



RESEARCH2REALITY

Shining a light on research & innovation.

How Does Canada Foster World-Class Research?

An Interview with researchers at York University's **Vision: Science to Applications (VISTA)** program

Richard Wildes, Computational Vision Scientist, Associate Director at VISTA

Shayna Rosenbaum, Neuroscientist

Doug Crawford, Neuroscientist, Scientific Director at VISTA

Laurence Harris, Neuroscientist

Robert Allison, Virtual Reality Scientist

Richard Wildes

Government funding is critical to the scientific endeavour. Both whether we're talking about basic scientific questions, or bringing science out into the world, government funding is critical.

Shayna Rosenbaum

One of the big challenges that we face is how to translate basic research into applications, ones that can be useful to patient populations who, in my field, experience memory loss.

Doug Crawford

To have applied research, we must have the fundamental knowledge. And if we don't keep building up our basic knowledge through fundamental research, discovery-based research, that well would run dry eventually. And that's why it's so important for our federal government, our provincial governments, and so on, to look forward past the time that industries and others might look and say, "Let's make the discoveries now that'll keep us in the lead 10-20 years from now."

TODAY'S RESEARCH. TOMORROW'S REALITY.



Laurence Harris

VISTA is the Vision: Science to Applications grant and it helps us with an enormous amount of support in our research here at York University. So it provides a lot of infrastructure for us, and most importantly for me, I think, is the ability to support students, and for postdoctoral researchers, as well. So one of the researchers that's working on my space project, this person is made possible, really, by the additional funding that's available through VISTA.

Robert Allison

So I think the CFREF (Canada First Research Excellence Fund) funding that funds VISTA and projects like it is very interesting and very important for Canada. Canada is a small country, we don't have vast resources like our neighbours to the south, and we need to decide where we want to invest strategically. CFREF allows Canada to do that in areas where Canada already has excellence. So it allows us to take something that we're already very good at and bring it to the next level so that Canadians truly become world leaders in certain disciplines.