The University Health Network’s leading-edge research infrastructure enables world-class research, helps to attract and retain top talent, and advances discovery and innovation. SUPPLIED

Elissa Bolyai is a superstar. The York University researcher has spent over 20 years studying the effects of epilepsy on cognition and language, and has published over 100 papers. Her findings point to a “dilution phenomenon,” which could affect or delay symptoms of age-related dementia, such as Alzheimer’s disease.

Dr. Bolyai’s work has received wide attention from both within and outside the epilepsy research community. This year, she was named an Officer of the Order of Canada.

“At York, we hold the Walter Gon- der Foundation Chair in Epilepsy and Cognitive Development, an appoint-

ment conferred through the York Research Chairs program. These chairs, created exclusively for York University faculty members, acknowledge research excellence within the university community, says Mark Rosenzweig, director of Strategic and Institutional Research Initiatives at York University.

“York’s vice-president, Research & Innovation Dr. Robert Hache adds that having these chairs, created exclusively for York academic units, is crucial to retaining the top scientists in the face of growing global competition for the best and the brightest. He adds: ‘The York University researcher speaks for itself. And receiving this high level of recognition from within the university is sure to attract more researchers. It can also help to attract talented and brilliant minds, he says.

Yet the honoree also comes with expectations. “We encourage York University researchers to undertake leadership activities beyond their field of expertise,” he explains. “They are expected to mentor young researchers, for example, or lead collaborative efforts in their field.”

In addition to celebrating research excellence, the program brings together experts from various faculties to foster a multidisciplinary community of accomplished researchers,” says Dr. Rosenzweig. “They are all superb.

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