

NEUROSCIENCE NEWSLETTER

PROGRAM NEWS

NEW PIN STUDENTS:

We would like to welcome the following students to the Neuroscience Program:

Student's Name	Degree	Supervisor	Department
Christine Buske	PhD	Robert Gerlai	Cell & Sys. Bio.
Kevin Sam	MSc	Michelle Aarts	Cell & Sys. Bio.

GRADUATING STUDENT:

We would like to congratulate the following PIN graduate:

Student's Name	Degree	Supervisor	Department
Erin Rose	M.Sc.	David R. Hampson	Pharmacology

Thesis Title: "Modulation of Glutamate Transporter Activity by Na,K-ATPase"

UPCOMING PIN DISTINGUISHED LECTURES

Please check <http://www.utoronto.ca/neurosci> for updates.

Wednesday, January 7, 2009 4pm

MAIKEN NEDERGAARD, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY
"Astrocytes Alive!"
Leslie Dan Pharmacy Building, 144 College St., Rm B150

Friday, January 23, 2009 2pm

SETH GRANT, Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK
"Synapse evolution and the emergence of plasticity and behaviour"
Leslie Dan Pharmacy Building, 144 College St., Rm B250

Wednesday, March 25, 2009 Time: TBA

ERIC NESTLER, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY
Title: TBA
Location: TBA

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Program Committee Members

D.R. Hampson / PHARM. SCI. (Dir)	J. Peever / CELL AND SYSTEMS BIOLOGY
J.O. Dostrovsky / PHYSIOLOGY (Advisor)	J. Roder / MOL. GENETICS
W.M. Burnham / PHARMACOLOGY	B.J. Sessle / DENTISTRY
P. Carlen / INST. MED. SCIENCE	M. Shoichet / INST. BIOMAT. & BIOMED. ENG.
L.F. De Nil / SPEECH LANG. PATHOL.	B. Stefanovic / MEDICAL BIOPHYSICS
Z. Jia / PHYSIOLOGY	W. Trimble / BIOCHEMISTRY
M. Lewis / HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY	J.W. Wells / PHARMACY
S. Nag / LAB. MED. PATHOBIOL.	J.S. Yeomans / PSYCHOLOGY
	K. Zabjek / REHAB. SCI.

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e-mail: p.neuroscience@utoronto.ca.

<http://www.utoronto.ca/neurosci>

Office Hours: Mondays to Thursdays – 11:00am-4:00pm

The Eighth Sackler Distinguished Visiting Neuroscientist
Thursday, April 2, 2009 Time: TBA

ERWIN NEHER, Max Planck Institute, Göttingen Germany, 1991
Nobel Prize Winner In Physiology and Medicine
Title: TBA
Location: TBA

Thursday, April 16, 2009 Time: TBA

CHRIS McBAIN, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD
Title: TBA
Location: TBA

Thursday, May 7, 2009 Time: TBA

MAY-BRITT MOSER, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway
Title: TBA
Location: TBA

FACULTY NEWS

HONOURS & AWARDS

CANADIAN MEDICAL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

We are delighted to announce that PIN faculty member **Charles Tator** has been named as a 2009 inductee into The Canadian Medical Hall of Fame. This prestigious award recognizes distinction to Canada through outstanding contributions to medical science and the improved health and well being of people everywhere.

Dr. Tator, Senior Scientist at the Toronto Western Research Institute, is a world- renowned neurosurgeon with over 25 years of leadership in the areas of spinal cord injury research, clinical treatment and prevention. He is the founder of Thinkfirst Canada, a national brain and spinal cord injury foundation. He is chair of the Division of Neurosurgery, University of Toronto, and also led development of the neuroscience program at Toronto Western Hospital, now home to the Krembil Neuroscience Centre, Canada's leading facility for disorders of the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerves and eyes. He has received many awards, including grants from the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation and the Canadian Institutes for Health Research. Dr. Tator was inducted into the Terry Fox Hall of Fame in 2003 for his outstanding contributions to spinal cord injury prevention. Dr. Tator is also a Member of the Order of Canada.

NEW APPOINTMENT

NEW IMS ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR: PIN FACULTY MEMBER DR. KAREN DAVIS

I am very pleased to announce that **Dr. Karen Davis** will assume the position of Associate Director of the Institute of Medical Science, effective January 1, 2009. In addition to being a world-class scientist, Karen has vast graduate experience, as a supervisor of many IMS students, as IMS Graduate Coordinator since 2002, and through service on many university education committees, including SGS Council and the Faculty of Medicine Graduate Education committee. She was instrumental in the creation of many new IMS initiatives, including the IMS Graduate Oath, which has received international acclaim for its proactive approach to setting new standards for research ethics among graduate students. The IMS will profit from Karen's proven dedication to graduate training and her extensive hands-on experience. As Associate Director, Karen will play a major role on the Appointments Committee of the IMS, and will also contribute to faculty development programs in the Faculty of Medicine. Her wise counsel will keep us at the forefront of graduate education at our University. Please join me in extending hearty congratulations to Karen for her new position.

Ori D. Rotstein

Director, Institute of Medical Science

NEW FACULTY

We are pleased to announce that **Dr. Laura-Ann Petitto** from the Department of Psychology has joined the UTMN/PIN faculty.

Dr. Petitto's research interests:

Dr. Petitto has a passionate interest in the developing brain and language and conducts research within the new discipline of Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience, as well as Cognitive Neuroscience. She and her Lab conduct exciting studies that join together a trilogy of disciplines and their methods, including state-of-the-art behavioral techniques from Psychology and Psycholinguistics, the world's leading advances in Neuroimaging (fNIRS and fMRI), and new Genetic analyses to lay bare the biological and environmental factors that make possible language acquisition in our species, as well as the neural basis for language processing in the human brain, from babies to adults. Her studies include the Bilingual Brain (how the human brain becomes multilingual; the cognitive and linguistic benefits of bilingualism), and how skilled reading develops in the brains of bilingual children and adults. Her developmental and adult studies involve many of the world's languages, including American Sign Language, French, Spanish, Hindi, and others, as well as studies of typical and atypical language and reading development.

Dr. Petitto can be reached at: 1265 Military Trail, SY122, Toronto, Ontario, M1C 1A4. Tel: 416-208-2689; Fax: 416-287-7642; e-mail: petitto@utsc.utoronto.ca.

NOTICE TO GRADUATING STUDENTS

Please notify the PIN 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 PIN 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 Ph.D., please notify the PIN office.

OTHER U of T NEUROSCIENCE NEWS

Neurosciences & Mental Health (NMH) Research Program at The Hospital for Sick Children presents: Traumatic Brain Injury: From Bench to Bedside

Friday, December 5th, 2008
Hollywood Theatre (SickKids Auditorium)
Rm 1246 – Elm Wing, 555 University Ave

8:30 am – 8:55 am - Registration & Coffee in the Rotunda

8:55 am – 9:00 am - Welcome by Michael Salter, MD, PhD, & Jamie Hutchison, MD

9:00 am – 9:50 am - "Translational Controversies in Traumatic Brain Injury"

Robert Clark, MD Program Director -Pediatric Critical Care Medicine, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh & Associate Director, Molecular Biology, Safar Center for Resuscitation Research, University of Pittsburgh

9:50 am – 10:20 am - “Children with Mild Traumatic Brain Injury: Who Is At Risk For Poor Neurocognitive Outcome?”
Maureen Dennis, PhD, Neurosciences & Mental Health

10:20 am – 10:40 am - Coffee Break in the Rotunda

10:40 am – 11:10 am - Andrew Baker, MD, Medical Director, Trauma & Neurosurgery Intensive Care Unit, St. Michael’s Hospital, Toronto

11:10 am – 11:40 am - “Roles of Hypothermia Therapy and Inhibitor of Apoptosis Proteins in Traumatic Brain Injury”
Jamie Hutchison, MD, Neurosciences & Mental Health
Director, Acute Care Research, Critical Care Medicine, SickKids

11:40 am – 12:30 pm - “Pathophysiology and Treatment of Traumatic Brain Injury”
Dalton Dietrich, PhD Scientific Director, The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis; Professor of Neurological Surgery, Neurology and Cell Biology & Anatomy, University of Miami

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm - Lunch in the Garden Terrace, Atrium, The Hospital for Sick Children

Please contact Sharon Quilop to RSVP by December 2nd, 2008
Phone: (416) 813-5756 Email: nmh.events@sickkids.ca

OTHER NEUROSCIENCE NEWS

Remi Quirion to finish his term as INMHA Scientific Director by March 31, 2009

After much reflection, I decided that after almost 8 years as Scientific Director of CIHR-Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction, it was time for me to move on. Being the inaugural SD has been an exceptional experience. It was great fun to work with you all, and more specifically members of the Institute Advisory Board and the INMHA team. I learned a lot from you all from trainees to established scientists, from VHOs and NGOs to politicians. Support from the Canadian public and media has also been extremely rewarding for me and the team. Now the time has come to take up the next challenge.

I most sincerely wish that many of you will consider applying for the position of SD of INMHA. I am confident that the appointed leader will be able to bring INMHA to unsurpassed level of excellence, in partnership with colleagues at CIHR and all its stakeholders.

Remi Quirion
November 4, 2008

Top Canadian Achievements in Health Research: Call for Applications

(2008-10-31) CIHR welcomes applications from individuals or teams working in Canada in the health field, including: health researchers; health professionals; administrators and those involved in public health or public policy. Applications will also be accepted from

Canadians working abroad. This new competition will recognize Canadian health research achievements that have had a significant impact on health, health care, and health research by improving our understanding of health and human diseases, tackling health challenges, and improving our health system. CIHR has partnered with the Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ) to showcase significant Canadian achievements. The Top Health Research Achievements as selected by an independent review committee will be considered for publication in the CMAJ. Applications must be submitted to CIHR by December 31, 2008.

For more information, please visit the competition web site:
English - <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/37885.html>

You may also contact CIHR at 613-952-8965 or by e-mail at geoffrey.hynes@cihr-irsc.gc.ca.

29th EUROPEAN WINTER CONFERENCE ON BRAIN RESEARCH

Les Menuires, France
March 7 to March 14, 2009

For more information, see <http://ewcbr.risc.cnrs.fr/>

The following sessions will be presented:

- J. Badaut & A. Obenaus: Update in traumatic injury
- C. Benkelfat & Yukiori Goto: Stress Effects on Dopamine System and Relation to Psychiatric Disorders (PART 1 and PART 2)
- V. Campbell: Cannabinoid control of neural fate and functions in aging and neurodegenerative diseases
- F. Chapotot and E. Van Cauter: Slow-wave Activity: for the brain, for the body (PART 1 & PART 2)
- F. Crestani: Recent advances on the significance of GABAA receptors for health and disease
- R. Cunha and J.M. Godfraind: Purines in Brain Research - The Janus faces of purines
- B. Frenguelli: The Long and Short of LTP and LTD 1
- B. Hoebel: New vistas in understanding and treating alcohol abuse
- A. Irving & M. Waldhoer: G-protein coupled receptors in the clinic: there’s much more to come!
- G. Innocenti: Evolutionary trends in hemispheric connectivity and lateralization
- P. Kitabgi: Chimiokines and central nervous system
- M. Knyazeva: Cortical connectivity in aging and disease
- R. Kuner: New players in nociceptors
- S. McMahon: Pain Mechanisms
- I. Nagy: The Endovanilloid/endocannabinoid system in the brain
- R. Pumain & C. Wasterlain: Epilepsy: a multidisciplinary approach
- F. Noble & R. Maldonado: Pain & Addiction: new perspectives
- M. Waldhoer & A. Irving: Membrane protein trafficking – from molecules to physiology

POSITION AVAILABLE

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO AND AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS

RESEARCH TECHNICIAN OR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Neurobiology/molecular pharmacology research laboratory University of Toronto

Molecular biologist or biochemist research technician (M.Sc. degree), or Research Associate (Ph.D. degree) wanted for a position in a neurobiology/molecular pharmacology research laboratory at the University of Toronto. This position requires someone with expertise in molecular biology and biochemical (protein) techniques with at least 1 year experience (post degree). Expertise in DNA cloning and manipulation including PCR is required. Experience with cell culture, protein purification, radioligand binding techniques, and/or working with mutant mice is also desirable. Previous experience in organizing and running a research laboratory is a plus. Salary range = \$45-60K depending on qualifications. Please send CV to: sam.dalton@utoronto.ca.

NEUROSCIENCE CALENDAR
DECEMBER 2008

Monday, December 1, 2008 3:30pm

TERRY PICTON, Scientist, Rotman Research Institute, Professor of Medicine and Psychology, and Program in Neuroscience, University of Toronto, Anne and Max Tanenbaum Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience at Baycrest Centre, Rotman Research Centre, Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care

"The Necessary Narrative"

Wortsman Hall, Main Floor, Baycrest Centre, 3560 Bathurst Street

Wednesday, December 3, 2008 12:15pm

DAVID NUSSBAUM, U of T – Scarborough

"A psychobiological model for motivational decision making"

Sidney Smith Building, St. George Campus, 100 St. George St., Room 570 (ground floor)

The Toronto MS Journal club meets every 2nd Wednesday at 5pm in the Sick Kids Hospital, Atrium Rm 6711. Please contact allison.bethune@sickkids.ca for details.

Please send notices of neuroscience related seminars to: p.neuroscience@utoronto.ca, by fax to **416-978-1878**, attention Dr. Hampson, or by mail to **Program in Neuroscience, Tanz Neuroscience Building, M5S 3H2**. This calendar and upcoming seminars can be viewed on our home page at <http://www.utoronto.ca/neurosci>