




## MULTIFACETED APPROACH TO FASD

**MANITOBA LIQUOR & LOTTERIES IS providing \$1.35 million towards research aimed at improving early diagnosis, intervention and prevention of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).**

The funding is awarded to the Canada-Israel International Fetal Alcohol Consortium (CIIFAC), made up of research teams from the U of M and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The CIIFAC's research focuses on better understanding the susceptibility factors for FASD—including genetics, nutrition, and socio-economic factors—in order to offer improved prevention strategies; and on developing new tools for diagnosing FASD earlier in order to improve outcomes.

This new funding supports three research projects, led by Brenda Elias, assistant professor, department of community health sciences; Geoff Hicks, director of the regenerative medicine program; and Miyoung Suh, associate professor, human nutritional sciences. The projects aim to understand the role of genetics and the importance of nutrition with a goal of promoting early intervention and reducing the effects of FASD when women consume alcohol during pregnancy.

The research consortium was made possible through the work of the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, which was instrumental in bringing together all of the stakeholders. 

## POWERING THE GRID



**Dr. Ho**  
Canada  
Research Chair  
in Efficient  
Utilization of  
Electric Power.

**WITH THE INCREASING GLOBAL demand for renewable power-generation sources comes a need to integrate those sources into existing electrical grid infrastructure.**

The Government of Canada has appointed Carl Ho as the new Canada Research Chair in Efficient Utilization of Electric Power. He will assist the Canadian electrical industry to develop technologies and products in support of the next generation of intelligent energy grids.

The U of M has long been a leader in the field of electrical engineering, and Ho joins the department of electrical

and computer engineering in the Faculty of Engineering as a Tier 2 chair holder with funding of \$500,000 over five years. He comes to Canada from Switzerland, where he established a strong industrial research program and demonstrated ingenuity in developing novel grid-connected converters for renewable energy sources.

His research has been widely adopted and used in products such as solar inverters, uninterrupted power supplies and power electronic dimmers that have sold worldwide.

"This funding will allow Dr. Ho to integrate energy power electronic converters and modern communication techniques, ultimately reducing energy losses and support the switch from non-renewable to renewable energy sources," said Digvir Jayas, vice-president (research and international) and Distinguished Professor at U of M. "We are excited to welcome such strong expertise to our team of researchers." 