

SFU Press Releases Collection

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MEDIA RELEASE

Media Advisory: Canada's most powerful academic supercomputer launches at SFU—April 20

April 19, 2017

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Simon Fraser University in partnership with Compute Canada and WestGrid is launching Cedar, a new advanced research computing (ARC) system at the Burnaby campus. Cedar is Canada's most powerful academic supercomputer.

Cedar will help Canadian researchers transcend the previous possibilities of Canadian research and innovation in a number of industries including personalized medicine, green tech, artificial intelligence, as well as many other growth industries.

As one of the four new Canadian supercomputing and data centre sites, Cedar will give Canadian researchers unprecedented computing power through ARC resources and expertise. The system features big data capabilities in collecting, analyzing, and sharing immense volumes of data.

At the event, world-class researchers who will be utilizing Cedar for their work in predictive policing, infectious disease outbreaks, health-sciences, and other industries will be in attendance to showcase the impact the supercomputer will have on their work.

Tours of the new SFU Data Centre that houses the supercomputer, Cedar will also be available.

WHAT: Unveiling Canada's most powerful academic supercomputer

WHEN: Thursday, April 20, 2017 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

WHERE: Water Tower building located on the SFU Burnaby campus ([click to view map](#))

Visuals:

- One of the largest data centres in Canada, which houses Cedar – the most powerful academic supercomputer in the nation.
- SFU molecular biology and biochemistry professor [Fiona Brinkman](#), who studies infectious disease outbreaks, will have an interactive advanced research computing (ARC) display, using different types of edible cookies and biscuits to illustrate the need to standardize data and link similar data terminology for big data infectious disease analyses, as well as how big data can help predict outbreaks sooner. She will also demonstrate her interactive, web-based genome viewing tools.
- Brinkman will also have a selection of [plush microbes](#) on display to illustrate bacterium causing diseases that may be around us, but can't be seen with the naked eye.
- SFU physics professor [Dugan O'Neil](#) will have a presentation on one of the world's largest collaborative efforts in science – [CERN's ATLAS Experiment](#).
- SFU computational criminology professor Patricia Brantingham and SFU crime analysis professor Paul Brantingham will have a presentation on how the [Institute for Canadian Urban Research Studies](#) (ICURS) is transforming how we analyze crime and public safety. Its researchers are uncovering patterns and insights into crime analysis.

- University of Calgary professor of biochemistry, Peter Tieleman will have a presentation on how his Biocomputing Group creates state-of-the-art computational models of cell membranes so detailed, you can observe every single lipid, protein and water molecule. By gaining a better understanding of the dynamics and processes of cell membranes, the design of drugs can be improved to more effectively treat and even cure some diseases.

ABOUT SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY:

As Canada's engaged university, SFU is defined by its dynamic integration of innovative education, cutting-edge research and far-reaching community engagement. SFU was founded 50 years ago with a mission to be a different kind of university—to bring an interdisciplinary approach to learning, embrace bold initiatives, and engage with communities near and far. Today, SFU is Canada's leading comprehensive research university and is ranked one of the top universities in the world. With campuses in British Columbia's three largest cities – Vancouver, Burnaby and Surrey – SFU has eight faculties, delivers almost 150 programs to over 35,000 students, and boasts more than 135,000 alumni in 130 countries around the world.

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