

# Collaborative Program in Neuroscience (CPIN)

## University of Toronto

Newsletter – Vol. 32, No. 8 – April 2016

### Featured In This Issue

**2016 CPIN Research Day** The CPIN Research Day that will be held on **Thursday, May 19 at the Medical Sciences Building**. Please see below for more details.

**2016 Toronto Brain Bee** was held at the U of T Health Sciences Building on April 1, 2016. 74 students from 17 high schools in the Greater Toronto Area participated in the competition. The top three winners were: **Deween Piyasena** (Stephen Lewis Secondary School, first place), **Prerana Keerthi** (The Woodlands Secondary School, second place) and **Jay Chen** (The Woodlands Secondary School, third place). Please see page 3 and 4 for details.

**Welcome New CPIN Students** Please see page 2 for details.

**News – CPIN Faculty Members** CPIN would like to thank **Dr. J. Martin Wojtowicz** (Professor Emeritus, Department of Physiology) for his role on the CPIN Academic Committee and support for the program over the years. Please see page 2 for details.

**CPIN Cortex Club** Please see page 2 for details.

**Neuroscience Opportunities** Please see page 5 for details.

### 2016 CPIN Research Day

[http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/events/CPIN\\_Research\\_Day.htm](http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/events/CPIN_Research_Day.htm)

The **2016 CPIN Research Day** will be held on **May 19** at the Medical Sciences Building. The preliminary program includes both oral and poster presentations by research trainees, and Distinguished lectures by CPIN faculty members. The confirmed speakers include:



**Dr. Sandra Black** (Professor, Departments of Rehabilitation Science, Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering and the Institute of Medical Science; Neuroscience Program Research Director, Sunnybrook Research Institute; Professor & Brill Chair in Neurology, Department of Medicine)

“Brain Networks and Network Science”



**Dr. Graham Collingridge** (Professor & Chair, Department of Physiology)

“Is Alzheimer’s caused by LTD gone awry”



**Dr. John S. Floras** (Professor, Division of Cardiology, Department of Medicine and Institute of Medical Science; Canada Research Chair Tier 1 in Integrative Cardiovascular Biology; Senior Clinical Scientist, Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute)

“Disturbances of neurogenic control of the human heart and circulation in heart failure and sleep apnea”



**Dr. Janice Robertson** (Associate Professor, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology; Tanz Centre for Research in Neurodegenerative Diseases)

“Uncovering Disease Mechanisms in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis”



**Dr. Michael H. Thaut** (Professor & Director of the Music and Health Research Collaboratory (MaHRC), Faculty of Music; Director)

“Music and rhythm based interventions for neurorehabilitation – research translations from the basic neuroscience of music perception and music performance”

### CPIN Newsletter

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CPIN Office

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**Lead Faculty**  
Faculty of Medicine

**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:

Human Biology Program  
Krembil Research Institute  
St. Michael’s Neuroscience  
Research Program

#### Research Day Sponsors



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## Welcome New CPIN Students

Surname	First Name	Home Unit	Degree	Supervisor
Carter	Jasmine	PCL	MSc	Walter Swardfager
Garzon	Luisa	REHSC	MSc	Darcy Fehlings
Glass	Torin	IMS	MSc	Steven Miller
Kramer	Emily	IMS	PhD	Sheena Josselyn
Marchand	Maëlle	DLSPH	MPH	Howard Hu
Marshall	Patricia	PSY	PhD	Nicole Anderson & Morgan Barese
Misquitta	Karen	IMS	MSc	Carmela Tartaglia
Underwood	Emily	IMS	MSc	Mary C. Tierney
Wong	Raymond	PSL	PhD	Hong Shuo Sun

## News - CPIN Faculty Members

<http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/home.htm>



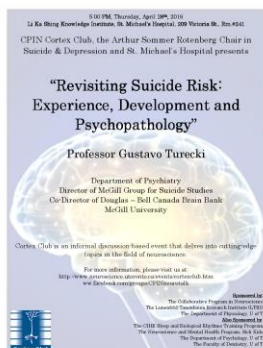
CPIN would like to thank **Dr. J. Martin Wojtowicz** (Professor Emeritus, Department of Physiology) for his role on the CPIN Academic Committee and support for the program over the years.

Dr. J. Martin Wojtowicz studied at Dalhousie University (BSc) and University of Ottawa (PhD). He obtained postdoctoral training at the University of California and Toronto Western Research Institute. Dr. Wojtowicz joined the Department of Physiology at the University of Toronto in 1987 as an Assistant Professor and progressed through the ranks to Full Professor in 2002 and Professor Emeritus in 2016. He served as a graduate coordinator in Physiology for seven years during 2009-2015. He taught and directed several undergraduate and graduate courses. Most recently, Advanced Laboratory Physiology, PSL 374, and Hippocampus from cells to behaviour, PSL 1050.

Dr. Wojtowicz is conducting a laboratory research program in neuroscience specializing in synaptic plasticity and hippocampal adult neurogenesis. He gained a leadership position in the field of adult neurogenesis by describing the functional roles of new-born neurons in learning and memory. Dr. Wojtowicz has published 97 research articles and book chapters in collaboration with several undergraduate students, 23 graduate students, 10 postdoctoral fellows and many collaborators from around the world.

## CPIN Cortex Club

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



**CPIN Cortex Club, the Arthur Sommer Rotenberg Chair in Suicide & Depression and St. Michael's Hospital presents**  
**"Revisiting Suicide Risk: Experience, Development and Psychopathology"**  
**Professor Gustavo Turecki**

Department of Psychiatry  
 Director of McGill Group for Suicide Studies  
 Co-Director of Douglas – Bell Canada Brain Bank  
 McGill University

**5:00 PM, Thursday, April 28th, 2016**

Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St. Michael's Hospital, 209 Victoria St., Rm.#241

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## Toronto Brain Bee 2016

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



(Toronto Brain Bee Photos credit: Tahani Baakdhah)

**The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Toronto Brain Bee** competition took place at the Health Sciences Building at the University of Toronto (U of T) on April 1, 2016. 74 students from 17 high schools in the Toronto area participated in the competition. 27 CPIN student volunteers and 8 faculty members were involved in organizing this successful outreach event. In addition, 4 faculty members engaged in the event sponsorships. The students were welcomed by Professor Amy Ramsey (Chief Judge; Pharmacology). Other CPIN faculty judges at the event included Professor Morgan Barensen (Psychology), Professor Jonathan Dostrovsky (Physiology) and Professor William Ju (Human Biology). The Brain Bee competition was hosted by Sofia Raitsin (Graduate student, IMS) and Petri Takkala (Graduate student, Physiology). In between the competition rounds, presentations were made to the high-school students by Dulcie Vousden (Graduate student, MBP) and Jessica Zung (former Toronto Brain Bee Winner). Participants also viewed a video overview of the Firefly Foundation Bright Lights in the lab 2015 program (provided by Sharon Zillmer, Firefly Foundation). Following the competition, all the participants were invited to view Research Demonstrations at the Medical Sciences Building at U of T (led by Professor Amy Ramsey; Pharmacology). Following three rounds of questions, the top winners were: **Deween Piyasena** (Stephen Lewis Secondary School, first place), **Prerana Keerthi** (The Woodlands Secondary School, second place) and **Jay Chen** (The Woodlands Secondary School, third place). As the first place winner, Deween Piyasena will represent Toronto at the 9th Annual CIHR Canadian National Brain Bee competition ([www.brainbee.ca](http://www.brainbee.ca)), which will take place at McMaster University in Hamilton on Saturday, May 28th 2016.

**Toronto Brain Bee Sponsorship** The 2016 Brain Bee competition was sponsored by the Collaborative Program in Neuroscience, the Department of Physiology, the Firefly Foundation and the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation via Early Researcher Award (ERA) outreach funds. We would like to express our appreciation to the sponsors and our CPIN faculty members: Professor Morgan Barensen (Psychology), Professor Patrick McGowan (Biological Sciences, Cell & Systems Biology), Professor John Ratcliffe (Ecology & Evolutionary Biology) & Professor Kaori Takehara-Nishiuchi (Psychology), who contributed their ERA outreach funds to support the Brain Bee event.



**The organizing committee** of the 2016 Toronto Brain Bee comprised of CPIN faculty and graduate student members: Isabelle Aubert (Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology), Morgan Barensen (Psychology), Jonathan Dostrovsky (Professor Emeritus Physiology; Advisor), Zhong-Ping Feng (Physiology; Committee Chair), Kasey Hemington (Graduate student, IMS), William Ju (Human Biology), Sofia Raitsin (Graduate student, IMS), Amy Ramsey (Pharmacology), Ali Salahpour (Pharmacology), Hong-Shuo Sun (IMS/Surgery-Anatomy) and Suhail Asrar (CPIN Office).

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



**The trainee volunteers** were led by Kasey Hemington (IMS, Davis lab) and Sofia Raitzin (IMS, Meyer lab). Volunteers included Vladislav Sekulic (Physiology, Skinner lab), Marielle Deurloo (Physiology; Feng lab), Petri Takkala (IMS, Prescott lab), Tahani Baakdhah (IMS, van der Kooy lab), Jonathon Chio (IMS, Fehlings lab), Amanda Easson (Psychology, Doesburg lab), Zahra Emami (IBBME, Chau lab), Samantha Gauvreau (Psychology, Mabbott lab), Alexandre Guet-McCreight (Physiology, Skinner lab), Kevin Humberger (Psychology, Honey lab), Kirusanthy Kaneshwaran (Physiology, Orser lab), Junseok Kim (IMS, Davis lab), Dunja Knezevic (IMS, Mizrahi lab), Feiya Li (Physiology, Sun lab), Mohadeseh Mehrabian (LMP, Shmitt-Ulms lab), Charissa Poon (IBBME, Hynynen lab), Anton Rogachov (IMS, Davis lab), Tania Da Silva (IMS, Mizrahi lab), Michael Tso (IMS, Macdonald lab), Ekaterina Turlova (Physiology; Sun lab), Emily Underwood (IMS, Tierney lab), Laura Vecchio (Pharmacology; Salahpour lab), Dulcie Vousden (MBP; Lerch lab), Raymond Wong (Physiology, Sun lab) and Jessica Zung (Undergrad, former Toronto Brain Bee Winner).

### Congratulations to Awardees

Following the competition, Professor Amy Ramsey announced the winners of the Top 3 Ranking Brain Bee Awards, the Novice Award winner, the Top Ranking Participant Awards from each school (with at least 4 participants), Student Leadership in Promoting Early Education in Neuroscience Award and the Teacher Recognition Awards.

#### Top 3 Ranking Brain Bee Awards:

**Deween Piyasena** (Stephen Lewis Secondary School, first place), **Prerana Keerthi** (The Woodlands Secondary School, second place) and **Jay Chen** (The Woodlands Secondary School, third place)

#### Top Ranking Novice Participant Award

**Deween Piyasena** (Stephen Lewis Secondary School)

#### Top Ranking Participants according to school (with at least 4 participants)

**Armaan Somani** (Bayview Secondary School), **Nathalie Trinh** (Branksome Hall), **Chanwoo Oh** (Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts), **Frank Hong** (Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute), **Jai Aggarwal** (University of Toronto Schools) and **Justin Lu** (Upper Canada College)

#### Student Leadership in Promoting Early Education in Neuroscience Awards

**Rishi Bansal** (Bayview Secondary School)

#### Teacher Recognition Awards

**Ralph Masciello** (Bayview Secondary School), **Chandra Boon** (Branksome Hall), **Michelle Blais** (Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts), **Fozieh Elamad** (Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute), **Anand Mahadevan** (University of Toronto Schools) and **Courtney Turner** (Upper Canada College)

## 2016 Toronto Brain Bee Sponsors



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## Upcoming Events

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### U of T Neuroscience Seminars

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

### Conferences and Meetings

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

#### Physiology's Annual Frontiers in Physiology 2016 and Macallum Lecture featuring Professor Tim Bliss, FRS

**Event Dates: May 11-12, 2016**

Medical Sciences Building & JJR Macleod Auditorium, U of T

View the [event website](#)

#### Krembil Research Day

**Event Date: May 18, 2016**

Chestnut Residence & Conference Centre (89 Chestnut St), Toronto

For further information, [please visit the event website](#)

#### Collaborative Program In Neuroscience (CPIN) Research Day

**Event Date: May 19, 2016**

Medical Sciences Building, U of T

View the [event webpage](#)

#### 10th Annual Canadian Neuroscience Meeting

**Event Dates: May 29-June 1, 2016**

Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel

[Visit the conference website for the full program and registration information](#)

## Neuroscience Opportunities

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[http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/communications/Positions\\_Available.htm](http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/communications/Positions_Available.htm)

### MSc or PhD position

#### Rehabilitation Sciences Institute, University of Toronto

#### Toronto, Canada

**Description:** An MSc or PhD position starting Fall 2016 is available in the laboratory for Promoting Upper Limb Stroke rEcovery (PULSE), led by Dr. Joyce Chen at Sunnybrook Research Institute, University of Toronto. Research in the PULSE lab aims to enhance the recovery of arm and hand movements after stroke using two approaches: 1) non-invasive brain stimulation and, 2) music-movement links. The research project can be based on either topics and involve behavioural, neuroimaging and/or non-invasive brain stimulation approaches. The project is funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. Although a basic-science approach will be taken, the research should strive to inform clinical practice. The student will apply to complete graduate studies at the Rehabilitation Sciences Institute, University of Toronto (**Application deadline June 1st 2016**).

Interested candidates should send a CV, an unofficial transcript of undergraduate/graduate studies, and a brief statement describing your qualifications and research interests to Dr. Joyce Chen as soon as possible: [j.chen@sri.utoronto.ca](mailto:j.chen@sri.utoronto.ca).

**For further information, please visit the CPIN website:**

[http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/communications/Positions\\_Available.htm](http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/communications/Positions_Available.htm)

## Reminders

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**Call for CPIN 2016-2017 Distinguished Lecturer Nominations** CPIN trainee & faculty members are welcome to nominate potential speakers for the 2016-2017 Distinguished Lectureship Series. The nominations will be reviewed by the CPIN Executive Committee for approval. Your participation is important and contributes to the multidisciplinary nature of the lectureship. The online form can be found at the following link:

[http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/events/lectureship/distinguished\\_lecturer\\_nominations.htm](http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/events/lectureship/distinguished_lecturer_nominations.htm)