My personal philosophy is that of an eternal optimist. I believe strongly in a team approach that uses peoples’ strengths in a concerted effort. Everyone can contribute differently to a common shared cause, and I believe that this approach will ensure success. My first priority will be to work with the SFU research community to define a strategic research plan for the University that positions SFU as the most research-intensive comprehensive university in Canada. The plan will capitalize on our strengths, building on themes that unify initiatives from the humanities to the sciences and engage our several communities.

What does SFU have to make it competitive in the future? I maintain that what we do not have can be used to our advantage to give SFU a competitive edge. We are a University that is not fettered by tradition. We talk of interdisciplinary education and research that is facilitated by our unique architecture and programs; let’s put the talk into practice. It is time to cross some of our structural boundaries and develop ambitious, multidisciplinary initiatives.

Such proposals will require strong leadership and support from my office. It is important that funding be provided to coordinate activities, to seed key initiatives and recruit gifted individuals to lead them, to provide infrastructure support and assistance in the development of major funding proposals, and to establish incubation centres and collaborative and international networks.

It is a relatively easy task to envisage cross-disciplinary initiatives in the basic and applied sciences. The opportunities are enhanced through effective university/industry liaison. I feel that there are also opportunities for cross-disciplinary initiatives in the human sciences. In the 2002 Killam Annual Lecture, Dr. Martha Piper made the case that a reinvestment in human sciences that enables a better understanding of individuals, their values, and their roles as citizens, together with a better definition of Canadian identity and our role as global citizens, is essential to generate a civil society that is tolerant, culturally diverse, and humane. I agree with this philosophy and suggest that SFU could develop a model of thematic research in the humanities and social sciences. Furthermore, I suggest that research in the human sciences should inform that in science and technology and vice versa. It is clear to me that research on the societal impact of technology deserves more prominence. If such a thematic approach could engage several departments and Faculties, it would serve to break down perceived boundaries. Such a bold move would give SFU a competitive edge.

“*I believe strongly in a team approach that uses peoples’ strengths in a concerted effort.*”

Dr. B. Mario Pinto, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, faculty member at SFU since 1983 and Chair of the Department of Chemistry since 1999, began a five-year term as Vice-President, Research on September 1st.

Mario Pinto was born in Sri Lanka and grew up with strong input both from the sciences and the arts. His father was a third-generation chemist who later studied immunology with Professor Coombs at Cambridge University. His great-grandfather founded a pharmaceutical company in Goa and his grandfather was an apothecary in Sri Lanka. As a boy, he used to help with his father’s research on the serological classification of primates based on blood-group substances, and so it is perhaps not surprising that he followed along a similar path at a much later date. However, the decision to do so was far from clear. His mother was a singer whose family included writers, editors, actors, poets, and musicians. One of his uncles was a Shakespearean actor in Sri Lanka and another, Tambi, founded Poetry London in England. Surrounded by the culture of the arts as he was growing up, he was active in poetry recitals, acting, and music. He immigrated to Toronto with his family at the age of 13. At the end of high school, he remembers clearly having to make a difficult decision to pursue the arts or the sciences, having dabbled in both. He chose the latter, and became the fourth-generation chemist in his family.
Use of Secondary Data: Ethics Considerations

What is secondary data?
Secondary data refers to data that has been collected by someone other than the original investigator, as well as the discovery of data that is not identified as a possible find in the information provided to study participants when they give informed consent.

What’s the issue?
Researchers have a duty to respect persons who participate in a study, to understand their concerns, and to protect them from risks. The basic issue is whether secondary data can be used in ways that were not originally intended when the individuals in the study consented to participate. When consent is given, it must be informed consent. This means that the participants understand the goals of the study, the ways in which data will be collected, the characteristics of the subject population and the risks that may be involved for them. Their consent is given to use the data for the goals of the study. Individuals who do not agree with the intended use of the data can choose not to participate or to withdraw.

How does this affect ethics approval for research projects?
The Research Ethics Board (REB) is concerned about the use of databases for purposes not described to the study participants at the time of their consent. When applications for the use of secondary data are considered by the REB, the first question is whether the participants agreed to have the data used for the purposes currently proposed by the researchers.

What should researchers do?
When designing a study that requires informed consent by participants, researchers should think carefully about ways in which the data may be used in subsequent analyses, and design consent and information documents to allow possible future uses of the data. For more information, contact Barb Ralph, Ethics Officer, 604-291-3447, email bralph@sfu.ca.
Planning Field Work? Check Your Insurance!

Here are some insurance issues to consider when undertaking field research:

**Property loss or damage**

Direct physical loss or damage to SFU-owned equipment and materials is insured under the University’s self-insurance program, which covers most situations. Coverage applies worldwide (except for certain restrictions) and is subject to a significant per-claim deductible. Personal property of faculty, staff or students is not covered by SFU. Individuals should check their homeowners’ or tenants’ insurance coverage.

**Liability**

The purpose of liability insurance is to protect against legal liability and lawsuits arising from an accidental or unintended incident affecting someone else’s person or property. The University’s General Liability policy includes as insured all faculty, staff, students (and, in certain cases, volunteers) while performing any activity which is part of their educational or employment duties, including field research. The SFU liability coverage applies worldwide and insures specifically against bodily injury, personal injury, death, or damage to property of others. It includes the personal or civil liability of an individual insofar as the conduct which caused the loss was part of the individual’s employment or academic duties. It does not include any coverage for criminal liability.

**Workers’ Compensation**

BC Workers’ Compensation coverage is provided to SFU faculty and staff on the University payroll. Individuals who are employed under research grants and contracts are also covered by Workers’ Compensation while performing their duties. Work activities out of BC or Canada are covered for up to a six-month period.

**Accident/Medical Insurance/BC Medical Services Plan (BCMSP)**

Participants in field research activities should evaluate the level of accident/medical insurance required to cover potential medical emergencies, both on the job and off. Students and other individuals who are not University employees must have their own medical insurance. All BC residents, defined as including all students, must have BCMSP coverage. Medical insurance is an individual responsibility, and the level of insurance coverage for all participants should be reviewed before field work is undertaken. Individuals should be aware of coverage limitations on out-of-province costs and absences from BC exceeding six months.

For more information on employee benefits, contact Human Resources at 604-291-3237.
For more information on occupational health and safety and Workers’ Compensation, contact Apollonia Cifarelli, Manager, Occupational Health and Safety, at 604-291-4978, email cifarell@sfu.ca.
For more information on insurance questions, contact Gord Wainwright, Manager, Risk Management and Insurance, at 604-291-5812, email gord_wainwright@sfu.ca.

New Technology and Science Complex (TASC 1) Under Construction

They’re moving a lot of earth this year for Earth Sciences. Excavation for the new Technology and Science Complex 1 (TASC 1) is well underway at the southeast corner of the campus. The new $23M building, which will house the Department of Earth Sciences and the Schools of Computing Science and Resource & Environmental Management (REM), is a very substantial investment by the provincial government in SFU’s technology-related programs. “We are pleased to finally consolidate some of our research and teaching space into one area,” says Earth Sciences Department Chair Diana Allen. The new building will provide improved research facilities for many researchers who currently do not have access to experimental labs. Departmental resource specialist Matt Plotnikoff adds, “We’ll finally have a real rock room where we can crush, saw and grind rock as well as prepare samples for all the other things we do.” The room will be soundproofed and located on the ground floor, allowing easy access for off-loading equipment and specimens.

Most of the ground floor of TASC 1 will be devoted to Earth Sciences. In addition to one corner of the ground floor, Computing Science will occupy the top floor and share the middle floor with REM. REM professor Wolfgang Haider says, “The new building will finally bring REM groups together under one roof.” The Cooperative Resource Management Institute (CRMI) currently housed in the East Annex will move to TASC 1. A key addition to the School will be a fisheries wet lab to accommodate new faculty members Bill de la Mare and Sean Cox, as well as CRMI members from Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

The new building will have state-of-the-art communications and computer support infrastructure. The communications cabling will provide bandwidth and flexibility to meet the needs of research and instruction, while guaranteeing security for sensitive research data. Improved emergency power will allow time for an on-call technician to come on site and perform an orderly shutdown of all systems, reducing the risk of data loss and dramatically reducing the time and effort required to restart when power is restored.
Fall Deadlines for CIHR, SSHRC and NSERC Competitions

The Office of Research Services (ORS) routinely receives and forwards funding opportunity news to our list members (nserc-list@sfu.ca, sshrc-list@sfu.ca, cihr-list@sfu.ca). In addition, funding opportunities can be found in the databases available to SFU computer account holders on the ORS Web site at www.sfu.ca/ors by following the links from “External Grants” to “Funding Opportunity Databases.” Those wishing to join an ORS email list should follow the instructions at www.sfu.ca/ors/Listservers.html.

In accordance with SFU’s Research Policy R10.01, all letters of intent, proposals and applications, whether electronic or paper, must be approved by ORS using an SFU Research Funding Application Signature Sheet prior to their submission. This form can be found at www.sfu.ca/ors/forms/sig_sheet.html and must accompany a copy of the application for ORS records. Applicants are strongly advised to allow sufficient lead time for the proper consideration at each level.

Each agency has its own requirements concerning application methods and deadlines. SSHRC requires that paper applications be posted on or before midnight on the deadline date. CIHR requires that paper applications be sent by courier on or before the deadline. NSERC will accept either paper or electronically submitted applications by the deadline date. Note that further information will be provided in the fall concerning the NSERC electronic submission process. The deadlines for each agency are shown below.

For SFU researchers who submit paper applications, ORS provides a mass mailing service for those wishing to take advantage of it. Fully addressed and sealed envelopes containing signed originals and the correct number of copies may be dropped off at Strand Hall 2100 by the dates listed below.

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<td>350 Albert Street</td>
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<td>Room 97, 160 Elgin Street</td>
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<td>Four copies of the full application package (original and 3 copies)</td>
<td>RTI Grants: Four copies of the full application package (original and 3 copies)</td>
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