**THE Research, Consultancy and Innovation (RCI) Centre**

Research activities remain one of the key pillars of any university. In an interconnected and globalized world, Mauritius requires an educated citizenry to generate a constant flow of research and innovation and to sustain its international competitiveness. OU must become a foundational piece of the Mauritian educational infrastructure that meets this need. OU as a public research university must serve the nation as an engine of innovation, growth, and opportunity for Mauritians of all backgrounds and fuel state and economic development.

The setting up of the Research, Consultancy and Innovation Centre in 2017 is a milestone for the university as research now becomes not just an integral part of the institution but serves the driving force to position it as a leading research-intensive Open University. The Centre will act as a national and international centre of excellence in key research areas like online learning, Technology in education, Public Health and Inter-culturalism amongst others. It will thus be a catalyst to encourage creative research, innovative scholarship, and a spirit of inquiry leading to the generation of new knowledge within the University. It aims at providing a stimulating and congenial environment to promote research, consultancy and innovation across interdisciplinary projects. It will also promote institution-wide services for seeking and managing research funding and grants from different institutions including government, research bodies, foundations, and industries.

The RCI Centre conducts the following activities:

1. Conducting research pertaining to the needs of the country and the university
2. Publication of research articles and book chapters
3. Responding to call for funding from national and international funding bodies
4. Organizing international conferences
5. Organizing research seminar
6. Networking and collaborating with other institutions
7. Organizing lectures, talks and discussions with international academics

The RCI Centre is presently headed by Mr Perienen Appavoo, Senior Academic Media Coordinator, assisted by Ms Aviksha Goobdassur and Mrs Natasha Etnack.