

PhysioLINK

November 2, 2020

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Message from the Chair
- Honors & Award
- Fall Convocation
- Physiology Seminar Series - NOVEMBER
- Physiology's Davidson Lecture – MARK YOUR CALENDARS (Nov 25)
- Mladen Vranic -Honored by Diabetes Research Community
- New Faculty Member – Dr. Tripathy
- GASP News

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I hope this message finds everyone well. Thank you all for your patience and valuable contributions throughout the past few months. The fall academic term got off to an excellent start thanks to the amazing efforts of all course instructors and students who have adapted brilliantly to virtual instruction. We have a large cohort of new graduate students in Physiology this year, and I will be meeting with them and their supervisors virtually on Monday November 9th to ensure things are running smoothly, hear about their experiences, thoughts and any concerns.

We need to continue our collective efforts to keep everyone safe. A reminder that a **COVID-19 self-assessment** is now required for all members of the University including faculty, students, staff, **each day that they visit the department.** [Details here.](#)

Scott P. Heximer, PhD

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

HONORS & AWARDS

Congratulations to following faculty members on their recent successes in the **Spring CIHR Project Grant competition**:

Belsham, Denise D. - University of Toronto

The Impact of Nutrient Excess and Neuroinflammation on Hypothalamic Reproductive Neurons.
\$971,550 - 5 yr term

Caniggia, Isabella - Sinai Health System

Placental contributions to maternal and fetal health outcomes: Lipid signatures in diabetes mellitus in pregnancy
\$997,180 - 5 yr term

Jones, Nicola - Hospital for Sick Children

The role of TRPML1 in Helicobacter pylori infection and disease
\$956,250 -5 yr term

[Full list of project grants recipients](#)

Congratulations to the following faculty members named fellows of the **Canadian Academy of Health Sciences**. <https://www.utoronto.ca/celebrates/nine-u-t-researchers-named-fellows-canadian-academy-health-sciences>

- **Heyu Ni**, professor in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine and senior scientist and platform director, Canadian Blood Services Centre for Innovation at St. Michael's Hospital
- **Norman Rosenblum**, professor in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine and senior scientist, The Hospital for Sick Children
- **Lu-Yang Wang**, professor in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine and senior scientist, The Hospital For Sick Children Research Institute

Congratulations to **Sridevi Venkatesan**, a Physiology Ph.D. student in Dr. Evelyn Lambe's lab, on being featured on the Canadian Association for Neuroscience website for her recent work published in Journal of Neuroscience.

<https://can-acn.org/can-trainee-research-feature-sridevi-venkatesan-university-of-toronto/>
<https://www.jneurosci.org/content/40/38/7255>

Congratulations to **Alex Martchenko** (former PhD & current Post-Doc, Brubaker lab) who was the 2019-20 recipient of the Carin Wittnich Award of Excellence for Teaching Assistants.

Fall Convocation 2020

Congratulations to all of the students below on the successful completion of their degree programs. Well done everyone – we are very proud of you!

| Student | Supervisor(s) | Degree |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--------|
| Abrego Del Castillo, Kayla | Lye S / Dennis C | MSc |
| Al-Ozzi, Tameem | Hutchison W | MSc |
| Aujla, Tanroop | Seed M | MSc |
| Badakhshi, Yasaman | Jin T | MSc |
| Belfiore, Alyssa | Li R-K | MSc |
| Breton, Vanessa Lelless | Carlen P | PhD |
| Campbell, Charlie | Liu F | MSc |
| Desessards Olijnyk, Leonardo | Tymianski M | MSc |
| Langburt, Dylan | Heximer S | MSc |
| Manzo, Marc | Orser B | MSc |
| McQuaid, Rosanne | Juriscova A | PhD |
| Martchenko, Alexandre | Brubaker P | PhD |
| Park, Brian | Cox B | MSc |
| Ren, Jiaqi (Olga) | Seed M | MSc |
| Sankar, Krishana | Rocheleau J | PhD |
| Tran, Andy | Belsham D | MSc |
| Wauchop, Marianne | Backx P | PhD |
| Wong, Raymond | Sun HS | PhD |
| Wu, Anne | Wheeler, M | MSc |
| Yeung, Bi-ru Amy | Frankland P | MSc |
| Zhang, Xin Wei (Cindy) | Levitan R / Matthews S | MSc |
| Zhou, Susan | Jia Z | MSc |

PHYSIOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES – November

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

When: November 5, 2020 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Host: Dr. Anthony Gramolini, Professor, Cardiovascular and Respiratory Platform, Department of Physiology, U of T

Speaker: Robert Gourdie, Ph.D.

Commercialization Fund Eminent Scholar in Heart Reparative Medicine Research, Director, Center for Heart and Reparative Medicine Research, and Professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics, Fraline Biomedical Research Institute at Virginia Tech.

Title: "Connexin 43: novel roles in cardiac conduction and injury response"

Info: <https://fbri.vtc.vt.edu/people-directory/primary-faculty/gourdie.html>

Zoom Webinar Link: <https://zoom.us/j/98470360790>

When: November 19, 2020 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Host: Dr. Brian Cox, Associate Professor, Reproduction and Development Platform, Department of Physiology, U of T

Speaker: Prof. Myriam Hemberger, Ph.D.

Program Director, Precision Medicine & Disease Mechanisms Program
Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute
University of Calgary

Title: "The significance of the placenta for development and lifelong health"

Info: <https://research4kids.ucalgary.ca/profiles/myriam-hemberger>

Zoom Webinar Link: TBA

A reminder to regularly visit Physiology's Website to view

all upcoming Seminars and Events – with Zoom links!

Please join us!

PHYSIOLOGY'S DAVIDSON LECTURE – November 25th

Endowed by the late John K. and Mary E. Davidson

Dr. A.M. James Shapiro

Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada

Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Transplant Surgery and Regenerative Medicine

Professor of Surgery, Medicine and Surgical Oncology

AHS Director Clinical Islet and Living Donor Liver Transplant Programs

Clinical Senior Scholar Alberta Innovates - Healthcare Solutions (AIHS)

University of Alberta



Title: *"One Hundred Years On - The Journey from Insulin to Cellular Therapeutics in Diabetes"*

Date: Wednesday November 25, 2020

Time: 1:30 pm

Virtual Link: TBA

MLADEN VRANIC, Former Chair of Physiology Honoured by Diabetes Research Community



Dr. Mladen Vranic, Physiology's late former Chair and groundbreaking diabetes researcher, was recently honoured in The American Diabetes Association's *Diabetes Care* magazine with a comprehensive profile that highlights his life and work.

His first ever graduate student, Alan Cherrington, writes in the piece:

"Mladen was a terrific mentor, not only teaching me the meaning of first-rate science but also showing me how to balance research and family life. He was indeed a wonderful spouse and parent, something I try to emulate and instill in my own trainees....His was truly a life well lived."

[Click here to read the full article](#)

NEW FACULTY MEMBER

A warm welcome to our newest status-only faculty member Dr. Shreejoy Tripathy!

[Professor Shreejoy Tripathy](#), joined Physiology on September 1st, 2020. He is participating in the activities of the Neuroscience Research Platform.



In addition to his appointment with Physiology, Shreejoy is an Independent Scientist at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) and Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto. Before arriving in Toronto, he did his Post-Doc with Paul Pavlidis at the University of British Columbia, where he worked on integrating neuron electrophysiology with cell type-specific gene expression. He got his PhD in Neural Computation from Carnegie Mellon University in 2013, working with Nathan Urban. His PhD thesis was on computational and neuroinformatics methods for studying the electrophysiological diversity of neurons throughout the brain.

Professor Tripathy, whose primary appointment is with Psychiatry, explains that his lab's long-term goal is:

"...to better understand the cellular changes that underlie psychiatric and neurological disorders and to ultimately develop approaches that can help guide tailored treatments for mental health patients."

GASP News

Tell us what social events you would like to see for 2020-2021!

We hope you got a chance to come hang out with other students in Physiology at our first (virtual) social night where we played Among Us! If you didn't, don't worry, because we've got more exciting events coming up! But first, please fill out this **survey** where you can tell us more about the events you're interested in attending: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VV6YZG5>

Stay safe everyone!

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

