

NEUROSCIENCE NEWSLETTER

Volume 25

Number 7

March 2009

PROGRAM NEWS

NEWS FROM THE PIN OFFICE:

We've been fortunate to recruit Frazer Howard as Administrative Coordinator for UTNP. As part of his role, he will be taking over the program administration of PIN. He is looking forward to meeting and working with all members of the program.

We are currently transitioning from our space in the Tanz Neuroscience Building to a new office in the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy. Updated contact information will be announced.

NEW PIN STUDENTS:

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

Student's Name	Degree	Supervisor	Department
Sidrah Arshad	MSc	Deirdre Dawson	Rehab. Sci.
Justin Chee	MSc	Karl Zabjek	Rehab. Sci.

GRADUATING STUDENT:

We would like to congratulate the following PIN graduate:

Student's Name	Degree	Supervisor	Department
James Doherty	MSc	Cindi Morshead	IMS
<u>Thesis Title:</u> "The Isolation and Identification of the Definitive Adult Neural Stem Cell Following Ablation of the Neurogenic GFAP Expressing Subependymal Cell"			

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	J.W. Wells / PHARMACY
AND APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY	J.S. Yeomans / PSYCHOLOGY
S. Nag / LAB. MED. PATHOBIOL.	K. Zabjek / REHAB. SCI.

UTNP/PIN Office: Room 102, Tanz Neuroscience Building, M5S 3H2.

Telephone: 416-978-4894 Fax: 416-978-1878

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

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

SPECIAL LECTURE

Special lecture jointly hosted by UTNP and the Krembil Neuroscience Centre:

Monday, March 2, 2009 5pm

BRANKO KOPJAR, University of Washington

"Application of Adaptive Statistical Design in Randomized Controlled Trials of Spine Surgery: Theoretical Background and Example from Practice"

Toronto Western Hospital, 399 Bathurst Street, Auditorium (West Wing, 2nd Floor, Rm 2W-401)

PIN POSTER DAY

PIN Poster Day 2009 will be **April 16, 2009** in the Stone Lobby, Medical Sciences Building. Announcements regarding the abstract submission deadline and agenda will be forthcoming.

UPCOMING PIN DISTINGUISHED LECTURES

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

Wednesday, March 25, 2009 12pm

ERIC NESTLER, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY
"Transcriptional and Epigenetic Mechanisms of Addiction"
Medical Sciences Building, Rm 3154

The Eighth Sackler Distinguished Visiting Neuroscientist

Thursday, April 2, 2009 2pm

ERWIN NEHER, Max Planck Institute, Göttingen Germany,
1991 Nobel Prize Winner In Physiology and Medicine
"Ca⁺⁺ signals and short-term synaptic plasticity in the central nervous system"
Medical Sciences Building, Rm 3153
Host: Lu-Yang Wang

PIN POSTER DAY - Medical Sciences Building, Stone Lobby

Thursday, April 16, 2009 Time: TBA

CHRIS McBAIN, National Institutes of Health
Eunice Kennedy Shriver
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
Program in Developmental Neuroscience
Bethesda, Maryland USA
Title: "mGluR7, a bidirectional switch controlling plasticity in a hippocampal feedforward inhibitory circuit"
Location: MSB 3154

Thursday, May 7, 2009 Time: TBA

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

Wednesday, June 24, 2009 Time: TBA

BITA MOGHADDAM, University of Pittsburgh
Title: TBA
Location: TBA

2009 U of T BRAIN BEE

The 11th Annual U of T Brain Olympiad (also known as the Brain Bee Competition) will be held this year on Friday March 27 from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Medical Sciences Building, Room 3227. For further information please contact Jonathan Dostrovsky at j.dostrovsky@utoronto.ca or 416 978 5289.

FACULTY NEWS

NEW FACULTY

We are pleased to announce that **Dr. Andrea Kassner** from the Institute of Medical Science has joined the UTNP/PIN faculty.

Dr. Kassner's research interests:

i) Ischemic Stroke

Stroke is the third leading cause of death in North America and the primary cause of serious, long-term disability. The only available treatment option is t-PA (a clot-buster), but it increases the risk of intracranial bleeding if given beyond a certain time window (0-6 hours). Dr. Kassner is currently investigating if this limited treatment window can be widened using permeability MRI. She is using this technique to investigate defects in the blood-brain-barrier (an injury which occurs during stroke) and whether these defects can predict bleeding. Preliminary results have shown that early blood-brain-barrier defects in acute stroke can be assessed using permeability MRI. Significantly increased permeability was found only in cases which later on proceeded to bleeding. This indicates the potential of this method for identifying patients at higher risk for t-PA treatment even beyond the 6 hour time window. These findings may also be helpful in studying stroke in children.

ii) Chronic Stroke

Moyamoya disease is a rare progressive cerebrovascular disorder caused by blocked arteries at the base of the brain. This will lead to increased development of small collateral vessels around the blocked arteries. These new vessels are chaotic and tortuous, and their angiography appearance, 'like a puff of smoke hanging in the air' gave rise to the term Moyamoya, which is derived from Japanese. Children are affected by this disorder when they are 3-4 years old, which results in transient strokes and intellectual deterioration. Dr. Kassner is currently investigating this disorder using combined inhaled CO₂ manipulation with functional MRI. This will allow her to determine the location and extend of the abnormal vasculature. This information can then be used to guide surgical decision-making.

Dr. Kassner can be reached at: University of Toronto, Department of Medical Imaging, FitzGerald Building, 150 College Street, Room 125, Toronto, Ontario M5S 3E2. Tel: (416) 978-4623; Fax: (416) 978-6915; E-mail: andrea.kassner@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

Rotman Rounds

Monday, March 2, 2009 at 3:30 p.m

R. Shayna Rosenbaum, Ph.D., C.Psych., Department of Psychology, York University and Rotman Research Institute, Baycrest

Presentation Title: "Patient and neuroimaging studies of mental state representations"

Classroom 842, 8th floor in the Brain Health Complex. Rotman Research Institute, Baycrest

SAMUEL LUNENFELD RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL

Wednesday, March 4, 2009 12pm

RAMA RANGANATHAN, Green Center Division for Systems Biology, Department of Pharmacology, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX

"The Evolutionary Design of Proteins"

Host: Dr. Tony Pawson (416) 586 - 8262

Mount Sinai Hospital 60 Murray St. Level 3 Conference Rooms, L3-201-202-203, located on the 3rd floor of 60 Murray St. just before the double doors leading into the Cooper Center

2009 F.E.L Priestley Memorial Lectures in the History of Ideas

"Emotions in Turmoil: Genealogy and Critique"

Ruth Leys

Henry Wiesenfeld Professor of Humanities

Director, Humanities Center

Johns Hopkins University

March 10, 11 & 12, 2009

4:30 p.m., Room 140, University College

15 King's College Circle, University of Toronto

Reception in Room 240 following lecture on March 10

Tuesday, March 10

What If Anything Do Faces Reveal?

Wednesday, March 11

Empathy

Thursday, March 12

The Turn to Affect

The recent surge of interest in the emotions in the humanities and social sciences has been accompanied by a tendency to rely on scientific approaches that have a long history but that raise numerous questions about their validity. Indeed, I think it is fair to say that the emotion field has reached a moment of potential crisis. In this series of lectures I will analyze the ways in which a certain paradigm of the affects has come hold to sway in the psychological and neurosciences, the theoretical assumptions on which that paradigm depends, and the methodologies that support it. Topics to be addressed include the use of posed facial expressions in research on the emotions; interpretations of emotional empathy; and the logic behind cultural theorists' fascination with neuroscientific theories of affect.

Members of the faculty, staff, students and the public are cordially invited.

No registration necessary.

Call (416) 978-3160 for more information.

OTHER NEUROSCIENCE NEWS

3rd Annual Canadian Neuroscience Meeting

May 24-27, 2009

Vancouver, British Columbia

Westin Bayshore Hotel

Meeting Program is available at www.can-acn2009.org/program.htm

ABSTRACT DEADLINE IS MARCH 3, 2009

The Canadian Association for Neuroscience (CAN) invites submission of abstracts for Poster presentation.

All abstract submissions must be made through the online system available on the meeting website at <http://www.can-acn2009.org>. No late submissions will be accepted.

Trainees who are members of CAN may apply for support to attend the Meeting by completing the forms at www.can-acn.net and sending the completed forms to Dr. Peter Smith at peter.a.smith@ualberta.ca. Deadline May 1, 2009

Register early by March 27 2009 for the reduced registration fees at: <http://www.can-acn2009.org>

Hotel registration must be completed by April 11, 2009 to obtain the discounted hotel rate.

<http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=0812223627&key=18130>

First endMS Summer School

The endMS Research and Training Network and Université de Montréal wish to announce the FIRST endMS Summer School in May 2009. Please see the attached poster. This is a wonderful opportunity for graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and clinicians who and are interested in neuroimmunology and neuropathology in MS. It is not necessary that you are currently working in this field, because we encourage people with any research background to register.

Neuroimmunology & Neuropathology of
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS from theory to practice
REGISTRATION DEADLINE April 15th 2009
Summer School May 6-8 2009

Montréal, QC, Canada

Nathalie Arbour, Alexandre Prat & Samuel K Ludwin

Université de Montréal and Queen's University

FOCUS ON

- Neuropathology and Neuroimmunology of multiple sclerosis lesions

- Techniques used to characterize CNS lesions and immune cells

VENUE: Université de Montréal campus

ACCOMODATION: University Residence on campus

PARTICIPANTS: Graduate students/ post-doctoral fellows/ clinicians with any scientific background

Only 30 places available

- Registration fee \$100 CAD

- Travel grant (up to \$1,000 CAD) available from endMS Research & Training Network

Please note that there are travel grants available for people travelling within Canada.

For further information and registration, please do not hesitate to contact me:

Esther Slits

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Brain'09 & BrainPET'09 June 29th – July 3rd, 2009

Chicago, Illinois USA

EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 19

Brain'09 & BrainPET'09, set for Chicago, June 29 -July 3, 2009, is a crucial meeting for brain professionals and leading experts devoted to expanding their knowledge and advancing education, research, and treatments in fields such as cerebrovascular regulation, brain imaging, ischemia/stroke, neurotrauma, and brain protection.

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Website: <http://www.kenes.com/brain/>

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

INTERNATIONAL

GILL CENTER FOR BIOMOLECULAR SCIENCE AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY, BLOOMINGTON, IN

TWO ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS IN CELLULAR/MOLECULAR NEUROSCIENCE

Indiana University – Bloomington and The Linda and Jack Gill Center for Biomolecular Science seek two outstanding senior-level molecular or cellular neuroscientists to join the Gill Center (www.indiana.edu/~gillctr/) as two of five endowed chairs. One position is for the director of the Gill Center. These positions offer attractive salary and start-up packages, a generous annual endowment, and access to significant core facilities. The Gill Center will be moving to a newly completed laboratory building in the fall of 2009. We specifically seek individuals with records of outstanding research contributions, proven ability to secure

sustained extramural funding, expertise in state-of-the art molecular and cellular neuroscience techniques, and demonstrated leadership in their chosen field. A PhD and/or MD in a relevant discipline is required. The Gill Center was established by a generous gift from Linda and Jack Gill with a mission to address important neuroscience questions using cutting edge technology. Questions about the position can be directed to the interim director of the Gill Center, Ken Mackie (kmackie@indiana.edu). Applicants should electronically submit dossiers, including a curriculum vita, a statement of research accomplishments and future plans, representative publications, and the names of six references to Misty Theodore (gillctr@indiana.edu). Postal address: Ken Mackie, c/o Misty Theodore, Gill Center, Indiana University, 1101 East 10th Street, Bloomington, IN, 47405-7007. Applications will be reviewed until the positions are filled. Indiana University is an Affirmative Action Employer. Applications from women and minority candidates are especially encouraged.



SUBMISSION & CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: p.neuroscience@utoronto.ca

Fax: 416-978-1878

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: www.utoronto.ca/neurosci/newsletter_main.html