Board of Governors Report
May 3, 2017
Joy Johnson, Vice-President, Research and International

Research News

• On April 20, 2017, SFU in partnership with Compute Canada and regional partner WestGrid, launched its supercomputer, known as Cedar, at the new SFU Data Centre on the Burnaby Campus. This advanced research computing (ARC) system is the most powerful academic supercomputer in Canada and will serve many of Canada’s world-class researchers within diverse fields. Cedar places SFU in the world’s top 100 supercomputer installations. See SFU News story: www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2017/04/photos-sfu-launches-canadas-most-powerful-academic-supercomputer-cedar.html

• SFU professor Kanna Hayashi, an internationally recognized substance-use epidemiologist and a human-rights advocate for people who use drugs, was named the inaugural St. Paul’s Hospital Chair in Substance Use Research. See the SFU News story: www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2017/03/sfu-kanna-hayashi-stpauls-hospital-chair-substance-use-research.html

• SFU researchers have created a patent-pending, optical diagnostic probe capable of more safely and non-invasively detecting early stage breast cancer. See the SFU News story: www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2017/04/researchers-create-new-diagnostic-tool-for-detecting-breast-canc.html

• SFU has been selected to lead a program that will train researchers from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) to become global leaders in clean technology. This funding from the highly competitive Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship program provides the opportunity for young researchers to advance in global projects that aim to solve real-world challenges. Majid Bahrami, professor, School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering and Canada Research Chair in Alternative Energy Conversion Systems, will mentor the young scholars at SFU. See the full list of winning proposals: www.queenelizabethscholars.ca/winning-proposals

Research Grant Successes

Tri-Council New Funding:

• Natural Science Engineering Research Council (NSERC): SFU researchers have been awarded over $8.8 million for 53 projects from 2 different programs: Discovery Grants (DG) and Research Tools and Instruments (RTI).

• Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC): SFU researchers were awarded close to $5 million for 16 projects, including one major Partnership Grant.
Individual Achievements:

- **Majid Bahrami** (Mechatronic Systems Engineering) and his collaborator, **Zafar Adeel** (SFU’s Executive Director of the Pacific Water Research Centre) have been successful on their application to the prestigious **Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Advanced Scholars Program** through **Universities Canada**. This opportunity allows SFU to recruit top PhD students from low to mid-income countries to work on the researchers’ “Sustainable Portable Water and Greenhouse Crops” project.

- **Eric Werker** (Beedie School of Business) has been awarded over **$200,000** from the **University of Manchester** for his “State-Business Relations and Diversification in Research-rich Countries” project. This is part of a larger international research collaboration through the University of Manchester’s **Global Development Institute**.

- **Sarah Lubik** (Director of Entrepreneurship for SFU Innovates) has been successful on her **Genome BC** grant for “SFU Innovates Plan to Catalyze a Life Sciences Stream,” valued at over **$300,000**.

- **Joan Hu** (Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science) and her team has been awarded **$180,000** from the **Canadian Statistical Sciences Institute** (CANSSI) for their “Statistical Analysis of Large Administrative Health Databases: Emerging Challenges and Strategies” project.

Research Awards & Honours

- **Majid Bahrami** (Mechatronic Systems Engineering) has been selected as a winner of the inaugural **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Water Award** from the **UAE Water Foundation** for his sustainable waste-heat driven atmospheric water harvesting technology, the HAWgen. The award encourages leading corporations, research centres, institutions and innovators from across the world to compete for USD $1 million to find sustainable and innovative solar-energy solutions to the problem of water scarcity. Bahrami and **Faisal Beg** (associate dean of SFU’s Faculty of Applied Sciences) travelled to Dubai to receive the award at an official ceremony held at the World Trade Center on April 27, 2017.

- **Leonid Chindelevitch** (Computing Science) is one of a dozen outstanding Canadian researchers to be profiled by **Universities Canada**. In a **new publication**, they showcased Chindelevitch for his receipt of a prestigious **Sloan Fellowship** (in 2016) for his work in predicting the development of infectious diseases. Worth **$60,000 USD** over two years, these fellowships seek to stimulate fundamental research by early-career researchers of outstanding promise.

- **Gerhard Gries** and **Regine Gries** (Biological Sciences) are co-winners of the **C.W. Woodworth Award** from the **Pacific Branch of the Entomological Society of America** (ESA). The award recognizes the husband-wife duo for their outstanding accomplishments in entomology and exceptional contributions to insect communication science.
• **Gloria Gutman** (professor emerita) has been named to the [Order of Canada](https://www.canada.ca/en/unican/about/awards/ord-dercan.html) for her research and leadership in the field of gerontology and for her advocacy addressing the issue of elder abuse.

• Earlier this year, **Kate Hennessy** (Interactive Arts and Technology) was named a [changemaker](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4JNz40D1kO0) in the cultural field by the [BC Museums Association](http://www.bcmuseums.org/) for her work using "new technologies to shift historical relationships between museum and indigenous communities." In January, her co-produced exhibit showcasing the Sq'ewlets cultural heritage was launched by the Virtual Museum of Canada. In April, she was presented with the [Early in Career Award](http://www.cufabc.org/) from the [Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC](http://www.cufabc.org/) for her contributions to the academy and beyond.

• **Lesley Shannon** (Engineering Science, NSERC Chair for Women in Science and Engineering for B.C. and the Yukon) has received the [2017 Wendy McDonald Award](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Inside/Partner/Outreach/Pages/Leader.aspx) in the [Diversity Champion](https://www.cufabc.org/) category. She was recognized for promoting change within her organization through increasing the diversity of students and workers in STEM fields and for her work in developing university transition programs.

• **Nathalie Sinclair** (Education professor) has been named as Canada’s [2017 Mathematics Ambassador](https://www.partnersinresearch.com/) by [Partners in Research](https://www.partnersinresearch.com/) for her contributions to the field of mathematics and her promotion of this research to the public. Sinclair is a Canada Research Chair in Tangible Mathematics Learning whose research focuses on the role of digital technologies in the teaching and learning of mathematics.

**SFU Innovates Updates**

• SFU passed Phase 2 of the [Ashoka Changemaker](https://www.ashoka.org/) Campus accreditation process. Ashoka accreditors visited SFU leadership—including President Andrew Petter and Vice-President, Research and International, Joy Johnson—along with over 80 other changemakers from SFU and our community partners. The final phase will take place in June 2017 with a panel interview, of which Director of RADIUS, Shawn Smith will be representing SFU.

• An interdisciplinary team of SFU Health Change Lab students won one of two spots to represent Canada in the [Oxford Global Challenge](https://www.oxfordglobalchallenge.com/), an international competition for students to explore and present ideas around social and environmental change. The SFU team, comprised of [Alec Yu](https://www.sfu.ca/) and [Iman Baharmand](https://www.sfu.ca/), students of the Faculty of Science, and [Kimberley Venn](https://www.sfu.ca/), studying at the Beedie School of Business, earned their place in the Global Challenge final event after impressing judges at the Canadian finals in Calgary from March 24 to 26, 2017. In addition to the right to represent Canada, the team was awarded a **$2,500** prize. See [SFU Innovates story](http://innovates.vpr.sfu.ca/story/sfu-students-and-social-innovators-win-spot-represent-canada-finals-global-challenge-oxford-uk):
• SFU Innovates partnered with the C2CAN network and VentureLabs® to organize the 2017 Canada China Open Innovation Forum on April 28, 2017. This Vancouver event brought together a 30-person Chinese delegation from China, local investors, 100 startups and SMEs, and leaders within trade and innovation. There were over 160 attendees at the Wosk Centre for Dialogue including Colin Hansen (Advantage BC), James Moore (former Canadian Minister of Industry and Senior Business Advisor at Dentons), Hanguang Wang (Hanhai Holdings Chairman) and Chuanlong Tang (managing partner at the Eagles Fund).

• In March 2017, VentureLabs and the C2CAN network organized a trade mission for 12 Canadian startups within seven different Chinese cities to build strategic partnerships and help these companies evaluate market entry into China.

• In February 2017, Coast Capital Savings Venture Connection®, ran a Venture Prize competition and event, which awarded $60,000 in prize money to eight companies. The overall 2017 Venture Prize winner went to Orello Hearing Technologies Inc. Orello Hearing Technologies offers the only custom fit hearing-aid with built in tuning technology, giving people with mild to moderately severe hearing loss an easier and better user experience. The company was started by a team of seven aspiring entrepreneurs and engineers from SFU, who came together to alleviate issues associated with hearing loss. They will be the catalyst in the hearing-aid industry by increasing access and affordability to products that benefit individuals who are hard of hearing in the underserved market.

SFU International (SFUi) Updates

• International visiting scholars are a key mechanism by which international academic and research collaborations can be established and deepened. In order to provide appropriate support for key opportunities, SFU is developing an International Visiting Scholar program aimed to:

  1. Produce strategic opportunities and partnerships that support university priorities. These include:
     ▪ Scholars at risk – which supports academics who are threatened for their scholarly work; provides short term refuge and opportunities for collaboration.
     ▪ ICCR, India – annual visiting scholar program to bring a scholar from India. For this year, we have confirmed professor Kanika Bhal from IIT Delhi, who will be at the Beedie School of Business for the Fall.
  2. Provide administrative support to Faculties and visiting scholars (e.g. housing health, public engagement and logistics).
  3. Develop a fundraising plan to support an expanded visiting scholar program.

• SFU International’s refugee program was a key sponsor and partner in 6 Degrees Citizen Space: Are You Home, a dialogue on the meaning of ‘home’ with Adrienne Clarkson and John Ralston Saul. Other partners were SFU Public Square, Institute for Canadian Citizenship and Vancity.