Research News

- February 18, 2017 marked the 20th anniversary of when the Canadian government announced the 1997 federal budget and its intention to create the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI). New investments through the CFI have changed the face of Canada’s research landscape for the better. To celebrate this 20th anniversary milestone, SFU gathered 20 fast facts about the CFI and SFU. See full SFU News story: www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2017/02/canada-foundation-for-innovation-20th-anniversary-sfu.html

- SFU associate dean of education, Rina Zazkis was named the new Canada Research Chair in STEM Teaching and Learning at an announcement last December in Toronto by the Honourable Kristy Duncan, minister of science. Read SFU News Story: www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2017/02/new-canada-research-chair-at-sfu-to-bridge-education-gap-between-high-school-and-post-secondary-mathematics.html

Research Grant Successes

- Majid Bahrami (Mechatronic Systems Engineering) has been awarded $725,376 from the Natural Science Engineering Research Council of Canada’s (NSERC) College-University Idea to Innovation Grant for his “From Waste to Clean Food” project, in collaboration with Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

- Mehrdad Moallem (Mechatronic Systems Engineering) has been awarded $112,000 from the Natural Science Engineering Research Council of Canada’s (NSERC) Collaborative Research and Development Grant for his “Development of Spar Engineering’s next generation variable frequency drives” project.

- Charles Krieger (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology) has been awarded $100,000 from the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association for his “Impaired neuromuscular junction connectivity in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis” project.

- Scott Lear (Health Sciences) has been awarded $100,000 from Novo Nordisk Canada Inc. for his “Qualitative research in Vancouver” project, as part of the Cities Changing Diabetes program.

Research Awards & Honours

- Sarah Lubik (Beedie School of Business), Nancy Olewiler (School of Public Policy), and Michelle Pidgeon (Faculty of Education) have been shortlisted in the Education, Training & Development category of the 2017 YWCA Women of Distinction Awards. They will be officially introduced at the Nominees Celebration
on March 8 (International Women’s Day) and celebrated at the annual YWCA awards dinner on May 29.

- Criminology professor Gail Anderson has been recognized internationally for her pioneering work in forensic entomology with an Achievement Award in Forensic Life Sciences from the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Anderson was previously named among TIME Magazine’s top five global innovators in criminal justice in 2001, and as one of B.C.’s 100 most influential women of 2010 by the Vancouver Sun.

- Brent McFerran, W.J. VanDusen Associate Professor of Marketing at the Beedie School of Business, has been named co-winner of the Society for Consumer Psychology Early Career Award. The award recognizes McFerran’s scientific contributions to consumer psychology.

- Mathematics professor Rina Zazkis was named the new Canada Research Chair in STEM Teaching and Learning, in December 2016 in Toronto by the Honourable Kristy Duncan, Minister of Science. Zazkis will focus her research on improving training for high school mathematics teachers, to help bridge the gap between mathematics taught at the undergraduate level and high schools across Canada.

- Computing Science alumnus Fereydouyn Hormozdiari has been named a 2017 Sloan Research Fellow for his work in computational and evolutionary molecular biology. He is now an assistant professor at the University of California, Davis, where he focuses on the use of genomics to study neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism.

- Kate Hennessy of Interactive Arts & Technology has been named a “B.C. cultural changemaker” by the BC Museums Association for her work using “new technologies to shift historical relationships between museums and indigenous communities.” Hennessy has co-produced two interactive exhibits that showcase First Nations people, culture and language.

**SFU Innovates Updates**

- 24 startup companies have been recognized and named on the Ready to Rocket and Emerging Rockets list which recognize high growth potential and innovative British Columbia technology companies in information communication technology, clean technology and digital health technology. These startups are existing or past clients of VentureLabs® and Venture Connection®, SFU growth stage and early stage business incubator and accelerators

- SFU Innovates will have a broad footprint across the #BCTECH Summit, happening March 14-15, 2017. SFU Innovates will have an exhibit area in the Marketplace area, 12 SFU researchers will be showcasing their technologies in various sections at the summit, and Stephanie Simmons, Canada Research Chair in Nanoelectronics and Assistant Professor in the Department of Physics will be part of a keynote panel on quantum computing on the first day of the event.
- **Venture Connection** will be receiving $1 million over the next five years from Coast Capital Savings. As part of the sponsorship, Venture Connection will be rebranded as Coast Capital Savings Venture Connection. On February 15, 2017, Coast Capital Savings Venture Connection hosted the Venture Prize competition at the offices of Borden Ladner Gervais with over 250 people in attendance, including industry partners from Coast Capital Savings, New Venture BC, Discovery Foundation, PWC and Life Sciences BC. **Over $37,500 in cash prizes** were awarded to student entrepreneurs and **$24,000 in kind services** was awarded to the overall winner, [Orello Hearing Technologies](#) – a company that originated out of the Technology Entrepreneurship @SFU Program.

- **VentureLabs** has brought into operation the 11th floor office space at the SFU Vancouver Campus, Harbour Centre. There will be shared meeting room space for visiting Angel investors and space for new companies to VentureLabs. From March 17-25, VentureLabs is taking another cohort of startup companies via [C2CAN](#) program to Hong Kong, Shenzhen and Guangzhou for business development in China.

### SFU International (SFUi) Updates

- **India Mission:** In January 2017, Andrew Petter, Joy Johnson, Joanne Curry, Ali Dastmalchian (Dean, Beedie School of Business), Maureen Maloney (Professor, School of Public Policy), Shaheen Nanji (acting Executive Director, SFUi), Ian Hand, Executive Director, Venture Labs, and Yusuf Varachia, traveled to India to:
  1. Sign agreements (IIT Delhi and IIT Bombay)
  2. Expand and mobilize existing relationships (Indian Oil Corporation, Bombay Stock Exchange, IIT Bombay, Tata Institute of Social Sciences)
  3. Explore new opportunities with Ministry of Education and Development Alternatives (DA)
  4. Meet with the High Commissioner and diplomatic team to provide an overview of SFU’s engagement in India and be advised on new opportunities.
  5. Identify potential visiting scholars for the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Program and Varshney Endowment.

- Received a second year of funding for the **Refugee Program** to support work coordinated by the RWG and co-led by SFU International and Student Services.