

November 30, 2006

### Petroleum Research Atlantic Canada funds six new projects

Halifax, NS - Petroleum Research Atlantic Canada (PRAC) announces funding for six new research projects. The projects, received and approved through PRAC's seventh call for proposals, will focus on the geology offshore Atlantic Canada.

Dr. Michael Enachescu of Memorial University (MUN) will study structural and seismic-stratigraphic architecture and petroleum systems of the Laurentian Basin offshore Newfoundland Labrador and Nova Scotia. Dr. Enachescu will be studying this area to gather new seismic data to determine the resource potential in this area. The project will receive \$90,000 over three years.

Dr. Georgia Pe-Piper of Saint Mary's University will receive \$139,000 to study diagenetic processes of Lower Cretaceous rocks and their relationship to sediment facies in the Sable sub-basin. The project will provide valuable input to reservoir modeling and management.

With contributions from PRAC totalling \$105,000 over three years, Dr. Juergen Adam of Dalhousie University will be studying 4D simulation and seismic interpretation of basin evolution and salt mobilization. He will be examining the Abenaki Sub-basin, the Mohican Graben and their deepwater extensions offshore Nova Scotia.

Dr. Duncan McIlroy of MUN will study tidal pumping, matrix infiltration and early diagenetic cementation of reservoir sandstones. The project will establish tidal porewater fluctuations, using them to redistribute cement precursors and provide an understanding of how shallow marine sediments will behave upon burial. The project will receive \$75,200 from PRAC.

A pilot study aimed at demonstrating the applicability of modern quantitative methods of detrital heavy mineral analysis to offshore Newfoundland Labrador oil and gas exploration led by Dr. Paul Sylvester of MUN, will receive \$35,000 from PRAC over the next three years. The project will provide basic data on the depositional history, paleogeography and lithostratigraphy of reservoir rocks of the Northern Grand Banks and deepwater basins.

Dr. Phil Bording of MUN is leading a project focusing on Atlantic Canada Basin Synthetic Imaging Modelling. He will generate realistic three dimensional seismic data simulations using high-performance parallel computers on a scale and resolution never achieved before. Dr. Bording will receive \$150,000 from PRAC for this project.

PRAC is a federally incorporated, not for profit, public-private partnership that began operations in 1999. PRAC is committed to increasing the capacity and scale of petroleum related research and development in Atlantic Canada and operates from full-time offices in St. John's, N.L. and Halifax, N.S. and a part-time office in Fredericton, N.B. PRAC facilitates and funds petroleum related interdisciplinary research and development within Atlantic Canada and transfers this knowledge to benefit of the region's economy. Visit PRAC online at [www.pr-ac.ca](http://www.pr-ac.ca).

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