

PhysioLINK

June 7, 2022

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



It was so good to see everyone at last month's annual Frontiers in Physiology Research Day held at Hart House. **The first in-person FIP since 2019!**

Thank you to everyone who participated, and to all the amazing trainees who showcased their exciting work and accomplishments. It was wonderful to hear what everyone has been up to and learn more about the exciting research being undertaken in our Department.

A special thank you to **Dr. Polly Matzinger** our engaging Keynote Speaker, and to the FIP Co-Chairs (**Eman Nishat, Joseph Lee and Kelvin Lee**), who did a simply outstanding job spearheading this year's event!



L-R: Dr. Scott Heximer, Dr. Polly Matzinger, Joseph Lee, Eman Nishat, Kelvin Lee

Keep reading. More FIP news in this issue – award winners and pics!

Scott P. Heximer, PhD

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

PHYSIOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES

~ Eligible for PSL1000H/PSL2000H/PSL4000Y Course Seminar Attendance ~

When: *Thursday, June 16, 2022, 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)*

Speaker: Dr. Ewan Goligher

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Interdepartmental Division of Critical Care Medicine, University of Toronto
Scientist, Toronto General Hospital Research Institute, Toronto, Canada
Attending Physician, Medical-Surgical Intensive Care Unit, Toronto, Canada

“Physiology for precision medicine in acute respiratory failure”

Website: <https://www.uhnresearch.ca/researcher/ewan-goligher>

Join Zoom Webinar: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84210206934>

Hosted by Dr. Scott Heximer

HONOURS & AWARDS

Congratulations to **Professors Michael Salter and Paul Frankland** awardees of the prestigious [Romach-Sellers Prizes in early brain development](#) . This is the largest peer-reviewed prize funded through philanthropy at SickKids. The goal of the Romach-Sellers Family Prize in Early Brain Development is to fund projects that define the factors that limit fetal and infant brain development and advance new approaches to predict, prevent and overcome them leading to better health outcomes.

- Inaugural Romach-Sellers Family Prize in Early Brain Development awarded to **Dr. Paul Frankland**
- Romach-Sellers Family Neurobiology Innovation Award – awarded to **Dr. Michael Salter**

FIP Winners

Congratulations to the trainees below on their stellar performances!



Carin Wittnich Award of Excellence for Teaching Assistants: Meredith Foley

Winner of the 3MT: Luxcia Kugathasan (D Cherney)

Oral Session 1: Annelies Hoorn (S Josselyn)

Oral Session 2: Emma McIlwraith (D Belsham)

Oral Session 3: Megan Abbott (MHSc Program) / Patrick Meagher (K Connelly)

Poster Session 1:

1. Aya Ragheai (MHSc Program)
2. Tian Kong (LY Wang)
3. Jorge Castillo-Prado (I Rogers)

Poster Session 2:

1. Ruizhe (Nicole) Liu (I Caniggia)
2. Marwa Sadat (I Rogers) /Amatullah Fatehi (I Rogers) Tied for second place!

FIP 2022 Pics



Many thanks to **Delphine Ji** (Sun lab) who served as the official FIP photographer on May 20th. Delphine captured the day brilliantly from beginning to end.

Have a look at the [FIP Pics!](#)



Cake-cutting: Scott Heximer with the FIP Co-Chairs (Eman Nishat, Joseph Lee, Kelvin Lee)

“PHYSIOLOGY PROUD”- SELF STUDY HIGHLIGHTS!



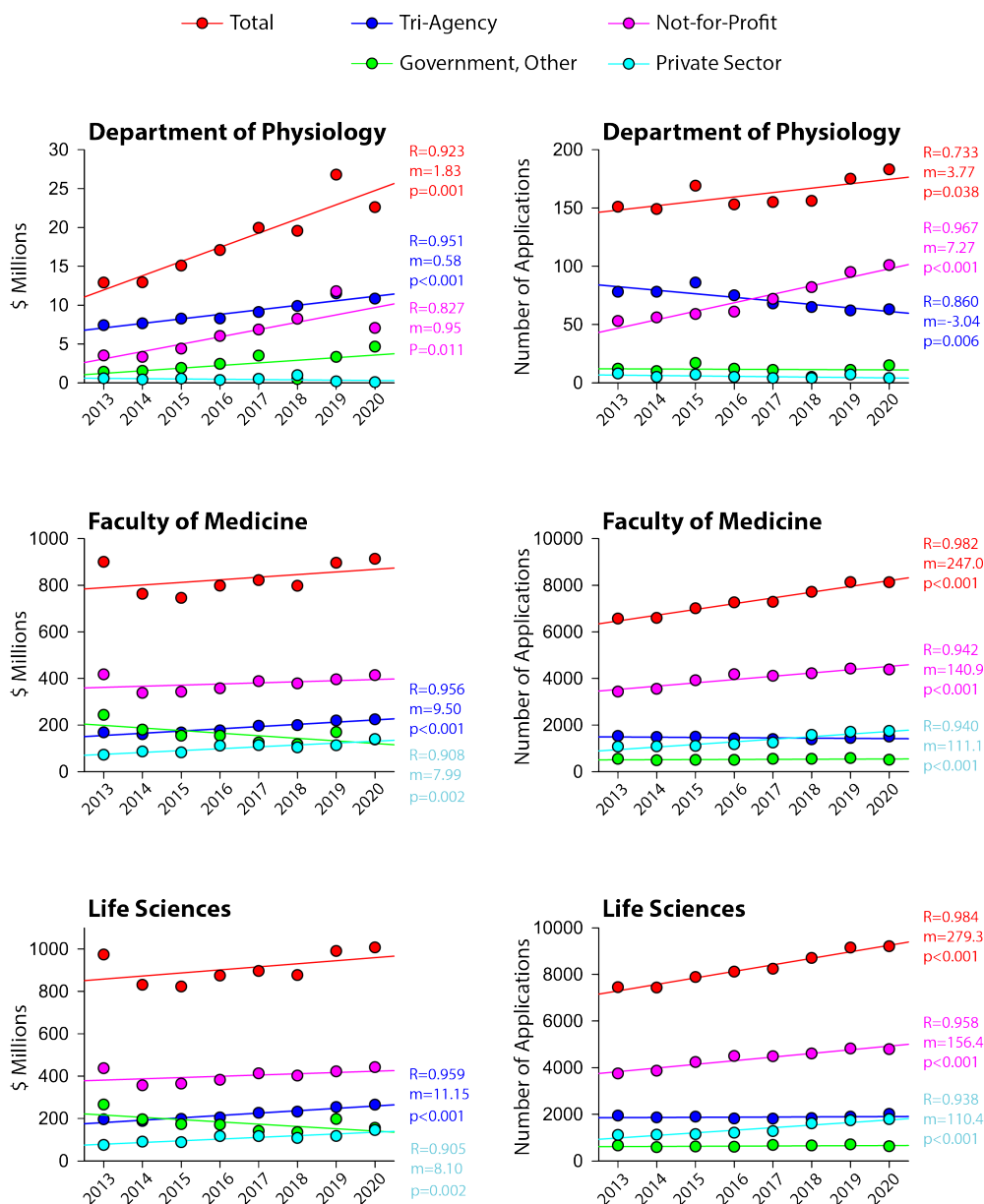
Physiology Group Photo - May 20, 2022

A huge thank you to everyone that participated in the Department’s self-study and external review process. The full report will be made publicly available shortly, however, we felt it would be worthwhile to begin sharing some of the successes of the department with all of you via **PhysioLINK**. Congratulations on all of your hard work and achievements to help make the department a global leader in research and education.

Celebrating Our Outstanding Researchers

Steadily Increasing Levels of Total Research Funding Secured by Physiology Faculty Members:

The figure below shows the level of **total research funding** awarded to administered through the Department of Physiology between 2013 and 2020 compared to that for the Temerty Faculty of Medicine and cognate departments in the Life Sciences at the University of Toronto. Notably, Physiology showed steadily increasing total funding levels over that period in relation to relatively static total funding levels for the Temerty Faculty of Medicine and our U of T comparators.



High Success Rates for Tri-Agency Research Funding:

Funding success rates for the Department of Physiology were calculated over the entire self-study period and compared over the same period to the success rates for the Faculty of Medicine as a whole, the University of Toronto as a whole, and national success rates. These data are shown in the Table below. For **CIHR Project Grants** the success rate for the Department of Physiology

was **21.9%, ranked #1** against all comparators, and for **NSERC Discovery Grants** the success rate for the Department of Physiology was **21.9%, co-ranked #2** against all comparators.

	CIHR Project Grants			NSERC Discovery Grants		
	Awarded/ Total Applications	Success Rate (%)	Rank	Awarded/ Total Applications	Success Rate (%)	Rank
Dept. of Physiology	14/64	21.9	1	17/26	65.4	2*
Faculty of Medicine	128/657	19.5	2	270/527	51.2	4
University of Toronto	233/1272	18.3	3	1426/1969	72.4	1
National	3800/21987	17.3	4	17031/26299	64.8	2*

Celebrating Our Outstanding Educators

Our Physiology faculty members have received a disproportionately high number of *Faculty-* and *University-wide* teaching awards over the period since the last self-study. Please join me in congratulating the following individuals on their contributions to our educational programs.

President's Teaching Award:

- 2017 - Michelle French, Department of Physiology
- 2013 - Christopher Perumalla, Department of Physiology and Division of Teaching Laboratories

"Founded in 2006, the President's Teaching Award (PTA) is the highest honour for teaching at the University of Toronto. The PTA recognizes sustained and ongoing excellence in three interrelated areas:

- *Educational Leadership*
- *Teaching Excellence*
- *Educational Innovation*

Undergraduate Teaching Awards in Life Sciences:

Full-time faculty members from eight basic science departments in the Faculty of Medicine are eligible to be nominated for these awards. Student testimonials are one of the several important criteria for these awards.

Sustained Excellence and Innovation in Life Sciences Education

- 2020-2021 - Patricia Brubaker - Department of Physiology
- 2019-2020 - Carin Wittnich - Department of Physiology
- 2016-2017 - Christopher Perumalla - Department of Physiology and Division of Teaching Laboratories

Linking Undergraduate Teaching to Research:

- 2019-2020 - Denise Belsham - Department of Physiology
- 2015-2016 - Martin Wojtowicz - Department of Physiology
- 2012-2013 - Richard Horner - Department of Physiology and Department of Medicine

Undergraduate Teaching:

- 2019-2020 - Douglas Tweed - Department of Physiology
- 2013-2014 - Nohjin Kee - Department of Physiology

Undergraduate Laboratory Teaching:

- 2019-2020 - Nohjin Kee - Department of Physiology
- 2012-2013 - Carin Wittnich - Department of Physiology

Graduate Teaching Awards in Life Sciences:

Early Career Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Mentorship:

- 2015-2016 - Brian Cox - Department of Physiology
- 2012-2013 - Anthony Gramolini - Department of Physiology

Mid-Career Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Mentorship:

- 2016-2017 - Anthony Gramolini - Department of Physiology
- 2011-2012 - Zhong-Ping Feng - Department of Physiology

Sustained (>10 year) Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Mentorship:

- 2018-2019 - Denise Belsham - Department of Physiology
- 2016-2017 - Howard Mount - Departments of Psychiatry, Medicine and Physiology
- 2015-2016 - Patricia Brubaker - Department of Physiology
- 2014-2015 - Richard Horner - Department of Physiology and Department of Medicine

Keep staying safe everyone!

[Please continue to visit the central hub
for the U of T community](#)

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