Board of Governors Report
January 5, 2017
Joy Johnson, Vice-President Research and International

Research News

- SFU drug researchers will be receiving a boost thanks to **$13 million in provincial funding for the Centre for Drug Research and Development (CDRD)**. The funding will pave the way for drug breakthroughs at SFU and other partner institutions to reach the public. SFU Chemistry professors **Robert Young** and **David Vocadlo** are among the SFU researchers whose work benefits from access to the CDRD facilities. Learn more: [www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2016/sfu-drug-researchers-receive-a-boost-from-province.html](http://www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2016/sfu-drug-researchers-receive-a-boost-from-province.html).

- SFU has joined the City of Vancouver, the Canadian Diabetes Association, Vancouver Coastal Health and Novo Nordisk Canada Inc. in launching **Cities Changing Diabetes in Vancouver** to help tackle urban diabetes. SFU health sciences professor **Scott Lear** has been selected as the academic lead for Cities Changing Diabetes Vancouver. Cities Changing Diabetes Vancouver is part of a global commitment to promote urgent action against urban diabetes. Learn more: [www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2016/sfu-joins-fight-against-urban-diabetes.html](http://www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2016/sfu-joins-fight-against-urban-diabetes.html).

Research Grant Successes

- **Ryan Morin** (Molecular Biology and Biochemistry) has been awarded **$757,000** from The Terry Fox Research Institute and Foundation for his “Tumour evolution and the biology of treatment failure in DLBCL” project.

- **Corina Andreoiu** (Chemistry) has been granted **$500,000** for SFU's portion of the **CFI Innovation Fund (IF)** awarded to Guelph University for the “GRIFFIN Compton and background suppression shields” project, in collaboration with Guelph researchers. This CFI award of $500,000 was matched by the British Columbia Knowledge Development Fund (BCKDF). **Bernd Stelzer** (Physics) was awarded **$425,000** from the **CFI John R. Evan’s Leaders Fund (JELF)** for his “Modern Particle physics detector development infrastructure for Large Hadron Collider (LHC) era” project. This CFI award was matched, in large part, by **TRIUMF: Canada's National Laboratory for Particle and Nuclear Physics**.

- **Kora DeBeck** (School of Public Policy) has been awarded **$300,000** from the **Canadian Institutes of Health Research’s New Investigator Research Grants in Child and Youth Health Grant** for her “Addiction treatment engagement among street-involved youth in Vancouver: informing programs and policies” project.

- **Zamir Punja** (Biological Sciences) has been awarded **$285,000** from the **Agrima Botanicals Corp.** for his “Enhancing growth and quality of medical marihuana in hydroponic systems” project.
• **Woo Soo Kim** (Mechatronic Systems Engineering) has been awarded **$273,000** from the **Korea Institute for Advancement of Technology’s Korea** for his “Development of impact type hot embossing process technology for conductive layer” project.

• **Arvindh Shriraman** (Computing Science) has been awarded **$237,000** from the **Natural Science Engineering Research Council of Canada** for his “Optimizing Hadoop to Scale to Big Systems and Big-Data” project.

**Research Awards & Honours**

• **John Willinsky** of the Publishing@SFU program was previously shortlisted as one of the three finalists from across Canada for the **2016 SSHRC Connection award**, for his leadership of the **Public Knowledge Project** headquartered at SFU. He has now won, and was presented with the $50,000 prize at a ceremony in Ottawa on November.

• Computing scientist **JC Liu** has been named a **Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)** for his contributions to multimedia communication and Internet content distribution. The IEEE is the world’s largest professional organization for technology innovation, and its Fellowship program recognizes select members with an extraordinary record of accomplishment in their field.

• Professor emeritus **John Dill** has received the **2016 Visualization Career Award** from the IEEE for his pioneering leadership and research contributions in visual analytics. From his early interventions in the emerging field, he went on with his SFU and UBC colleagues to launch the SFU-based Vancouver Institute for Visual Analytics (VIVA) and to advance other research efforts funded by the Boeing Company.

• **RBC Professor of Technology and Innovation Blaize Horner Reich** has received an **Academic Fellow Award** from the International Council of Management Consulting Institutes for her contributions to the study and teaching of management consulting. Prof. Reich is one of five Canadians to receive the fellowship since 2013.

**SFU Innovates Updates**

• In November, 12 Canadian startups traveled to China for the **C2CAN Trip (The China-Canada Commercialization & Acceleration Network)**. SFU entered into a collaboration with **Hanhai Zihye Investment Group** to establish C2CAN. The missions is to support commercialization of advanced technologies originating from China and Canada. Connections were made with regional government, support programs and agencies, accelerators, angels, venture funds, customers, supply chain partners and corporate strategic partners. A second trip is being planned for completion prior to April 2017 to utilize the I-INC business development travel assistance funding.

• **Technology Entrepreneurship Program (TechE@SFU)** has received **$400,000 from the BC Provincial Government** to fund a new work-integrated learning program. TechE@SFU brings together third and fourth year **Beedie School of Business** and **Applied Science students** to develop a market-inspired technological product and pitch for the funds to take it from bench-top to market. The provincial funding will support
TechE@SFU co-op placements that allow aspiring student-entrepreneurs to work fulltime on their new technology and start-up business venture.

- SFU is partnering with MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates (MDA) and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) to spur innovation in space-based radar technologies and work-integrated learning. On November 29th, SFU announced the appointment of SFU engineering science professor Bernhard Rabus to a new $2.25-million Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Industrial Research Chair in Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR). The chair’s goal is to advance space-based SAR technology, foster innovation, and improve the Canadian space industry’s global competitiveness to boost economic growth. In addition, the partnership aims to prepare graduate students and post-doctoral fellows for careers in the space sector, where half the workforce comprises highly qualified personnel (HQP) who hold undergraduate and graduate degrees.

- On December 12th, SFU Innovates and Venture Connection, in partnership with the Beedie School of Business hosted “Scaling Up: Growing Multi-Million Dollar Companies in Vancouver” at the Segal Graduate School of Business. The event showcased a panel of Canadian entrepreneurs including Shannon Susko (author of Metronome Effect), Jason Lindstrom (Founder, Bucketlist), Greg Malpass (CEO, Traction on Demand). The event was moderated by Sarah Lubik (SFU Director of Entrepreneurship). There were over 100 attendees and 20 one-on-one mentorship sessions to provide student-entrepreneurs the opportunity to meet with established entrepreneurs.

- SFU Innovates Leaders Shawn Smith and Sarah Lubik were profiled in the Georgia Straight promoting entrepreneurship and social innovation programming at SFU. See the news article: [www.straight.com/news/824076/sfu-instructors-show-entrepreneurial-zeal](http://www.straight.com/news/824076/sfu-instructors-show-entrepreneurial-zeal).

SFU International (SFUi) Updates

- In December, Joy Johnson, Shaheen Nanji (acting Executive Director, SFUi), and Dongya Yang (Associate Dean, Faculty of Environment), travelled to Beijing for meetings with the Chinese University of Communication (where we have a dual Masters degree in Communications), the Chinese Academy of Science (to renew an MOU with the Faculty of Environment), Renmin University (to explore a possible joint degree program), and the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment Development (CCICED).

- Three internationalization awards closed this period:
  1. **International Engagement Fund**: 25 proposals received, 10 were awarded at up to $5,000 each (total of $49,971) as follows: $15,000 to FASS, $4,971 to FCAT, $5,000 to FHS, $5000 to Science, $10,000 to FENV $5,000 to FAS, and $5,000 to Education.
  2. **Staff Internationalization Fund**: Four proposals received. One was awarded at $5,000 to the Beedie School of Business.
  3. **2016 Griffith University and SFU Collaborative Travel Grants**: Four proposals were received at SFU and six proposals were received at Griffith University. Decisions to be made by end of December.