

Collaborative Program in Neuroscience (CPIN)

University of Toronto

Newsletter – Vol. 31, No. 8 – April 2015

Featured In This Issue

2015 CPIN Research Day & Neuroscience Symposium: Registration and Abstract Submission Open! The 2015 Collaborative Program In Neuroscience (CPIN) Research Day will be held on **June 19, 2015 at the Medical Sciences Building at the University of Toronto**. This year's Keynote Speaker will be **Dr. Jeffrey C. Magee** (Janelia Research Campus, Howard Hughes Medical Institute). Registration and abstract submission is now open! For further details, please see our website:

http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/events/CPIN_Research_Day.htm

News – CPIN Faculty Members Congratulations to CPIN Faculty members **Dr. Julie Lefebvre** (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Molecular Genetics) & **Dr. Molly Shoichet** (Professor, Depts. of Chemical Engineering & Applied Chemistry, Chemistry and Biomaterials & Biomedical Engineering) on **their recent awards**. Please see page 2 for more details.

News – CPIN Students Congratulations to CPIN student member **Nathan Kolla (Institute of Medical Science)** on recently completing the CPIN requirements and graduating from the program. Please see page 3 for more details.

2015 Toronto Brain Bee was held at the Medical Sciences Building on March 27, 2015. 48 students from 14 high schools in the Greater Toronto Area participated in the competition. The top three winners were: **Shannon Egan** (University of Toronto Schools, first place), **Laura Newcombe** (North Toronto Collegiate Institute, second place) and **Ruby Zhang** (University of Toronto Schools, third place). The Top Ranking Novice Participant Award went to **Justin Lu** (Upper Canada College). For information on the other award recipients and additional details, please see our website. <http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/events/brainbee.htm>

2014-15 CPIN Distinguished Lectureship Series

<http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/events/lectureship.htm>



Speaker | **Dr. Cyndi Shannon Weickert**, Professor, School of Psychiatry, University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia; Macquarie Group Foundation Chair of Schizophrenia Research, NeuRA, SRI and UNSW, Australia; Professorial Fellow, The Black Dog Institute, Hospital Road, Prince of Wales, NSW, Australia

Title | *Biological brain changes in babies, children and teenagers underpin plasticity and maturation*

Date | **Tuesday, May 12, 2015**

Time | 12:00 pm

Location | 1105 Blue Room, Sandford Fleming Building, 10 King's College Road, University of Toronto

Host | Dr. Evelyn Lambe, Associate Professor, Departments of Physiology, Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Psychiatry; Canada Research Chair in Developmental Cortical Physiology

Note: CPIN Trainees should fill the online lecture report form following the lecture



Speaker | **Dr. György Buzsáki**, Biggs Professor of Neural Sciences, NYU School of Medicine

Title | *Emergence of cognition from action*

Date | **Wednesday, May 13, 2015**

Time | 2:00 pm

Location | 89 Chestnut St. (2nd Floor), Toronto, ON

Host | Dr. Peter Carlen, Professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Neurology, Department of Physiology, Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering, Institute of Medical Science, Senior Scientist, Toronto Western Research Institute (TWRI), Scientific Division Head: Research, Toronto Western Research Institute (TWRI)

Sponsor | Toronto Western Research Institute

Note: CPIN Trainees should fill the online lecture report form following the lecture

<http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/communications/newsletter.htm>

CPIN Newsletter

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CPIN Participating Units

Applied Psychology & Human
Development
Biochemistry
Biomaterials & Biomedical
Engineering
Cell & Systems Biology
Computer Science
Dentistry
Laboratory Medicine &
Pathobiology
Medical Biophysics
Medical Science
Music
Pharmaceutical Sciences
Pharmacology & Toxicology
Physiology
Psychology
Rehabilitation Science

Contributors:

St. Michael's Neuroscience
Research Program

Toronto Western Research
Institute

Collaborative Program in Neuroscience (CPIN) University of Toronto

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2014-15 CPIN Distinguished Lectureship Series (contd.)

<http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/events/lectureship.htm>



Speaker | **Dr. Grace E. Stutzmann**, Associate Professor, Department of Neuroscience, Chicago Medical School; Center for Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine; Neurodegeneration and Repair Consortium; TBI-PTSD Working Group; Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science
Title | *Targeting calcium channels as a therapeutic strategy for Alzheimer's Disease: Preventing pathology from molecular to network levels*
Date | **Thursday, May 21, 2015**
Time | 2:00 pm
Location | 610 Auditorium, Health Sciences Building (155 College St.), University of Toronto
Host | Dr. Evelyn Lambe, Associate Professor, Departments of Physiology, Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Psychiatry; Canada Research Chair in Developmental Cortical Physiology

Co-sponsor | Department of Physiology, University of Toronto

Note: CPIN Trainees should fill the online lecture report form following the lecture

News - CPIN Faculty Members

http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/communications/news_cpin_faculty_members.htm



Congratulations to CPIN Faculty member **Dr. Julie Lefebvre** (Assistant Professor, Department of Molecular Genetics) on recently winning the Sloan Research Fellowship in Neuroscience from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

Link to UofT News Story: <http://news.utoronto.ca/recognizing-u-t-s-rising-stars>

Dr. Julie Lefebvre is a Scientist in Neuroscience and Mental Health at the Hospital for Sick Children, and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Molecular Genetics. Previously, she was a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Joshua Sanes at Harvard University. She obtained her PhD from the University of Pennsylvania. She joined SickKids in December 2013.

Her laboratory aims to identify mechanisms of neuronal differentiation and circuit assembly in the mouse brain and retina. The overall goals of her research are to understand how neurons are precisely organized in the developing brain, and how changes in these mechanisms contribute to abnormal brain function and neurodevelopmental disorders.



Congratulations to CPIN Faculty member **Dr. Molly Shoichet** (Professor, Departments of Chemical Engineering & Applied Chemistry, Chemistry and Biomaterials & Biomedical Engineering) on recently winning the 2015 L'Oreal/UNESCO For Women in Science Award for North America.

Link to CBC News Story: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/canadian-researcher-molly-shoichet-wins-l-oreal-unesco-for-women-in-science-award-1.2979938>

(Photo Credit: Brigitte Lacombe)

Professor Molly Shoichet holds the Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Tissue Engineering at the University of Toronto. She has published over 480 papers, patents and abstracts and has given over 310 lectures worldwide. She currently leads a laboratory of 25 and has graduated 134 researchers. She founded two spin-off companies, is actively engaged in translational research and science outreach.

Dr. Shoichet is the recipient of many prestigious distinctions and the only person to be a Fellow of Canada's 3 National Academies: Canadian Academy of Sciences of the Royal Society of Canada, Canadian Academy of Engineering, and Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. Dr. Shoichet holds the Order of Ontario, Ontario's highest honour and is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

In 2013, her contributions to Canada's innovation agenda and the advancement of knowledge were recognized with the QEII Diamond Jubilee Award. In 2014, she was given the University of Toronto's highest distinction, University Professor, a distinction held by less than 2% of the faculty. Dr. Shoichet received her SB from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1987) and her PhD from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in Polymer Science and Engineering (1992).

<http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/communications/newsletter.htm>

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News - CPIN Students

http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/communications/news_cpिन_students.htm



Congratulations to CPIN student member **Nathan Kolla** (Institute of Medical Science, Supervisor Dr. Jeffrey Meyer) on recently completing the CPIN requirements and graduating from the program.

Nathan Kolla recently completed his PhD through the Institute of Medical Science at UofT, where his research focused on positron emission tomography and functional magnetic resonance imaging of personality disorders. He was the recipient of several fellowships and grants during his PhD, including two CIHR Clinician Scientist Awards, an American Psychiatric Association Psychiatric Research Fellowship, a Brain and Behavior Research Foundation NARSAD Young Investigator Award, and an operating grant from Physicians' Services Incorporated Foundation. He also received awards from the American Society of

Clinical Psychopharmacology, Society of Biological Psychiatry, and the National Institutes of Health.

Nathan is a forensic psychiatrist and was recently recruited as a Clinician-Scientist to the Campbell Family Mental Health Research Institute at CAMH and the Department of Psychiatry at UofT. He completed general psychiatry residency training at the University of Toronto and a fellowship in forensic psychiatry at New York University School of Medicine. Nathan received his undergraduate and medical degrees both with Great Distinction from the University of Saskatchewan. Nathan has published more than 25 peer-reviewed articles & book chapters & is a co-investigator on three CIHR operating grants.

Select Publications:

Kolla, N. J., Matthews, B., Wilson, A. A., Houle, S., Bagby, R. M., Links, P., Simpson, A. I., Hussain, A., & Meyer, J. H. Neuropsychopharmacology (in press). Lower monoamine oxidase-A distribution volume in impulsive, violent male offenders with antisocial personality disorder and high psychopathic traits: An [11C] harmine positron emission tomography study.

Kolla, N. J., Chiucciariello, L., Wilson, A., Houle, S., Links, P., Bagby, M., McMain, S., Kellow, C., Patel, J., Rekkas, P., Pasricha, S., & Meyer, J. H. Biological Psychiatry (in press). Elevated monoamine oxidase-A distribution volume in borderline personality disorder is associated with severity across mood symptoms, suicidality, and cognition.

Upcoming Events

U of T Neuroscience Seminars

<http://neuroscience.utoronto.ca/events/seminar.htm>

Conferences and Meetings

http://neuroscience.utoronto.ca/events/Conf_M.htm

Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology (LMP) Inaugural Neuroscience Half-Day

Event Date: **May 6, 2015**

George Ignatieff Theatre, Trinity College, 15 Devonshire Place, University of Toronto

On behalf of the LMP Department, we would like to cordially invite you to the LMP Inaugural Neuroscience Half Day. The event aims to foster stimulating discussions and collaborations and enjoy the company of each other! Registration is required for attendance. Space is limited so please register asap. For more information, please see the link below:

<http://www.lmp.utoronto.ca/news-events/news/events/lmp-inaugural-neuroscience-half-day>

UHN's 3rd International Conference on Knowledge Gaps in Parkinson's Disease & other Movement Disorders

Event Dates: **May 7-10, 2015**

Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel, 123 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

This conference will focus on aspects of Parkinson's disease (PD) and other movement disorders which are still insufficiently understood or have been recently challenged on genetic, pathogenetic, clinical and/or therapeutic grounds. To find out more about this event, please visit the conference website: www.gapsinmds.com

Connecting Excellence: International Symposium

Event Date: **May 26, 2015**

Peter Gilgan Centre for Research and Learning, Hospital for Sick Children, 686 Bay Street

A symposium to highlight international research leadership and collaboration at the University of Toronto and the Karolinska Institute in: 1) Developmental Health; 2) Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine; 3) Transplantation and Tissue Engineering

The program will feature talks from leading researchers at both institutions. Registration is free but compulsory.

Please see the event poster for more information: [Connecting Excellence Symposium](#)

<http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/communications/newsletter.htm>

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Upcoming Events (contd.)

Conferences and Meetings

http://neuroscience.utoronto.ca/events/Conf_M.htm

45th Meeting of the Jean Piaget Society: Neuroplasticity and Change

Event Dates: **June 4-6, 2015**

Toronto, Canada

In the past two decades a wealth of evidence has accumulated which supports a neural constructivist approach to characterizing human development. This characterization, in which learning and individual experiences play a central role in constructing mental representations and their corresponding neural changes, is of course one of the central themes of Piaget's theory. This meeting will bring together researchers who examine neural plasticity in a variety of ways, across varied domains of development. It will provide an overview of the state-of-the-science in examining how experiences and biology interact to shape brain development and it will provide an important platform for discussing the implications of this neuroscience-based research for the broader understanding of child development.

Symposium Website: <http://www.piaget.org/Symposium/2015/index.html>

IUPESM World Congress (WC) on Medical Physics (MP) and Biomedical Engineering (BME)

Event Dates: **June 7-12, 2015**

Toronto, Canada

The IUPESM World Congress (WC) on Medical Physics (MP) and Biomedical Engineering (BME) comes but once every three years. WC2015 will be in Toronto from June 7-12. This WC will be the largest gathering of MPs and BMEs from 86 countries. This is truly a unique opportunity to discuss important Global issues, e.g., Global Health, Food and Water Safety, Environmental toxins, Personalized Medicine, Brain-Machine interfaces, Education and Outreach, etc. When together, we will be able to discuss the Global Challenges we face now and those our children will face. We are working with WHO to address many of these issues. We invite abstracts and papers that will address this issue. Congress Website: www.wc2015.org

Canadian Colloquium on Dementia's 8th Canadian Conference on Dementia (CCD)

Event Dates: **October 1-3, 2015**

Ottawa, Canada

The 8th Canadian Conference on Dementia (CCD) is a world-class event that draws delegates from across North America and around the globe. The 7th CCD, held in Vancouver, British Columbia in 2013 received overwhelmingly positive reviews from our delegates which comprised of physicians, psychologists, psychiatrists, researchers and other health care professionals. Interested people can submit their abstracts regarding dementia research up until August 21st, 2015.

For more information, please visit our website: www.canadianconferenceondementia.com

Graduate Student Award Opportunity

International Fellowships in Neuroscience 2015

The Weston Brain Institute is delighted to launch our **International Fellowships in Neuroscience** program to provide funding to University of Toronto graduate students who wish to advance their research abroad. The funding will provide students studying a neurodegenerative disease of aging the opportunity to travel internationally for up to 12 months. Additional information about the program, including the application form, can be found at:

<http://www.glse.utoronto.ca/news/2015-16-weston-brain-institute-international-fellowships-neuroscience>

Reminders

Submissions for News Updates The CPIN Office welcomes trainee and faculty members to submit updates in research discoveries, events, and other achievements involving CPIN members. Please send your submissions to p.neuroscience@utoronto.ca

Trainee Record Updates The CPIN Office is currently updating its records & requests that all CPIN students & postdoctoral fellows provide information pertaining to awards, publications & other achievements on the online form at the link below:

http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/students/Trainee_Awards_and_Publications_Form.htm