

BROCK UNIVERSITY

MEDIA RELEASE

R00039

April 28, 2011

Cool Climate Oenology & Viticulture Institute, Brock University
905-688-5550 x4471

Scientists reach across Canada to help grape and wine industry

Some of the country's top scientists have joined forces to advance Canada's grape and wine industry, as specialists from British Columbia and Ontario are identifying joint research projects to help strengthen domestic vineyard and winery operations.

This month a team of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) scientists from the Okanagan Valley visited Brock University's Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute (CCOVI) in St. Catharines, where they spoke about challenges facing BC's wine producers, and mapped out research with their southern Ontario colleagues.

Over the coming months, specialists from the Wine Grape Research Centre, located at the Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre (PARC) in Summerland, B.C., will collaborate with CCOVI scientists on the viticulture side to study how viticulture practices can enhance grape bud hardiness as well as how terroir affects cold hardiness of grapevines.

In oenology research, they will use VQA wines from both provinces to study why some vintages age better than others. Research will focus on identifying specific compounds and understanding why they appear or disappear during ageing. State-of-the-art chemical analyses will be used in parallel with sensory analyses to better monitor the findings.

During their visit, the Wine Grape Research Centre scientists Carl Bogdanoff, Drs. Pat Bowen, Tom Lowery and Kevin Usher also addressed live and web-based audiences of science and industry officials on how science is a key ingredient of BC wine production. Two more research scientists from this institution, Dr. Gerry Neilsen and Daniel O'Gorman, also traveled this week to discuss grape quality and vine health. A copy of the presentations has been archived at <http://brocku.ca/ccovi/outreach-services/ccovi-lecture-series>.

The PARC-CCOVI Wine Grape Research Network was created last year to support exchange of ideas and information related to viticulture and oenology. This collaboration advances the industry via a number of approaches such as joint research to address national research priorities; communications activities including lectures and seminars to share information across the country; as well as career and skills development for students, technicians and research professionals in both provinces.

For more information contact Nathalie Dreifelds, Marketing & Communications Officer, CCOVI 905 688 5550 x 4471; ndreifelds@brocku.ca