



Physiology
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

PhysioLINK

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



To all our students, faculty, and staff, a warm welcome to the start of the new academic year. I hope everyone had a great summer.

Last week, the department hosted a very successful **Graduate Student Orientation**. Please join me in giving a warm welcome to the 43 new Graduate Students [MSc = 36, PhD = 7 (4 direct entry)] joining the Department to pursue their graduate studies.

I would like to thank Dr. Lu Yang Wang (Vice-Chair, Academic), and our Graduate Coordinators, Dr. Zhong-Ping Feng and Dr. Douglas Tweed for spearheading the day, and everyone involved in making the orientation a great success. A special thank

you to Sammy Cai (GASP President), Elizabeth Eng (VP) and Bona Kim (VP). Together with their GASP team they organized a fantastic **BBQ at Christie Pitts**. This year the weather cooperated and everyone had a lot of fun and it was a great opportunity to meet new and old classmates. See photos at the end of this newsletter.

We have initiated a **search** together with the Donnelly Centre for Cellular and Biomolecular Research to fill a new endowed Chair position in "Integrative Physiology", made possible by a generous donation from **James Bassingthwaighte**. Members of the search committee are: Graham Collingridge and Brenda Andrews (co-Chairs), Scott Heximer, Brian Cox, Leah Cowen, Michael Sefton, Penney Gilbert, Fritz Roth, and Dan Beard (University of Michigan). This is a recruit at the level of Full Professor, so networking will be key for a successful recruitment. Please bring the position to the attention of any colleagues you think might be interested in the position. **Job Closing: Oct 15, 2018**. Please see [link](#) for further information

A reminder of our **joint search with the Research Institute, Hospital for Sick Children and Physiology** for two full-time permanent Scientists with non-tenured faculty appointments at the rank of Assistant Professor, in the specialty area of neuroscience. Members of the search committee are: Donald Mabbott, Graham Collingridge, Lu-Yang Wang, Margot Taylor, Sheena Josselyn, Michelle French, Bill Hutchison, Steve Prescott, Anne-Marie Guerguerian and Elizabeth Pang. The appointments are available immediately. The Search Committee is seeking two outstanding individuals with proven internationally recognized track records in any field of neuroscience, although applicants with an interest in the following areas are particularly encouraged to apply: developmental neuroscience, cellular and molecular neuroscience, systems neuroscience, human neurophysiology/neural dynamics. **Job Closing: September 15, 2018**. Please see [link](#) for further information.

This year's **Departmental Retreat** will be held at The Old Mill on **Thursday December 6th, 2018**. I am looking forward to an excellent faculty turn-out and my office will be sending out more details in the coming months.

I look very much forward to another exciting year in Physiology!

Graham L. Collingridge, FRS, FMedSci, FRSB, FBPhS
Ernest B. and Leonard B. Smith Chair
Department of Physiology

PHYSIOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES

~ Eligible for PSL1000H/PSL2000H Course Seminar Attendance ~

Charles Mobbs, PhD.

Professor, Neuroscience, Endocrinology and Geriatrics
Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, NY

Title: **Role of Creb-binding protein in mediating protective effects of dietary restriction during aging**

Date: October 4, 2018

Time: 4 pm

Location: MSB 2172

Host: EDRG

A reminder that all upcoming seminars are posted on Physiology's Home Page: www.physiology.utoronto.ca

HONOURS & AWARDS

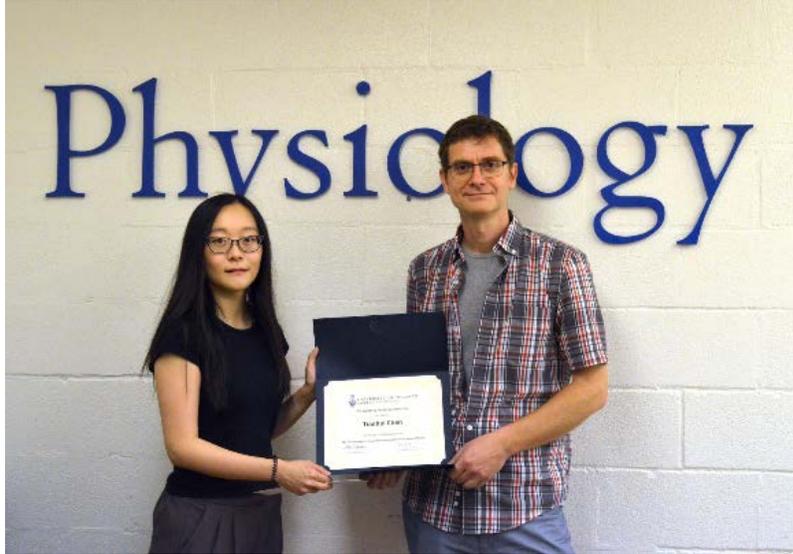
Congratulations to **Dr. Beverley Orser** on receipt of the 2018 Award for Excellence in Research from the American Society of Anesthesiologists.

Congratulations to **Dr. Aya Sasaki** (PDF, Matthews lab) on receipt of a 2018-2021 CIHR Postdoctoral Fellowship Award and a 2018-2020 Brain Canada-Kids Brain Health Network Training Award for her project entitled: Epigenetic and transcriptional signatures of prenatal exposures and prediction of later outcomes.

Congratulations to **Dr. Faisal Alibhai** (PDF, Li lab) on receipt of a 2018-2020 CIHR Postdoctoral Fellowship Award for his project entitled: Extracellular vesicles are key mediators of cardiac rejuvenation and repair

Congratulations to **Tina Binesh Marvasti** (Li lab) on being awarded a prestigious Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship. This Canadian Institutes of Health Research award, administered by the Vanier-Banting Secretariat, is a highly competitive research scholarship only funded to the most exceptionally ranked doctoral students in Canada. Under the supervision of Toronto General Hospital Research Institute Senior Scientist **Dr. Ren-Ke Li**, Ms. Binesh Marvasti will be investigating ways to rejuvenate the bone marrow stem cells of elderly heart patients to develop new treatment strategies to prevent the onset of heart failure.

Congratulations to **Jennifer Chen** on receiving the **PSL374 Bernice Hines Award**. Please see links for further information on this award and the faculty member being recognized. <http://teachinglabs.med.utoronto.ca/Programs/Pages/Awards.html> [Bernice Hines](#)



L-R Jennifer Chen, Dr. Brian Cox (Course Coordinator)

UPDATE FROM THE VICE-CHAIR, RESEARCH

As autumn descends we are nearing the completion of the first phase of SIF-funded renovation work on the 3rd floor of MSB. Thank you to everyone for your patience throughout this difficult process. Stay tuned for future updates as the department prepares for improvements to its administrative office space and begins work on a new CFI-funded microscopy suite in the coming year.

Current priorities for the Research and Infrastructure Committee include evaluation and reorganization of our BSL2 facilities to ensure department-wide compliance with current biosafety standards and implementation of the first round of our Department of Physiology's Strategic Seed Funding Competition.

Lastly, the Department would like to welcome Dr. Barry Sessle's group to our laboratory footprint in the MSB. He has recently moved his laboratory into Rm 3363 –if you are in the neighbourhood, please be sure to stop in and say hello.

Scott Heximer, PhD.

RETIREMENTS

The Department wishes to thank all of our faculty and staff members below for their many years of dedication and contributions to Physiology. We wish them the very best as they embark on the next chapter of their lives.

alphabetical

- Dr. Alison Buchan
- Mrs. Chandri Bacchus
- Dr. Lyanne Schlichter
- Dr. Elise Stanley



L-R: Dr. Graham Collingridge, Chandri Bacchus , Paula Smellie

NEW STAFF MEMBER – Welcome Takara!



It is my pleasure to announce that **Takara Donahue** joined our administrative team on September 4 in the role of Finance and Payroll Officer. Takara holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from U of T and comes to this position after working in a diverse range of roles at the University. She joins us from the Finance Office at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. Previously, Takara worked in the finance offices of the Department of Computer Science and the Faculty of Law and was engaged in providing services to students within the Division of Student Life. Through her various roles, Takara has gained valuable insight and

experience working with U of T faculty, staff, and students and I am confident she will become a highly valued member of our team.

Please join me in welcoming Takara to the Department of Physiology! She can be reached at t.donahue@utoronto.ca or (416) 946-0988. Her office is located in MSB 3215.

Also, I would like to extend a big "thank-you" to Victor for keeping the Finance Office running so smoothly after Chandri's retirement. Our administrative staff are the best!

Paula Smellie
Business Manager

GASP News

Congratulations to the members of the **2018-2019 GASP Executive Council!**

President: **Sammy Cai** (Jia/Collingridge Lab)

Vice-Presidents: **Bona Kim** (Matthews Lab), **Liz Eng** (Matthews Lab)

Financial Advisor: **Neemat Mahmud** (Miller Lab)

Administrative Advisor: **Shahin Khodaei** (Orser Lab)

GASP Fall Elections

Where: **MSB3227**

When: **Thursday September 13th – 6 PM**

GASP has new and exciting plans for the 2018-2019 academic year. If you are interested in making change, meeting new people, and having fun, consider joining the GASP team! An information session about the various positions will be held from **6-6:30 PM**. The elections will be held shortly afterwards!

If you have any questions, please email: sammy.cai@mail.utoronto.ca

BBQ

Thank you to everyone who came out to the BBQ at Christie Pitts last Thursday!



We want to hear about the great things happening in Physiology.

Please share your accomplishments, awards...

Send news items to the Chair's Office c/o e.katsoulakos@utoronto.ca