



# RESEARCH2REALITY

Shining a light on research & innovation.

## 'It Gives Us a Chance To Dream Big'

An interview with researchers at the **Stewart Blusson Quantum Matter Institute** at the University of British Columbia:

**Andrea Damascelli**, Scientific Director, Professor, UBC Physics & Astronomy

**George Sawatzky**, Founder, Professor, UBC Physics & Astronomy

**Douglas Bonn**, Professor, UBC Physics & Astronomy

**Sarah Burke**, Associate Professor, UBC Physics & Astronomy

### Andrea Damascelli

The Stewart Blusson Quantum Matter Institute is a very special place to do research. This institute started with an idea that really was laid down by George Sawatzky, Founding Director of the Institute.

### George Sawatzky

It's called the Quantum Matter Institute because we deal with research in materials and matter in which quantum mechanics plays a really important role. It's important because this kind of research will lead to the new kinds of materials, new kinds of devices, that basically are going to reform all of our future electronics and medical applications, medical diagnostics, and things of that kind.

### Andrea Damascelli

We were driven by really big desire of creating a school of thought: a place where people could come to do research without boundaries, with open doors, sharing knowledge, sharing curiosity, in the spirit of discovery.

TODAY'S RESEARCH. TOMORROW'S REALITY.



### **Douglas Bonn**

It gives us a chance to dream big.

### **Sarah Burke**

It lets us tackle big problems. To tackle big problems, we have to bring together the different parts of the discovery process: making new materials, measuring and characterizing them, theory to describe and predict. And then the dream for all of us, I think, is to have our research actually go somewhere and make it out into the world. And for that we need engineers who know that translation piece. Having them embedded in the Institute is really powerful because it allows us to change the way that we think about some of our problems.

### **What is the SBQMI approach to doing research?**

### **Andrea Damascelli**

I'd like to mention the role that Stewart Blusson played in the development of the Quantum Matter Institute. Stewart's personal interest in discovery really has enabled us to be where we are today. What we can do here is way more than the sum of the parts, and that really comes about because of that particular spirit, that particular approach to doing research.