

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

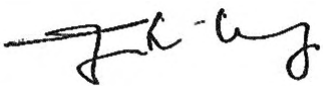
A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL

A TIME LIKE NO OTHER

This annual report of the Office of the Vice-President, International highlights the University of Toronto's key achievements for the 20-month period ending December 1, 2021 against our 2017-2022 International Strategic Plan. Throughout, we celebrate the ingenuity and resilience of the University community and our partners as we engaged locally and globally, always with the goal of supporting the international engagement of our students, faculty, and staff, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Like the rest of the world, the University of Toronto faced unprecedented challenges and disruptions due to COVID-19. Fortunately, the U of T community responded quickly and effectively. Whether on the frontlines, in the lab or in virtual classrooms, our community rallied to deliver top-notch education, engage students in global learning, connect with alumni, and launch new research and industry partnerships with local, national, and global impact.

COVID-19 underscores the ongoing importance of having a global mindset and working closely with partners around the world. We are grateful for the ongoing commitment and collaboration of those valued partners and colleagues as we continue to address myriad critical global challenges through global collaboration.



Joseph Wong
Vice-President, International



Photo: Alexis MacDonald

Land Acknowledgement:

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

GLOBAL RANKINGS

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO IS AMONG THE WORLD'S TOP RESEARCH-INTENSIVE UNIVERSITIES AND IS RANKED IN THE TOP 25 GLOBALLY IN 31 SUBJECTS, IN THE COMPANY OF BERKELEY, HARVARD, CAMBRIDGE, AND OXFORD.

(SOURCE: QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2021).

AMONG PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, U OF T IS 7TH IN THE WORLD AND 2ND IN NORTH AMERICA.

OTHER NOTABLE GLOBAL RANKINGS

16

QS – GRADUATE EMPLOYABILITY 2021

1

THE – INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 2021

8

THE – GLOBAL EMPLOYABILITY 2020

27

REUTERS – WORLD'S MOST INNOVATIVE UNIVERSITIES 2019-20

8

UBI GLOBAL – TOP UNIVERSITY-MANAGED BUSINESS INCUBATORS IN THE WORLD 2019-20

The University consistently ranks as Canada's leading university and one of the top 25 worldwide in the five most closely watched international rankings:

	World	Canada
National Taiwan University Ranking (2020-2021)	3	1
Times Higher Education – WUR (2022)	18	1
U.S. News & World Report (2022)	16	1
Academic Ranking of World Universities (2020-2021)	22	1
QS – World University Ranking (2022)	26	1

The Eight Axes

In our commitment to global engagement, U of T's International Strategic Plan focuses on eight axes across three broad, interconnected themes: **Students, Partnerships, and Advancement & Reputation.**

PARTNERSHIPS



Academic Partnerships



Innovation



Entrepreneurship

STUDENTS



Recruitment



Mobility



International Student Experience

ADVANCEMENT & REPUTATION



Alumni & Fundraising



Reputation & Brand



Photo: Daria Perevezentsev

STUDENTS

While in-person learning abroad and international placements were delayed or suspended due to COVID-19, U of T's commitment to enabling global learning for all students was not.

The University designed and implemented meaningful online opportunities for our students, including through supporting the development of **Global Classrooms**. Global Classrooms are an accessible way to internationalize teaching and learning experiences by connecting with classrooms at other universities around the world — an opportunity enabled by universities having moved their classes online in the first year of the pandemic.

For example, the *International Virtual Engineering Student Teams* (InVEST) Global Classroom matched engineering students and faculty with counterparts at the University of Johannesburg in South Africa,

and the University of the West Indies in Trinidad, as well as at German and Brazilian partner universities to solve research and design problems and help ensure the next generation of engineers have the intercultural understanding to succeed in the 21st century. Projects undertaken are varied, from developing solar powered aerospace products to finding uses for biomass waste from processing cassava and palm fruit.

In support of its commitment to Global Classrooms, the University appointed Professors Obidimma Ezezika, Elham Marzi, and Barbara Murck as tri-campus Global Classroom advisors and launched the **Global Classrooms Funding Initiative**, an opportunity to incent development and uptake of new Global Classrooms across the University. To date, **U of T has committed \$237,051 to 50 Global Classrooms.**

STUDENT FEEDBACK SPEAKS TO THE ENRICHMENT GLOBAL CLASSROOMS BRING:

It's a level of understanding that you can't get from a textbook. It's not just about intellectual knowledge, it's about shaping the way you think about other countries and yourself.

- GLOBAL CLASSROOM PARTICIPANT

The University also continued to support both our international and domestic students to engage with one another through programming and by directly sponsoring our students:



The Soap for All team distributing packages in São Paulo, Brazil. (Photo: Gabrielle Carelli Yamamoto)

With University-wide support, the **University of Toronto COVID-19 Engagement Awards** directed over **\$930,000** to **310 projects** by **1,100 students** that responded to the pandemic in globally engaged ways. Initiatives include *Soap for All* — distribution of COVID-19 information and hygiene baskets containing hand sanitizer, soap, and sanitary pads to vulnerable communities in Brazil; and *Radio Viral* — a weekly podcast capturing the impact of the pandemic on Latin American students.

The International Student Experience Fund (ISEF) supports U of T's international students and internationalizes student experience on our three campuses. Since its inception, **\$2.5 million** has been committed from the Fund to **24 initiatives** that support and enhance the experience of international students inside and outside the classroom, and nurture intercultural and international-to-domestic student engagement.

U of T developed robust safety measures including University-assisted quarantines which **supported over 9000 students from international locations to safely come to Canada.** Given the uncertainty of border closures, **our immigration advisors assisted well over 10,000 international students** through one-on-one sessions, email advising, workshops and webinars.



Piya Sial (left) and Shashwat Aggarwal (right) are just two students who were supported by U of T's bespoke quarantine supports, which included daily check-ins, social and mental health supports, and meal delivery. (Photo: Johnny Guatto)

PARTNERSHIPS

The pandemic has been an acute reminder of the world's interconnectedness and the pressing need for ongoing global collaboration to help solve the world's most challenging problems. Over the past twenty months, our global research partnerships continued to flourish, online, with the launch of a number of exciting bilateral and multi-institutional partnerships and networks.

U of T's International Office supports international partnership development through:

- workshop funding
- seed grant competitions with partners
- the Connaught Global Research Impact Program (C-GRIP) award
- International Doctoral Clusters (IDCs) — research and doctoral education arrangements between U of T and partners to drive disciplinary innovations
- Global Research Alliances (GRAs) — where U of T and partners jointly tackle complex research problems, share talent, and deepen networks



RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout 2020 and 2021, U of T has continued to support development of new international collaborations through multiple joint calls for proposals with partners. These include a **U of T and University College London Joint Call for Collaborative Projects in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic** which supported six collaborative projects and the third annual **University of Toronto-Tsinghua University** forum focused on *Public Health: From science to practice in a COVID/post-COVID world*.

The newly developed **Connaught Global Research Impact Program Award (C-GRIP)** supports research collaboration with international partners and the mobility of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who are part of global challenge teams.

The International Office was pleased to support two outstanding projects in the first round of the C-GRIP competition:

- International human rights law and global health policy experts from U of T's Dalla Lana School of Public Health, and Faculty of Law, in partnership with **Warwick University Faculty of Law** (United Kingdom), the **Centre**

for Health, Human Rights and Development (Uganda), and the **Global Health Law Consortium** (Canada) will collaborate on *Advancing Rights-based Access to COVID Vaccines as part of Universal Health Coverage*.

- Experts in student mental health from the University of Toronto's Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, **Kings College London**, the **University of Sydney**, and the **National Taiwan University** will share expertise to create a global robust and visionary research network to advance student mental health.

Also supported through the Connaught fund, PRiME is a University of Toronto Institutional Strategic Initiative designed to leverage U of T's world-class expertise in biologics, omics, molecular chemistry, liquid biopsy, nanomedicine, biology-on-a-chip, and related domains to develop novel solutions to unmet needs in human disease. PRiME has joined with **Hebrew University of Jerusalem**, **National University of Singapore**, **ETH Zürich**, and the **University of California, San Francisco** to bring together global perspectives to make significant strides in accelerating drug discovery for novel therapeutics to advance precision medicine.

GLOBAL RESEARCH ALLIANCES

Building on an already strong relationship, the newly formed global research alliance between **U of T and the University of Melbourne** will provide funding for faculty members at both institutions to work on joint research projects in fields as varied as medicine, migration studies, and indigenous studies, as well as a collaborative funding program to jointly train PhD students.

U of T also launched a global research alliance with **University of Manchester** in 2021, which arose from strong existing collaborations and joint commitment to community engagement. A new **U of M-U of T Cities and Infrastructure International Doctoral Cluster** will explore the nature and relationship of infrastructure and urbanization.

Our recently launched **Toronto-Manchester Joint Translational Centre for Digital Health** will advance the field of Digital Health in Canada and the UK through the development, implementation and translation of new technologies, policies, and service delivery models. The Centre's hubs allow connection on important themes in digital health.

This robust engagement with Melbourne and Manchester recently led to the creation of the new trilateral alliance between the **Universities of Manchester, Melbourne, and Toronto**. Together, these global universities will tackle worldwide challenges across all fields of education and research through shared student exchanges, joint research, mutual funding, and partnership links.



From left to right: the campuses of the University of Melbourne, the University of Toronto and the University of Manchester. (Photos courtesy of the University of Melbourne, Daria Perevezentsev and the University of Manchester)

The **University of Toronto-Hebrew University of Jerusalem Research and Innovation Alliance**, which was launched in early 2020, supports collaborative research such as U of T Professor Sachdev Sidhu's work on leveraging protein engineering and design to develop treatments for diseases, including COVID-19, as well as a joint project led by Professor Michael Chazan at U of T that has unearthed traces of human activity dating back millions of years in South Africa's Kalahari Desert.

AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION HEALTH COLLABORATIVE

Over the past twenty months, U of T has been developing a collaborative network with eight leading African universities — **Addis Ababa University, African Institute for Mathematical Sciences, African Leadership University, Amref International University, Ashesi University, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Moi University and University of Cape Town**



— with a focus on developing the health sectors in Ghana, South Africa, Kenya, Rwanda, and Ethiopia. In partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, we are together developing a suite of programs to train and prepare young professionals for the meaningful work of growing African health sectors equitably and efficiently to meet the health needs of each country, with an emphasis on employment opportunities for women.

Our shared vision is to provide the training, knowledge and hands-on experiential learning required for developing high-quality and equitable health-care delivery in Africa, by Africans, for Africans. As an essential component of broader, multi-sector efforts to develop African health systems, our work will help stimulate economic growth, address access-to-care issues, create stable and rewarding jobs in health care, and contribute to robust societies.

GREAT LAKES HIGHER EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

A binational network of organizations, led by **U of T and the University of Illinois** launched a consortium to focus on socioeconomic and environmental issues in support of the region's long-term competitiveness, development, and sustainability. The initial projects supported through the consortium will focus on the health of the Great Lakes.

INTERNATIONAL DOCTORAL CLUSTERS

Through International Doctoral Clusters, the University supports faculty members and their graduate students to develop international training networks. Over the past year and a half, five new IDCs have been supported, bringing our total number of IDCs to 17. In addition to a new IDC with Manchester, mentioned above, the following IDCs have been launched:

NEURAL SCIENCES

The University was proud to launch the prestigious **Max Planck-University of Toronto Centre for Neural Science & Technology** in 2021, which has as its goal to create and use advanced physical technologies to study brain circuits to improve human health and define the future of computing. A jointly supervised doctoral program is a key component of this new Max Planck Centre.

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

A new International Doctoral Cluster brings together mechanical and industrial engineers from the **Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology** and U of T to create a broader institutional partnership on advanced manufacturing.

LEUKEMIA CONSORTIUM

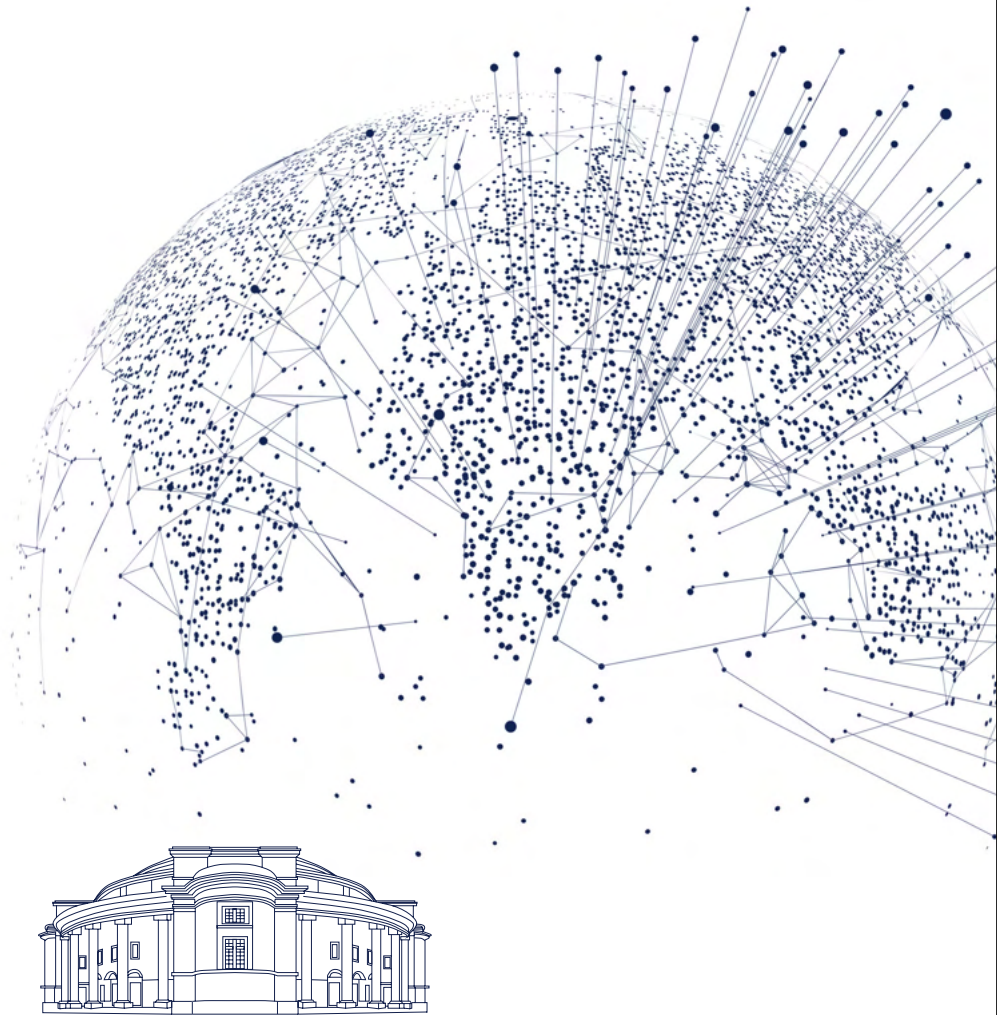
University of Cambridge, University of Toronto and University of York developed this consortium to generate the most comprehensive publicly available dataset on human blood stem cells and the leukemia that originates from them.

MEDITERRANEAN ARCHAEOLOGY

U of T and University College London's International Doctoral Cluster is a graduate training initiative anchored around the PhD program in Mediterranean Archaeology Collaborative Specialization. This pioneer project will explore the vast potential of the Mediterranean for understanding the human past and contributing to current discourses and debates on connectivity and mobility.

INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The University of Toronto has long been at the forefront of research and innovation. In 2021, we celebrate the centenary of the discovery of insulin, a U of T breakthrough which has contributed to the health of millions around the world and sparked a century of discovery and research innovation that continues to this day and beyond.



Building on this extraordinary history of innovation, our entrepreneurial community moved online for its fifth annual **U of T Entrepreneurship Week**, a showcase of the talent and innovations of the University's start-up ecosystem, attracting 1024 participants from 41 countries from Ireland to India, Netherlands to Nigeria.

Our annual **U of T Exponential Impact Lecture** invites industrial innovation leaders to describe how they nurture platform technologies from which all business units can benefit, and how they cross-pollinate ideas and methodologies across systems to develop new products and services. In 2021, the University was delighted

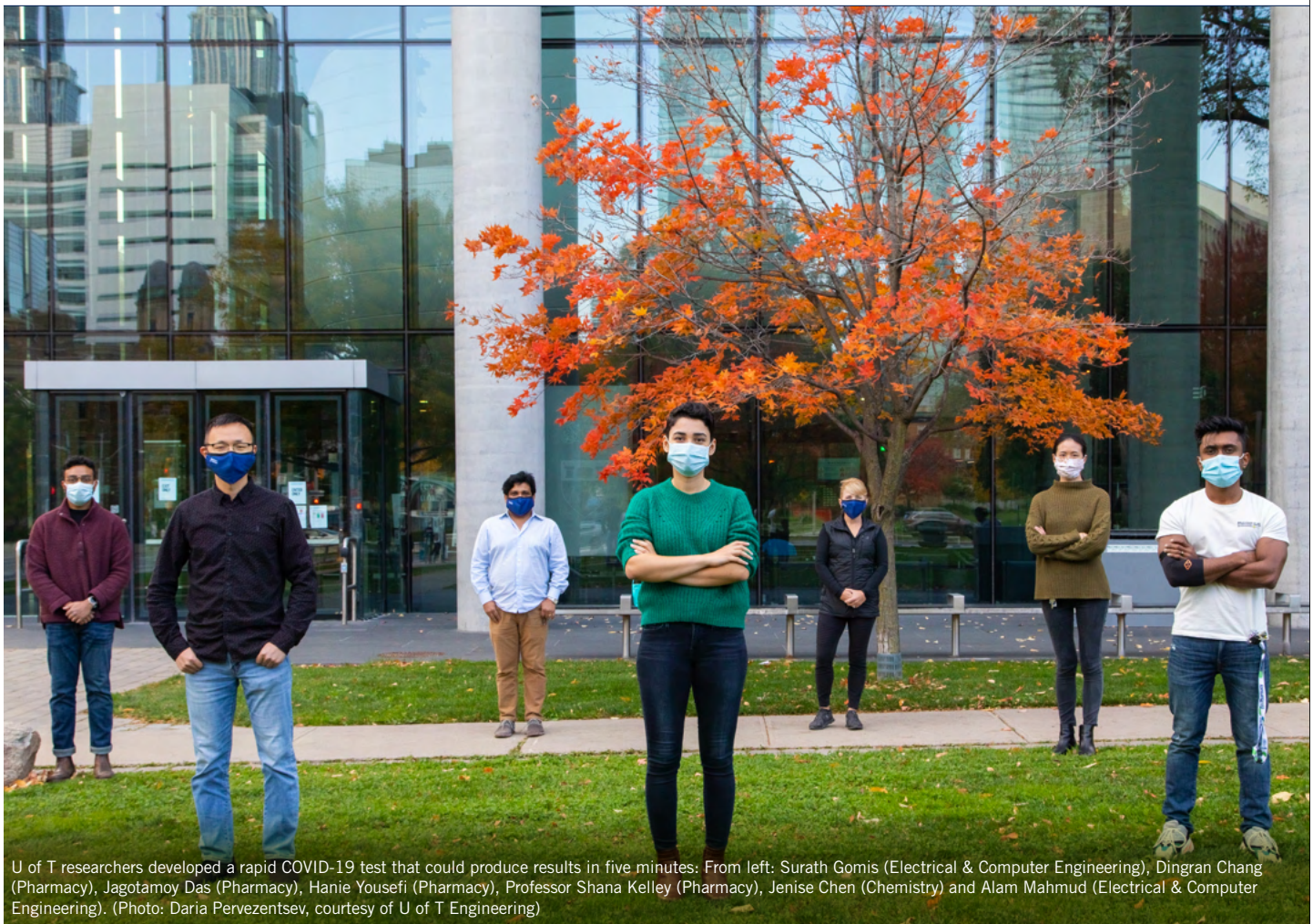
to have Ravi Arora, Vice President — Group Innovation, Tata Sons speak on *Embedding Innovation into Your Organization's DNA: The Tata Story*.

In 2021, **U of T, the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay**, and the **Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE)** launched an exciting, new **Indo-Canadian Entrepreneurship Exchange (ICEE) Program**.

Through on-the-ground bootcamps, this cohort-based student exchange will support early-stage entrepreneurs from India and Canada to improve research collaboration, grow their companies, and establish a strong, two-way innovation talent pipeline.

U of T, IIT Bombay and SINE successfully launched the ICEE joint virtual speakers' series and, when safe to do so, in-person activities will commence over a range of themes and focus areas.

We continue to work with foreign-headquartered corporations and global consortia from around the world to scale up and further develop new innovations and discoveries. Over the past year and a half, we have benefitted from partnerships with notable companies including Ericsson, Konica Minolta, Nestle, and Total, and have brought more than \$45 million in new investments to U of T.



U of T researchers developed a rapid COVID-19 test that could produce results in five minutes: From left: Surath Gomis (Electrical & Computer Engineering), Dingran Chang (Pharmacy), Jagotamoy Das (Pharmacy), Hanie Yousefi (Pharmacy), Professor Shana Kelley (Pharmacy), Jenise Chen (Chemistry) and Alam Mahmud (Electrical & Computer Engineering). (Photo: Daria Pervezentsev, courtesy of U of T Engineering)

OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY

With our cross-disciplinary expertise, close relationships with international research partners and more than 30 affiliated clinical teaching sites, the University of Toronto played — and continues to play — a unique leadership role in the global fight against COVID-19. Whether tracking its spread, developing new diagnostic tools, advising governments, or providing public information, U of T expertise is at the forefront of COVID global response.

By producing 1000+ COVID-19-related publications, in 2020 U of T placed in the top three universities globally and first among its Canadian research-intensive “U-15” peers.

SOURCE: WEB OF SCIENCE / DIMENSIONS

Building on this expertise and commitment, in August 2020, the University established the *Institute for Pandemics*, the world’s first academic centre dedicated exclusively to preventing, preparing for, fighting, and recovering from pandemics.

U of T and partner hospitals ranked as the world’s 9th most productive organization for academic research on COVID-19.

SOURCE: SCIENTOMETRICS

Throughout the past twenty months, the University has continued to host events and connect with global partners, alumni, current and prospective students all around the world, including:

- The University of Toronto co-hosted university leaders from around the world for the three-day **Times Higher Education World Academic Summit 2021** titled *How Powerful is Place?* — a global online conference that explored themes including how universities impact the regions in which they are located, the ways location influences universities' development and success, indigeneity and place, and how through networks knitting together different place-based approaches, we can jointly have a greater impact.
- In 2020, U of T **President Meric Gertler** joined nearly 100 university leaders from 48 institutions across six continents at the **U7+ Alliance of World Universities Presidential Summit** for a series of dialogues on intergenerational justice. In October 2021, in lead up to the **COP 26 UN Climate Change Conference**, U of T and University of Edinburgh jointly tabled the *U7+ Statement on Climate Change and Sustainability* which was unanimously adopted by 29 U7+ Alliance university presidents. The statement commits all signatories to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from 2018 levels by 2030 and to provide all students with access to courses related to climate, biodiversity, and sustainability. In alignment with this commitment, also in October 2021, U of T committed to immediately divest from fossil fuels and to net zero emissions in its endowment fund.
- A Sustainable Development Goals-focused **17 Zoom Rooms @ U of T** event drew more than 120 faculty and students to generate ideas on ways to advance the SDGs at U of T through research and teaching by working across disciplines. An Institutional Strategic Initiative focused on the SDGs is now under development at the University.
- The University of Toronto and **Zócalo Public Square** co-presented *The World We Want*, a four-part event series exploring current societal, political, and economic challenges and how we might emerge from the current moment.
- **52 online events** targeting prospective and admitted students attracted 1873 students from 79 countries — a dramatic increase from the 18 events in six countries offered in-person in 2019.
- **U of T Talks**, a new tri-campus initiative, was launched virtually to bring some of the world's foremost intellectuals — U of T faculty — directly to prospective students around the world.
- The University inaugurated the virtual hub for U of T alumni, a place where U of T experts share their insights on everything from masks to mindfulness, cosmology to careers. As just one example, more than 6000 people globally participated in Professor Steve Joordens' free online course, *Mind Control: Managing Your Mental Health During COVID-19*, designed to help our community manage its mental health during the crisis.

The COVID-19 pandemic, its unequal global impact, and the growing awareness of systemic racism contributed to making 2020-2021 a time like no other. Despite these challenges, U of T's support and dedication to the preservation of the health and wellbeing of our diverse community, the maintenance of academic excellence, and the critical research of our world-class scholars remained steadfast.

U of T, Canadian universities and colleges across the nation came together to facilitate dialogues to develop concrete actions for change. The first in the series concentrated on anti-Black racism and Black inclusion in Canadian tertiary education. U of T also formed an institutional **Anti-Black Racism Task Force** to address anti-Black racism and to promote Black inclusion and excellence within the University community. The President and the Vice-President and Provost accepted all 56 actionable recommendations.



The co-chairs of U of T's Anti-Black Racism Task Force (clockwise from top left): Desma Charlemagne-Michel, Dexter Voisin, Njoki Wane and Roger Bulgin. (Photos: supplied)

Throughout the past twenty months, the University of Toronto's commitment to global problem-solving, international engagement, impact, and action was unwavering. From students to staff, faculty to alumni, partners to entrepreneurs, the U of T community responded locally and globally to extraordinary challenges while making notable progress in support of our International Strategic Plan.

The pandemic continues to be a powerful reminder of our need for local and global cooperation to accelerate the solutions to the great challenges of our times and build our collective future in the process. As we look ahead to the coming year, and the roll out of U of T's new five-year International Strategic Plan, we will continue to champion our mutual efforts — and amplify, diversify, and extend our global impact.



Cover photos: Nicholas Iwanyshyn

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