

# Finding Funding in the Sciences

(and Engineering)

Jonathan Borwein, FRSC

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Canada Research Chair in Collaborative Technology



"After a job and tenure, an NSERC Discovery Grant is the most important thing in your professional life."

www.cs.dal.ca/~jborwein



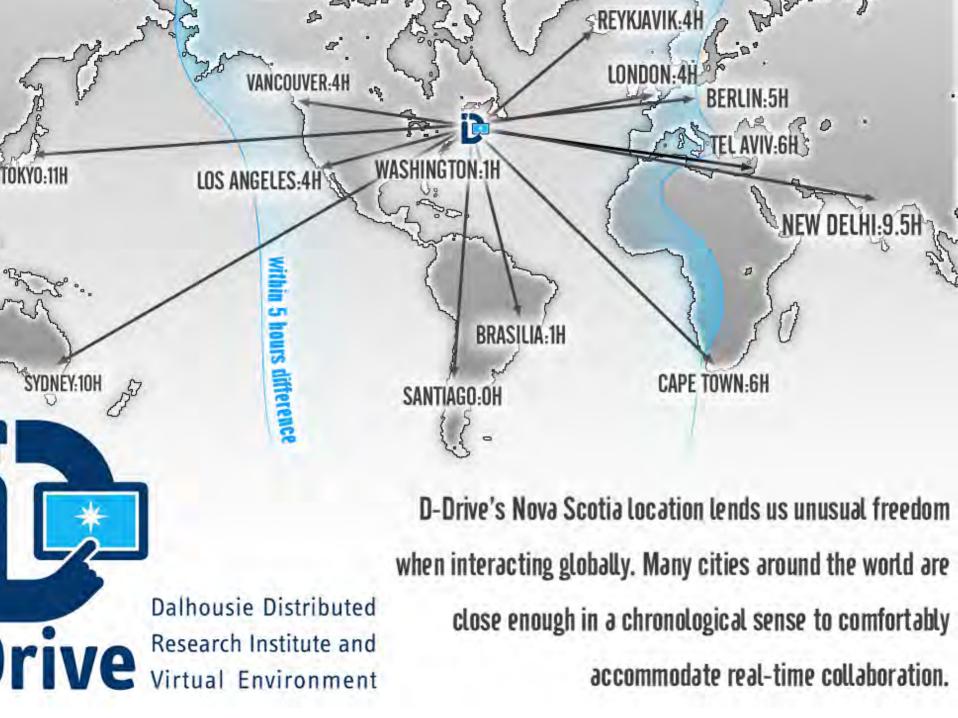
**Director** of



### Finding Funding in the Sciences

### Before and after graduation

- Why you need funding?
  - travel, students and RAs, visitors, equipment
- What is available? (slides to come)
- What are the best strategies for getting and keeping funding?
  - view like portfolio management
  - some risk, some certainty
  - keep good records from day one
  - look ahead, but not too far



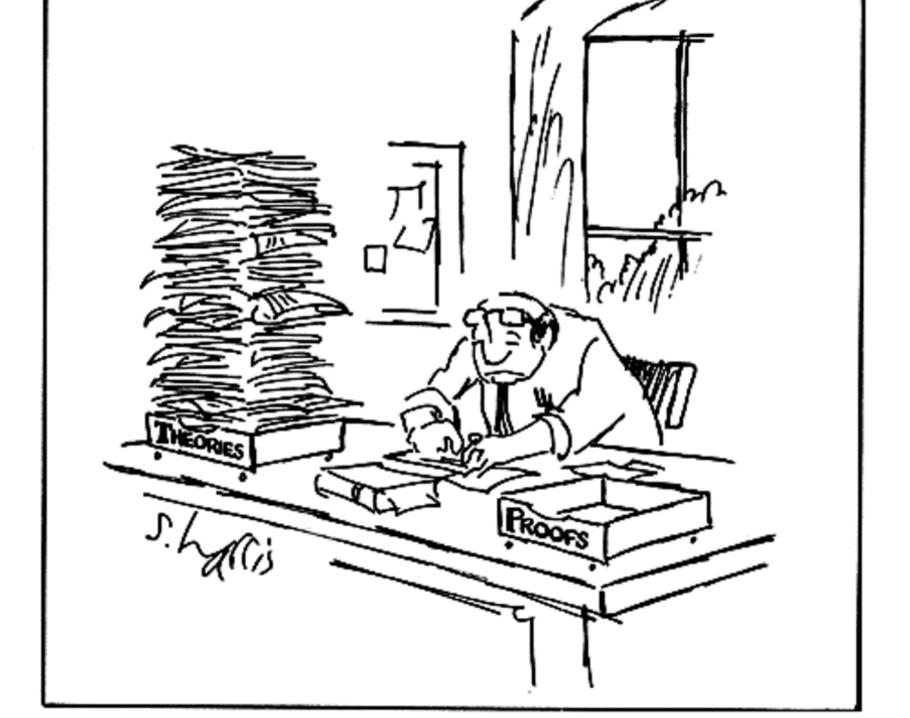
### Finding Funding in the Sciences

### **Some General Observations**

- Modern science is Global
  - building social networks is crucial
  - Proposals must speak to diverse groups of readers
    - experts are rare; knowledge is not
  - Success rates are low (20%?)
    - so ideas must be re-purposable
- You are your own best sales-person
  - but bullshit is obvious







#### **Before Graduation**

# **Options are fairly limited**

- But you need to get on the circuit!
  - practice, practice, practice
  - friendship/familiarity counts (ref. letters etc)
- Some funds available within University
  - politely ask your supervisor (and others)
- Some NCE-Networks (MITACS) and Institutes (CITA, AARMS, Fields, PIMS, CRM) tie workshop funding in part to graduate students
  - Industrial pre-docs and MITACS internships



WE CAN ONLY WORK WITH SINGLE-DIGIT NUMBERS."

### **After Graduation I**

## **Options are still fairly limited**

- NSERC is committed to giving new researchers a good start!
  - but application growth is out-stripping funds
- Discovery Grants are key
  - they validate as well as fund (be realistic \$-wise)
- NSERC Industrial Funds are less used
  - great, if you've a real project and a live company
- NSERC Strategic, Network & Corporate
  - apply with senior partner ('track-record' counts)

#### **After Graduation II**

### **Other Possible Sources**

- CFI has just been given \$500m for 2010
  - (for equipment) but application growth is outstripping funds
- Many Agencies offer funds (ACOA, APICS, CANARIE, Ind. Canada, Genome Canada, NATO, ...)
  - make contact early in the process -- some are real, some are bogus, some are a good fit ...
- Small sums via Foundations & Societies but work may cost more than they fund
  - ("under-head") pick your spots and keep your eyes open; but grant hunting is not your day job



"BE CAREFUL! ALL YOU CAN TELL ME IS BE CAREFUL!?"





**NSERC** www.nserc.gc.ca/index.htm

your core source

**NSERC Related Sites www.nserc.gc.ca/relate.htm** 

great one-stop shopping

AAAS-Science <a href="http://sciencenow.sciencemag.org">http://sciencenow.sciencemag.org</a>

keep up on trends and policy issues (also Nature)

Enigma

"My morale has never been higher than since I stopped asking for grants to keep my lab going."

Robert Pollack, Columbia Professor of biology, speaking on "the crisis in scientific morale", Sept. 19, 1996 at GWU symposium *Science in Crisis at the Millennium*. (p. 1805 27/09/96 **Science**)