I apologize for the lateness of this newsletter. This has been a particularly busy period of time for everyone.

The month of September was occupied with conducting interviews for the biomechanist position available in the School, and we hope that we will have a successful conclusion to that process soon. A recommendation has been made to the Dean.

I also wish to thank all those who participated in the call for information regarding health research by sending summaries of their scholarly activity to the Vice President Academic. Next week there will be a retreat of Chairs and Directors from across the University to discuss the matter before the arrival early in November of Dr. Stuart MacLeod, the consultant from Toronto who has been engaged to provide recommendations to the University with respect to the development of health related activities on this campus. The Faculty of Applied Sciences and the Faculty of Science have been given the go-ahead to develop designs for the new building, Applied Sciences II. There are a total of 22,000 square feet to be shared by Kinesiology and Engineering Science. It is planned at the moment that Engineering Science would house their new biomedical engineering stream in this space and I shall be having discussions with Dr. John Jones, Director of Engineering Science with respect to appropriate and complementary aspects of our research program that could also be housed there. The Dean currently envisages that the new building will be open in three years.

John Dickinson

FACULTY, ADJUNCTS & GRAD STUDENTS

(Please note correction to Sept Newsletter: Peter Humphreys Ph.D., C. Krieger, Supervisor)

CHRISTINE MACKENZIE has been appointed by NSERC to the Research Networks Selection Committee, Research Partnerships Program, for a 3-year term.

With surgeon, Dr. Ramon Berguer and anesthesiologist, Dr. Robert Loeb, CHRISTINE MACKENZIE organized a symposium on “Human Factors in the Operating Room” at the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society meeting (HFES99), held September 30th, 1999 in Houston, Texas.

YANQUING WANG recently presented a paper at INTERACT ’99 in Edinburgh, Scotland, entitled, “Effects of Orientation Disparity Between Haptic and Graphic Displays of Objects in Virtual Environments.”

Welcome to ANDREW EISEN, newly appointed as an Adjunct Professor in the School. Andrew is professor and head of the Division of Neurology, UBC and also Director, Neuromuscular Diseases Unit at VGH. Andrew is also joint author with CHARLES KRIEGER of the book, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis: A Synthesis of Research and Clinical Practice, Cambridge University Press, UK, 1998.

ANDY HOFFER attended the 30th annual Neural Prosthesis Workshop in Bethesda, MD, USA where he gave a progress report on the Neurokinesiology Lab's NIH-funded research. A paper by KEVIN STRANGE and Andy Hoffer, published in the IEEE Trans Rehab Engr Journal (Vol. 7:289-300, September, 1999), describes how they restored the use of paralyzed limb muscles using sensory nerve signals to control the delivery of electrical stimulation to assist walking.

MIRIAM ROSIN has received notification of a 3-year award from NIH to fund a longitudinal study that will follow patients with high-risk oral lesions over time. The goal of the study is to identify genetic markers of potential value as determinants of risk of progression to cancer. A secondary goal is to develop early predictors of local tumour recurrence in patients who have already been treated for oral cancer.
DAN WEEKS reports that members of the Brain-Behaviour and Human Engineering Lab will be busy in the next few months. In addition to getting their new EEG system up and running, Dan Weeks, HAL WEINBERG and former student ROMEO CHUA are off to Japan next month. They will make two stops to visit the Osaka City University Medical School and the Laboratory for Human Brain Dynamics, Brain Science Institute in Riken Japan. The trip is to establish an international research effort for the study of brain-behaviour relations in persons with Down syndrome.

In the new year, DAN WEEKS will be giving a plenary address to the Conference on Children with Down Syndrome for Families & Professionals, February 24-26, 2000 in Tampa Florida. Dan and Hal have also been invited to participate in a symposium at the 7th World Down Syndrome Congress, March 23-26 in Sydney Australia. Finally, the U.S. National Down Syndrome Society was so impressed with the Scientific Conference on Down Syndrome hosted by the School of Kinesiology, Simon Fraser University and the Down Syndrome Research Centre in Vancouver in 1997, that they have asked SFU to take part in a joint, Canada -- U.S. conference to be held in Toronto next October.

**DEFENCES**

**Successfully Defended:**

Kelly Jantzen Ph.D.  September 17th, 1999

Evidence that plasticity in SI is not responsible for perceptual improvement resulting from training on a tactile frequency.

**SEMINARS**

Dr. Michael Patkin, Emeritus Director of Surgery, The Whyalla Hospital, S. Australia, held a seminar October 5th, 1999 on “The Surgeon’s Hand, the System, and Ergonomics.”

Please submit your news items to: dickinso@sfu.ca / lazaro@sfu.ca