

# Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in Life Sciences

Revised September 2016

Graduate and Life Sciences Education, Faculty of Medicine in partnership with the Basic Science Departments and Institutes in the Faculty (Anatomy, Biochemistry, Immunology, Institute of Biomaterials & Biomedical Engineering, Institute of Medical Science, Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology, Medical Biophysics, Molecular Genetics, Nutritional Sciences, Pharmacology & Toxicology, and Physiology) will award five annual Undergraduate Teaching Awards in Life Sciences in four categories. The purpose of these awards is to honour outstanding and sustained contributions by faculty members to undergraduate Arts and Science teaching and the undergraduate experience in Life Sciences. The awards carry a cash value of \$1,000 each and will be presented at the Faculty of Medicine Annual Education Achievement Celebration.

## Categories:

### 1. Excellence in undergraduate teaching in life sciences

This award is for sustained excellence in teaching, coordination and/or development of undergraduate lecture or seminar courses in Arts and Science offered by the Basic Science Departments in the Faculty of Medicine.

### 2. Excellence in undergraduate laboratory teaching in life sciences

This award is for sustained excellence in the teaching, coordination and/or development of laboratory based instruction in formal Arts and Science life sciences laboratory courses.

### 3. Excellence in linking undergraduate teaching to research in life sciences

This award is for sustained excellence, mentorship and innovative methods that link undergraduate teaching to experiential research opportunities such as research project courses, summer student research projects or equivalent programs.

### 4. Sustained Excellence and Innovation in Life Sciences Education

This award recognizes sustained contributions (at least 15 years of all undergraduate appointments as of December of application year) to any aspect of undergraduate education including:

- Undergraduate student supervision and mentoring
- Curriculum development
- Regular support of departmental, faculty and university undergraduate activities
- Undergraduate program administration (as applicable)

## Eligibility:

Eligibility extends to all faculty members who hold full time appointments in Basic Science Departments or Institutes in the Faculty of Medicine and teach in life sciences undergraduate courses and/or research projects in Arts and Science.

## Nomination:

Candidates for these awards **must** be nominated by a student, a former student, or another faculty member through a Departmental/Institute Undergraduate Program office; self-nominations are not accepted. A previous winner may be nominated for an Undergraduate Teaching Award in Life Sciences in the same category as the previous award after a period of five (5) years. A previous winner may not be nominated for a different award category at any time.

**Criteria:**

The following will be considered in reviewing each nominee:

- 1) **Commitment:**
  - quantity of teaching
  - accessibility to students
  - evidence of self-development in teaching methods (e.g. course attended) research and publications on teaching methods
- 2) **Excellence in communication skills**
- 3) **Subject mastery**
- 4) **Ability to organize material and emphasize principles**
- 5) **Demonstrated ability to stimulate students:**
  - encourages interest in and enthusiasm for subject
  - displays good rapport with students
  - leads students to think critically, analytically and independently, and to organize their own learning
- 6) **Effective use of appropriate teaching resources and instructional methodologies**
- 7) **Innovative, creative and experimental teaching methods**
- 8) **Contribution as a suitable role model**
- 9) **Evidence of mentorship**

**Nomination Process:**

The primary nominator (a student, former student, or faculty member other than the nominee) will fill out and submit the nomination form and inform the nominee of the nomination. The nominator and nominee are jointly responsible to ensure that **required** documentation as listed on the nomination form is submitted, including:

- Completed nomination form
- Supporting letters from:
  - \* Department/Institute Chair/Director (or designate)
  - \* Students (minimum 2)
- 1-2 page summary of the nominee's contributions to teaching
- Summaries of student evaluations of teaching/course materials
- Current abridged Curriculum Vita (max. 10 pages) which includes a full description of the contribution to undergraduate teaching in Life Sciences and accomplishments relevant to the award eligibility criteria, including:
  - Relevant undergraduate teaching
  - Teaching awards for undergraduate teaching
  - Undergraduate students supervised (dates and projects)
- Nominee's statement of Teaching Philosophy (max. 1 page)

Nomination Forms and documentation should be emailed to the Administrative Coordinator, Life Sciences Education at [natasha.lowe@utoronto.ca](mailto:natasha.lowe@utoronto.ca) or (416) 978-2281.

**Deadline Date:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017

**Selection Process:**

Nominees' files will be reviewed and winners recommended to the Vice Dean, Graduate and Life Sciences Education by a panel of selected undergraduate students and faculty members.

## **Previous Winners:**

### **Undergraduate Teaching**

2015-2016 - Cindi Morshead, B.Sc., Ph.D. - Department of Surgery, Division of Anatomy  
2014-2015 – Debbie Gurfinkel, PhD – Department of Nutritional Sciences  
2014-2015 – Sian Patterson, PhD – Department of Biochemistry  
2013-2014 – Nohjin Kee, PhD – Department of Physiology  
2012-2013 - Barbara (Dee) Ballyk, PhD - Department of Surgery, Division of Anatomy  
2011-2012 - Douglas Templeton, MD, PhD - Department of Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology  
2011-2012 - Michelle French, PhD - Department of Physiology  
2010-2011 - Stavroula (Roula) Andreopoulos, PhD - Department of Biochemistry  
2009-2010 - Cindy Woodland, PhD - Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology  
2008-2009 - Valerie Watt, PhD - Department of Physiology  
2007-2008 - Patricia Stewart, PhD - Department of Surgery  
2007-2008 - Carin Wittnich, PhD - Department of Physiology  
2006-2007 - Craig Smibert, PhD - Department of Biochemistry  
2005-2006 - Patricia Brubaker, PhD - Department of Physiology

### **Undergraduate Laboratory Teaching**

2015-2016 - Ahlia Khan-Trottier, B.Sc., Ph.D - Department of Biochemistry  
2014-2015 – Adam Rosebrock, PhD – Department of Molecular Genetics / Donnelly Centre  
2013-2014 – Martha Brown, PhD - Department of Molecular Genetics  
2012-2013 - Carin Wittnich, MD PhD FRCSC, Department of Physiology  
2011-2012 - *Not Awarded*  
2010-2011 - Jenny Jongstra-Bilen, PhD - Department of Immunology  
2009-2010 - Grant W. Brown - PhD, BSc - Department of Biochemistry  
2008-2009 - Kate Banks, DVM, PhD - Department of Physiology  
2007-2008 - *Not Awarded*  
2006-2007 - Christopher Perumalla, PhD - Department of Physiology  
2005-2006 - David Isenman, PhD - Department of Biochemistry

### **Linking Undergraduate Teaching to Research**

2015-2016 - Jagdish Butany, MBBS, MS, FRCPC - Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology  
2015-2016 - Martin Wojtowicz, PhD - Department of Physiology  
2014-2015 – Hong Chang, MD PhD FRCPC – Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology  
2013-2014 – Anne Agur, BSc(OT) MSc PhD, Department of Surgery, Division of Anatomy  
2012-2013 - Richard Horner, Department of Physiology  
2011-2012 - Patricia Brubaker, PhD - Department of Physiology

