

# Collaborative Program in Neuroscience (CPIN)

## University of Toronto

Newsletter – Vol. 31, No. 5 – January 2015

### Featured In This Issue

**University News** CPIN would like to congratulate **Dr. Trevor Young** (Department of Psychiatry) on his new position as the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at U of T (the lead faculty of CPIN). Please see below for more details.

**Welcome New CPIN Faculty Members** **Dr. Daniel Mueller** (Psychiatry, Pharmacology and Toxicology & Institute of Medical Science) and **Dr. Xiao-Yan Wen** (Medicine, Institute of Medical Science & Physiology). Please see page 2 for more details.

**Welcome New CPIN Students** See page 3 for details.

**Welcome New CPIN Postdoctoral Fellows** See page 3 for details.

**CPIN Cortex Club** The CPIN Graduate Executives will host a Cortex Club on **Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015** with **Dr. Ahmet Hoke (John Hopkins University)**. Please see page 4 for details.

**Call for Volunteers for the 2015 Toronto Brain Bee** Please see page 4 for details.

### University News



CPIN would like to congratulate **Dr. Trevor Young** (Department of Psychiatry) on his new position as the **Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at U of T (the lead faculty of CPIN) from January, 2015.**

#### Dr. Trevor Young Department of Psychiatry Profile

(<http://www.psychiatry.utoronto.ca/people/dr-t-trevor-young/>)

Dr. Trevor Young received his medical degree at the University of Manitoba. This was followed by residency training at McGill University and the University of Toronto where he also completed his PhD in

Medical Sciences. He completed a Research Fellowship at Johns Hopkins University. His former roles include Physician-in-Chief, Executive Vice President Programs at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Professor and Cameron Wilson Chair in Depression Studies in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto, and Professor and Head, Department of Psychiatry, University of British Columbia. He was received numerous awards including the Douglas Utting Award for outstanding contributions in the field of mood disorders, the Canadian College of Neuropsychopharmacology Heinz Lehmann Award, and is a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. He has led several large clinical programs including the Mood Disorders Program at Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital, which received the American Psychiatric Services Gold Achievement Award. In 2009, he was elected as a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.

### 2014-15 CPIN Distinguished Lectureship Series

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



Speaker | **Dr. Bob Hart**, Professor, Division of Neurology, Department of Medicine, McMaster University

Title | *Atrial Fibrillation and Stroke: the first 100 years*

Date | **Friday, January 30, 2015**

Time | 9:00 am

Location | **Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute (209 Victoria St); 2nd floor, RM 209 - Allan Waters Family Auditorium (New Room Number)**

Hosts | Dr. Tom Schweizer, Director, Neuroscience Research Program, St. Michael's Hospital; Assistant Professor, Faculty of Medicine

(Neurosurgery) & IBBME, U of T; University of Toronto Stroke Program

Sponsors | St. Michael's Hospital Neuroscience Research Program; University of Toronto Stroke Program

### CPIN Newsletter

Zhong-Ping Feng  
Director  
CPIN  
Graduate Studies

Suhail Asrar  
Administrator  
CPIN Office

CPIN Graduate Executives

#### CPIN Office

[p.neuroscience@utoronto.ca](mailto:p.neuroscience@utoronto.ca)

Tel.: 416 978 8637

#### 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

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### 2014-15 CPIN Distinguished Lectureship Series (contd.)



Speaker | **Dr. Ahmet Hoke**, Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience, Johns Hopkins University; Director, Division of Neuromuscular Diseases; Director, Neuromuscular Medicine Fellowship Program; Director, JHU NIMH NeuroAIDS Developmental Core; Editor in Chief, Experimental Neurology

Title | *Challenges in nerve regeneration*

Date | **Friday, January 30, 2015**

Time | 12:00 pm

Location | **Hollywood Theatre, Hospital for Sick Children**

Hosts | Dr. Gregory H. Borschel, Surgeon, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Associate Scientist, Neurosciences & Mental Health, Research Institute, Hospital for Sick Children, Assistant Professor, Departments of Surgery and Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering, University of Toronto; and Dr. Tessa Gordon, Senior Scientist, Hospital for Sick Children, Professor Emeritus, University of Alberta

Co-sponsor | Department of Surgery, U of T



Speaker | **Dr. Arturo Alvarez-Buylla**, Professor of Neurological Surgery, Heather & Melanie Muss Endowed Chair, Principal Investigator, Brain Tumor Research Center, University of California, San Francisco

Title | *Origin or regional specification of adult neural stem cells*

Date | **Thursday, February 12, 2015**

Time | 3:30 pm

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

Host | Dr. Derek van der Kooy, Professor, Institute of Medical Science, Department of Medical Biophysics, Department of Molecular Genetics, University of Toronto

Co-sponsors | Ontario Institute for Regenerative Medicine (OIRM); Terrence Donnelly Centre for Cellular & Biomolecular Research, Institute of Medical Science, Department of Molecular Genetics, U of T

### Welcome New CPIN Faculty Members



**Dr. Daniel Mueller's** (Associate Professor, Departments of Psychiatry, Pharmacology & Toxicology, and Institute of Medical Science) overarching research goal is to optimize psychiatric drug treatment by using genetic test information. Most of his peer-reviewed publications report on genetic associations with response and side effects to psychotropic medication including implications and guidelines for patients and physicians.

One major focus of his research is to study the genetics of antipsychotic and antidepressant response and side effects. A major focus has been to investigate mechanisms causing substantial weight gain following antipsychotic drug treatment. His research has revealed significant genetic associations with the Cannabinoid-1-receptor (Twari et al., 2010) gene, the melanocortin-4-receptor gene (Chowdhury et al., 2013), the Neuropeptide-Y gene (Tiwari et al., 2013) and mitochondrial genes (Goncalves et al., 2014). His laboratory is currently developing an algorithm that will incorporate these genes along with clinical and demographic risk factors which will result in a genetic risk model for clinical application. Since he started his position in 2008 as Head of the Pharmacogenetics Research Clinic at the Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto, he has begun to assess patients' CYP2D6 and CYP2C19 gene variants in order to help guide future treatment with antidepressants and antipsychotic medication. This Clinic is one of the first in psychiatry worldwide and now includes an extended gene panel with additional drug metabolizing enzymes (Müller et al., 2013).



**Dr. Xiao-Yan Wen's** (Assistant Professor, Departments of Medicine, Institute of Medical Science and Physiology) research focuses on applications of advanced model systems and high throughput screening technologies for drug discovery. He recently established the Zebrafish Centre for Advanced Drug Discovery at St. Michael's Hospital.

With a major CFI funding, this Centre houses Canada's first fully automated zebrafish high throughput screening platform. Funded by Brain Canada and in collaboration with many scientists and clinician scientists, his lab has launched a large initiative in identifying novel bioactive molecules affecting tissue formation and function in live animals, a platform for advanced in vivo drug discovery targeting a number of neurodegenerative diseases and mood disorders, including Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, ALS, stroke, depression and schizophrenia.

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### Welcome New CPIN Students

Last Name	First Name	Home Unit	Degree	Supervisor
Al-Basha	Dhekra	Physiology	MSc	Steve Prescott
Barras	Eliane	Biochemistry	MSc	Angus McQuibban
Bourkas	Matthew	Biochemistry	MSc	Joel Watts
Emami	Zahra	Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering	MASc	Tom Chau
Mahallati	Sara	Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering	PhD	Milos Popovic
Mohamed	Jabir	Institute of Medical Science	MSc	McIntyre Burnham
Moskal	Natalia	Biochemistry	MSc	Angus McQuibban

### Welcome New CPIN Postdoctoral Fellows

Last Name	First Name	Institution	Supervisor
Abussaud	Ahmed	Physiology	Hong-Shuo Sun
Braun Janzen	Thenille	Music	Lee Bartel
Di Battista	Ashley	Hospital for Sick Children	Anne-Marie Guerguerian
Easwar	Vijayalakshmi	Hospital for Sick Children	Karen A Gordon
Eytan	Danny	Hospital for Sick Children	Anne-Marie Guerguerian
Fang	Xiaoyan	Physiology	Hong-Shuo Sun
Kamali Sarvestani	Iman	Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology	Lili-Naz Hazrati
Liu	Ling	Physiology	Zhong-Ping Feng
Mtaweh	Haifa	Hospital for Sick Children	Anne-Marie Guerguerian and Jamie Hutchinson
Nikolova	Yuliya	Centre for Addiction & Mental Health	Etienne Sibille
Olsen	Rosanna	Rotman Research Institute, Baycrest	Jennifer Ryan
Pabba	Mohan	Centre for Addiction & Mental Health	Etienne Sibille
Sargin	Derya	Physiology	Evelyn Lambe
Xu	Baofeng	Physiology	Hong-Shuo Sun
Yan	Kuipo	Physiology	Zhong-Ping Feng

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## Upcoming Events

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### CPIN Cortex Club

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

Speaker | **Dr. Ahmet Hoke**, Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience, Johns Hopkins University; Director, Division of Neuromuscular Diseases; Director, Neuromuscular Medicine Fellowship Program; Director, JHU NIMH NeuroAIDS Developmental Core; Editor in Chief, Experimental Neurology

Title | *Mitochondrial "aging" in long axons*

Date | **Thursday, January 29, 2015**

Time | 5:30 pm

Location | Graduate Student's Union Pub (16 Bancroft Avenue)

### U of T Neuroscience Seminars

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

#### Baycrest Psychiatry Rounds

Speaker | **Dr. Daphna Grossman**

Title | *Dementia and Palliative Care: When, Why, Where, and How*

Date and Time | **Friday, January 30, 2015, 12:00 pm**

Location | Classrooms ABC, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Baycrest Hospital

### Conferences and Meetings

[http://neuroscience.utoronto.ca/events/Conf\\_M.htm](http://neuroscience.utoronto.ca/events/Conf_M.htm)

#### 25th Annual Rotman Research Institute Conference

Event Dates: **March 9-11, 2015**

Metro Toronto Convention Centre, 255 Front Street West, Toronto, ON, Canada

In March 2015 Rotman Research Institute conference will bring luminaries in the fields of neuroscience and psychology together with 500 attendees from around the world.

For the conference program and speaker details, visit: <http://research.baycrest.org/conference>

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

Event Dates: **May 7th-10th, 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. The 3-day symposium will be led by 23 leading young investigators and senior clinical scientists sharing ideas aimed at advancing the clinical and scientific disciplines within our field. Each topic will close with a summary of the knowledge gaps and with a proposal on how to bridge or minimize them.

To find out more about this event, please visit the conference website: <https://ers.snapuptickets.com/UHN/gapsinmds>

## Reminders

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**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](mailto:p.neuroscience@utoronto.ca)

**Volunteer Opportunity at the 2015 Toronto Brain Bee** CPIN Faculty and trainee members are invited to volunteer at the **17th Annual Toronto Brain Bee** that will be held on **Friday, March 27, 2015** at the University of Toronto. Please fill out the online volunteer form at <http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/events/brainbee.htm>

**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](http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/students/Trainee_Awards_and_Publications_Form.htm)

**Neuroscience Opportunities** The CPIN website now includes postings for available positions in the Toronto neuroscience community. Please see the website for details: [http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/communications/Positions\\_Available.htm](http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/communications/Positions_Available.htm)

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