



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO NEUROSCIENCE PROGRAM NEUROSCIENCE NEWSLETTER

University of Toronto Neuroscience Program Newsletter
December 2011 | Volume 28 | Number 4

UPCOMING DISTINGUISHED LECTURESHIP SERIES 2011-2012

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2011



Speaker | Roy A. Wise, Ph.D., F.R.S.C., Senior Investigator, Chief, Behavioral Neuroscience, NIDAIRP, Baltimore, MD.

Title | The key to the treasure is the treasure (The predictor of reward becomes the reward: How the peripheral effects of cocaine explain the speed of cocaine)

Time | 10:00 – 11:00AM

Location | Room 6, TANZ Neuroscience Building, University of Toronto

Host | Dr. Derek von der Kooy

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 2011



Speaker | Dr. Michael E. Goldberg, David Mahoney Professor of Brain and Behavior, Director of The Mahoney Center at Columbia University (New York)

Topic | Helmholtz and Sherrington were both right - corollary discharge and oculomotor proprioception in the analysis of space by the monkey brain

Time | 4:00 - 5:00PM

Host | Dr. Martin J. Steinbach

Location | HS 610, Health Sciences Bldg University of Toronto

THURSDAY, MARCH 1ST, 2012



Speaker | Dr. Bradley Peterson, Director of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, Columbia University Medical Centre

Research | Serious childhood-onset neuropsychiatric disorders

Time | 4 – 5pm

Hosts | Prof. Paul Sandor, Dept of Psychiatry, UofT | Elia Abi Jaoude, MSc., MD., PhD Candidate (CPIN)

THURSDAY, MARCH 29TH, 2012



Speaker | Donald W. Pfaff, PhD, Prof, Lab. of Neurobiology and Behavior, The Rockefeller University, New York; Member, Nat'l Academy of Sciences; and, Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences

Time | 4:00PM - 5:00PM

Host | Denise Belsham, Canada Research Chair in Neuroendocrinology

Event Co-Sponsor | Sleep & Biological Rhythms Toronto

Location | MS Building 2172, University of Toronto

TUESDAY, APRIL 24TH, 2012



Speaker | Dr. Keith Cicerone, Dir. Neuropsychology, JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute & New Jersey Neuroscience Institute, JFK Medical Center, New Jersey

Topic | Process and outcome of holistic neuropsychological rehabilitation

Host | Dr. Deirdre Dawson

Location | MS 3154, Medical Sciences Bldg University of Toronto (TBC)

MONDAY, MAY 7TH, 2012



Speaker | Dr. Eric Jorgensen, University of Utah

Time | TBA

Research interests | Synaptic plasticity and memory

Host | Mei Zhen, Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2012



Speaker | Christopher Summerfield, PhD, University of Oxford, Lecturer, Dep't of Experimental Psychology, Psychology Tutor at Wadham College Medical Centre

Date | Thursday, May 17, 2012

Time | 4:00PM - 5:00PM (TBC)

Topic | Neural and computational mechanisms of decision-making in human observers

Hosts | Prof. Eve deRosa, UofT | Taylor Schmitz, MA, PhD Candidate CPIN

CPIN Students must attend 75% of the Lectureship Series each year according to their program (Masters or PhD) requirement.



Michael G. Fehlings
Director, UTNP



David R. Hampson
Director, CPIN



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Planning & Operations



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IMPORTANT NEWS



UTNP Sfn RECEPTION

A Great Success & Many Thanks

The UTNP reception at the Society for Neuroscience meeting was a success and we have several to thank: Howard Mount, for being acting-Host on behalf of the UTNP Administration; Bill Hutchison, for saying



thoughtful words about Jonathan Dostrovsky, past-CPIN Director, as he retires from UofT; Sarah Figley and Kajana Satkunendrarajah, Post-Doctoral Fellows in Dr. Fehling's Lab for volunteering with administration at the reception; and Alexander Velumian for his thinking and planning in advance of the event and

keeping everything organized the whole night through! We'd also like to thank the Renaissance Hotel, particularly Nathan Baca, for working with us to plan and execute the event; the UTNP administrative staff Michael Fehlings, UTNP Director, David Hampson, CPIN Director, Alexander Velumian, Operations Director and Tallie Rabin-Claassen, Interim Program Coordinator. Thanks to everyone who came as a guest, without you there really is no event!

And, finally ,congratulations to all the UTNP Travel Award-winning CPIN Graduate Students: Geoffrey Dason, Elizabeth Glenn Guy, Kaja Jasinska, Wojciech Kostelecki, Aaron Kucyi, Alonso Martinez-Canabal, Rachel Newsome, Jessica Pressey, Yi Quan, and Melanie Sekeres.



This year we inaugurated a new award, The Jonathan Dostrovsky UTNP Travel Award. Congratulations to the first recipient of that award, Alonso Martinez-Canabal.



And....the food and drink were wonderful, too!

PAST UTNP DISTINGUISHED LECTURES

Dr. Nick Franks, Head of Cell and Molecular Biology, Imperial College London (England)

It was a pleasure to host Dr. Nick Franks as UTNP Distinguished Lecturer Oct 25-27th. During his visit Dr. Franks met many faculty and trainees spanning basic and clinical departments, for example from the Departments of Physiology, Medicine, Anesthesia, and the Program in Neurosciences & Mental Health at the Hospital for Sick Children. In particular he had time set aside to meet the trainees, both formally and informally, to hear about and comment upon their research projects.

Dr. Franks' visit was co-sponsored by the University of Toronto Neuroscience Program and the CIHR Team Research and Training Program in Sleep and Biological Rhythms (www.utoronto.ca/sleepandrhythms/). His talk focused on his fundamental findings of the molecular and neural mechanisms underpinning general anesthesia. For this work he was elected to the Royal Society in 2011. He has also recently linked these mechanisms of anesthesia to the brain circuits engaged in natural sleep. His talk was very well attended and received. Overall, Nick's visit was a great success, stimulating much discussion in this important area of research and highlighting new collaborative opportunities for faculty and trainees.

Written by CPIN Member & Speaker Host Dr. Richard Horner

CPIN NEWS: The Program is growing!

Effective January 2012, we would like to welcome the **Computer Science Program** into the Collaborative Program in Neuroscience.

Students in the Computer Science program for MSc or PhD are invited to apply to the Neuroscience Program by submitting their [application](#) to p.neuroscience@utoronto.ca

In other research news:

PLoS ONE: the mechanism of the evolutionary descent of prion genes from ZIP metal transporters

Recent research article by Patience Institute initiative (patienceinstitute.org) at the Tanz Centre for Research in Neurodegenerative Diseases, Department of Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology, University of Toronto

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0026800>



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CONGRATULATIONS: CPIN GRADUATES

Congratulations to the recent graduates of the Collaborative Program in Neuroscience. We wish you the very best in your future endeavours and we encourage you to stay connected to the CPIN and UTNP community at UofT.

Karina Goncharenko, MSc, Physiology (Supervisor: Michael Fehlings)
Sara Salehi, MSc, Rehab (Supervisor: Angela Colantonio)
Mirjam-Laleh Sinai-Esfahani, PhD, IMS (Supervisor: John Roder)
Rasanjala Weerasekera, PhD, LMP (Supervisor: Gerold Schmitt-Ulms)

WELCOME NEW CPIN STUDENTS

Alexander Barnett, MA Psych (Supervisor: Mary Pat McAndrews)
Fernando Caravaggio, MSc, IMS (Supervisor: Ariel Graff-Guerrero)
Nabilah Chowdhury, PhD IMS (Supervisor: James Kennedy)
Hamideh Emrani, PhD, IMS (Supervisor: Michael Fehlings)
Laura Finkelberg, MSc, IMS (Supervisor: Carol Westall)
Ananthavalli Kumarappah MSc IMS (Supervisor: Carol Westall)
Louise de Lannoy, MSc, CSB (Supervisor: David Lovejoy)
Mohadeseh Mehrabian, PhD, LMP (Supervisor: Gerold Schmitt-Ulms)
Hans Melo, PhD, Psych, (Supervisor: Adam Anderson)
Jessica Pressey, PhD, CSB, (Supervisor: Melanie Woodin)
Sofia Raitsin, MSc, IMS (Supervisor: Jeffrey Meyer)
Randal Rovinski, MSc, Pharmacology (Supervisor: Krista Lanctôt)
Stephanie Tanninen, MA, Psych (Supervisor: Kaori Takehara-Nishiuchi)
Anup Tuladhar, MSc, IBBME (Supervisor: Molly Shoichet)
Angelica Pui-Yee Wong, MA Psych (Supervisor: Tomáš Paus)

IN MEMORIAM

The UTNP offers condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Ab Guha who passed away on Tuesday, November 8, 2011. Dr. Guha was a long-time member of the TWH surgical community where his contributions as a surgeon-scientist in neurosurgery have had a tremendous impact.

“Ab Guha was a valued colleague, an accomplished scientist, a skilled physician and surgeon and a remarkable humanitarian,” said Dr. Michael Fehlings, Director, UTNP & Medical Director, Krembil Neuroscience Centre. “He will be greatly missed by his colleagues throughout the world and by the many patients whom he was able to help.”

Dr. Guha was born in India, and maintained ties to the country and the Canadian Indian community throughout his life. In 2005, he was named the Humanitarian of the Year by the Indo-Canadian Chamber of Commerce for his work in establishing a private not-for-profit Neuroscience Clinical and Teaching Center in Kolkata.

Among his additional accolades and accomplishments was the Royal College Gold Medal in Surgery in 1998; he was named a Top 40 Alumni by the University of Toronto, and received the Lister Prize in Surgery in 2009 from UofT. Dr. Guha was also the Alan & Susan Hudson Chair in Neurooncology, UHN, Univ. of Toronto, and a Full Professor in Neurosurgery at UofT.



Fellow Neurosurgeon Dr. Mark Bernstein plans to introduce the inaugural Ab Guha Lecture in May 2012, at the yearly Bethune Round Table – a meeting to raise funds for about 50 surgeons from resource-poor countries to travel to Canada to present their papers and have a 3-day conversation to try to improve the lot of surgical patients in poor countries. The Ab Guha Lecture will be supported by Dr. Bernstein's international education funds in perpetuity.

NEUROSCIENCE-RELATED SEMINARS & EVENTS

Date | Thursday, December 1, 2011

Time | 8:00 to 9:00AM

Topic | **The developmental biology of brain tumors and cerebral arteriovenous malformations & Less invasive vascular neurosurgery: concepts, advances and limits**

Location | Main Auditorium, 2 West Wing, Room 401 at Toronto Western Hospital

Speakers: | **Ivan Radovanovic**, MD, PhD, FMH, Division of Neurosurgery, Department of Clinical Neurosciences, Geneva University Hospitals, Geneva, Switzerland

Host | Dr. Michael Fehlings, Medical Director, Krembil Neuroscience Centre

Date | Friday December 2nd, 2011

Time | 3:00PM

Location | Room 110, Ramsay Wright (25 Harbord St.)

Speaker | Michael Dickinson, U. Washington

Topic | Straighten Up and Fly Right: Visual Navigation in Drosophila

Hosts | Joel Levine and Helen Rodd

Date | Friday, December 2nd 2011

Time | 4:00 pm sharp

Topic | **Sensitivity to context: Interactions between early-life environment and genotype**

Location | Sidney Smith Hall, Room 560A, Ground Floor, 100 St. George Street

Speakers: | **James G. Burns**, PhD, Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, Department of Biology, UT Mississauga

Host | Brain and Behaviour Talk Series, Department of Psychology, UofT

Reception to follow | in Psychology Lounge in Room 4043, 4th Floor, Sidney Smith Hall --All are welcome!

Date | **Friday, December 2nd 2011**

Time | 8:30am to 12:30pm (followed by lunch 12:30pm – 1:30pm)

Topic | **Sleep: From A to Zzzz**

Location | Daniels Hollywood Theatre, The Hospital for Sick Children, 555 University Avenue

Speakers: | **Dr Bruce McNaughton**, (University of Lethbridge), **Dr Jerry Siegel** (UCLA), **Dr Paul Frankland** (SickKids Research Institute), **Dr Richard Horner** (University of Toronto) and **Dr Beverley Orser** (University of Toronto)



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Host | Neurosciences & Mental Health mini-symposia series
To register (free) and for more information please contact Sarah Haslegrave at nmh.events@sickkids.ca or call 416-813-8945

What's Wrong with G-protein Signaling Pathways in Autism and Fragile X Syndrome?

Speaker | David R. Hampson, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Toronto

Date | Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Time | 4:00 P.M.

Location | Room 4279 - Medical Sciences Building

Host | Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Toronto

Mild Traumatic Brain Injury Conference: Challenges and Controversies in Diagnosis

Date | February 10, 2012

Location | Hyatt Regency Toronto, 370 King Street West, Toronto

Description | Participate in interactive discussions, workshops, and plenary sessions in this one-day evidence-based forum that will familiarize you with a wide range of controversies and challenges associated with the diagnosis of mild traumatic brain injury, including emotional, cognitive and behavioural problems after mTBI and neuroimaging. Workshops will focus on conditions such as vestibular dizziness, sleep disorders, neuropsychological testing and adjudication of a mild traumatic brain injury claim. Finally, an interactive round table will complete the program, in which Mild Traumatic Brain Injury will be put on trial.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Phone: 416-597-3422 ext. 3693

Email: conferences@torontorehab.on.ca

Web: www.torontorehab.com/events/mTBIsymposium

The Annual Cognitive Neuroscience Conference Co-hosted by Rotman Research Institute and Kunin Lunenfeld Applied & Evaluative Unit

Date | March 26-28, 2012

Location | The Four Seasons Hotel Toronto, Canada

Description | Scientific presentations will review state of the art understanding of the brain regions and neural networks critical for memory and the sustenance of independent function from mid-life to old age. Clinically-oriented presentations will update the audience on evaluation and treatment of mild cognitive impairment.

Keynote speakers include Dr. Marilyn Albert, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Dr. David Knopman, Mayo Clinic, Minnesota.

*Special conference rates are available for accommodations at the Four Seasons Hotel in Toronto.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

<http://baycrestresearchconference.createsend4.com/t/ViewEmail/r/3F90D084CF021B26/475620A3CAC125B21A01488700E2614F>

MS Rehabilitation Symposium

Date | April 16, 2012

Location | Hyatt Regency Toronto, 370 King Street West, Toronto

Description | Toronto Rehab is proud to launch its 2012 Multiple Sclerosis Rehabilitation Symposium. It will showcase an approach to health promotion which will facilitate well-being, highest possible level of function and optimal quality of life for persons with MS.

This is a MUST ATTEND event for service providers and healthcare professionals, including physicians, PTs, OTs, SLPs, nurses, program managers, social workers and other service workers from hospital and community-based settings. All are invited to network, collaborate and share your experiences!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Phone: 416-597-3422 ext. 3693

Email: conferences@torontorehab.on.ca

Web: <http://www.torontorehab.com/Events>

2012 National Health Law Conference: Global Health Challenges & the Role of Law

Date | May 4 & 5, 2012

Location | Toronto, Canada

Registration will be available in December 2011. Download the [Save the Date poster](#) (PDF)

Description | This biennial conference will feature a keynote panel debate: "Can Law Meet Global Health Challenges? Perspectives from Medicine and Politics" with **Abdallah S. Daar**, Senior Scientist, the McLaughlin-Rotman Centre for Global Health, University of Toronto; **Theodore Marmor**, Health Care Expert, Yale University; **Michael Ignatieff**, Senior Resident, Massey College, University of Toronto; and **James Orbinski**, Humanitarian Advocate and Past President of Doctors Without Borders. It will also feature the Cadario Keynote Public Lecture: "The Global Politics of Health Care" by **James Morone** from Brown University, USA.

Panelists will present research papers and lead discussions on:

- *The role of law in addressing the global challenges of chronic diseases and obesity*
- *Global health issues in vulnerable populations, including: gender inequalities, mental health, and aboriginal health issues*
- *Human rights and reproductive/maternal health, and the role human rights litigation can play in improving global welfare*
- *Global issues in new reproductive health technologies and medical tourism*
- *The impact of free trade on access to pharmaceuticals in a global context*

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: www.healthlawtraining.ca or contact info@healthlawtraining.ca /416.978.3724

5th National Spinal Cord Injury Conference - Translating Neural Engineering and Novel Therapies

Date | October 18-20, 2012

Location | Toronto, 145 Richmond Street West, Toronto (Oct 18th preconference at Toronto Rehab's Lyndhurst Centre)

Description | The 5th National SCI Conference organizing committee is putting together an exciting program featuring keynote addresses,



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podium and poster presentations, workshops and breakout sessions. Additional highlights include a hands-on pre-course, consumer participation and a delegate reception. Please join us once again at the pre-eminent gathering of clinicians, research scientists and consumers in Canada and North America who are focused on understanding and achieving recovery among the spinal cord injury population.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS DEADLINE: March 4th, 2012 (by midnight)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Phone: 416-597-3422 ext. 3693

Email: conferences@torontorehab.on.ca

Web: www.sciconference.ca

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

CANADA



Postdoctoral training position available for research in the cellular and molecular biology of sensory receptor cells. Candidates should have prior experience in functional imaging at the cellular level (e.g., Fura2 imaging) or electrophysiological recording, and publications/presentations vouching for this experience. The project will involve sophisticated new imaging methodologies that combine confocal Ca

imaging with electrophysiology to study fundamental mechanisms in chemoreception. **Please contact Dr. Stephen Roper, Professor of Physiology & Biophysics, sroper@med.miami.edu** for further details.

Research Scientist in Stroke Rehabilitation

The Heart and Stroke Foundation Centre for Stroke Recovery (CSR) is made up of some of Canada's foremost healthcare centres:

Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Baycrest (including the Rotman Research Institute and the Kunin-Lunenfeld Applied Research Unit), the University of Ottawa (uOttawa) and the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute (OHRI). The CSR was formed to allow experts in stroke, working in different locations, to share knowledge and collaborate on research initiatives. Leading the CSR is Scientific Director and CEO Dr. Dale Corbett. The CSR's goal is to become the world's preeminent research centre focused exclusively on exponential advances in stroke recovery.

At the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre site of the Heart and Stroke Foundation Centre for Stroke Recovery (CSR), led by Site Director Dr. Sandra Black and Associate Site Director Dr. William McIlroy, we are currently seeking a Research Scientist position in Stroke Rehabilitation, with specific interest in neuroimaging analysis - techniques for structural or functional MRI and in developing and evaluating neurorehabilitation interventions. The successful candidate will engage in a research program focused on basic and/or applied research to advance the development and evaluation of imaging, cognitive and/or physical rehabilitation techniques applied to overt stroke and covert cerebrovascular disease. The successful applicant will provide a linkage

between applied and basic research by developing collaborations with Clinical Scientists and Neuroscientists at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, and with CSR scientists at Baycrest and the University of Ottawa/Ottawa Health Research Institute.

More information about the Heart and Stroke Foundation Centre for Stroke Recovery can be found at www.heartandstroke-centrestrokerecovery.ca

INTERNATIONAL POSITIONS

CENTER FOR MANAGEMENT OF COMPLEX CHRONIC CARE (CMC3) and the **Spinal Cord Injury Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (SCI QUERI)** have an opening for an Implementation Scientist. This full time position is based at the centers within the Hines VA Hospital, located in the western suburbs of Chicago.

The position involves working with investigators and clinicians locally and across the country to develop and study implementation strategies to facilitate the uptake and use of evidence-based findings and innovations into health care practice. The Implementation Scientist will have a significant role in the development and execution of projects, as well as serving as the implementation expert for other projects.

There is also an opportunity to secure an academic appointment in the newly created Program in Health Services Research at our affiliated medical center, Loyola University, Stritch School of Medicine or at one of our other affiliated universities (i.e., Northwestern University; University of Illinois, Chicago).

This position is being advertised through the USA jobs web site: www.usajobs.gov with the position number: 534833. If you have questions, please email: frances.weaver@va.gov.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

FOX FOUNDATION FOR PARKINSON'S RESEARCH, MICHAEL J. –

Call for Submissions:

Biomarker Development

LRRK2 Challenge

Dyskinesia Challenge - Identification and Testing of Novel Targets

Deadline for Submissions: Continuous

http://www.michaeljfox.org/research_openFundingPrograms_program.cfm?ID=7

CIHR FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES – various

<http://www.researchnet->

[recherchenet.ca/rnr16/search.do?fodAgency=CIHR&fodLanguage=E&all=1&search=tru](http://www.researchnet.ca/rnr16/search.do?fodAgency=CIHR&fodLanguage=E&all=1&search=tru)



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