremblay, BA 03, senior director of Indigenous Directions. “The relaunch was an opportunity to report on the recommendations that have been accomplished and the work currently in progress. We are proud of what we have accomplished so far and we look forward to the work that lies ahead.”

Learn more at concordia.ca/indigenous/action-plan.

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

Groundbreaking new initiatives helped make the past year one of the most consequential in Concordia's history



The **\$63-million Applied Science Hub** was launched on Loyola Campus last December. The state-of-the-art, LEED-certified building was designed by Menkès Shooner Dagenais LeTourneux Architects and NFOE, specialists in sustainable development, and made possible thanks to \$36.7 million in support from the Government of Canada and Government of Quebec. The hub's strategic layout encourages reciprocal exchanges between researchers at the Faculty of Arts and Science and the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science, as well as members of District 3 Innovation Hub, the university's prize-winning startup accelerator.

The virtual, livestreamed opening ceremony of the Applied Science Hub included remarks from William Amos, former Parliamentary Secretary for the Government of Canada's Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, and Danielle McCann, Minister of Higher Education for the Government of Quebec.

"Not only will this facility encourage interdisciplinary collaboration and foster innovation," said Amos, "it will also help train a generation of Canadian workers, a workforce able to tackle real-world challenges in our communities."

McCann spoke of the provincial government's pride in contributing to the creation of the Applied Science Hub, adding that "the credit goes entirely to your team, which has set up a stimulating project which will become, I am sure, a model of its kind for all Quebec universities."

A first-of-its-kind in Canada, the **Jonathan Wener Centre for Real Estate** opened at the John Molson School of Business. A novel hub for teaching and research on commercial and residential real estate, the centre was fuelled by a \$10-million gift from Jonathan Wener, BComm 71, Concordia's chancellor and the chairman of Canderel. Led by director and finance lecturer Michel Deslauriers, BComm 85, the centre's students and faculty benefitted from a major gesture of support this past summer when the Toronto-based Altus Group donated licences for its industry-leading asset and portfolio management software worth more than \$1 million.

Last spring, the Board of Governors approved Concordia's **School of Health**. Promising to be one of the most transformative developments in the university's five decades, the school, which will appoint a new dean by fall 2022, will consist of three major hubs: Community Health, Clinical Research and Prevention, and Biomedical Science and Engineering Research. The school's objective is to innovate and lead in the areas of community health, core fundamental health sciences and medical technology development.

Concordia launched the **Next-Generation Cities Institute** (NGCI), combining the knowledge and resources of four research centres and more than 200 scientists and scholars in the study of cities. Concordia is Canada's first university to bring together such a broad interdisciplinary approach to cities research. This expertise led to Concordia winning a Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) — one of only nine awarded in 2019 — in Smart, Sustainable and Resilient Cities and Communities.

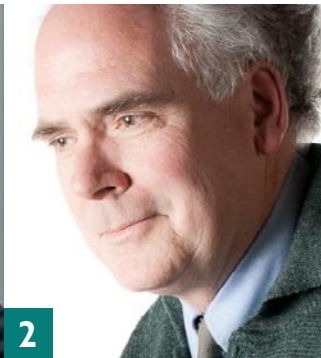
Subject to approval from the Board of Governors, a proposed new **Applied AI Institute** will seek to consolidate Concordia's strengths in the field of artificial intelligence. The institute would unite dozens of researchers from Concordia's existing academic faculties and leverage cutting-edge technology to drive innovation and address a wide range of critical issues affecting society.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Researchers at Concordia’s four academic faculties continue to be highly productive, attracting support from every major federal and provincial funding agency. Discover more about their recent work and achievements.



1



2

Michel Magnan¹ (Accountancy) and **David Howes²** (Sociology and Anthropology) were named the **2021 Distinguished University Research Professor (DURP)**, the most prestigious form of recognition for overall research that Concordia awards. Magnan, the Stephen A. Jarislowsky Chair in Corporate Governance, was one of the first scholars of executive compensation in Canada. Howes is the co-founder of the Centre for Sensory Studies, and his research areas include the anthropology of the senses and legal anthropology.

Chadi Assi³ (Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering) received \$1.8 million from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation to lead a research project to develop resilient smart cities. Bringing together a team of Concordia’s electrical engineering, cybersecurity and artificial-intelligence experts, the project will train the next generation of leaders to work with emerging technologies in a socially responsible and sustainable manner.



3



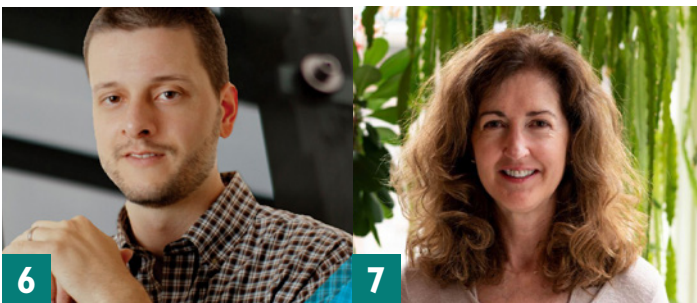
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Emad Shihab⁴ (Computer Science and Software Engineering), Concordia University Research Chair in Software Analytics, and his team secured a prestigious NSERC CREATE program grant valued at \$1.6 million over six years. The funds will support their NSERC CREATE training program on the Development, Deployment and Servicing of Artificial Intelligence-based Software Systems.



Brigitte Jaumard⁵ (Computer Science and Software Engineering) received support from EXFO and CIENA for two MITACS projects with a combined value of \$2.08 million. Both projects

will facilitate hands-on industrial experience for students and postdocs.



Dylan Fraser⁶ (Biology) and **Monica Mulrennan⁷** (Geography, Planning and Environment, and associate vice-president of Research, Development and Outreach) were awarded funding by Genome Canada for “FISHES: Fostering Indigenous Small-Scale Fisheries for Health, Economy and Food Security.” Led out of Université Laval, the four-year program is valued at \$12,101,440, with Concordia’s allocation totalling \$1,311,182.



Pragasen Pillay⁸ (Electrical and Computer Engineering) was awarded funding by NSERC and InnovÉÉ for “Novel Permanent Magnet Motor Topologies Using Advanced Magnetic Materials,” a collaborative three-year project valued at \$895,000.



Erica Lehrer⁹ (History) and **Kim Sawchuk¹⁰** (Communications Studies) are recipients of SSHRC Partnership Grants each worth approximately \$2.5 million over seven years.

Concordia welcomed two new Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Industrial Research Chairs:



Lingyu Wang¹¹ (Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering) is a Senior Industrial Research Chair supported by Ericsson Canada Inc. The chair is called Software-Defined Networking and Network Function

Virtualization Security: Compliance Driven Monitoring, Detection, and Mitigation, and has a total cash value of \$1,818,970 plus \$828,750 in kind.



Jeremy Clark¹² (Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering) is an Industrial Research Chair supported by Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton. The chair program, NSERC/RCGT/Catallaxy Industrial

Research Chair in Blockchain Technologies, has a total cash value of \$1,364,390 plus \$613,600 in kind.



NEWS FROM AROUND CAMPUS

Concordia's Student Resource Centre was renamed the **Otsenhákta Student Centre**. Otsenhákta is a Kanien'kéha (Mohawk) word that translates to "near the fire," a place that provides warmth and safety, where counsel is given and ideas are shared between equals. The name was selected by the Indigenous Directions Leadership Council following a renaming contest among First Nations, Inuit and Métis students.

Concordia officially welcomed a new, yet familiar, provost and vice-president, Academic. **Anne Whitelaw¹**, BFA 87, GrDip 92, PhD 96, an expert in Canadian art history and an accomplished educator and administrator, began her five-year term on July 1. Whitelaw has held the post on an interim basis since July 2019, and joined Concordia's Department of Art History as an associate professor in 2011.



BEST IN CLASS

2021 Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings for support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals: Concordia placed 62nd out of 1,115 institutions worldwide, a significant rise from 2020.

THE's Young University Rankings: Concordia placed first in Canada among three universities under 50 years old for the fourth consecutive year.

2021 Shanghai Ranking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects (GRAS): Concordia placed in 19 subjects, one more than the previous year, and cracked the global top 100 in two subjects: Telecommunication Engineering and Civil Engineering.

QS World University Rankings: Against a pool of universities that increased by 30 per cent from last year, Concordia ranked among the top 40 per cent of universities worldwide in the QS World University Rankings 2022.

Center for World University Rankings: Concordia placed 586th out of 2,000 ranked universities for the second consecutive year, putting it in the top three per cent of 19,788 universities worldwide.

Mourad Debbabi² was appointed dean of the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science. An expert in cybersecurity, cyberforensics and critical infrastructure protection, and an experienced educator and administrator, Debbabi began his five-year term on June 1. He previously served as the school's interim dean since May 2020.

The newly formed Equity Office appointed **Lisa White³**, BA 12, as its first executive director. The office will help develop and implement the university's equity, diversity and inclusion action plan, coordinate and harmonize related resources and initiatives across the university and provide services and support to the community.

HATS OFF TO OUR COMMUNITY



Here are the most recent members of the Concordia community appointed to national, provincial and municipal orders.

ORDER OF CANADA

- **Gina Cody¹**, MEng 81, PhD 89, philanthropist and co-chair of the Campaign for Concordia
- **Howard Alper²**, BSc 63, LLD 07, distinguished professor at the University of Ottawa
- **Ella Amir³**, PhD 12, executive director, AMI Quebec
- **Andrew Molson⁴**, co-chair of the Campaign for Concordia; chairman, AVENIR GLOBAL
- **Geoff Molson⁵**, John Molson School of Business volunteer; president, CEO and co-owner, Montreal Canadiens
- **Elizabeth Langley⁶**, dancer, choreographer, teacher and dramaturge who developed Concordia's Contemporary Dance program

- **Elliot R. Lifson⁷**, BSc 64, BA 65, vice-chairman, Vêtements Peerless Clothing Inc.
- **Guy Berthiaume⁸**, member of the Concordia University Press board of directors

ORDER OF QUEBEC

- **Andrew Molson⁴**, co-chair of the Campaign for Concordia; chairman, AVENIR GLOBAL
- **Anne-Marie Hubert⁹**, LLD 15, Canada East leader of EY
- **Suzanne Sauvage¹⁰**, president and chief executive officer of the McCord Museum and member of Concordia's Board of Governors

ORDER OF MONTREAL

- **Françoise Bertrand¹¹**, LLD 13, Montreal vice-chair of the Campaign for Concordia and chair of the board of directors at VIA Rail Canada

Ten PhD candidates from diverse disciplines were selected as Concordia's 2021-22 Public Scholars: **Alexa Ruel**, MA 18, Psychology; **Ezgi Ozyonum**, Education; **Fanny Gravel-Patry**, Communications; **Felicity Hamer**, BFA 12, MA 15, Communications; **Geneviève Grégoire-Labrecque**, Individualized Program; **Louis Lazure**, Biology; **Mojtaba Hasannezhad**, Electrical and Computer Engineering; **Simon Dubé**, Psychology; **Tanya Singh**, Marketing; **Trish Osler**, Art Education.

Concordia announced its **2021 Top 50 under 50 Shaping Tomorrow** in recognition of outstanding alumni at the forefront of their fields. This year's diverse cohort includes an indie rockstar, a human-rights advocate, a digital-media visionary and a capital-markets executive.



Three undergraduate students — **Camina Harrison-Chéry**¹², **Celeste-Melize Ferrus**¹³ and **Isaiah Joyner**¹⁴, BComm 21, were among the 2021 recipients of the **Lieutenant Governor's Youth Medal**. The award recognizes the involvement and determination of Quebecers who have a positive influence in their own community or throughout the province.



George Lengvari¹⁵, BA 63, a long-time supporter of Concordia Stingers basketball, received the inaugural **Mitchell Family Alumni of the Year Award**. The award honours former standout university athletes who have made significant contributions to their alma maters and communities.



Damon Matthews¹⁶ was named one of the world's most influential climate scientists. The professor and Concordia Research Chair in Climate Science and Sustainability, Geography, Planning and Environment landed on the Reuters Hot List, ranking him among the top 1,000 climate scientists around the world — and fifth among Canadians.



NADIA CHAUDHRI WINGSPAN AWARD SUPPORTS NEXT GENERATION OF SCIENTIFIC LEADERS AT CONCORDIA

At the age of 42, and at the peak of her scientific career, Nadia Chaudhri received a diagnosis in 2020 that altered the course of her life.

“When I realized that being diagnosed with advanced ovarian cancer meant I would have to shut down my laboratory, I was devastated,” says the Department of Psychology associate professor.

“Not being able to contribute to research in my field was a huge blow. But I was also just waking up to the nuances of what it meant to be from a diverse or underrepresented background in my field.”

Rather than dwell on the negative, Chaudhri — who was also a member of her department’s Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) committee — concentrated her energy into establishing the Nadia Chaudhri Wingspan Award, using Concordia’s FundOne crowdfunding platform.

“Through the award, students who face systemic barriers due to various forms of prejudice will get a leg up if they desire to pursue graduate studies in behavioural neuroscience,” says Chaudhri, whose research focuses on drug and alcohol abuse and addiction.

UNEQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Men have traditionally dominated the field of neuroscience, and women continue to face barriers when trying to publish research or apply for research grants. Scientists who identify as members of underrepresented groups — such as Black, Indigenous and people of colour (BIPOC) — face further challenges. Chaudhri hopes the award will help students who might not be able to enter the field otherwise.

“Studies have shown that students from marginalized groups are less likely to continue in science,” says Aaron Johnson, associate professor and chair of the Department of Psychology. “This is often due to financial constraints and the inability to spend time in a research lab due to working a job to pay for school or to support their family.”

“Dr. Chaudhri is an outstanding research supervisor and mentor who has gone to great lengths to promote and support students from diverse backgrounds to overcome some of the barriers that she herself encountered as a trainee.”

THE LONG ROAD TO RESEARCH

Born and raised in Karachi, Pakistan, Chaudhri applied to Franklin & Marshall College in Pennsylvania when she was 17 years old. The college sent its dean of admissions to Pakistan to interview applicants, including Chaudhri for her Bachelor of Science.

She was offered a full scholarship that helped her pay the yearly \$31,000 USD tuition, room and board at the college. When she graduated, Chaudhri became the first female recipient of the Williamson Medal, awarded to one member of the senior class for outstanding academic and extracurricular achievement.

Later, Chaudhri earned a PhD at the University of Pittsburgh and became a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California San Francisco.

“When I gave talks or presentations, people often commented on my accent instead of my science,” Chaudhri recalls about her experience as a graduate student.

“When I pierced my nose, something I did to celebrate being Pakistani, a senior female faculty member told me that the piercing would prevent me from getting a faculty position.”

Chaudhri joined Concordia’s Faculty of Arts and Science in 2010, where she led an active research lab fuelled by student mentorship. “But visiting speakers, invariably older white men, would ask me whose lab I was in,” she says.

“The cumulative effects of having to defend your right to be where you are can be demoralizing. The strain of having to do this all the time is one reason why women drop out of science and academia.”

THE NADIA CHAUDHRI WINGSPAN AWARD

“Despite all the challenges of her diagnosis and treatment, Nadia has continued to be an inspiration to so many,” says Krista Byers-Heinlein, a Department of Psychology colleague. Together, Chaudhri and Byers-Heinlein launched PsycHacks, a space for students to discuss topics such as work-life balance, mental health and career development.

“The Wingspan Award is her vision to create a lasting impact despite her terminal diagnosis — a legacy that will concretely benefit the careers of emerging scholars from diverse backgrounds who want to study behavioural neuroscience at Concordia.”

Since receiving her diagnosis, Chaudhri has taken to Twitter to chronicle her journey, including telling her six-year-old son she’s dying from cancer. Her tweets have garnered a tremendous amount of support on the social media platform, where her number of followers tops 140,000.

In August, Chaudhri pledged to walk the length of her palliative care unit’s halls every day as part of Concordia’s annual Shuffle walkathon. She raised more than \$500,000 for the Nadia Chaudhri Wingspan Award in the weeks that followed. With additional efforts from Chaudhri’s Shuffle teammates and other gifts received in her honour, the total raised for the award is currently \$600,000 from more than 8,500 donors.

To support Nadia Chaudhri’s vision, visit concordia.ca/wingspanaward.



Nadia Chaudhri with her husband, Moni Orife

SPOTLIGHT ON PHILANTHROPY

National Bank donates \$2 million to help scale Quebec’s innovative startups supported by Concordia and partners

Quebec tech startups advanced by Concordia University and its partners are getting a major boost from National Bank.

The financial institution is supporting innovative startups through a \$2-million donation to the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now to bolster the MentorConnect program.

Licensed from MIT Venture Mentoring Service in Boston and officially launched at Concordia’s District 3 Innovation Hub (District 3) in 2020, MentorConnect helps startups successfully commercialize their ideas.



Under the program’s framework, mentors work in groups of three to volunteer their time and expertise to startup founders. Edna Chosack, a senior District 3 coach, searched the globe to find the best mentorship service. She found that MIT’s VMS program, adopted as MentorConnect by Concordia and its partners, was the most effective in encouraging startups to become established businesses.

Louis Vachon, LLD 19, president and CEO of National Bank, says the financial institution is pleased to support promising entrepreneurs. “Innovation in business is a key economic driver. Nurturing startups through effective business mentoring will accelerate their growth in a sustainable way,” says Vachon. “At National Bank, we aim to have a positive impact on the next generation and are proud to support MentorConnect with this initiative.”

Combined with support previously announced in 2014, National Bank’s total donation to the Campaign for Concordia to support entrepreneurship totals \$3 million.

“Our university is grateful to National Bank for its support of emerging tech entrepreneurs who bring innovative ideas to market and help fuel our economy,” says Concordia President Graham Carr.

'TOMORROW'S INNOVATORS NEED SUPPORT'



XAVIER-HENRI HERVÉ, BEng 87, DSc 11
Executive director and co-founder of District 3 Innovation Hub
"Tomorrow's innovators need the support and advice of today's business veterans. National Bank's donation allows for the expansion of MentorConnect to serve Quebec's promising and innovative startups."



ERIKA BRAITHWAITE, BA 07
Co-founder of biotech company Precision Analytics and District 3 MentorConnect participant
"We started off as two people who had a good idea. We had traction, we had clients, but it was only with mentoring that we could say we began to evolve as a real business. It was a transformational experience."



CHANTAL LABERGE, MBA 91
Corporate director and MentorConnect participant
"MentorConnect is a wonderful way to give back to the community and stay closely connected to the startup ecosystem."



PAUL CHESSER, BA 94, GrDip 97
Vice-president, Advancement
"We thank National Bank for recognizing Concordia's role in helping the next generation of startups flourish for the benefit of Montreal, Quebec and Canada."



GRAHAM CARR
Concordia President
"MentorConnect fills a gap by matching growing startups and their founders with experienced mentors who come from diverse backgrounds and industries. Their guidance will help startups scale, creating jobs and making a bigger impact for our country."

MOMENTS IN TIME



On June 15, 2001, ground was broken on the \$85-million Richard J. Renaud Science Pavilion on Loyola Campus. Steadfast efforts by donor **Richard Renaud**, BComm 69, former Board of Governors chair **Lillian Vineberg**, BFA 83, former President and Vice-Chancellor **Frederick H. Lowy**, LLD 08, **Jonathan Wener**, BComm 71, then head of the board's real-estate committee, and a host of others, culminated in the significant milestone. The first of four new centres dedicated to science and health, the pavilion ushered in a landmark era of progress, research and campus improvement at Concordia.



(Left to right) **Leonard and Bina Ellen** with **Sandra Paikowsky**, BA 67, and **Patrick Kenniff**, Concordia rector from 1982 to 1994, circa 1990. Paikowsky was the director and curator of the Concordia Art Gallery for more than a decade. The gallery was relocated to the newly constructed library complex in 1992 and inaugurated as the Leonard and Bina Ellen Art Gallery in honour of their important contributions to the university.



Professor **Cedric Marsh** and **Gina Cody**, MEng 81, PhD 89, circa 1985. In 2018, Cody made a landmark \$15-million gift to her former faculty. The Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science became the first faculty of its kind in Canada to be named after a woman, and one of the first in the world.