Research News

• According to the 2014 CAUBO report, SFU’s research income increased by 0.5% over 2013 to reach $103.1 million.

• On October 31st, Minister of Advanced Education Amrik Virk and MLA Richard Lee visited the Burnaby campus to highlight $12.6 million in funding for SFU research infrastructure through the British Columbia Knowledge Development Fund. This is the provincial match to federal funding awarded earlier through the Canada Foundation for Innovation to 15 research projects at SFU, including the Prometheus Project and upgrades to the ATLAS Tier-1 Data Analysis Centre at TRIUMF.

• CLIVE, the Coastal Impact Visualization Environment tool co-developed by researchers at the University of Prince Edward Island and SFU’s Spatial Interface Research Lab (Nick Hedley of Geography and graduate student Alex Chen) has won the People's Choice Award in the MIT’s Communication Coastal Risk and Resilience Competition.

• Dr. Andrew Sixsmith, scientific co-director of the AGE-WELL pan-Canadian network, has been elected President of the International Society of Gerontology. He is also co-leader of the Independent Living Tech Committee for Innovation Boulevard. He is one of three SFU researchers (along with Charles Krieger of BPK and Faisal Beg of Engineering Science) who are part of the Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging (CCNA), a $31.5-million project supported by CIHR and other partners.

• Jeremy Venditti of Geography is the lead author of a new NSERC-funded study published in Nature that fills a gap in understanding of bedrock rivers. “The links between the uplift of mountain ranges, bedrock incision by rivers and climate is one of the most important open questions in science,” said Venditti.

• Three SFU researchers have secured $2.4 million in new funding from the Canada Research Chairs program. Jian Pei of Computing Science is the new Tier 1 CRC in Big Data Science, and Valorie Crooks of Geography is a new Tier 2 CRC in Health Geographies. Paul Tupper of Mathematics’ CRC in Applied Mathematics was renewed.

• SFU bioinformatics professor Fiona Brinkman heads the Allergy and Asthma Portal project in collaboration with researchers in Australia and Canada. They recently released a novel database that integrates data for a more systems-based approach to research.

• A cross-cultural collaboration between SFU biologist Bruce Archibald, Russian Academy of Science researchers and First Nations’ elders has led to the naming of a new insect fossil species.
SFU continues to make strides in the annual **QS rankings** of the world’s top universities. SFU stepped up one spot in the Top 50 Under 50 ranking to 16th in the world and in the top three in North America, and leapt 22 spots in the World University Rankings to #222 in the world and #12 in Canada, following a jump of 38 spots the previous year. The **2014 Times Higher Education 100 Under 50** ranks SFU as 24th overall (6th in North America, and 2nd in Canada). In the **2015 Maclean’s magazine rankings**, SFU regained its position as the top comprehensive university in Canada, and ranks second among the comprehensives in all three faculty performance indicators: national faculty awards, social sciences and humanities grants and medical/science grants. Taken as a whole, these rankings add to the already compelling evidence that, as SFU nears its 50th anniversary in 2015, it is being increasingly recognized around the world for its research excellence.

**Highlights from Re$earch Infosource** rankings of Canada's Top 50 Research Universities (we have placed an ad in their national supplement to be released November 7th):

- SFU was welcomed into the "$100 Million Club" in 2014, the 20 universities in Canada that bring in more than $100 million each in sponsored research funding.
- SFU is in the spotlight for its high level of **international research collaboration**. More than half of SFU’s total publications over a five-year period were co-authored with researchers from outside of Canada, versus the national average of 44%.
- SFU places 4th among all Canadian universities in **publication impact**, an indicator of the quality of research. SFU has held the top spot since 2008 among the comprehensive universities on this measure.

**Research Grant Successes**

- The fifth call for proposals for SFU’s **Community Trust Endowment Fund** has closed, with decisions expected in early 2015. Up to three projects will be funded in this competition, with awards ranging from $200-$300,000 per year over five years.
- **Robert Hogg** of Health Sciences heads a five-year $2.7-million grant from CIHR to establish the Canadian HIV Observational Cohort (CANOC) Collaborative Research Centre. This national system will monitor the impact and outcomes of combination antiretroviral therapy and help to guide HIV management and care across Canada.
- SFU leads two of the five Brain Canada Multi-Investigator Research Initiative projects focusing on Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias with partner the BC Alzheimer’s Research Awards. **Faisal Beg** of Engineering Science leads a $1.4-million grant over three years with collaborators from the UBC / Eye Care Center to study novel retinal biomarkers for Alzheimer’s disease. **David Vocadlo** of Chemistry leads a $1.5-million three-year project with the New York State Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities and the University of York to develop a preclinical program of research extending from chemistry right through to biomarkers in human tissue.
Faisal Beg is a co-investigator on another Brain Canada grant within the Platform Support program. Headed by the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital at McGill University, CBRAIN is a $3-million project to develop a Canadian Brain Research and Informatics Platform.

Research Awards & Honours

- **Patricia Brantingham** of Criminology has received the 2014 Freda Adler Distinguished Scholar Award from the Division of International Criminology of the American Society of Criminology.

- **Andrew Wister** of Gerontology has been awarded the 2014 Canadian Association on Gerontology (CAG) Distinguished Member Award, the Association’s highest honour.

- **Elliot Goldner** of Health Sciences has been awarded the Alex Leighton Award in Psychiatric Epidemiology, conferred jointly by the Canadian Academy of Psychiatric Epidemiology and the Canadian Psychiatric Association.

- **Kelley Lee** and **Steven Jones** were among the 54 new Fellows formally inducted into the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences in September.

- **Jian Pei** of Computing Science has received the IEEE ICDM Research Contributions Award, the highest recognition for research achievements in the field of data mining.

Innovation Updates

- **Jim Derbyshire**, SFU Venture Connection’s founding mentor-in-residence, helped mentor local Vancouver startup DarkVision Technologies to the top $100,000 prize by volunteering as a mentor in this year’s BCIC-New Ventures BC tech competition.