Simon Fraser University has embarked on a new venture in the field of health research and education. The SFU Board of Governors has approved formation of the Institute for Health Research and Education, whose purpose is to foster health-related research at Simon Fraser University through:

- development of internal research collaborations and partnerships with the external health community,
- provision of structural and administrative support to SFU faculty engaged in health-related research, and
- facilitation and dissemination of health-related research.

The Institute will promote, stimulate and nourish research collaborations that bridge biomedical science, clinical science, health systems and services, and population health research and will incorporate multiple health research perspectives. The Institute is also charged with the development and offering of innovative graduate and professional programs in health. It will capitalize on the present health-related research activities of over 75 SFU faculty members, who collectively attract over $3M in external funding, and seek to increase both of these numbers very substantially. SFU has made substantial commitments in its operating budget to facilitate these developments.

**Vision**

The Institute will bring together as members researchers from all sectors of health research in an environment that will promote and foster new cross-sectoral research collaborations in addition to strengthening outstanding existing health research within each sector. Innovative approaches to health problems will produce groundbreaking discoveries in:

- basic biomedical research,
- creation of new knowledge and understanding of health issues from population-based, individual and biological perspectives, and
- development and transfer of new technologies and treatments into the community.
Areas of Activity

- Promotion and facilitation of cross-sectoral health research collaborations
- Development of linkages to existing Departments and Schools
- Development of partnerships
- Establishment of the Institute as a unique environment for graduate education in health research
- Development of means to attract and support top quality graduate students in health-related fields at SFU
- Facilitation of connections with and among existing faculty members at SFU
- Recruitment of excellent new faculty members to the Institute
- Acquisition of additional funding to support the activities of the Institute and its researchers
- Dissemination of research results
- Organization of workshops, speaker series and seminars to facilitate interconnections among SFU faculty and provide a forum for the public to discuss contemporary health issues.

June, 2000

Administrative Structure

The Director of the Institute will be a full-time senior academic administrative appointment holding a faculty position in an appropriate unit and reporting to the Vice President, Academic.

The Associate Director of Basic Biomedical and Clinical Health Research will be an academic administrative appointment filled by a Simon Fraser University faculty member and will report to the Director of the Institute.

The Associate Director of Public, Community and Population Health will be an academic administrative appointment filled by a Simon Fraser University faculty member and will report to the Director of the Institute.

An Institute Steering Committee will be established to provide advice to the Director of the Institute on the activities of the Institute; assist the Director in the promotion and facilitation of cross-sectoral health research; and advise the Director in the development of a proposal for a Graduate School of Health Research and Education. The Steering Committee will also participate in the development and operation of arrangements introduced to encourage and facilitate research excellence for SFU faculty members engaged in health-related research.

An Advisory Council on Health Research and Education will be established to advise the Vice President, Academic on the activities and evolution of the Institute, to promote the activities of the Institute in the broader community, and to serve as an advocate for resources and support to enable the Institute to succeed in its mission.

For more information contact: Dr. John Waterhouse, Vice President Academic tel: 604-291-3927, fax: 604-291-5876, email: jhw@sfu.ca.