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Professors elected to Royal Society of Canada

Two McMaster professors, Jamal Deen and Adam Hitchcock, have been selected as Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada by the Academies of Arts, Humanities and Sciences of Canada. Election to RSC is the highest honour that can be attained by scholars, artists and scientists in Canada. Jamal Deen, professor of electrical and computer engineering, and Senior Canada Research Chair in Information Technology, has been elected to the Royal Society of Canada (RSC) in the division of applied sciences and engineering. Deen is the eleventh member of the Faculty of Engineering to be elected a Fellow to the Royal Society of Canada.

The Royal Society of Canada citation states, "Jamal Deen is internationally recognized for his research in the analysis, modeling and applications of microelectronic and optoelectronic devices. A highly accomplished researcher, inventor and prolific scholar, his device models and experimental innovations

are used worldwide." Deen's research has potential applications for use in a variety of applications including long-distance telecommunications, chip-to-chip interconnections in computers, medical imaging and linking massively parallel



processors and mainframes. Jamal Deen is also a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a Fellow of the Electrochemical Society, a Fellow of the Engineering Institute of Canada, and a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. In addition, he was recently elected to Honorary Membership of the World Innovation Foundation, the Foundation's highest honor. Adam Hitchcock, a professor for the Department of Chemistry and Canada Research Chair in Materials Research, has been elected to the RSC in the division of mathematical and physical science. Hitchcock has made pioneering contributions to near-edge x-ray absorption fine structure spectroscopy of core levels in molecules, surfaces and solids. He is a leading contributor to the emergence of the new technique of scanning transmission x-ray microscopy as a high resolution imaging method for materials research. He has demonstrated scientific leadership in the development and planning of the Canadian Light Source as an internationally competitive new Canadian research facility. Founded in 1882, the RSC is Canada's oldest and most prestigious scholarly organization. Fellows come from diverse backgrounds and disciplines, and are dedicated to achieving excellence in their endeavours, thus enhancing Canada's competitiveness on a global basis.

McMaster sponsors new commercialization funding source

Entrepreneurial researchers at McMaster University interested in commercializing technology related research and development have a potential new source of venture funding. The Ontario Commercialization Investment Fund (OCIF), a fund managed by the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation (MRI), has registered its first venture fund company, Ventus Funds Inc. McMaster University and the University of Toronto are sponsors of the new fund. The OCIF program was established to leverage seed capital to spin-off technology companies created by faculty, staff or students of research institutes, including universities. Ventus Funds Inc, as a registered OCIF corporation or partnership, will raise money from investors and receive a grant after investing in eligible seed-stage businesses emanating from the sponsoring universities. The government grant is calculated as 30 per cent of eligible investments made each year. "Ventus Fund bridges the gap between venture capital and technology developed at Ontario's

colleges, universities and hospitals," says Andrey Szynda, Ventus Fund general partner. "Our objective is to generate significant and continuous returns for our limited partners by creating, managing and disposing of equity investments in early-stage private companies in Canada." Ventus Fund is a seed and early stage venture capital fund. It invests in Canadian early-stage technology companies with global market potential. Industry sectors in which it invests include: semiconductors, systems, electronics, MEMS and nanotechnology, software, optics, and advanced materials and manufacturing. "Our involvement in OCIF and with Ventus Funds helps to address the capital need of researchers looking to move their research projects from the idea stage into the commercial development phase," said Rafik Loutfy, Director of the Xerox Centre for Engineering Entrepreneurship and Innovation. "This program helps institutions gain better access to private (risk) capital that will assist in accelerating commercialization and the development of spin-off companies."

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