Top Stories in the News, Research

- Simon Fraser University professor and researcher Wolfgang Stuerzlinger has been working on augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR) and computer visioning for many years. Stuerzlinger is making virtual reality a collective experience. Learn more from SFU News: www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2018/05/sfu-researcher-making-virtual-reality-a-collective-experience.html
- The Canadian federal government has invested significant funds to develop superclusters in Canada, and SFU is a proud participant of the new B.C. Digital Technology Supercluster. Learn more from Business in Vancouver: biv.com/article/2018/05/bc-tech-industry-get-innovation-boost-supercluster
- Greg Mori, director of Simon Fraser University’s School of Computing Science, is leading the latest artificial intelligence lab within Borealis AI’s cross-Canada network. Learn more from Business in Vancouver: biv.com/article/2018/05/rbc-artificial-intelligence-lab-eyes-computer-vision-initiative
- SFU researchers, Siamak Arzanpour and Edward Park’s robotic exoskeleton is designed to help people with disabilities walk again. Learn more from the Vancouver Sun: vancouversun.com/health/local-health/sfus-robotic-exoskeleton-designed-to-help-people-with-disabilities-walk-again
- Butterfly wings show how SFU research creates commercial metamorphosis. Article featuring 4D LABS and SFU graduate and Chief Technology Officer at Nanotech Security Corporation, Clint Landrock. Learn more from SFU News: www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2018/06/butterfly-wings-sfu-research-creates-commercial-metamorphosis.html

Research Grant Successes

- Nosyk Bohdan from SFU’s Faculty of Health Sciences, was awarded $486,000 for a 3-year project titled: Toward a comprehensive performance measurement system for opioid use disorder in British Columbia, Canada. This project is funded by Health Canada under the Toxic Substance Research Initiative.
• 21 SFU researchers were awarded a total of $216,000 from Mitacs through the Accelerate, Accelerate Graduate Research Partnership, and the Globalink Research Award programs.

• Six SFU researchers were successful in the latest round of NSERC Engage Grants for Universities and have collectively attracted $146,000 in funding. NSERC Engage for Universities grants allow researchers to launch new research collaboration with an industrial partner through a short term research and development project that applies their expertise to address a company challenge.

• Peter Ruben from Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology received $131,000 from Akseera Pharma Corporation for their collaborative project: Testing the Effects of CBD/THC combinations on voltage-gated ion channels in prostate cancer cells. The aim of this project is to determine the effects of cannabidiol (CBD) and tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) on growth and proliferation of prostate cancer cells, and biophysical properties of sodium channels in those cells.

Research Awards & Honours

• Isabelle Côté from Department of Biological Sciences, a core member of SFU’s Earth 2 Oceans Research Group, has won the Murray A. Newman Award for Aquatic Research from the Coastal Ocean Research Institute of the Vancouver Aquarium. The award celebrates those who have made a significant contribution to advancing conservation and research in BC and beyond.

• SFU Vice President, Research and International, Joy Johnson has been honoured by the Women’s Health Research Institute with its second annual Career Contribution to Women’s Health Research Award.

SFU Innovates

• The 2018 #BCTECH Summit has come to a successful finish. After three full days, the summit broke attendance records, drawing in an estimated 9,000 participants to nearly a dozen conference-related events. As an Innovation Partner for every summit to date, Simon Fraser University’s exhibits, research projects and speeches did not disappoint. Learn more from SFU News: www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2018/05/sfu-innovates-in-full-force-at-the-2018-bctech-summit.html

KEY, SFU’s Big Data Initiative

• KEY, SFU’s Big Data Initiative was featured at the #BCTECH Summit, the largest technology conference in Western Canada. Through the Summit, KEY facilitated connections that enabled our partners to tap into SFU’s talent pipeline, training offerings and expertise, while continuing to strengthen relationships with industry and the Digital Supercluster consortium. KEY also developed new relationships with partners, including those in government and multinational companies to help increase our economic and social impact through data.

• At the #BCTECH Summit, Joy Johnson presented in the session, “Harnessing the Power of Data for Innovation,” along with moderator, Kim Logan, Business Development
Director, IoT, Telus. Together, they discussed how using data to inform decisions sounds simple, but the reality is it takes a team, a process, and an understanding of the data’s true potential to access the results. Learn more: http://innovates.vpr.sfu.ca/story/joy-johnson-harnessing-power-data-innovation?_ga=2.99537310.1214013102.1528215960-1589552091.1525188093

- KEY, is a proud sponsor of CANHEIT-TECC 2018, the largest gathering of Canadian higher education IT leaders. Through CANHEIT, nearly 600 experts, thought-leaders and changemakers will converge at SFU’s Burnaby campus. KEY will be hosting CANHEIT attendees at SFU’s Big Data Hub for presentations, breakout meetings, and tours. As part of the conference, the big data team will be sharing the stories, the lessons and the struggles of how SFU is empowering people to engage with data through KEY. Additionally KEY will set guideposts to ease the data journey in a CANHEIT presentation entitled, “We are all big data: A vision for engaging researchers to unlock knowledge.”

SFU International (SFUi)

- SFU’s Faculty of Environment, Faculty of Health Sciences, Faculty of Applied Sciences (School of Engineering Science), and Work Integrated Learning have been successful in their application for the Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships (QES) for 2018-2021. The SFU-led project, Providing Sustainable Potable Water and Greenhouse Crops, is valued at $544,500 and will place 24 SFU students and six international scholars in five countries: Bangladesh, Ecuador, Iran, Nepal, and South Africa to further the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).