

SICSA Distinguished Visiting Fellow
Professor Vijay Kumar
University of Missouri – Kansas City, USA

Final Report

Prof. Kumar, Curators' Distinguished Research Professor from the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC), visited Scotland during the second and third week of June 2017, and was hosted by the Department of Computer Science at Heriot-Watt University (Prof. Albert Burger). His activities included: discussions with MSc and PhD students about their project work, discussions with academic staff about common research interests, including databases, security and visualisation, as well as two departmental seminars. Additionally, round-table discussions about opportunities for Scottish Universities in the Indian student market took place. Further details are provided below.

Student and Staff Meetings: A number of MSc/PhD students working in the area of graph databases and spatial biomedical image data had face-to-face meetings with Prof. Kumar to present their work and receive research advice. Meetings with staff (at Heriot-Watt University, Napier University and the MRC Human Genetics Unit) centered around the topics of cyber security, databases and visualisation.

Visit to Napier University: This visit focused on questions of visualisation. Specifically, a very productive meeting took place with Prof. Jessie Kennedy on the topic of visualisation of anatomically indexed spatial data. Follow-up interactions are planned.

Visit to the MRC Human Genetics Unit: Discussions (including Prof. Richard Baldock) centered around data management and visualisation issues relating to the Edinburgh Mouse Atlas Project. It was noted that the Stowers Institute, an internationally leading biomedical research centre located adjacent to the UMKC campus in Kansas City, explores imaging informatics research closely related to the atlas work at the MRC Human Genetics Unit and Heriot-Watt University, offering potential collaboration activities.

Departmental Seminars: Two departmental seminars entitled "Interactive Visualization in the Medical Domain" and "A Security Shield for the Medical Domain" were delivered by Prof. Kumar at Napier University and Heriot-Watt University, respectively.

Indian Student Market: Prof. Kumar is Director of the International Academic Program for Informatics at UMKC and has significant expertise in the Indian student market. A meeting took place to elaborate on opportunities and strategies for Scottish universities wanting to attract students from India to attend UG, PG and PhD programmes in Informatics in Scotland.

Prof. Albert Burger, Edinburgh, 7 July 2017