



VINAYAKA MISSION'S
RESEARCH FOUNDATION
Deemed to be University under section 3 of the UGC Act 1956



YORK U



Visit of the Delegation
from
York University
Canada 🍁

Led by

Professor (Dr.) Rhonda Lenton
President & Vice Chancellor
York University



On Tuesday, 19th September 2023 @ 9:30 a.m.



Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation (VMRF),
Vinayaka Nagar, Rajiv Gandhi Salai (Old Mahabalipuram Road),
Paiyanoor, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, INDIA



Professor (Dr.) J. J. Mcmurtry
Dean, Faculty of Liberal Arts &
Professional Studies



Professor (Dr.) Rui Wang
Dean,
Faculty of Science



Professor (Dr.) Alice J. Hovorka
Dean, Faculty of Environmental &
Urban Change



Professor (Dr.) Peter Y. Park
Associate Dean, Lassonde
School of Engineering



Ms. Julie Lafford
Assistant Vice President,
Alumni Engagement



Mr. Skandha Sunderasen
Associate Director, Global
Engagement & Strategic Initiatives





**VINAYAKA MISSION'S
RESEARCH FOUNDATION**
Deemed to be University under section 3 of the UGC Act 1956



YORK U



Professor (Dr.) Rhonda L

President and Vice Chancellor of York University.

She joined York in 2002 as Dean of the Atkinson Faculty of Liberal & Professional Studies, and went on to serve as Vice-Provost Academic and then Vice-President Academic & Provost. A dedicated champion of community engagement and innovative partnerships, she has significantly expanded York's institutional collaborations with government, business, community organizations, and other post secondary education partners.

In addition to her roles at York, Dr. Lenton serves on the Universities Canada International Committee and the Hemispheric University Consortium Executive Committee, and is Vice-Chair of the Council of Ontario Universities. She is also on the boards of ventureLAB, the Conference Board of Canada, and the Loran Scholars Foundation. She is a member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities Executive Committee, Canada School of Public Service's External Advisory Committee, and a member of the Business + Higher Education Roundtable.

She previously served on the Executive of the Ontario Council of Academic Vice-Presidents and represented that Council on the Campus Ontario Board and ONCAT.

Before joining York, Dr. Lenton was an associate dean and professor at McMaster University. A sociologist by training, her areas of teaching and research expertise include gender, family conflict, research methods and more recently, higher education. In recognition of her leadership and service as a senior executive in higher education, Dr. Lenton was named one of the top 100 most powerful women in Canada by the Women's Executive Network (WXN) in 2015, and in 2016 received the Angela Hildyard Recognition Award for the continual demonstration of innovative leadership in advancing the mission of, and achieving outstanding contributions to, her institution and to higher education.





**VINAYAKA MISSION'S
RESEARCH FOUNDATION**
Deemed to be University under section 3 of the UGC Act 1956



YORK U



Professor (Dr.) J.J. McMurtry

Dean John Justin (JJ) McMurtry has been the Dean of the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies at York University, the largest and most diverse liberal arts faculty in Canada, since 2018. He manages a Faculty of nearly 700 full-time faculty members, a staff of over 300, and a student body of over 20 000 undergraduate and graduate students.

Professor McMurtry is also a full professor in the Department of Social Science and a member of the Faculty's Business & Society (BUSO) program. He holds MA and PhD degrees in social and political thought from York University. Professor McMurtry's research and teaching interests focus on the theory and practice of alternative social, political and economic forms including social enterprises, co-operatives and non-profit organizations.

His publications include over 25 solo and co-authored articles and book chapters, and he is editor of the books *Living Economics: Canadian Perspectives on the Social Economy*, *Co-operatives and Community Economic Development* as well as *Co-operatives in a Global Economy*.

In addition, he was English language editor of the *Canadian Journal of Non-Profit and Social Economy Research* for over three years and has won several awards for his teaching, research and community engagement.





**VINAYAKA MISSION'S
RESEARCH FOUNDATION**
Deemed to be University under section 3 of the UGC Act 1956



YORK U



Professor (Dr.) Rui Wang



Professor Wang has been the dean of the Faculty of Science at York University since January 2020. Previously, he was York's interim vice-president of research and innovation and inaugural deputy provost Markham Campus. Before joining York University, he was vice-president of research at Laurentian University from 2015-18 and vice-president of research, economic development, and innovation at Lakehead University from 2004-14. He was a professor of physiology and leader of both the Cardiovascular Research Group and the Cardiovascular and Respiratory Network at the University of Saskatchewan from 1997-03.

Wang is an international leader in the biomedical study of a group of small molecules of gas known as gasotransmitters, a category that includes nitric oxide, carbon monoxide, and hydrogen sulfide (H₂S). His research has been supported by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council of Canada, the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, and over the course of his career, he has received more than \$13 million in research funding.

He has published 300 peer-reviewed papers and edited three books. His publications on H₂S biology and medicine have received the highest total citations in this field in the world. He is also one of the world's top two percent scientists for career impact (out of a total of eight million scientists). He has been invited to give 173 lectures and keynotes around the world. He has trained more than 125 graduate students, post-doctoral Fellows, visiting scientists and other research personnel.





**VINAYAKA MISSION'S
RESEARCH FOUNDATION**
Deemed to be University under section 3 of the UGC Act 1956



YORK U



Professor (Dr.) Alice J. Hovorka



Alice J. Hovorka is Professor and Dean at the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change, York University.

She earned her PhD in Geography from Clark University in 2003 and became a Humboldt Fellow in 2009. Her research program broadly explores human-environment relationships, with specializations in animal geographies, gender and environment, urban geography, Southern Africa, and the scholarship of teaching and learning.

She leads the SSHRC-funded The Lives of Animals Research Group which applies interdisciplinary and action-oriented approaches to studying human-animal relations in Botswana, Canada, and Costa Rica (<https://livesofanimals.info.yorku.ca/>).

As Dean of the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change, she leads and champions a community of faculty, students, staff, and collaborators in mobilizing knowledge for a just and sustainable future.





**VINAYAKA MISSION'S
RESEARCH FOUNDATION**
Deemed to be University under section 3 of the UGC Act 1956



YORK U



Professor (Dr.) Peter Y. Park



Dr. Park is a Professor/Chair in the Department of Civil Engineering at the Lassonde School of Engineering (LSE), York University. His expertise is in transportation safety and security (highways and railways), intelligent transportation systems, transportation planning and advanced statistical analysis. Before joining LSE, he was a member of the faculty of the Department of Civil and Geological Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan (2008 to 2015). In addition to his academic experience, he has ten years of experience in national and international consulting as a traffic safety analyst, transportation engineer and planner. His most recent consulting experience includes two years with iTRANS Consulting Inc. (now HDR Inc), Richmond Hill, Ontario. Over the last five years, Dr. Park has worked extensively with Saskatchewan Government Insurance on a number of traffic safety related projects. For example, at U of S, Dr. Park and his project team developed a Geographic Information System (GIS) based hotspot identification system for high collision locations in Regina and Saskatoon and at iTRANS Consulting he worked on a number of major safety countermeasure selection projects including the U.S. Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Countermeasure Selection Tool for "SafetyAnalyst" (www.safetyanalyst.org), the FHWA's "Issue Briefs: Tool Box of Countermeasures and their Potential Effectiveness for Intersection and Roadway Departure Crashes" and the FHWA's "Desktop Reference for Crash Reduction Factors." He also created an E-learning course on "Science of Crash Reduction Factors" for the US National Highway Institute (NHI).

This web-based course is designed for professionals responsible for identifying, recommending, selecting and installing appropriate traffic safety countermeasures to help reduce the number of collisions. Dr. Park has authored or co-authored numerous papers published in top journals and various conference proceedings. He has also delivered more than 30 technical reports for various North American agencies. Most of these publications discussed and analyzed issues in transportation safety and security.





**VINAYAKA MISSION'S
RESEARCH FOUNDATION**
Deemed to be University under section 3 of the UGC Act 1956



YORK U



Ms. Julie Lafford



Julie Lafford is the Assistant Vice-President for Alumni Engagement at York University in Toronto, Canada where she has worked since 2018. She has two decades of experience in the advancement of post- secondary education.

Prior to her time at York, she spent 10 years at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Medicine as part of their highly successful Advancement team where she built the Faculty's landmark strategic plan for Alumni Relations. Prior to U of T, Julie spent several years at McGill University where she held increasingly senior roles on their central Alumni Relations team and major gift fundraising.

Julie holds BA and MA degrees from Concordia University in Montreal, Canada and an MBA from the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto. From 2020-2023, Julie was a member of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) International Commission on Alumni Relations.





**VINAYAKA MISSION'S
RESEARCH FOUNDATION**

Deemed to be University under section 3 of the UGC Act 1956



YORK U



Mr. Skandha Sunderasen



Skandha Sunderasen is the Associate Director Global Engagement & Strategic Initiatives at York University.

His responsibilities, under the leadership of the AVP Global Engagement, include providing strategic direction and coordination as it relates to development, communications, coordination, and integration of York University's international strategy.

His areas of foci include, international brand & reputation, research partnerships and stakeholder/government relations. Prior to joining York two years ago, he served as the Strategic Partnerships Officer at the Office of the VP International (OVPI) at the University of Toronto (U of T). At U of T, under the guidance of OVPI (and its precursor University Relations) leadership, Skandha served as the lead for developing U of T's institutional level partnerships with Tata Trusts, Fujitsu Labs, National University of Singapore's Overseas College for Entrepreneurship in Toronto, International Doctoral Cluster Program and PhD scholarship partnerships with Latin American governments. Prior to working at U of T, Skandha worked for the Liberal Party of Canada and for a global media startup.

Skandha is a former international student who graduated from New College, University of Toronto, St. George Campus. Skandha has native fluency in Tamil.

