Board of Governors Report
March 24, 2016
Joy Johnson, Vice-President, Research

Research News

• SFU has **seven new Canada Research Chairs** representing a total investment of $6.2 million:
  
  o Three Tier 1 chairs at $200,000/year for seven years: **Kelley Lee**, CRC in Global Health Governance; **John McDonald**, CRC in Cognitive Neuroscience; **Marlene Moretti**, CRC in Youth Clinical Psychological Science.
  
  o Four Tier 2 chairs at $100,000/year for five years: **Jiguo Cao**, CRC in Data Science; **Roger Linington**, CRC in Chemical Biology; **Stephanie Simmons**, CRC in Quantum Nanoelectronics; **David Sivak**, CRC in Nonequilibrium Statistical Biophysics.

Research Grant Successes

• A global research effort led by SFU health sciences professor **Elliot Goldner** and a Vietnamese colleague aims to help reduce the mental illness gap in Vietnam. With up to **$1.5-million in funding** from Grand Challenges Canada and the Vietnamese government, the team will implement its “Frugal Innovations” project to train Vietnamese health care workers in screening for depression and encouraging supported self-management, and to teach coping skills to families. The framework to address mental illness will be applicable to other countries. Other SFU researchers involved in the project are **John O’Neil, Charles Goldsmith**, and PhD student **Jill Murphy**.

Research Awards & Honours

• Computing science professor **Jian Pei** has been inducted into the Association for Computing Machinery in recognition of his “contributions to the foundation, methodology and applications of data mining.”

• Engineering professor and Tier 1 Canada Research Chair **Bozena Kaminska** has been elected to the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering for “outstanding technology leadership in microelectronics and nanoscale optics for human benefit in healthcare, security, commerce and art.”

• **Leonid Chindelevitch** of Computing Science has received a 2016 Sloan Research Fellowship worth $55,000 in early-career support to further his research program in computational and evolutionary molecular biology.
Innovation Updates

- SFU alumna Maryam Sadeghi, founder of former SFU Venture Connection client company MetaOptima, was part of the “Innovators to Know – Celebrating Canada’s Research Excellence” event organized by Universities Canada, to bring 14 Canadian innovators to Ottawa to meet with high school students, science policy makers, and Parliamentarians. Maryam was featured in a one-page ad (at right) about the event in the February 15th issue of The Hill Times that mentions the assistance she received from SFU’s Venture Connection.

- SFU student venture Ionomr received the top prize at the 5th annual Coast Capital Savings Venture Prize competition recognizing entrepreneurial excellence at SFU. The company’s president and CEO is Benjamin Britton, a PhD student in chemistry professor Steven Holdcroft’s lab. The venture aims to advance the development of a type of membrane that can advance clean technology innovations in the energy storage and water treatment sectors. Together with a $3,500 cash prize from Coast Capital Savings and SFU Innovates, Ionomr will receive in-kind legal, accounting, and digital strategy packages from sponsors to assist with their early-stage growth. Second place $2,500 winner Ophthalight Digital Solutions provides an accurate portable automated eye test device called O’Glass for clinical use. The $1000 Venture Idea Prize went to Heilu, creators of an insect-based whole food powder.

- SFU and the SFU Innovates brand was a highly visible presence at the inaugural BCTech Summit, co-presented by the Government of B.C. and the BC Innovation Council January 18-19th at the Vancouver Convention Centre. Over 2500 people attended to meet and share ideas with entrepreneurs, investors, industry buyers and government officials. Some of the highlights of SFU’s participation were:
  - As Gold sponsor, SFU (represented by VP Research Joy Johnson) introduced keynote speaker Eric Ries, author of The Lean Startup.
  - Panelists for the breakout sessions included Igor Faletski, CEO of Mobify and an SFU alumnus, and SFU researchers Ryan D’Arcy and Steven Jones.
  - Joy Johnson, VP External Joanne Curry, and the Director of the Innovation Office Ian Hand attended the VIP reception.
  - The VP Research Office hosted an SFU Innovates Tech Lounge booth featuring tech displays from companies launched by SFU entrepreneurs including Shield-X Technologies (Brain Shield functional helmet decal), Acceleration Innovations (Birth Alert contraction-monitoring device), H+ Technologies (Holus tabletop holographic display), and OraScents (app-enabled customized scent diffuser). Representatives from SFU’s co-operative education and Management of Technology MBA programs were also in attendance.
o “Research Row” showcased SFU research and innovation including JC Liu’s crowd gaming and navigation platforms, 4D LABS’ advanced materials research and development, and MetaOptima’s Molescope.

o “Tech Showcase” featured the wearable lower-limb exoskeleton of mechatronics researchers Siamak Arzanpour and Edward Park, which was featured by MetroNews Canada and News 1130.

o Five SFU-affiliated companies participated in the Venture Capital presentations.

o SFU’s VentureLabs had a networking table.

o SFU’s tech- and innovation-related academic programs were promoted to students at the Career Showcase, including Work-Integrated Learning, Beedie School of Business and SFU Innovates.

o Social media featuring #SFUInnovates peaked for the month of January, with over 875 mentions and an average daily exposure of 131,000.