Eight York University researchers have been awarded with President’s Research Awards for 2020 and 2021.

The winners of the President’s Research Awards for 2020 are:

- Christopher Perry, School of Kinesiology & Health Science, Faculty of Health, was the recipient of the President’s Emerging Research Leadership Award (PERLA) in Cluster 1: Engineering, Science, Technology, Health, and Biomedicine.
- Theodore Noseworthy, Schulich School of Business, was the recipient of the President’s Emerging Research Leadership Award (PERLA) in Cluster 2: Social Science, Art & Design, Humanities, Business, Law, and Education.
- Debra Pepler, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Health, was the recipient of the President’s Research Impact Award (PRIA).
- Eric Hessels, Department of Physics & Astronomy, Faculty of Science, was the recipient of the President’s Research Excellence Award (PREA).

The winners of the President’s Research Awards for 2021 are:

- Pouya Rezai, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Lassonde School of Engineering, was the recipient of the President’s Emerging Research Leadership Award (PERLA) in Cluster 1: Engineering, Science, Technology, Health, and Biomedicine.
- Rebecca Bassett-Gunter, School of Kinesiology & Health Science, Faculty of Health, was the recipient of the President’s Emerging Research Leadership Award (PERLA) in Cluster 2: Social Sciences, Art & Design, Humanities, Business, Law, and Education.
- Carl E. James, the Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community and Diaspora, Faculty of Education, was the recipient of the President’s Research Impact Award (PRIA).
- Jennifer Hyndman, Faculty of Environmental & Urban Change, was the recipient of the President’s Research Excellence Award (PREA).

Osgoode Hall Law students Jessie Armour, Joshua Harriott, and Thomas Prentice won the International Academy of Dispute Resolution International Law School Mediation Tournament in the Client-Advocate category, and also earned additional awards including first place for Individual Mediator for Harriott and first place for Individual Client-Advocate Pair for Armour and Harriott.

Assistant Professor in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Yan Shvartzshnaider received the 2021 Lee Dirks Award at the annual iConference for his paper on the challenges and privacy implications of smart cities. The award is presented to the authors of the best full research paper at the multidisciplinary forum, where information scholars, researchers, and professionals share their insights on critical information issues in contemporary society.
Canadian poets and York University alumni Canisia Lubrin and Yusuf Saadi have both been shortlisted for the $65,000 Griffin Poetry Prize, widely considered the most prestigious poetry award in Canada.

York University Lions football team member Luther Hakunavanhu was selected by the Calgary Stampeders in the 2021 Canadian Football League Draft. Hakunavanhu joined the Lions in 2017 and played in all 16 games over his two most recent seasons, including starting all eight in 2019.

Lassonde School of Engineering Associate Professor Gunho Sohn and project partner Thales Canada won second place in the Professional Engineers of Ontario Project of the Year competition for The Visual AI for Autonomous Train: The Ontario Train Autonomy Collaboration (OnTRAC) Project, which blends artificial intelligence with train safety.

Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change Associate Professor Jose Etcheverry received a federal grant from Co-Operative Education Work-Integrated Learning Canada to develop the UNSDG Precision Agriculture, Renewable Energies & Sustainable Enterprise Training Program, which will offer students practical online training on precision agriculture, climate change solutions, and local sustainable development strategies, using the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Earth Charter as guidelines.

Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change Associate Professor Laura Taylor received a federal grant from Co-operative Education Work-Integrated Learning Canada to work with the Climate Risk Institute, in partnership with Ontario Professional Planners Institute and Risk Sciences International, on climate change adaptation training for professional planners.
Moren Lévesque, Schulich School of Business Professor of Operations Management and Information Systems and CPA Ontario Chair in International Entrepreneurship, and her colleagues have been chosen as the second-place winners of the prestigious 2021 Ralph Gomory Best Industry Studies Paper Award.

Schulich School of Business MBA case team members finished in first place at the 10th annual Yale Graduate Student Consulting Club Case Competition. Schulich’s team was comprised of five MBA students:

• Azra Samji (MBA ’21)
• Mary Wei (MBA ’21)
• Rageeb Kibria (MBA ’21)
• Deanna Galati (MBA Candidate ’22)
• Kyle Hatton (MBA/JD Candidate ’23).

Andrea Davis, Associate Professor, Department of Humanities, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies (LA&PS), and Special Advisor on LA&PS’s Anti-Black Racism Strategy, is among the winners of this year’s prestigious 3M National Teaching Fellowship.

Emma Sabzalieva, a Research Associate in the Faculty of Education, has been awarded the 2021 Comparative & International Education Society Eurasia Special Interest Group Dissertation Award for her thesis ‘Responding to major institutional change: The fall of the Soviet Union and higher education in Central Asia.’

Five Lassonde School of Engineering faculty members were chosen as the winners of the 2021 Lassonde Innovation Fund, which supports innovative research projects with significant potential. The winners were:

• Ryan Orszulik, Assistant Professor, Earth and Space Science and Engineering
• Cuiying Jian, Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering
• Garrett Melenka, Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering
• Marina Freire-Gormaly, Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering, along with co-applicants Paul G. O’Brien, Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering, and Thomas Cooper, Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering
• Aleksander Czekanski, Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering
Three faculty members from the Lassonde School of Engineering were the recipients of the 2021 Lassonde Innovation Awards. Faculty members from the Department of Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering were honoured this year:

- Innovation Award (Early Researcher): Magdalena Krol, Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering
- Innovation Award (Established Researcher): Satinder Brar, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering.
- Graduate Mentorship Award: Magdalena Krol, Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering.
- Media Outreach Award: Marina Friere-Gormaly, Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering.

Black Canadian Studies certificate program student Michelle Molubi was recognized at the annual Humanities Education and Research Association conference with the top undergraduate research paper honour for her paper “Navigating Black Death Online.”

Professor Sandra Schecter is the recipient of the 2020 Faculty of Graduate Studies’ Teaching Award, an honour given to a member of the Faculty of Graduate Studies who has displayed substantial, significant, and sustained excellence, commitment, and enthusiasm to the multifaceted aspects of teaching at the graduate level at York.