

PhysioLINK

June 18, 2021

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I hope this message finds everyone well. This will be the last PhysioLINK of the term before we break for the summer. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your continued efforts during these difficult times. I hope everyone gets a chance to relax, recharge and spend some quality time safely outdoors this summer. A reminder that the University will be closed July 1 & 2 for Canada Day.

We remain optimistic for a safe and gradual return to in-person activities for the Fall term. I will continue to keep you informed as information is received from the University's academic leadership. In the meantime, please continue to help fight the spread of COVID-19, get vaccinated when it's your turn and stay safe.

Scott P. Heximer, PhD

Ernest B. and Leonard B. Smith Chair,
Department of Physiology

ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS

Our heartiest congratulations to Drs. French, Kadis and Min on their academic promotions **effective July 1, 2021.**

Name	Academic Rank
Michelle French	Professor, Teaching Stream
Darren Kadis	Associate Professor
Jinrong Min	Professor

FACULTY UPDATES

Congratulations to **Dr. Helen Miliotis**, the successful candidate from the department's recent search - Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream - CLTA - Physiology & Graduate Student Professional Development.

The department is delighted to welcome **Dr. Richard Horner** as a primary faculty member.

HONORS & AWARDS



Congratulations to **Derrick Ssewanyana** on receiving a **2021 Provost's Postdoctoral Fellowship.**

Derrick will be undertaking his Fellowship in the Department of Physiology under the mentorship of **Profs Stephen Matthews and Stephen Lye**. He will be working on a project investigating the impact of inflammation on pregnancy outcomes in women enrolled in the HeLTI studies in India and South Africa (www.helti-net.org). Please join us in welcoming Derrick to the Department!

2021 Spring Convocation

Many congratulations to all of the trainees below on the successful completion of their Graduate Programs. We wish them continued success in the next stage of their careers!



Student	Supervisor(s)	Degree
Alanazi, Frhan	Hutchison, W	MSc
Al-Basha, Dhekra	Prescott, S	PhD
Bodalia, Ankur	Wang, LY	PhD
Dinh, Danny	Bolz, S	PhD
Frendo-Cumbo, Scott	Klip, A	PhD
Hamdy, Nancy	Feng, ZP	MSc
Lee, Frank	Gramolini, A	PhD
Loganathan, Neruja	Belsham, D	PhD
Mak, Jordan	Wheeler, A	MSc
Park, Chanho	Caniggia, I	MSc
Wang, Tao	Husain, M	MSc

Undergraduate Life Sciences Teaching Awards

Congratulations to **Professors Patricia Brubaker and Amy Ramsey** who have both won Undergraduate Teaching Awards in Life Sciences this year.

Professor Brubaker won the **Sustained Excellence and Innovation in Life Sciences Education** award, while Professor Ramsey was honoured in the **Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in Life Sciences** category. Congratulations to them both for carrying on Physiology's tradition of teaching excellence at the undergraduate level!

Carin Wittnich Award of Excellence for Teaching Assistants

We are pleased to announce that **Niloofar Ganji** is the winner of this year's Carin Wittnich Award of Excellence for Teaching Assistant. Niloofar is a TA in PSL372H and a graduate student from **Dr. Agostino Pierro's lab**.

Student comments:

"She is an exemplary TA, and I am so lucky and grateful to have her for this semester."

"She is also very passionate about the topics . . . "

"She would always go out of her way to make sure that everything is clear for everyone."

Congratulations Niloofar!

And a thank you to all our PSL TAs who performed their duties with great skill and commitment this past year. Your contributions to the teaching mandate of the Department of Physiology are very much appreciated.

Michelle French

NEW Award for MHSc students!

The Department of Physiology is delighted to announce the creation of a new award for students in the MHSc Medical Physiology program. This annual award will honour the accomplishments of one student in the program who has achieved **excellence** not only in PSL4010Y (Mentored Literature Review in Physiology) but also across their entire MHSc program (excluding the practicum). The award will support the costs of **publishing their mentored literature review** in an appropriate journal.

This is a great initiative that will help further disseminate the impactful work that is carried out in our department!

Helen Miliotis

TAKARA DONAHUE – New Job!

I am pleased (and a little sad) to announce that our Payroll & Finance Officer, Takara Donahue, has accepted a new position in the Dean's Office. Takara became our first Payroll & Finance Officer on September 4, 2018. Prior to joining the Physiology Department, Takara worked in the finance offices at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, the Department of Computer Science, and the Faculty of Law. Takara has become a highly valued member of our team and she will be missed by many. Today is her last day in the department. Please join me in congratulating Takara on her new job. Thankfully, she won't be going too far away!

Recruitment is already underway for Takara's replacement. After June 18th, please forward your payroll inquiries to my attention paula.smellie@utoronto.ca

Paula Smellie

Stay safe everyone!

**Please continue to visit the central COVID-19 hub
for the U of T community**

UTogether