



Physiology
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

PhysioLINK

JUNE 2, 2017

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



This will be the last issue of PhysioLINK of the term. We've had a brilliant year with many outstanding achievements, one of them being Dr. Michelle French receiving the 2017 President's Teaching Award. Keep reading for all the exciting details.

On Wednesday May 31st, a Research Summit was held in Toronto to discuss strategies for promoting Canada's Fundamental Science Review or the "Naylor Report" on future funding of research in Canada.
<http://www.sciencereview.ca/eic/site/059.nsf/eng/home>

One outcome was to encourage all scientists in Canada, senior to trainee, to write personalized letters to their local Members of Parliament. The following website contains useful information on how to effectively approach the subject with MPs (<http://www.acechr.ca/summerofsciencecan.html>). We need to speak with a unified voice - the Naylor Report should be implemented as policy by the Canadian government immediately and in its entirety. Please do not let this once in a lifetime opportunity to restore Canada's research funding of fundamental, investigator-driven research to pre-2007 levels slip by.
#supportthereport

I wish you all a great summer. We will of course continue to keep you updated on important matters over the summer months. PhysioLINK will return in September.

Best wishes.

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

PRESIDENTS TEACHING AWARD RECIPIENTS 2017



Many congratulations to **Dr. Michelle French** one of two recipients of the President's Teaching Award 2017. The University-wide President's Teaching Award recognizes sustained excellence in teaching, research in teaching, and the integration of teaching and research. Click on [link](#) for more details.

SPECIAL PHYSIOLOGY TEACHING SEMINAR

Seminar title: "The *songlines* between scientific and social silos: A nomadic approach to teaching, learning and research"

Speaker: Associate Professor Robyn Slattery

Department of Immunology
Monash University
Melbourne, Australia

Date: Friday June 9th

Location: Physiology Seminar Room; MS3227

Time: 12 to 1 pm

Host: Michelle French

The Songlines between Scientific and Social Silos:

A nomadic approach to teaching, learning and research

Special Department of Physiology Seminar
Friday, June 9th, 2017 @ 12 p.m.
Medical Sciences Building, Room 3227
Department of Physiology
University of Toronto
Host: Dr. Michelle French

Dr. Robyn Slattery, Associate Professor
Department of Immunology
Monash University
Melbourne, Australia
Robyn.slattery@monash.edu

The Songlines

First edition
Author: Bruce Chatwin
Country: United Kingdom

PHYSIOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES

~ Eligible for PSL1000H/PSL2000H Course Seminar Attendance ~

NEUROSCIENCE Platform - Special Seminar



Thursday, June 8, 2017 - 4:00 p.m.
Medical Sciences Building
1 King's College Circle
Room 2172

Eligible for the 1000/2000 Seminars In Physiology Course



Henrique von Gersdorff, PhD
Senior Scientist, Principal Investigator & Professor
Vollum Institute and
Oregon Health Science University

Title: How to build a fast and strong
synapse from weak and dicey parts

Host: Elise Stanley, PhD
Senior Scientist, Krembil Research Institute, UHN
Professor, Department of Physiology, University of Toronto

LEARN-TO-RUN PROGRAM FOR UNDERGRADUATE PHYSIOLOGY STUDENTS

Recognizing the benefits of exercise in enhancing learning, the ability to cope with stress and general well-being, along with helping to build a sense of community, **Michelle French** formed a partnership with MoveU (Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education) to promote physical activity for students enrolled in Human Physiology II (PSL301). Students were encouraged to join a formal 10-week learn-to-run program and/or participate in weekly community runs with Michelle at the Athletic Centre.



<https://kpe.utoronto.ca/faculty-news/u-t-prof-partners-kpe-host-learn-run-program-lifelong-learning-success>

The program culminated with participation in the MEC Toronto 5K Race in April 2017. Michelle plans to run the program next year and would be happy to discuss the initiative with Faculty members who would like to introduce physical activity into their courses.

NEW FACULTY MEMBER

We are delighted to announce that **Dr. Kim Connelly** has been appointed as a status-only faculty member at the rank of Associate Professor, beginning on July 1st. Biosketch follows:



Dr. Kim Connelly is a Cardiologist and Clinician Scientist who is both nationally recognized as an expert in human and rodent echocardiography, cardiovascular MRI and the impact of diabetes upon cardiac function. His work has been recognized by winning the "Young Investigator of the Year Award" in 2012 by the Canadian Cardiovascular Society an Early Researcher Award in 2014 and a CIHR New Investigator award in 2014. In 2015 he was awarded the **S.C. Verma Young Investigator Award**, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada/ Richard Lewar Centre of Excellence, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Dr. Connelly runs a basic research laboratory at the Keenan Research Centre at St. Michael's Hospital where he focuses upon basic mechanisms of disease – primarily around the role of pathological extracellular matrix accumulation and the pro-sclerotic cytokine transforming growth factor beta, with a focus upon translating discoveries into therapies in humans. He is the Director of the Krembil Stem Cell Facility at St. Michael's Hospital and uses stem cell based therapies to improve cardiac and renal dysfunction as a result of diabetes. He is the Chair of macrovascular complications at the Canadian Diabetes Association and is PI on a number of clinical trials involving Novel diabetes drugs and stem cell therapies. He has just taken over as President of Can SCMR. He collaborates extensively not only locally in Toronto but also nationally and internationally – with research support from the HSF of Canada, CIHR and CFI and the Ministry of Ontario.

NEWS FROM GASP



GASP



June 2017

Join our events before it's too late!
June is the last month for many of GASP's activities until the fall. Make sure you don't miss out!

GASP Pub Night
WHERE: Pogue Mahon(777 Bay Street)
WHEN: Thursday, June 1st at 7:00 pm
FREE apps provided courtesy of GASP!

ARE YOU A TA?
If so come to TA matters/CUPE 3902 info session during GASP Pub night.
1 **FREE** Drink for TAs
WHEN: Thursday, June 1st at 7:00 pm
WHERE: Pogue Mahon(777 Bay Street)
Questions? Shahin.khodaei@mail.utoronto.ca

Biking Trip
WHEN: Saturday, June 17th, Time TBA
You don't need a bike to join us!
Stay tuned for more details.
To sign-up or for more information,
Email frances.wong@mail.utoronto.ca

Overnight Cottage Trip
WHEN: Saturday, June 24 - Sunday, June 25
WHERE: Norfolk County
\$20 + \$20 Deposit
RSVP scott.frendo.cumbo@mail.utoronto.ca

GASP's Academic Writing 101
Learn how to improve your academic writing skills for upcoming paper publications, etc.
Stay tuned for more details.
If you have any questions email Melanie at:
mel.markovic@mail.utoronto.ca

GASP SURVEY
Let us know how we did this year! Keep an eye out for our survey, so you can tell us what you liked and what you would like to see for next year.

Frontiers in Physiology SURVEY
The 37th Annual FIP took place Tuesday May 9th, 2017.
We want to know what you thought to make next year even better.
Let us know how we did by filling out our survey, which will be released soon.

PHYSIO CUP
GASP's Secret was revealed during the FIP reception on May 9th !!
PHYSIO CUP is a trophy that will be awarded annually at FIP to the platform which has earned the most points, and will start Sept 2017. The full set of rules will be released soon. Check out our facebook page in the mean time for more info.

The 37th Annual Frontier in Physiology (FIP) Pictures
To see all the picture from the wildly successful 37th Annual Frontier in Physiology (FIP) visit:
<http://sites.utoronto.ca/gasp/category/gallery.html>

Coffee Break
Remember, GASP hosts coffee every Wednesday, 2pm in the PSL lunchroom, MSB. Join us for free coffee/tea and timbits



The annual Toronto Brain Bee was held at the UofT Medical Sciences Building on March 31, 2017 where 109 high school students from 34 high schools participated in this knowledge-based competition. 33 UofT student volunteers and 8 faculty members contributed to the preparation and organization of this successful event. Special thanks go to **Nancy Dong** (PhD student, Physiology; CPIN Graduate Exec) for leading the UofT student volunteers, as well as for helping Prerana in her preparations for the National Brain Bee competition. Other volunteer graduate students from Physiology included **Alexandre Guet-McCreight, Kirusanthi Kaneshwaran, Shahin Khodaei, Feiya Li, Moushumi Nath, Vladislav Sekulic, Vivian Szeto, Ekaterina Turlova and Raymond Wong.**



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