Top Stories in the News, Research


- Louise Turner, has joined Surrey’s Innovation Boulevard as CEO. Turner has held various senior executive positions in the private and public sector where she has focused on growing companies in health and technology. Learn more from Surrey Now-Leader: [www.surreynowleader.com/news/new-ceo-for-surreys-innovation-boulevard/](http://www.surreynowleader.com/news/new-ceo-for-surreys-innovation-boulevard/)

- A powerful new database being created by SFU genomics and bioinformatics researcher Fiona Brinkman and her team will help Canadian researchers make that world a reality. This powerful new bioinformatics database was funded with $9.1 million in support from Genome Canada for the CHILD study, and with support from SFU’s new Data Hub, a centrally managed source for SFU's public application programming interfaces. Learn more from SFU News: [www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2018/01/sfu-researchers-new-database-to-help-eradicate-asthma-in-children-genomics-precision-medicine.html](http://www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2018/01/sfu-researchers-new-database-to-help-eradicate-asthma-in-children-genomics-precision-medicine.html)


Research Grant Successes

- In December 2017, an announcement was made in Ottawa about SFU’s first Canada 150 Research Chair, Imperial College mathematician Caroline Colijn. The university is expecting a second SFU Canada 150 Research Chair to be announced soon by the Government of Canada. Learn more from Petter’s Perspective: [www.sfu.ca/pres/petters-perspective/2018/sfu_s-research-strengths-are-worthy-of-celebration.html](http://www.sfu.ca/pres/petters-perspective/2018/sfu_s-research-strengths-are-worthy-of-celebration.html)

Research Awards & Honours

- Robert Hogg of Health Sciences has been appointed to the Order of Canada for his advancements in HIV/AIDS research.
• **Woo Soo Kim** of the School of Mechatronics Systems Engineering has been selected as a [Brain Pool Fellow](#) by the National Research Foundation of Korea. As part of the program, Kim spent six months at Seoul National University to collaborate with researchers on 3D printing technology.

• **David Vocadlo** has been awarded the [Bernard Belleau Award](#) of the Canadian Society of Chemistry for his contributions to the field of medicinal chemistry.

• **Tina Adcock** of the Department of History is among 39 scholars named as [Wilson Associates](#) for 2017-2020 to contribute to transnational history research in Canada.

**SFU Innovates**

• Stakeholder groups including SFU Deans, SFU Innovates leads, the SFU Innovates External Advisory Board, key donors, SFU faculty, staff and students are currently working together to create the next vision for SFU Innovates. The vision will inform the next 5-10 years for the innovation strategy.

• **14 SFU researchers** will be displaying their research at the [2018 #BCTECH Summit](#) from May 14-16. There will be various locations across Vancouver Convention Centre where SFU will be displayed, such as: the SFU Innovates booth with KEY, SFU’s Big Data Initiative; an SFU section within the Early-Stage Start-ups Space in the South Foyer of the building. SFU VentureLabs®, RADIUS and Coast Capital Savings Venture Connection® leads are strategizing for and managing this space; and a student recruitment display at the Youth Innovation Day Showcase that Sarah Lubik, SFU’s director of entrepreneurship and Shauna Tonsaker, director, Work Integrated Learning, Co-operative Education, will be leading with their team members. Joy Johnson, SFU’s Vice-President, Research and International will also be speaking at #BCTECH in a session called, “Harnessing the Power of Data for Innovation.”

• **Zennea Technologies**, a Simon Fraser University student venture aiming to improve sleep quality for those with sleep apnea, has taken the best overall venture prize valued at $35,000 in the annual [Coast Capital Savings Venture Prize](#) competition, that happened on February 15, 2018.

**KEY, SFU’s Big Data Initiative**

• KEY has been engaging the Deans and the Faculties at SFU to share with the community how the initiative can help them unlock data into action. The discussions have involved opportunities for research, training, and partnership both inside and outside the university. In particular, KEY is engaging with researchers and students who may not necessarily see themselves as “data scientists,” but who do have data and need support to extract additional value from their data. To date, KEY has engaged with the Faculty of Education, Arts and Social Sciences, Health Sciences, and the Beedie School of Business. Following the Spring term, the initiative will be engaging both academic and administrative departments across all three campuses to continue lowering the barriers for the university community to engage with data, connect with hands-on training opportunities, and access to KEY’s expertise.

• KEY recently announced its next round of [KEY Graduate Scholarships](#) this February. These awards empower students to unlock the potential of big data in their research, and are open to [Masters and PhD students](#) from any Faculty, Department, or School. Last year, KEY awarded 16 scholarships across the disciplines. The initiative supported students who applied data-intensive methods to their research for the first time,
expanded their research insights with big (or small) datasets, or pivoted their research towards data-driven discoveries and computation.

**SFU International (SFUi)**

- **Darren Schemmer** joined SFU as Executive Director of SFU International at the end of January. Darren comes to SFU after retiring from a career in the Canadian Foreign Service and international development. We thank Shaheen Nanji for her work as Acting Executive Director of SFU International since 2016.
- SFU Vice-President Research and International, Joy Johnson will travel to India in early March to clarify and strengthen relationships with a number of Indian partner institutions including non-traditional partners such as India Oil Corporation Ltd. and the Bombay Stock Exchange Institute.
- SFU President Andrew Petter will travel to Singapore in late March to attend the annual conference of the Asia-Pacific Association for International Education (APAIE). SFU will lead the 2020 APAIE annual conference in Vancouver. President Andrew Petter will also be in Taiwan to strengthen relationships with National Taiwan University and National Taiwan Normal University.
- SFU’s first participant under Scholars at Risk, Dr. Hanadi Ibrahim of Syria, arrived to take up her one-year Visiting Faculty appointment in the Department of Chemistry. She will be working with Dr. Dipankar Sen, Professor, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry and Chair of the Department. She will be staying at the SFU Residents apartment to begin.
- SFU and Mitacs have partnered in an initiative to accelerate research collaborations and support the next generation of researchers with India’s leading research network through the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). The initiative will support 20 graduate and senior undergraduate students annually to participate in a 12-week research placement at the university and its IIT partners in India. SFU prepared a media release on February 9, 2018, shared with InMarcidia partners for distribution in India.