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MEDIA RELEASE

YouTube video series finds humour in lab work

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Four women in science – including one Simon Fraser University alumna – are behind a [YouTube comedy series](#) that takes a humorous look at grad students working in a lab.

Suraaj Aulakh, who has a master's degree from SFU in molecular biology and biochemistry, is the writer, producer and director of *The Lab*, which features six episodes in its first season.

“Grad school can be a stressful time and we want students to know they’re not going through it alone,” says the New Westminster resident. “While we touch on some of the issues present in academia – funding, publications, career prospects, etc. – we are keeping the series a light-hearted comedy to help escape from their everyday lives.

“We also want to break the traditional stereotypes of how scientists are presented on screen – they are not all anti-social nerds or geniuses who know everything.”

Aulakh co-created *The Lab* with Pam Lincez, Agatha Jassem and Theresa Liao, who are current and former University of B.C. students. The series is inspired by their own personal experiences of going through grad school.

They produced the first season on a “grad student budget” to get the episodes out as a proof of concept and hope to generate enough interest to have the project funded for the second season.

“This project is an example of how any scientist can be creative with their science communication efforts – if you have a passion for a particular project, do it!” says Aulakh. “Build a team and you can get it done even on a grad-student budget.”

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 almost 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 a leader amongst Canada's comprehensive research universities and is ranked one of the top universities in the world under 50 years of age. With campuses in British Columbia's three largest cities—Vancouver, Surrey and Burnaby—SFU has eight faculties, delivers almost 150 programs to over 30,000 students, and boasts more than 130,000 alumni in 130 countries around the world.

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