

NEUROSCIENCE NEWSLETTER

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PROGRAM NEWS

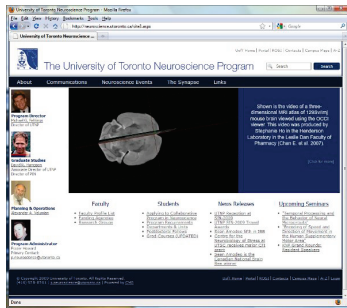
NEW UTNP WEBSITE

We're excited to announce that the UT Neuroscience Program has moved to a new website:

www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca
The new site gives a fresh look, easier navigation and added functionality.

New sections have been added for **used equipment** and **technical advice**. Please explore these two new features, which can be seen under the "Synapse" button on the UTNP website. (Don't be confused by the name of the button: this is about making "synapses" between the members of the community). We hope that these new features will help you in your research, and will work with you to further improve the website. Please send your suggestions to Frazer Howard, Program Administrator of UTNP, at: p.neuroscience@utoronto.ca.

If you would like to highlight your research within the UTNP community, we would gladly include your images and videos on the homepage with links to your lab.



UTNP RECEPTION AT SFN-2009

We are pleased to announce the University of Toronto Neuroscience Program will again be hosting a reception at the Annual Society for Neuroscience Meeting. All attendees (faculty, students, postdoctoral fellows, technicians, alumni) from UofT and its affiliated organizations are invited.

The reception will be held Sunday October 18, 2009 from 6:30pm – 8:30pm in the Grand Suite 3 of the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

Refreshments and food will be served. We look forward to seeing you there!

For an interactive map of the location please go to: <http://neuroscience.utoronto.ca/events/receptions/sfn09.htm>

Director, UTNP: Michael G. Fehlings MD, PhD
Assoc. Dir. UTNP; Director, CGPIN: David R. Hampson, PhD
Planning & Operations: Alexander A. Velumian, PhD
Program Coordinator: Frazer Howard

UTNP Administrative Office: Toronto Western Hospital, Rm. TBD
Collaborative Graduate Program in Neuroscience Office:
Rm 904, Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy,
144 College St. Toronto ON M5S 3M2

Email: p.neuroscience@utoronto.ca
Telephone: 416-978 8761 Fax: 416-978-8511
Website: www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca

UTNP SFN-2009 TRAVEL AWARDS

The UTNP will be able to support 10 non-faculty attendees presenting at the SFN-2009 in Chicago on October 17-22, 2009 with an amount of \$500 CDN each.

The competition is open to Master's/PhD students enrolled in the Collaborative Graduate Program in Neuroscience and Post-Doctoral Fellows.

To apply, download and complete the form (<http://neuroscience.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?vid=802>) and email to p.neuroscience@utoronto.ca with subject line UTNP SfN-2009 travel award along with required documentation.

Deadline for submission: **Sept 18, 2009**

Winners will be notified by Oct 2, 2009, and the official presentation of the awards will be at the UTNP Reception in Chicago on Oct 18.

UPCOMING UTNP DISTINGUISHED LECTURES

Please check www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca for updates.

Alan Pack, MB, ChB, PhD, Center for Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
Title: TBA
Date: Friday Oct 2, 2009

Holger Wille, PhD, University of California, San Francisco

Title: TBA

Date: Thursday Nov 12, 2009

Alcino Silva, PhD, UCLA

Title: TBA

Date: Tues December 15, 2009

NEW PIN STUDENTS

We would like to welcome the following students to the Collaborative Graduate Program in Neuroscience:

Student Name	Deg.	Supervisor	Department
Laura Tan	PhD	David Lovejoy Susan Rotzinger	Cell & Systems Bio

GRADUATING STUDENTS:

We would like to congratulate the following PIN graduates:

Student Name	Deg	Supervisor	Department
Jennifer Evans	PhD	Margot Taylor	IMS

Thesis title: "Methods and Motion in Paediatric fMRI"

NOTICE TO GRADUATING STUDENTS

Please notify the CGPIN office upon your graduation to ensure that you will receive the notation "completed Collaborative Program in Neuroscience" on your degree transcript as well as a separate certificate suitable for framing from the CGPIN office to indicate that you have completed the program's requirements. Please let the office know the address you wish your certificate sent to and please also send us your thesis title. If you have transferred from a Master's degree to a PhD, please notify the CGPIN office.

INTERNATIONAL BRAIN BEE

The International Brain was held in Toronto from Aug 7-9, 2009 in conjunction with the American Psychological Association Conference at the Metro Toronto Convention Center. Winners of national Brain Bees (named after the well known spelling bee contests) met to compete in series of events on such topics as memory, sleep, brain disease, aging, and perception, as well as their skills at patient diagnosis and neuroanatomy. These were held at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel and at the University of Toronto Anatomy Laboratories. After a fierce competition Julia Chartove, 17, from Rockville, Maryland, was named champion with Canadian hopeful, 18-year-old Sean Amodeo, coming fifth. For further details, please go to: www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/events/Brain_Bee.htm.

OTHER U of T NEUROSCIENCE NEWS

KREMBIL NEUROSCIENCE CENTRE GRAND ROUNDS

Held every Thursday 7:30-8:30am

Main Auditorium, 2 West Wing, Room 401

Toronto Western Hospital

DEPT OF PHYSIOLOGY SPECIAL SEMINAR

Wednesday, August 19, 12pm

Speaker: **Dean Buonomano**, Ph.D., Depts. of Neurobiology and Psychology, UCLA

"Temporal Processing and the Behavior of Neural Microcircuits"

Location: MSB 2172

Dean studies the effects of timing on plasticity from computational models to slice physiology to behaving animals

<http://www.neurobio.ucla.edu/~dbuono/>

8TH ANNUAL CHARLES TATOR-BARBARA TURNBULL LECTURESHIP SERIES IN SPINAL CORD INJURY

Advance notice that the 8th Annual Charles Tator-Barbara Turnbull Lectureship Series in Spinal Cord Injury will take place on Friday, October 2, 2009. This year, we are excited to have James Fawcett from Cambridge University Centre for Brain Repair provide the Keynote Speech. As in past years, the poster session and lectures will take place in the afternoon with a dinner in honour of all the speakers that same evening. Location and details TBA.

TORONTO MS JOURNAL CLUB

The Toronto MS Journal club will be taking a break from our monthly journal club activities until the fall.

THE FRONTAL LOBES

Baycrest - Berkeley present The Frontal Lobes, 20th Annual Rotman Research Institute Conference

March 22-26, 2010

Poster submission deadline: **November 16, 2009**

Early-bird registration deadline: **December 15, 2009**

For further information go to <http://www.rotman-baycrest.on.ca/index.php?section=5>

OTHER NEUROSCIENCE NEWS

EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF MAGNETIC RESONANCE IN NEUROPEDIATRICS (ESMRN)

September 3-5, 2009 in Zurich, Switzerland.

Further information: <http://kongress2.imk.ch/esmrn2009/Home>

JOINT MEETING OF THE CANADIAN LEAGUE AGAINST EPILEPSY AND THE CANADIAN EPILEPSY ALLIANCE

October 3-4, 2009

Registration for our 2009 Biennial Canadian Epilepsy Meeting (a joint meeting of the Canadian League Against Epilepsy and the Canadian Epilepsy Alliance) is now open.

Please go to our website to register: www.clae.org

Please be careful to register for the scientific program, the gala dinner and the welcoming cocktail if you want to attend all three

events.

The updated program can be found at the website.

SOCIETY FOR NEUROSCIENCE MEETING 2009

Mark your calendar for Neuroscience 2009, **October 17-21**. View the exciting learning opportunities, professional development, and special events that made Neuroscience 2008 a great success! Don't miss all that Neuroscience 2009 in Chicago, IL has to offer. Further information can be found on the Neuroscience 2009 website: <http://www.sfn.org/am2009/>

THE PROVINCIAL ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY CONFERENCE - HARNESSING THE POWER AFTER BRAIN INJURY

October 28 – 30, 2009

Sheraton on the Falls Hotel , Niagara Falls , ON

Keynote Speakers:

Dr. Abe Sniderman

Dr. Byran Kolb

Feature Speakers:

Val Loughheed

Greg Goldberg

More information: www.obia.on.ca

THE NEURO'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Registration for The Neuro's 75th Anniversary celebrations is now available online at:

<http://apps.mni.mcgill.ca/MNI75/en/registration.php>

This includes registration for the Pathways of Discovery in Neuroscience Scientific Symposium (**Nov 2 – 3, 2009**) as well as other events and activities – check it out and hope to see you in November!

6TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON VASCULAR DEMENTIA

The 6th International Congress on Vascular Dementia will be held in Barcelona, Spain from November 19-22, 2009. The Sixth International Congress will once again aim to be a showcase for the discussion of new developments in the area of dementia with special attention to cerebrovascular diseases affecting cognition. The congress will be an opportunity to deliberate on large and small vessel brain diseases and how they contribute to cognitive decline. We shall try to identify specific biological and psychological markers, if any, of vascular dementia, and also the genetic factors involved. The overlap with Alzheimer's disease will be a central issue, as will be the white matter changes frequently seen in dementia.

Further information:

<http://www2.kenes.com/Vascular/Pages/Home.aspx?ref6=db1>

WFN 2009 - PARKINSON'S DISEASE CONGRESS

WFN XVIII World Congress on Parkinson's Disease and Related Disorders will be held in Miami Beach, Florida, **December 13-16, 2009**.

Keynote lectures will be delivered by distinguished international faculty, while a large number of selected free communications will report new data from clinical centers and basic research laboratories around the globe.

Further information can be found on the Congress website:

<http://www.kenes.com/parkinson>

THE 10TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ALZHEIMER'S & PARKINSON'S DISEASES

Barcelona, Spain, March 9-13, 2011

2346 professionals from Western and Eastern Europe, the Far East, Middle East, North and South America, and Australia attended AD/PD 2009 in Prague — the fastest growing Conference on Alzheimer's (AD) and Parkinson's diseases (PD) a premier, landmark biennial conference.

www.ad-pd.org

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

AMERICAN EPILEPSY SOCIETY (AES) : RESEARCH INITIATIVE AWARDS.

The AES has established a novel grant opportunity for its membership that will provide seed support to encourage innovative, collaborative basic or clinical research associated with the epilepsy field. The objective of these awards is to encourage established investigators to think "outside the box" and involve other established investigators who may not now be working in the field of epilepsy. The AES has also announced their [Research Infrastructure Awards](#) to provide an opportunity for scientists to obtain support for nationwide or international networks of clinical or basic science researchers focused on understanding the causes, consequences and treatment of epilepsy.

Deadline for Letters of Intent: August 24, 2009.

ALZHEIMER'S DRUG DISCOVERY FOUNDATION (ADDF) :

Frontotemporal Dementia Drug Discovery Program. The ADDF and the Association for Frontotemporal Dementias (AFTD) seek to accelerate and support drug discovery for frontotemporal dementia (FTD) and related dementias through this Request for Proposals (RFP). **Deadline for Applications: October 1, 2009.**

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

The Human Biology Program is offering a number of TA positions for Graduate students interested in including teaching as a part of their academic education. TA positions are available in a number of our undergraduate courses. The positions vary and range from 35 hours to 65 hours and the rate of payment is in accordance with the new CUPE 3902 Unit 1 collective agreement. Please see the links below for job position postings information and application form. Please post the job positions on any Graduate bulletin board and/or as an email to your graduate students. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me by phone at 416-946-7609 or by e-mail at human.biology@utoronto.ca.

<http://hmb.utoronto.ca/index.php?q=node/168>

<http://hmb.utoronto.ca/>

Best Regards,
Ron Wilson, PhD
Associate Director

Human Biology Programs
21 Classic Ave, WE105
New College, University of Toronto
M5S 2Z3
416.946.5535
<http://hmb.utoronto.ca>

INTERNATIONAL

PHD STIPEND AVAILABLE

A biophysical analysis of drug modulation of ionotropic glutamate receptors

Hypothesis: Activation of membrane ion channels occurs with protein conformational changes that can be detected and quantified using FRET.

Fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) is a biophysical technique which can be used for investigations of protein-protein interactions and protein conformational changes. Activation of the ionotropic glutamate receptors (iGluR) involves coupling of agonist binding to opening of the channel (gating) by mechanisms as yet unknown. X-ray crystallographic data of the agonist binding domain (ABD) of iGluRs reveals domain closure by a Venus-flytrap mechanism. For iGluR2, the degree of domain closure correlates with functional measurements of ligand efficacy. This conformational change of the ABD is hypothesised to be transduced to transmembrane domain 3 (TMD3) of the ion channel to permit gating. As yet, no crystallographic structure is available for the intact iGluR channel so this hypothesis has not been proven correct. FRET is an alternative technique that can be

employed to test this hypothesis. This project will attempt to use FRET to measure the changes in receptor channel conformation occurring upon ligand binding. By creating XFP (fluorescent protein) fusion proteins within the intracellular regions of iGluRs, activation of receptor channels in live cells can be correlated to changes in FRET signal and therefore to changes in conformation of the channel pore. In the most powerful application of this, electrophysiology and FRET can be performed on the same cell. Ideally, the FRET signal should correlate with agonist efficacy, providing a functional link to the static ABD crystallographic data.

Previous experience with biophysical measurements of proteins and/or electrophysiology will be an asset.

Start: Oct-Nov. 2009

Duration: 3 years

Location:

Dept. of Pharmacology & Pharmacotherapy

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences

University of Copenhagen

Copenhagen, Denmark

Salary: approx. CND \$40,000 per year

Application Deadline: Aug. 25th 2009

See our website job advert:

<http://www.farma.ku.dk/index.php?id=6811>

For more info contact:

Dr. Darryl Pickering, Assoc. Prof.

picker@farma.ku.dk



SUBMISSION & CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: p.neuroscience@utoronto.ca

Fax: 416-978-8511 Attn: Frazer Howard

Submissions to the newsletter must be made by the 25th of the preceding month.

Previous issues of the newsletter are posted on our website at: <http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/newsletter>

If you no longer would like to receive this newsletter, please contact p.neuroscience@utoronto.ca with subject line "unsubscribe from UTNP Newsletter"

UTNP DISTINGUISHED LECTURESHIP SERIES SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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J. Peever / CELL & SYSTEMS BIOLOGY

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