SFU President’s Research Luncheon a Success

The social and economic impacts of Simon Fraser University’s (SFU) research excellence were celebrated at the President’s Research Luncheon in February. The seventh annual event of its kind, this year’s Luncheon attracted a record number of attendees. President and Vice-Chancellor Michael Stevenson and Vice-President, Research Bruce Clayman welcomed 150 guests from the community including business and government leaders and members of the media. Guests dined with twenty SFU researchers from the arts, social sciences, business, sciences, education and applied sciences.

Drs. Paul Brantingham and Patricia Brantingham delivered a lively and topical presentation. The Brantinghams’ research explores crime patterns which enable law enforcement agencies world wide to profile and track crime and its perpetrators more efficiently and effectively.

SFU Sponsors BioPartnering Conference

The First Annual BioPartnering North America (BPN) was held at the Westin Bayshore Resort and Marina in Vancouver on February 9–11, 2003 as a partnership between BC Biotech, BioAlberta and Technology Vision Group LLC, with the support of industry leaders. Dr. Ernie Love, Dean, Simon Fraser University (SFU) Faculty of Business Administration championed SFU’s sponsorship of the conference.

Described as “The Global Biotech Leaders’ Conference,” BioPartnering North America was also supported by leading pharmaceutical, biotechnology, financial and service companies from around the world. This key partnering meeting offered companies a focused business development experience. The conference built on the considerable success that BioPartnering Europe, its sister conference, has enjoyed in London over the past ten years.

continued on next page
The measures announced in the recent federal budget in support of research in Canadian universities are very impressive.

Particularly important is the establishment of a permanent program providing a contribution toward the indirect costs of research. The annual investment of $225 million nationally will help significantly in meeting these costs, and will help us gain the maximum potential from the funds invested directly in the research itself. Making the indirect costs into a continuing program was a priority item in the approach to government of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada and the Canadian Vice-Presidents, Research, reflecting the great importance of this support to universities across the country.

SFU should receive about $5 million for its 2003-04 budget year to cover indirect costs, up from the $4.4 million received (as a one-time payment) in 2002-03. The funds and information about the costs eligible under the program will arrive too late in our budget planning cycle to be incorporated into the SFU operating budget for 2003-04. Although the funds will not be transferred to SFU by the federal government until late this year or early next, SFU will allocate the expected amount through the process used for non-recurring funds and will advance the funds to academic and administrative units this spring. This will permit the funds to be used in support of the required activities, without interruption.

Increases to the budgets of the granting agencies (SSHRC, NSERC and CIHR) by $125 million and establishment of a major program of Canada Graduate Scholarships were also very important in advancing the Innovation Strategy. The reinstatement of Master’s level scholarships for students in the humanities and social sciences is especially noteworthy—it fills a critical need for continuity of support for the most capable scholars in these areas. However, the absence of an asymmetrically larger increase to the budget of SSHRC was disappointing in view of the critical needs for more research in the Human Sciences.

I have written to the federal Ministers of Industry and Finance, as well as the Prime Minister, to acknowledge the importance of these moves and to express the need for increased commitments in future years.

"BioPartnering Conference" from page 1

“A world calibre annual event of this kind in Vancouver, bringing delegates from biotech, pharmaceutical and research organizations around the world, benefits the Province and the University,” said Dr. Love. “Like many others, we are very keen to see a strong biotech industry here in BC. That is why SFU Business partnered with Western Economic Diversification and BC Biotech to develop a biotechnology stream in our Management of Technology MBA. We believe that we can bring to the table the ability to foster strong entrepreneurial and business skills that complement the required scientific and technological advances.”

Ms. Žiba Afşar, a Technology Manager in SFU’s University/Industry Liaison Office, attended the conference. She used the opportunity to promote SFU’s biotechnology and pharmaceutical research strengths. “The conference was an excellent medium for deal making, technology transfer, spin-off company promotion and education,” noted Ms. Afşar. “I believe that this annual Vancouver-based conference presents opportunities for potential partners to meet and learn about each others’ interests, and to put the spotlight on Vancouver as an international hotspot for biotechnology.”

SFU spin-off company, Welichem Biotech Inc., was one of those presenting data on putative new pharmaceuticals. “The conference was an excellent opportunity for Welichem to present its discoveries to members of the international, biotech and pharmaceutical communities, and to discuss their potential for the treatment of inflammatory/auto-immune diseases and cancer,” said Dr John Webster, President of the company and Professor Emeritus in Biological Sciences.

SFU researchers working in the biotechnology or pharmaceutical fields are welcome to contact Ziba Afşar for more information at 604-291-3014 or zafshar@sfu.ca.

Prototype Development/Proof of Principle Funds Available for 2003

Do you have a new invention, process, or idea that you would like to test and put into the marketplace?

The University/Industry Liaison Office (UILO) has funds available in the 2003 Prototype Development/Proof of Principle (PD/POP) Fund, and invites requests for project support which may be submitted at any time. Eligible projects must relate directly to knowledge or technology developed at Simon Fraser University (SFU), and the underlying research should be at an advanced stage. Previous project awards have ranged from $8,000 to $12,000, but larger amounts may be considered if merited by the project.

Faculty, staff and students at all three SFU campuses are eligible to submit proposals. Those interested should consult one of the UILO Technology Managers listed below:

- Information Technologies: Teri Lydiard, 604-291-5844, lydiard@sfu.ca
- Life Sciences: Žiba Afşar, 604-291-3014, zafshar@sfu.ca
- Medical Devices & Natural Resource Technologies: Matt Ferguson, 604-291-3966, matt_ferguson@sfu.ca
- Surrey campus & eLearning: Justine Bizziocchi, 604-268-7508, justine@sfu.ca

Further information and funding request forms are available at the UILO web site www.sfu.ca/uiilo/researchers/prototype.html and at the UILO.

The Prototype Development/Proof of Principle Fund is sponsored by the Intellectual Property Management Program of the three national research granting agencies and by Simon Fraser University.
SFU Research Expertise Database Updated

The Office of the Vice-President, Research created the database in 2001 with the assistance of the SFU Library. Recently, Ms. Alyse Kirlik, Contracts Administrator in the Office of Research Services (ORS), completed a major updating of the system. Improvements include data pertaining to all new faculty members and, for the first time, data regarding Adjunct Professors and Professors Emeriti. The database also now includes links to members of SFU’s Institute for Health Research and Education (IHRE), links to home departments and schools, and a more extensive list of searchable keywords.

“I gathered the new information from faculty web pages, the SFU directory, Departmental Assistants and from information provided directly by researchers,” reports Ms. Kirlik. “Jane Terepocki, who works in the IHRE office, helped me to amalgamate information from the IHRE database into the RED and ensure that there was no duplication of work being undertaken by our offices.”

The freely available Research Expertise Database is a valuable resource for anyone searching for SFU researchers based on area of research interest. Companies wishing to fund or collaborate on specific types of research projects can identify SFU researchers who may be potential research partners. The SFU University/Industry Liaison Office’s (UILO) Technology Managers use the RED to locate researchers when they are contacted by companies that are exploring opportunities to make investments in research and development. ORS staff use the RED as a resource to locate researchers who may benefit from new funding opportunities. The RED is also an important tool for prospective supervisors for thesis projects in the area of their specific field of interest, and for potential faculty members who may be exploring opportunities to work and undertake research at SFU.

The database is located at www.sfu.ca/vpresearch/red.

Who’s New?

Janet Yule has accepted the new position of Ethics Assistant in the Office of Research Ethics (ORE). Janet is responsible for providing clerical support for the ORE related to creating and maintaining accurate records of ethics applications. Janet has recently returned to SFU; she previously worked here for a ten-year period in departments including Biological Sciences and Computing Science Co-operative Education. Janet can be reached at 604-291-5719 or email jyule@sfu.ca.

The new Confidential Secretary, Office of the Vice-President, Research (VPR), Melanie Monk, provides executive secretarial services, manages events and produces publications and print materials for the VPR. Melanie has been an SFU employee for ten years, the last six of which she spent in a variety of positions in the Centre for Distance Education. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree (Criminology major) at SFU. Melanie can be reached at 604-291-5822 or email melaniem@sfu.ca.

Justine Bizzocchi has accepted the new position of University/Industry Liaison Office (UILO) Technology Manager at SFU’s Surrey campus. Justine has enjoyed a long career working in the film, television and new media industries with such organizations as the National Film Board of Canada, KCTS Television, the Centre for Image and Sound Research, and the BC Institute of Film Professionals. Justine comes to SFU from the Banff New Media Institute. At SFU Surrey, she is responsible for identifying, assessing, marketing and commercializing University eLearning technologies including software and know-how. Justine can be reached at 604-268-7508 or justine@sfu.ca.

The UILO is also pleased to welcome Pauline O’Neill to the Communications and Information Manager position. Pauline has an extensive background in communication and management of information about university research and development across a wide range of disciplines with institutions including Concordia University, the University of Waterloo and the British Columbia Institute of Technology. Pauline comes to us from Vancouver Hospital, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, where she held the position of Coordinator, Grants and Strategic Programs, Research Affairs. Pauline can be reached at 604-291-4985 or poneill@sfu.ca.

Is your entry up-to-date?

The ORS “Funding Application Signature Sheet” has been revised to include an area in which the applicant can ask that funding proposal keywords be inserted in the RED. Researchers can also request updating or editing of their information by contacting Ms. Alyse Kirlik at akirlik@sfu.ca.
Upcoming deadlines, Summer 2003

NSERC: Special Research Opportunity (SRO)

In April, NSERC declared a moratorium on the Collaborative Research Opportunities (CRO) program. NSERC plans to consolidate the CRO program and integrate it with a new program entitled Special Research Opportunity (SRO) program. Currently, NSERC is in the process of developing the SRO program. Additional information on the new SRO program will be posted on NSERC’s web site later this summer.

JULY

Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada Research Programs
www.hsf.ca/research/guidelines/prov/bc/bc-intro.html#deadlines

• July 1, 2003 Deadline: Letter of Intent for a Program Grant
• December 28, 2003 Deadline: Program Grant full proposal

• September 1, 2003 Deadline: Grant-in-Aid (GIA), Major Equipment Grant, New Investigator, and Career Investigator.

SSHRC: Research Development Initiative (RDI)
www.sshrc.ca/web/apply/program_descriptions/rdi_e.asp

The RDI program supports short-term, stand-alone projects or discrete components of longer-term, recurring activities but not ongoing research programs. The average request range is $10,000 to $25,000 with a maximum of $50,000 in one year, or a maximum of $150,000 over 3 years. RDI grants are intended to support innovative research and dissemination activities, such as intellectual exchanges, critical analyses, new modes of research collaboration, new ways of producing and structuring knowledge, as well as knowledge transfer and integration at the national and international levels.


AUGUST

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
www.cihr.ca

Operating, Equipment, Maintenance Grants:

• Registration Deadlines: August 15, 2003; February 1, 2004
• Application Deadlines: September 15, 2003; March 1, 2004

Group Grants:
• Letter of Intent Deadline: August 15, 2003
• Registration Deadline: February 1, 2004
• Application Deadline: March 1, 2004

NSERC: Notification of Intent to Apply for a Discovery (or Research) Grant
www.nserc.ca/guide/a1_e.htm

• NSERC’s deadline to submit Form 180 is August 15, 2003.

The Canadian Tobacco Control Research Initiative (CTCRI)
www.ctcri.ca/en-pages/current.htm

CTCRI is a partnership of Canadian organizations committed to building capacity and innovation for research relevant to tobacco control policies and programs. The ultimate goal of the CTCRI is to sustain and coordinate research that has direct impact on tobacco control programs and policies across Canada.

CTCRI Small Planning Grants are offered for the purpose of bringing together new, interdisciplinary research teams to construct research proposals for submission to traditional funding streams. There are four competitions per year in February, May, August and November. Please check the web site shown above for the specific deadline. The August deadline had not been announced at the time of writing.