

Funds help math geniuses combat terror, diseases

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A team of British Columbian mathematicians is hoping \$1.1 million in new funding from Ottawa will help them develop mathematical models that can do everything from help contain a flu pandemic to combat terrorists.

The federal grant, announced on Friday, is going to the Mathematics of Information Technology and Complex Systems (MITACS) research network at Vancouver's Simon Fraser University.

MITACS was founded in 1999 to help mathematicians at universities work on real world problems with experts in government and the private sector. The new grant is designed to help MITACS build alliances with research centres around the world.

Arvind Gupta, scientific director of MITACS, said researchers with MITACS have already built several computer models for infections diseases such as flu, AIDS and severe acute respiratory syndrome.