



MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate **DATE** March 19, 2025
FROM Dilson Rassier, Provost and Vice-President Academic, and Chair, SCUP **PAGES** 1/15
RE: Establishment of the SFU-FH Health Research Institute (SCUP 25-25)

At its meeting on February 26, 2025, SCUP reviewed and approved the establishment of the SFU-FH Health Research Institute for a five-year term.

Motion: That Senate approve the establishment of the SFU-FH Health Research Institute for a five-year term.

C: Valorie Crooks, Associate Vice-President, Research
 Carolyn Sparrey, inaugural Director, SFU-FH Health Research Institute, and Associate Professor, Mechatronic Systems Engineering

Memorandum

From: Valorie Crooks, Associate Vice-President, Research Date: February 12, 2025
Re: Establishment of the SFU-FH Health Research Institute (SFHRI) *Valorie Crooks*
To: Dilson Rassier, Chair, *Ex-officio*, Senate Committee on University Planning (SCUP)

Valerie Crook

Attached is a proposal for the establishment of the SFU-FH Health Research Institute (the “**Institute**”). The proposal is led by the inaugural Director, Dr. Carolyn Sparrey, Associate Professor, Mechatronic Systems Engineering at SFU and Principal Investigator at the International Collaboration on Repair Discoveries (ICORD), a world-leading health research centre that’s part of the Vancouver Coastal Health Institute.

The Institute will bring together SFU and Fraser Health's diverse expertise around healthcare and health research to enable and foster collaboration, knowledge sharing and knowledge implementation to address the most pressing health challenges. The key of this Institute is the partnership between SFU and Fraser health to enable and expand opportunities for clinical, health systems and evaluative research. By collaborating with SFU Core Facilities like ImageTech and WearTech which are embedded and adjacent to Surrey Memorial Hospital, it will enable integrated clinical and research activities and direct translation of research outcomes. The Institute will not conflict or overlap with the activities of other institutes or centres, but will rather enable and support these other entities and strength their research connections and collaborators across SFU and FH. The work of the Institute aligns with SFU's priorities and the Strategic Research Plan in several key ways: make a difference for B.C., engage in global challenges, transform the SFU experience, and uphold truth and reconciliation.

I recommend approval for establishment of the SFU-FH Health Research Institute as a SFU Research Institute according to Policy R40.01.

Motion:

That SCUP approve and recommend to Senate the establishment of the SFU-FH Health Research Institute for a five-year term.

Attachments:

1. SFU Research Institute Application
2. Letter of support from the Dean of Faculty of Applied Science
3. SFU Fraser Health Collaboration Snapshot

SFU RESEARCH INSTITUTE APPLICATION

NAME OF INSTITUTE:

SFU – FH Health Research Institute (SFHRI)

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED INSTITUTE:

Please include a statement of the Research Institute's special purpose and how its work aligns with University priorities and the VPRI Strategic Research Plan.

The Research Institute's purpose will be to bridge the gap between healthcare, science, innovation, and research to co-create novel solutions that improve patient outcomes, enhance worker safety and well-being, and contribute to the long-term sustainability of healthcare systems. By fostering collaborative partnerships between SFU, Fraser Health Authority (FH), and the community, the institute aims to address pressing health issues through cutting-edge, interdisciplinary research.

SFU's health research expertise is diverse and embedded within numerous faculties, institutes, and research centers across our three campuses. The SFU-FH Health Research Institute will provide a place to bring together this diverse expertise, form a more coordinated regional, national, and international identity for our health research capacity, identify needed resources and supports for health researchers, and connect researchers and clinical champions to enable broader translation and system-wide health research impact.

The work of the institute aligns with the University's priorities and the VPRI Strategic Research Plan in several key ways:

Make a Difference for B.C. The Institute will be directly committed to improving the lives of people who live and work in the FH area through impactful research and innovation. By focusing on improving patient experiences and outcomes and worker safety and well-being the Institute will contribute to the transformation of healthcare in B.C., making it more accessible, effective, patient-centered, and sustainable.

Engage in Global Challenges: The Institute's interdisciplinary research approach will address pressing regional, provincial, and global health challenges. By supporting community-engaged research, the Institute will contribute to solving critical issues such as health inequities, and the sustainability of healthcare systems that are impacting the lives of British Columbians and have transferability to addressing FH priorities. Additionally, the Institute is committed to supporting the development and facilitation of research on sustainable healthcare solutions, considering environmental, economic, and social factors influencing long-term healthcare sustainability.

Transform the SFU Experience: The Institute will play a pivotal role in transforming the SFU and FH experience for students, faculty, and staff by fostering a dynamic, innovative, and inclusive research environment. Research embedded in healthcare settings, provides relevant training, improved research and health outcomes, and better job satisfaction. The Institute will be committed to establishing targeted support programs and scholarships that will attract and empower diverse, promising students. Such developments will create embedded opportunities for student trainees to gain research experience through partnered opportunities with FH. These efforts will ensure that SFU continues to be a leader in fostering diversity and inclusion in higher education, providing opportunities for all students to contribute to transformative research in healthcare and science.

Uphold Truth and Reconciliation: The institute is deeply committed to engaging with Indigenous communities to address systemic barriers to health and social care and foster meaningful reconciliation through research and other co-developed activities. By drawing on, supporting, and amplifying Indigenous community connections held by both SFU and FH, the institute will support ensuring that research and healthcare practices are culturally relevant and grounded in the knowledge and priorities of Indigenous Peoples. The institute will also provide capacity and expertise to respond to and support health research led by Indigenous partners.

RATIONALE FOR ESTABLISHING THE INSTITUTE:

Please include statements on the added value to the research collaborative and to the University in receiving this designation, as well as, any potential societal impact (beyond what would be accomplished by individual faculty members).

Collectively, SFU and Fraser Health need a place to bring together the diverse expertise around healthcare and health research to enable effective collaboration, knowledge sharing, and knowledge implementation to address our most pressing health challenges. Navigating through massive institutions to find collaborators can be complex and time consuming. FH has significant opportunities and needs for health system collaboration and research but patient volume and limited dedicated research resources drives the need for collaboration with SFU to enable research capacity and knowledge translation. SFU is a leader in community engagement and knowledge mobilization outside of the traditional university environment, giving us opportunities to better understand the health needs of our community, share knowledge and research with a diverse range of stakeholders, and envision new models of health research.

With the fastest growing population in BC, the most young people, the busiest single emergency room in Canada at Surrey Memorial Hospital, and the broadest demographic diversity, FH is an ideal environment to collaborate on new ideas, high-impact research, new health technologies, and new models of sustainable healthcare delivery. However, high patient volume also limits the capacity for research, adopting new methods or innovations in care, or making substantive changes to current operating models. As a leader in innovation and community engagement, SFU researchers have developed or implemented new models for health system innovation that could support and grow research capacity within FH while giving SFU researchers better access to knowledge end-users (e.g., health system administrators), care providers, and care recipients.

An important mandate of the Institute will be training. Connecting to real-world challenges and experiences outside of the university environment will better prepare students to be ready to contribute to addressing complex health and healthcare problems and have a deeper understanding of the process for translating research to care. At the same time, providing busy front line care providers with the opportunity to engage and contribute to diverse research studies, leverage graduate students and postdocs to support novel applied health research, and connect with industry and community partners to access a broad range of funding opportunities will strengthen the research capacity of FH and provide more opportunities for FH patients to access and contribute to research-informed care.

Lived-experiences, systemic barriers, and social positioning all inform how a person understands care, whether as a patient or care provider. SFU and FH's focus and expertise on reconciliation, equity, diversity and inclusion (REDI) will enable new perspectives, cultural knowledge, and ways of knowing to be integrated into healthcare, research, and innovation through the institute. A priority of the SFU-FH Health Research Institute will be to enable health research that supports the health and well-being of all members of our diverse community.

Economic impact and health system sustainability – SFU is a global leader in innovation – coupled with high-volume clinical expertise within FH's diverse clinical care programs, this provides an ideal environment to co-develop and new health system solutions, and develop implementation and integration strategies, and end-user training. Health solutions generated in siloed, private, or for-profit institutions do not reflect the reality of the challenges or needs of public healthcare in Canada and many healthcare systems around the world. The SFU-FH Health Research Institute will provide the capacity to scale, mobilize, and target solutions for a high-volume, high-demand, diverse population similar to many public healthcare systems.

PRIOR TO APPLYING FOR RESEARCH INSTITUTE STATUS, MEMBER OF RESEARCH INSTITUTES SHOULD NORMALLY HAVE A HISTORY OF COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITY AS A GROUP.

e.g. co-supervision of students, co-publications, or shared research data, funding, and/or projects.

One of the functions of the Institute will be to bring together the diverse scope of health research activities across SFU to enable systemic supports, access to researchers and collaborators, and enhance success of larger health-oriented research initiatives at both SFU and FH by providing a cohesive community and identity. Many of the

anticipated members of the institute have a history of collaboration including joint publications, large research funding applications, and collaborative leadership and support of Core Facilities, Institutes, non-profits, amongst others. In addition, there has been a growing track record of collaboration between SFU and Fraser Health that are capture in the attached SFU & Fraser Health Collaboration snapshot 2021-2024. Currently there are 24 SFU PI lead studies active in Fraser Health and 20 studies with SFU faculty as co-investigators. In addition, 45 SFU researchers have received FH affiliation status since 2008. Collaborations between SFU and FH are diverse with 16 different FH departments or programs collaborating on research activities.

IF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROPOSED INSTITUTE OVERLAP WITH AN EXISTING RESEARCH CENTRE OR INSTITUTE, PLEASE PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF CONSULTATION WHERE A POTENTIAL CONFLICT HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED.

There is limited overlap with existing institutes at SFU and Institute plans have been discussed with the Directors of the Institute for Neuroscience and Neurotechnology (INN) and the Science and Technology for Aging Research (STAR) to ensure that mandates, identities, and activities of these institutes are distinct but complementary. We expect that this new institute will not conflict or overlap with the activities of other institutes or centers but instead support other entities to strengthen their research connections and collaborators across SFU and FH.

PROPOSED DIRECTOR(S):

Please include a statement on the provision for the appointment of the Director.

Carolyn Sparrey PhD, PEng (EGBC)

Associate Professor Mechatronic Systems Engineering SFU | Principal Investigator, ICORD

Simon Fraser University, 250-13450 102 Ave Surrey, BC V3T0A3

csparrey@sfu.ca

778-782-8938

INTERNAL GOVERNING PROCESS:

The SFHRI will be governed by a Director and an Executive Group.

The Director is responsible for the administration of the Institute and includes the following responsibilities:

Representing the Institute within Simon Fraser University and the community

Oversight for Institute strategic direction and goals

Chairing the Executive Group

Oversight for the Institute's finances

Coordinating funding initiatives

Coordinating trainee opportunities

The Executive Group is collectively involved in:

Recruiting members

Identifying new strategic opportunities

Preparing the Institute's annual report for the Vice-President, Research & Innovation

Communicating with aligned core facilities, Institutes, and centres on initiatives and opportunities related to health research

Determining priorities for Institute funding to support and build the SFU-FH health research community

Coordinating educational and training initiatives

Identifying collaborative opportunities

Communicating Institute activities and outcomes with Institute and community members

The Executive Group consists of the Director, four SFU faculty members, four affiliate FH members (non-voting), and two patient representatives from the Patient and Community Advisory Panel. The Executive Group will normally meet formally once a term, with virtual ad-hoc meetings as needed for time-sensitive initiatives. SFU faculty members and FH researchers whose work is primarily in the health domain with backgrounds in social sciences, natural sciences or engineering, and clinical research must be represented on this committee. Members of

the Executive Group serve three-year renewable terms that are staggered to ensure continuity. Appointments to the Executive Group will be subject to a ratification vote by members of the Institute (excluding affiliate members).

The SFHRI will have an Advisory Committee consisting of SFU, FH, and external members who serve to advise the Executive Committee on strategic initiatives and evaluate progress on goals. They will meet with the Executive Group once a year and provide feedback that will be part of the annual report to the SFU Vice President, Research. Members of the Advisory Committee will also be contacted on an ad-hoc basis for input on new strategic opportunities such as funding and partnerships.

The SFHRI Patient Advisory panel will consist of patient advocates, family, and community members identified with help from the BC SUPPORT Unit Fraser Center who will advise the Executive Committee on the needs of the patient community and evaluate the Institute's activities and progress on patient-oriented research. The Patient Advisory Panel will meet twice a year and individual members of the committee will be contacted on an ad-hoc basis for input on activities and opportunities.

An Annual Research Meeting (ARM) will also be held once a year. The ARM will be open to all interested SFU faculty, students, FH researchers and clinicians, and community members. It will serve as a forum to present an overview of the Institute's activities for the past year including invited research presentations from Institute members and affiliates and discuss plans for the coming year.

MEMBERSHIP:

Name	Position	Department	Faculty	Institution
Carolyn Sparrey	Associate Professor	MSE	FAS	SFU
Faranak Farzan	Associate Professor	MSE	FAS	SFU
Ed Park	Professor	MSE/WearTech	FAS	SFU
Siamak Arzanpour	Professor	MSE	FAS	SFU
Woo Soo Kim	Professor	MSE	FAS	SFU
Paul Summers	MRI Lead	ImageTech/ MSE	VPR/FAS	SFU
Maggie Clark	MEG Lead	ImageTech/ MSE	VPR/FAS	SFU
Michael Ryan	Adjunct/VP R&D	MSE	FAS	SFU/Kintec
Ram Ramaseshan	Adjunct	MSE	FAS	SFU/BC Cancer
Andrew Rawicz	Professor	ENSC	FAS	SFU
Faisal Beg	Professor	ENSC	FAS	SFU
Sylvain Moreno	Associate Professor	SIAT	FCAT	SFU
David Price	Dean	School of Medicine	SoM	SFU
Mei Lan Fang	Assistant Professor	Gero/Urban	FASS	SFU
Andrew Sixsmith	Professor	Gero	FASS	SFU
Teddy Cosco	Associate Professor	Gero	FASS	SFU
Valorie Crooks	AVPR/Professor	Geo	Environment	SFU
Bob Hogg	ADR		Health Sciences	SFU

Steve Robinovitch	Department Chair	BPK	FoS	SFU
Max Donelan	Professor	BPK	FoS	SFU
Alex Wiesman	Assistant Professor	BPK	FoS	SFU
Randy McIntosh	Professor	BPK	FoS	SFU
Sarah Lubik	Senior Lecturer	Business	Business	SFU
Kate Keetch	Director		Research and Evaluation Services	FHA
Magdalena Newman			Research and Evaluation Services	FHA
Samantha Pollard			Research and Evaluation Services	FHA
Jason Chan	Neurologist			Surrey Memorial Hospital and Jim Pattison
William Hall	Health Economist			UBC/Royal Columbian Hospital Foundation
Sarah Crowe	ICU Nurse			FHA/SMH

(to add a new row, right click and select "insert - new row below")

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE:

Executive Group:

Carolyn Sparrey (SFU Mechatronics)
 Maggie Clarke (SFU ImageTech)
 Mei Lan Fang (Urban Studies/Gerontology)
 Bob Hogg (Health Sciences)

FHA Advisory Group:

Jason Chan
 Janice Sorensen
 Magdalena Newman
 Samantha Pollard

Patient and Community Advisory Panel:

Membership to be confirmed pending Institute approval.

Advisory Committee:

Membership to be confirmed pending Institute approval with direction from Institute members and approved by the Executive Group and FHA Advisory Group.

PROCEDURES FOR RATIFYING NEW MEMBERS:

Members of the SFHRI will include faculty, staff, postdocs and graduate students at SFU. Affiliate membership will include health care providers, staff, residents/fellows, patients and community members of FH as well as faculty,

staff and students from collaborating academic institutions, community organizations, and non-profits. Members are expected to engage in Institute events and activities. To become a member, candidates must submit a short summary outlining their health research activities or interests to the Director for approval by the Executive Group.

Membership can be revoked at the discretion of the EG if member conduct is not in line with Institute goals or SFU policies and regulations.

AFFILIATES:

SFU Core Facilities: ImageTech, WearTech
FH – Department of Research and Evaluation Services
Circle Innovation
SFU Institute for Neuroscience and Neurotechnology

TRAINING AND MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS:

SFHRI will offer studentships such as graduate scholarships, fellowships, and research assistant positions and placements for trainees to support hands-on training, experience and mentorship. Graduate students and postdocs will be supported to identify opportunities to embed in clinical environments and facilities that are relevant to their research within FH.

Training workshops will be developed to support graduate students in effective patient partner engagement, participant recruiting, experience, and outcomes. For example, the Institute team has applied for an NSERC CREATE training grant to develop a graduate training program in health technology adoption and implementation. The BC Support Unit – Fraser Center will provide training opportunities in patient-oriented research and integrated knowledge translation.

FH Department of Research and Evaluation Services workshops will be expanded to include SFU students, postdocs and faculty. Mentorship and support of new faculty and healthcare practitioners in health research domains including identifying funding opportunities, supervising trainees, connecting with clinical healthcare collaborators, harmonized ethics procedures, best practices for patient and participant engagement in study teams, knowledge mobilization and implementation science.

RESEARCH INSTITUTE 5-YEAR GOALS AND KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Value Add & Cost Reduction to the Healthcare System

1. Provider and patient satisfaction
2. Retention of staff in high turnover/burnout areas
3. Implementation of evidence-based recommendations into policy and operational settings
4. Amount of health research funding obtained by Institute researchers
5. Number of Health Research BC Health Professional-Investigator awards
6. Number of healthcare research partnerships
7. Increased data collection and improved access to data for research purposes.
8. Increased data infrastructure and analysis capacity.
9. Increased opportunities for health professional training and learning including continuing medical education (CME), continuing professional development (CPD) credit activities, translational research presentations, research conference participation, etc.

Collaboration, Research Output and Reach

1. Number of co-created research projects with institute members or collaborators in development, submitted for funding, funded, and completed
2. Number of knowledge generation and knowledge translation products

3. Percent increase in collaborative research output (publications, posters, articles, etc.) per year
4. Number of media and speaking engagements

Training & Capacity Building

1. Number of HQP Engaged in Institute activities
2. Number of and amount of funded Post Doctoral Fellowships & Studentships (e.g. Graduates, Co-Ops)
3. Number of and amount of Faculty Fellows, Research Chairs, and clinician research stipends awarded
4. Number of experiential placements within the healthcare system and where those placements are located
5. Number of attendees, speakers, and posters at the Institute annual research meeting

Partnerships

1. Number of clinicians and health professionals engaged in research (include positions and areas of expertise)
2. Number of patients/community members engaged and in what capacity
3. Number of and amount of grant dollars brought in from partnered submissions
4. Number of community and research-based events

CURRENT RESOURCES AND FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY:

Collaborations:

Key to this institute is the partnership with Fraser Health to enable and expand opportunities for clinical, health systems and evaluative research. In addition, collaborations with SFU Core Facilities like ImageTech and WearTech which are embedded and adjacent to Surrey Memorial Hospital will enable integrated clinical and research activities and direct translation of research outcomes. Collaborations will also include other academic institutions within the Fraser Health Region, particularly those focused on training a range of health practitioners to ensure translation and impact of research on the health workforce and allied and community health organizations to ensure research activities support and address issues across the entire health system.

Funding:

The Institute will launch with \$75,000 seed support funding from the VPRI for core institute events and activities. Research funding currently comes from project and graduate student specific funding obtained by the institute members. The goal over the next five years is to secure long-term core funding for Institute staff and activities through allocated line items in large team grants, targeted donations to Institute activities, contract services, and new partnership funding with FH.

Secured:

\$75,000 from VPRI for initial seed funding

MSFHR REACH (Sparrey) grant for knowledge mobilization and outreach activities for public education workshops

Applied for:

\$1.6M NSERC CREATE for graduate student training in health technology implementation and adoption in health systems.

Sustainability Plan:

The SFHRI sustainability plan includes a combination of grant, contract, and philanthropic support. Grant supports will focus on securing partnership funding with FH through SSHRC and NSERC partnership funding and CIHR team mechanisms. Pursuing donor opportunities for targeted activities as well as endowments for ongoing support and sustainability through SFU, Hospital Foundations, and private entities.

WOULD THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS INSTITUTE ENABLE THE MEMBER RESEARCHERS TO ATTRACT FUNDING BEYOND WHAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO DO ON THEIR OWN? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

SFU health researchers have faced substantial barriers to connect locally with clinical partners and patients or to access clinical data within FH, while FH healthcare providers have had limited opportunities to connect with the broader SFU research enterprise. Excellent research, with a clear link to health system needs and a framework for translation from research concept to patient and health system impact is a compelling prospect for funders, donors and government entities beyond traditional grant mechanisms. This requires coordinated transdisciplinary teams supported by this institute. In addition, the research supports provided by the institute, the training capacity and opportunities for students to embed in healthcare facilities, and the coordinated community engagement activities will help researchers and healthcare providers meet their research and care objectives more effectively and efficiently.

COMMUNICATION PLAN:

Provide a description of a communication plan that is aligned with University Communication policies, including plans for maintaining an up-to-date web/social media presence.

Institute will maintain a website that will serve as the communication portal for institute activities. The institute will engage in regular public outreach activities and will launch a social media presence focused on patient and family education and knowledge sharing. The institute will distribute a monthly newsletter to members highlighting Institute activities, profiling institute members, and links to upcoming events, funding, and conference opportunities.

EVIDENCE OF SUPPORT:

Please include evidence of support from the Dean or Associate Dean, Research of the home Faculty of the proposed Institute Director (mandatory).

Applicants may feel free to submit additional supporting documents such as letters of support and constitutions (if available).

Date: 2/12/2025

Applicant Signature:



By signing this form, the applicant confirms they have reviewed [SFU Policy R40.01](#) and [related Procedures](#) and agrees to conduct its activities in accordance with University policies.

11 February 2025

Re: Letter of support for SFU-Fraser Health, Health Research Institute

The Surrey area has long needed a hub for health-related research activities that would bring together researchers from SFU and Fraser Health. As such, I enthusiastically support the proposed SFU-FH Health Research Institute. I am pleased that leadership of this institute will come from Dr. Carolyn Sparrey, a faculty member within the Faculty of Applied Sciences at SFU. Dr. Sparrey, who is based in Surrey in the School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering, has demonstrated considerable capacity for interdisciplinary research and direct integration of research and clinical care through her own research activities as well as her leadership of SFU's ImageTech Lab at Surrey Memorial Hospital for the past five years.

The proposed institute aligns with our Faculty's strategic vision to shape and apply research in computing and engineering for social good. Healthcare sustainability, equitable access, and quality of care are pressing and urgent challenges facing our society. These are complex problems that require extensive collaboration. Bringing together the diverse range of health research expertise across SFU and building a partnership with Fraser Health will enable researchers, collaborators, patients, and community members to identify pressing research questions, design and test solutions with engaged stakeholders, and plan mobilization and translation to ensure research findings have a direct impact on the health system.

The diversity in the institute membership is laudable, and I'm sure it will keep growing as the institute builds momentum and participation through strong translational research, extensive and unique datasets, and community engagement. Broadly-based teams that include people with lived experience are more successful in generating solutions to complex problems and are better able to define, articulate, and understand the problems to be addressed.

I look forward to seeing this Institute take root and grow, and I fully expect that Institute members will generate high quality, influential research with clear plans for translation and implementation of research into the health care system.

Yours sincerely,



Eugene Fiume, FRSC
Dean, Faculty of Applied Sciences

SFU & FRASER HEALTH

COLLABORATION SNAPSHOT | 2021-2024



SFU STUDENTS SUPPORT FRASER HEALTH VACCINATION

2021 | Faculty of Health Sciences

Health sciences students supported Fraser Health's COVID-19 vaccination efforts at a mass clinic. Students gained hands-on experience by working as clinic clerks.

BC SUPPORT UNIT FRASER CENTRE

2021

The Fraser Centre is one of the four BC SUPPORT Unit regional centres. The Fraser Centre is a collaboration of Fraser Health and Simon Fraser University and is an ongoing collaboration from 2021-2026. The centre provides support services to all academic and health authority researchers working in the Fraser Valley, as well as members of the public interested in engaging with research.

SFU STUDENT CREATES OVERDOSE EDUCATION AND NALOXONE TRAINING

2021 | Faculty of Health Sciences

SFU student Chloe Goodison initiated a youth-led initiative focusing on overdose education and naloxone training. This project aims to educate young people about overdose prevention and equip them with naloxone using health information and messaging developed by Fraser Health.



HEALING POWER OF MUSIC TAPPED FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

2021 | School of Engineering Science

Simon Fraser University and Music Heals launched a virtual pilot study to explore music therapy's impact on healthcare workers' mental health. Led by SFU neuroscientist Ryan D'Arcy, the study uses EEG and neurocognitive tests to measure therapy effects on 20 participants, recruited with the assistance of the Fraser Health clinical research team from Surrey Memorial Hospital.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO VIRTUAL HEALTHCARE FOR OLDER ADULTS

2022 | Faculty of Health Sciences

A \$500,000 grant from the Health Research Foundation of Innovative Medicines Canada will fund a three-year study on virtual care in Fraser Health. Researchers will focus on improving virtual communication with older adults, especially marginalized groups.

FRASER HEALTH FACULTY FELLOW

2022 | SFU Research



The Fraser Health Faculty Fellow aims to establish new research relationships between Fraser Health and academic institutions. Valorie Crooks, a SFU geography professor, was the inaugural Faculty Fellow from 2021-2022, in FH Long-Term Care/Assisted-Living program.

During her Fellowship, Valerie led a number of research projects focusing on long-term care and assisted living in BC. These include a study on pandemic and health emergency management, a project evaluated the effectiveness of virtual family visits, and research on caring for older people living with HIV in BC's Fraser Health Region. Other initiatives included understanding concerns and opportunities related to STBBIs in assisted living, and integrating knowledge translation approaches to enhance research in long-term care within Fraser Health.

EXPLORING BRAIN CIRCUIT FUNCTION IN AUTISM

2022 | School of Engineering Science

Teresa Cheung, assistant professor for the School of Engineering Science and researcher with ImageTech Lab, received \$1 million from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for a study on brain circuit function differences in autism to develop therapies for children, in collaboration with Fraser Health, Seattle Children's Research Institute, and the University of Washington



NEW CHAIR TO ADVANCE HEALTH EQUITY IN URBAN PLANNING

2022 | Faculty of Health Sciences

SFU professor Meghan Winters has been appointed Applied Public Health Chair to advance health equity in urban planning. Winters will engage with SFU and Fraser Health as well as with other cities in the Lower Mainland, and across Canada to integrate health equity into city planning.



WARREN GILL AWARD FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT

2023 | Faculty of Health Sciences

SFU lecturer Paola Ardiles received the 2022 Warren Gill Award for Community Impact for her work in public health and social innovation. Ardiles collaborates with Fraser Health, focusing on community health and well-being initiatives integrating equity, diversity, and inclusion into programs and policies.

ENHANCING BRAIN RESEARCH CAPABILITIES AT IMAGETECH

2023 | ImageTech Lab

SFU's ImageTech Lab at Surrey Memorial Hospital has acquired advanced magnetoencephalography (MEG) technology, TRIUX™ neo from MEGIN, enhancing brain research capabilities. This will facilitate comprehensive brain imaging, aiding studies on brain diseases and disorders.



IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE TRAINING INITIATIVE

2023 | SFU Knowledge Mobilization

The UBC Knowledge Exchange and SFU Knowledge Mobilization units are collaborating on this new initiative, aimed at increasing BC's research capacity in implementation science. The Surrey Hospitals Foundation is sponsoring a Fraser Health clinical researcher to participate in the program.

RESEARCHERS FORUM: MENTAL HEALTH, AGING, AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE

2023 | Faculty of Health Sciences

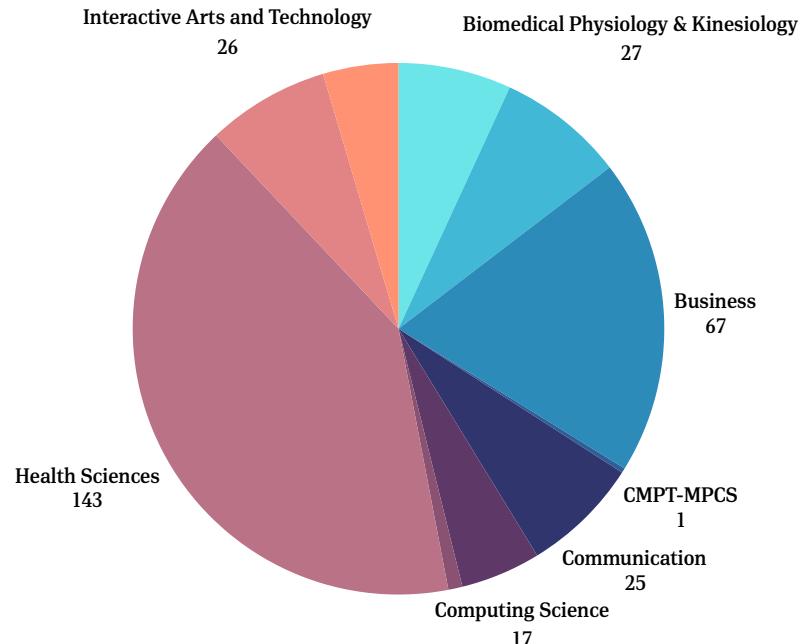
SFU Partnered with Surrey Hospitals Foundation to bring together researchers from SFU and Fraser Health to share their research. The forum highlighted the impressive expertise of speakers representing SFU's various Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences, Applied Sciences, Science, and Health Sciences well as valuable perspectives from presentations by Surrey Memorial Hospital and Fraser Health.

SFU CO-OP EXPERIENCES

Between 2021-2024, SFU students have completed **349** work terms at Fraser Health. SFU students have engaged in [data design projects](#), [assessed patient care quality](#), and supported [web design and digital media](#).

These internships provide hands-on learning opportunities, enhancing students' skills and contributing to Fraser Health's mission.

The chart shows the total number of co-op work terms at Fraser Health, broken down by Faculty.



ACTIVE RESEARCH INITIATIVES

There are many ongoing and active research collaborations between SFU and Fraser Health, including: examining funding models' impact on integrating nurses in primary care, advancing bioengineering for preventing fall injuries in seniors, investigating vaccine access among South Asians, translating brain imaging into mobile tech, developing vital sign monitors for overdose detection, studying infections' effects on human placentas, exploring big data and AI synergy, and many more. These projects highlight SFU's broad research impact across health, technology, and social sciences.

SFU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

SFU's School of Medicine will be based in Surrey, B.C. and developed in partnership with Fraser Health and the First Nations Health Authority. The SFU School of Medicine is proposed as a three-year program with a focus on preparing physicians to provide team-based community care, working towards building physician capacity province-wide to meet the current and future needs of a growing and diverse population.



On July 9, 2024, B.C. Premier David Eby [announced](#) \$33.7 million in capital funding for the interim space at SFU's Surrey campus, alongside \$27 million in operational funding through Budget 2024. This builds on a previous \$14 million in start-up and planning funding. SFU will design, renovate and equip these spaces to accommodate classrooms, labs, and faculty and staff office space to deliver the new program.

The school is working towards candidate status with the Committee on the Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS), with the goal of preliminary accreditation by fall 2025 and recruitment of its first class for summer 2026 to train future family doctors and primary care physicians.

The three-year program mirrors the core content found in four-year programs but accelerates completion by running through the summer. Forty-eight students are anticipated to be in the inaugural class, growing to approximately 120 students over the next decade.

