

PhysioLINK

December 1, 2020



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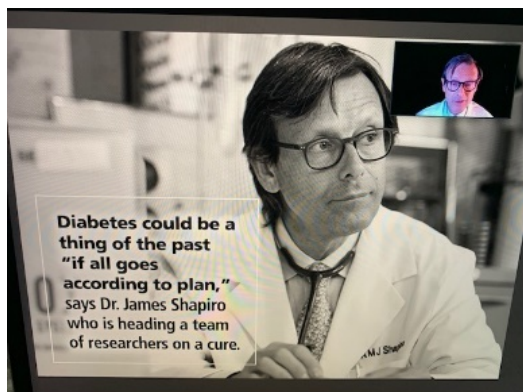
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I hope this message finds everyone well. We've had a number of hugely successful virtual events this term including:

FIP (Oct 22nd), led by our Graduate Associate of Students in Physiology (GASP). See [link](#) for write up prepared by Julia Tausch.

Department Retreat (Oct 23rd).

Davidson Lecture (Nov 25th), presented by **Dr. James Shapiro** (Univ. of Alberta), an internationally acclaimed academic leader in the field of transplantation surgery.



Our **Seminar Series** has now moved onto a virtual platform and the attendance has been simply outstanding. Our sincere thanks to Dr. Denise Belsham for overseeing the series, the labs charged with bringing in such excellent speakers, and of course to everyone joining in via Zoom!

As 2020 draws to a close, I wish to express my gratitude to everyone who has worked to keep the department moving forward during such a challenging time in our history. I hope to see all of you at our **virtual holiday celebration on December 14th!** [Details here](#).

Thanks for your continued efforts to keep us healthy and safe.

Scott P. Heximer, PhD
Ernest B. and Leonard B. Smith Chair,
Department of Physiology

PHYSIOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES/CPIN DISTINGUISHED LECTURE

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

When: December 3, 2020 - 4:00 PM (EST)

Speaker: Professor Gyorgy Lur, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Neurobiology & Behavior
University of California, Irvine
<https://faculty.sites.uci.edu/lurlab/gyorgy-lur-phd/>

Title: “Differential impact of stress on the parietal top-down and bottom up circuitry”

Join Zoom Webinar:
<https://zoom.us/j/94624014894?pwd=Wit0dTdYTVhaYTdHRFhqL2xldm42UT09>

Hosted by the Dr. Lambe Lab

PHYSIOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES

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

When: December 10, 2020 - 4:00 PM (EST)

Speaker: Dr. Sean Hill

Scientific Director, Krembil Centre for Neuroinformatics

Senior Scientist, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

Professor, University of Toronto

Faculty Affiliate, Vector Institute

Titular Professor, École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland

KrembilNeuroinformatics.ca

Join Zoom Webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/93610649139?pwd=QjZpRWkxVjRFcnN5eldaekhQNVdyZz09>

Hosted by Dr. Scott Heximer

A reminder to regularly visit [Physiology's Website](#) to view all upcoming

Seminars and Events – with Zoom links!

HONORS & AWARDS

Congratulations to **Dr. Shuzo Sugita** whose study "Open syntaxin overcomes exocytosis defects of diverse mutants in *C. elegans*" was recently published in *Nature Communications*. [Read full story here](#)

Congratulations to Professor **Claudia dos Santos**, winner of the miRNA NanoString Grant Program for Toronto, Ontario.

PHYSIOLOGY SWEEPS TEACHING AWARD CATEGORY

We are thrilled to celebrate the winners of this year's Undergraduate Teaching Awards in Life Sciences, **all of whom** are faculty of the Department of Physiology. A sweep!



These awards are typically presented at the Annual Education Achievement Celebration, but due to continuing restrictions on gathering, the Temerty Faculty of Medicine has created a website to celebrate the winners.

[Click here](#) to check out the full site, or **click on the winners' names below** to read more about their award, their work, and to sign the virtual guestbook!

We are so proud of our department's winners for their commitment to excellence in teaching!

Award	Winner
Excellence in Linking Undergraduate Teaching to Research in Life Sciences	<u>Professor Denise Belsham</u>
Excellence in Undergraduate Laboratory Teaching in Life Sciences	<u>Professor Nohjin Kee</u>
Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in Life Sciences	<u>Professor Douglas Tweed</u>
Sustained Excellence and Innovation in Life Sciences Education	<u>Professor Carin Wittnich</u>

PSL UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM AWARDS



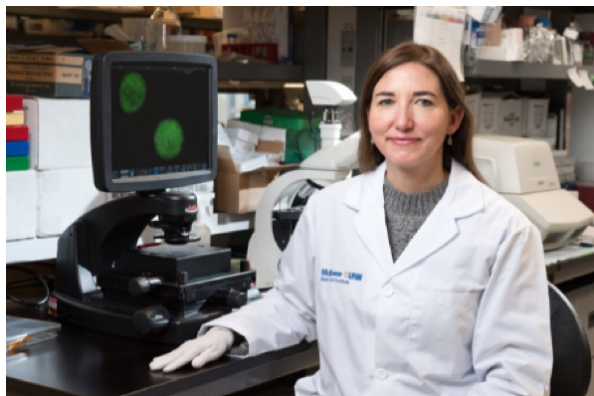
Congratulations to **Rebecca Bic Kay Wong** on being awarded the **Colin Bayliss Award** for Excellence in the Physiology Specialist Program.



Congratulations to **Makenna Timm** on being awarded the **Christopher Perumalla Award** for Excellence in the Physiology Major Undergraduate Program.

JDRF and CIHR Announce Winners of New Grants to Accelerate Stem-Cell Based Therapies for Type 1 Diabetes

To mark November's National Diabetes Awareness Month, JDRF just announced a new investment of \$6 million to support two Canadian research teams as part of the **JDRF-CIHR Partnership to Defeat Diabetes** to help accelerate development of stem cell-based therapies for type 1 diabetes (T1D). These new studies make possible the reality of eliminating the need for insulin injections for those living with T1D. There are more than 300,000 Canadians living with T1D, an autoimmune disease with no known cause or cure, resulting in the dysfunction, damage or loss of pancreatic beta cells that produce insulin in our bodies. People with T1D must treat themselves with insulin several times per day to keep their blood glucose levels normal and despite their best efforts; they often experience serious and even life-threatening complications.



Congratulations to **Dr. Cristina Nostro**, Senior Scientist at University Health Network and Associate Professor, Department of Physiology, at the University of Toronto on being awarded one of these two team grants!

[Read the full JDRF Announcement here](#)

INSULIN 100 CELEBRATIONS



Registration is now open for the international symposium, *Insulin100*, and is 100% free, as is the electronic virtual Poster submission option: <http://insulin100.com/registration/>. Registration will enable you to be alerted to the lectures that will become available each week starting January 2021.

Daniel Drucker, Chair *Insulin100 Symposium*

UPCOMING EVENTS – Mark your calendars!

January to April 2021	<p><u>Insulin100 Scientific Symposium</u></p> <p>The flagship, complimentary event will consist of pre-recorded lectures by leading diabetes researchers from around the world. Speakers will include our very own Professor Amira Klip. Trainee and Early Career Investigator Awards will be announced.</p>
May 29, 2021 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. (EDT)	<p><u>Walk in the Footsteps of Banting</u></p> <p>A one-day celebration held by the Sir Fredrick Banting Legacy Foundation in association with the Banting Research Foundation and the Dr. Charles H. Best Foundation, to be held at Banting Homestead Heritage Park in Alliston, Ontario.</p>
June 2, 2021	<p><u>Banting, Bliss, and Beyond: A Historical Symposium</u></p> <p>A free, one-day conference sponsored by the Toronto Medical Historical Club. Includes a session chaired by Professor Patricia Brubaker.</p>

PHYSIOLOGY HOLIDAY RAFFLE

This year, more than ever, everyone needs some holiday cheer - not to mention charitable support. We are all so fortunate in our department to still be working during the pandemic and have financial, as well as personal security through the holidays. Many people do not and will need extra help during this stressful time. Thus we are running our holiday raffle online this year. As always, all donations go directly to the CHUM Christmas Wish.

***** **TOP PRIZE** *****

APPLE iPad 8th generation - donated by the Dept. of Physiology

Other prizes include: A number of Gift Cards and Gift Baskets - donations encouraged and accepted in MSB 3344/46 or email
Denise Belsham (d.belsham@utoronto.ca)

CHECK OUT ALL THE AMAZING PRIZES HERE!



All proceeds will go to: CP24/CHUM Christmas Wish. The CP24/CHUM Christmas Wish is one of the largest distributors of toys to those in need in the GTA, as well as providing financial assistance to hundreds of agencies. For further info about the CP24/CHUM Christmas Wish please check the web site at: www.thewish.ca

TICKETS: will be available online Thursday November 26 until Monday December 14, 2020. Easy to donate via credit card or PayPal! Please indicate your home lab in the comments section so that we will know where to send your prize!

LINK: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/pages/gaspphysiology-holiday-raffle/>

We will prepare **one ticket for \$5, three tickets for \$10, and eight tickets for each \$20** donation - so please be as generous as you can. We appreciate the support!

The tickets will be pulled and prizes will be announced during our online holiday celebrations with the department on Dec 14 from 12:30-2 pm. See you there! (Don't have to be present to win - we deliver by mail this year....)



GASP News

GASP's New Logo Design Contest:

Want to show off the artistic talents you've been cultivating over the pandemic? Open up your Photoshop (or MS Paint) and prep your submission for GASP's new logo design contest! All designs must adhere to the following formatting guidelines to be considered:

1. Transparent background
2. 800 x 800 px
3. No obscenity

Submissions can be made at <https://forms.gle/8RkiFpfgapNYsJjV7> until December 24th, 2020. All valid submissions will be made available for PSL student voting for one week after the submission box closes.

Virtual Escape Room Night:

From the folks that brought you GASP's Among Us Night, stay tuned for a Virtual Escape Room Night to unleash your inner Sherlock Holmes or Nancy Drew! Join our Discord Server to work together to uncover clues, solve puzzles, and beat the clock. Keep an eye out for more details regarding the date and time.

Install Discord: <https://discord.com/download>

Join the UofT Physiology server: <https://discord.gg/NFSvQGJ>

Stay safe everyone!

**[Please continue to visit the central COVID-19 hub
for the U of T community](#)**

