Top Stories in the News, Research

- **Innovate BC** recently awarded **$841,500**—out of $944,600—to Simon Fraser University research projects as part of their Ignite Program. The funding will accelerate the commercialization of innovative and technological research projects. Learn more from the SFU Innovates website: [innovates.vpr.sfu.ca/story/innovate-bc-awards-841500-accelerate-sfu-research-projects](innovates.vpr.sfu.ca/story/innovate-bc-awards-841500-accelerate-sfu-research-projects)

- **Majid Bahrami**, a professor in SFU’s School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering (MSE), and his team, are developing a 1200W passively air-cooled light electric vehicle charger. Learn more from SFU News: [www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2018/10/researchers-create-new-efficiencies-for-light-electric-vehicles.html](www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2018/10/researchers-create-new-efficiencies-for-light-electric-vehicles.html)

- SFU has once again been named as the **top comprehensive university in Canada**, according to *Maclean’s* annual rankings. This is the 10th time in the past 11 years that SFU has been named the country’s top comprehensive university, a category that includes post-secondary institutions that have a significant amount of research, a wide range of programs at the undergraduate and graduate level as well as professional degrees. Learn more from SFU News: [www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2018/10/simon-fraser-university-named-top-comprehensive-university-in-ca.html](www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2018/10/simon-fraser-university-named-top-comprehensive-university-in-ca.html)

- SFU Director of Entrepreneurship **Sarah Lubik** has been named one of six innovation experts leading the Government of Canada’s recently launched national consultation on digital and data transformation. Learn more from SFU Innovates: [innovates.vpr.sfu.ca/story/engaging-canadians-innovation-agenda-digital-innovation-leader-and-sfu%E2%80%99s-director](innovates.vpr.sfu.ca/story/engaging-canadians-innovation-agenda-digital-innovation-leader-and-sfu%E2%80%99s-director)

Research Grant Successes

- **Yuezhi Zhao** from the SFU School of Communication will receive **$1.4 million** over a seven year period from the Government of Canada Research Chairs (CRC) program in Political Economy of Global Communication, Tier 1 Renewal.

- **Sharon Gorski** from the SFU Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry has been awarded a project grant of **$956,250** from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) for her project titled, Investigating the Relationship between HER2 and ATG4B in Cancer.

- **Zabrina Brumme** from SFU Faculty of Health Sciences has been awarded a project grant of **$761,176** from CIHR for her project titled, Integrated Phylogenetic, Molecular and Functional Analyses of the within-host Latent HIV Reservoir.

- **Fiona Brinkman** from the SFU Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry has been awarded a Team Grant called Canada-EU Data Flagship Collaboration of **$900,000** from CIHR for her project titled, Common infrastructure for national cohorts in Europe, Canada, and Africa (CINECA).
• **Felix Breden** from the SFU Department of Biological Sciences has been awarded a team grant called Canada-EU Data Flagship Collaboration of $799,800 from CIHR for his project titled, A Scalable Platform for the Integartion of Distributed Repositories of Antbody and T-cell Receptor Sequence Data.

• **Lynne Quaromy** from the SFU Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry has been awarded $117,271 from Genome British Columbia’s Sector Innovation Program for her project titled, Understanding the Algal Microbiomes Living on Alpine Snowfields in South-Western British Columbia.

• **Steven Holdcroft** from SFU Department of Chemistry has been awarded $290,625 from Ionomer Innovations Inc. for his project titled; FlexCoat — Flexible Coating with Inline QC for Customized Production of Hydrocarbon Membranes for Next-Generation Electrochemical Devices.

• **Steven Holdcroft** from SFU Department of Chemistry has been awarded $465,000 from Natural Science Engineering Research Council of Canada’s (NSERC) Collaborative Research and Development Grants-Project program for his project titled, FlexCoat — Flexible Coating with Inline QC for Customized Production of Hydrocarbon Membranes for Next-Generation Electrochemical Devices.

• **Michael Adachi** from SFU School of Engineering Science has been awarded $360,000 from NSERC’s Collaborative Research and Development Grants-Project program for his project titled, Fabrication of High Flexibility High Conversion Efficiency Heterojunction Si Solar Cells.

• **Frank Gobas** from SFU School of Resource and Environmental Management has been awarded $304,825 from NSERC’s Collaborative Research and Development Grants-Project program for his project titled, Wetland Treatment of Oil Sands Process Water.

• **Majid Bahrami** from SFU School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering has been awarded $125,000 from NSERC’s Idea to Innovation program for his project titled, Development of Waste-Heat Driven Sorption Air Conditioner.

• **Oliver Schulte** from SFU School of Computing Science has been awarded $570,633 from NSERC’s Strategic Projects-Group for his project titled, Reinforcement, Learning and Sport Analytics.

• **Carlo Menon** from SFU School of Engineering Science has been awarded $505,823 from NSERC’s Strategic Projects-Group program for his project titled, Seamless Interaction.

• **Byron Gates** from SFU Department of Chemistry has been awarded $106,000 from WorkSafeBC’s Innovation at Work program for his project titled, Detection Kits with Enhanced Sensitivity for Heavy Metal Contaminants in the Workplace.

### Research Awards & Honours

• **Tania Bubela**, dean and professor of Health Sciences, has joined the ranks of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, one of the highest honours in Canada’s academic community. She was one of 44 new Fellows celebrated at the 2018 Induction Ceremony in September.

• The Department of Mathematics has announced that **Bojan Mohar**, a Canada Research Chair in graph theory, received the Royal Society of Canada’s John L. Synge Award in recognition of his transformative research in topological graph theory. Earlier this year, he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM).

### SFU Innovates
The results of the “Phase 0”—pilot—funding competition for Canada’s Digital Technology Supercluster (CDTS) were announced in early October 2018. SFU is the academic partner on the successful “Predictive Analytics for Manufacturing Processes” proposal led by Avcorp Industries—a major aircraft parts manufacturer—and its partners. In addition, Industry Engagement (IE) is coordinating and facilitating SFU’s research expertise and/or training contributions for this project. IE is also actively building other partnerships with key industry members to strategically position SFU for the next CDTS funding competition — Phase 1, starting in October 2018. Negotiations between industry and the Government of Canada are going ahead in earnest with the goal of finalizing the CDTS Master Project Agreement by the end of 2018.

Coast Capital Savings Venture Connection® is celebrating their 10 year anniversary on November 2, 2018 at Science World, and have launched an anniversary campaign to highlight stories of SFU entrepreneurs, mentors and partners from the past decade. They have also recently recruited partner expertise in-house for incubator clients and have successfully placed Mentors in Residence into three undergraduate and one Graduate Charles Chang Institute of Entrepreneurship (CCIE) certificate programs.

SFU VentureLabs® is recognized as the top North American university-linked accelerator by UBI Global. The SFU Asia Pacific Foundation India Connect program launched this fall with support from SFU and the Asia Pacific Foundation. From November 9-22, VentureLabs will be taking a cohort of startup companies via C2CAN program to China for business development activities.

The SFU RADIUS Refugee Livelihood Lab’s Beyond Borders cohort was announced with a program start date of September. The 2019 cohort is now open for the $25,000 RADIUS Slingshot Accelerator program in partnership with the Health Promotion Lab. The Surrey City Lab, a partnership between SFU and Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU), made its debut this September under the umbrella of the SFU Change Lab Program.

The 2019 #BCTECH Summit dates have been released by Innovate BC as March 11-13, 2019. SFU will be an Innovation Partner for the 4th consecutive year, and SFU Innovates will be the main brand on display.

KEY, SFU’s Big Data Initiative

KEY, SFU’s Big Data Initiative, in partnership with SFU’s Vancouver Institute for Visual Analytics (VIVA), recently delivered a visual analytics workshop with a regional health authority empowering the organization to uncover insights and make data-driven decisions. The aim of the hands-on workshop was to teach learners how visual analytics can be used to create interactive, visual displays of data sets that generate actionable insights. By delivering useful and impactful workshops, KEY is helping establish SFU as the leading engaged university for innovative data science training.

This November, KEY kicks off the fall 2018 Data Visionaries (DV) series on Transportation and AI. From self-driving cars to flying robots, maritime law to railway cleantech, transportation is rapidly evolving as big data and artificial intelligence propel us in new directions. This speakers series will explore the benefits, opportunities, ethics and potential risks as technology takes the wheel in our smart cities. Learn more: www.sfu.ca/key/events/2018/11/14/data-visionaries-series-ai-and-transportation-revolution-who-actually-benefits

Statistics Canada was looking to get people excited about the importance—and impact—of the statistical sciences in society. With a shared vision of collaboration and
public service, KEY and Statistics Canada entered into an MOU to support collaborative research partnerships, knowledge mobilization through guest lectures and workshops, and building relationships with students through co-op opportunities and hackathons. As KEY continues to strengthen relationships with government, we are helping communities become more data-literate in order to navigate through complex issues facing the world today and in the future.

SFU International (SFUi)

- SFU International (SFUi) and the Department of Humanities has finalized the next Indian scholar for the Hari and Madhu Varshney Visiting Scholars Program in Indian Studies. Paul Crowe and Samir Gandesha are excited to host Professor Valerian Rodrigues who specializes in Ambedkar studies for January 2019.
- SFU will be the lead host for the Asia-Pacific Association for International Education (APAIE) Conference and Exhibition in March 2020 in Vancouver. SFU was successful in its grant application to Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada. SFUi has been awarded $58,263 to help offset the costs of promoting the event at key international conferences and meetings.
- SFU’s Vice-President, Research and International, Joy Johnson completed a mission to Europe during which she met with a dozen institutions in the United Kingdom, Ireland, the Netherlands and France. Promising collaborative research opportunities emerged and these are being presented to SFU faculty to gauge interest. There were also useful lessons from research initiatives in these countries that are similar to Canada’s BC-led Digital Technology Supercluster.
- SFU recently accepted an invitation to join the University Social Responsibility Network (USRN) as its only Canadian member. Joy Johnson will be speaking at the USRN Summit at the University of Haifa in Israel in December.