

Collaborative Program in Neuroscience (CPIN)

University of Toronto

Newsletter – Vol. 35, No. 8 – April 2019

Featured In This Issue

CPIN Research Day and Next Generation of Neurotechnology Symposium will be held on **June 5, 2019** at the U of T Medical Sciences Building. Registration and abstract submission is now open! Volunteers can now sign up online. Please see page 2 for details.

2019 Toronto Brain Bee was held on **Friday, April 12, 2019** at the University of Toronto. 142 students from 29 high schools in the Toronto area took part in the competition. Please see Pages 3-6 for the event report.

CPIN Mentorship Program: Owning the Podium: A Workshop on Effective Communication
Please see page 2 for the event report.

Neuroscience Opportunities Please see page 2 for details.

Reminder for graduating students!

CPIN Student Completion Form CPIN graduate students who have completed both their home department and CPIN trainee requirements must fill in the online completion form located at the link below:

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

2018-19 CPIN Distinguished Lectureship Series

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



CPIN Emerging Leaders in Neuroscience Lecture

Speaker | **Mayland Chang, PhD**, Research Professor; Director, Chemistry-Biochemistry-Biology Interface (CBBI) Program, University of Notre Dame
Title | *TBA*

Date | **Wednesday, May 29, 2019**

Time | *TBA*

Location | *TBA*

Host | Dr. Zhong-Ping Feng, Professor, Department of Physiology, Director, Collaborative Program In Neuroscience, U of T



Speaker | **Victor Rafuse, PhD**, Professor, Department of Medical Neuroscience, Dalhousie University

Title | *Deciphering cellular mechanisms regulating synaptic plasticity at the neuromuscular junction in normal and G93A SOD1 mice*

Date | **Thursday, May 30, 2019, 4:00pm**

Location | *Red Seminar Room, Donnelly Centre, 160 College St. ***Please note space is limited**

Host | Dr. Cindi Morshead, Professor and Chair, Division of Anatomy, Department of Surgery; Institute of Medical Science, Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, The Donnelly Centre, UofT

Reminder: CPIN Trainees: Please fill in the online Lecture Report & Evaluation Form as a record of your attendance to the Distinguished Lectureship Series within one week of attending the talk.

CPIN Newsletter

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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
Public Health
Rehabilitation Science

Contributors:

Heart & Stroke/ Richard
Lewar Centre of Excellence in
Cardiovascular Research

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

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2019 CPIN Research Day

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

The **2019 CPIN Research Day and Next Generation of Neurotechnology symposium** will be held on **Wednesday, June 5** at the Medical Sciences Building of the University of Toronto. The online registration is now open

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

The deadline for the poster abstract submission is **Monday, May 20**.

Faculty members who will be available to evaluate the student oral and poster presentations, please register online at

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



Dr. Euisik Yoon has been invited to give the keynote talk as a part of the Next Generation of Neurotechnology symposium. Dr. Yoon is a Professor in the Electrical Engineering & Computer Science and Biomedical Engineering Departments, and the Director of NSF International Program for Advancement of Neurotechnology (IPAN) at the University of Michigan.

The Research Day opens with a morning session of oral presentations delivered by CPIN PhD trainees. The day will conclude with an awards ceremony, including the Jonathan Dostrovsky Award In Neuroscience and poster presentation awards.

For the program updates, please visit the CPIN website

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

CPIN Mentorship: Owing the Podium

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

On March 13, the CPIN Mentorship Program hosted the final event of the 2018-2019 year: “Owing the Podium: A Workshop on Effective Communication”. The event was well-attended, with over 30 people registering. The workshop was led by Howard Eng, a Communications Facilitator and Leader with many years of experience in the field. The key basics of communication were covered: (1) Verbal and non-verbal; (2) Breathing exercises; (3) Facial expressions; (4) Body language tips and techniques; (5) Diction and enunciation; and (6) Stage presence – Owing the Podium.

The workshop was interactive, with audience participation throughout the evening. It was an exciting end to the Mentorship Season. A big thank you to the Mentorship Executive members that attended: **Chantel Kowalchuk; Claire McSweeney; Joe Steinman; Anna Vasilevskaya; and Raymond Wong**.

Are you interested in serving on the Mentorship Executive for 2019/ 2020? If yes, or if you have any questions about the program, send an email to: cpin_mentorship@gmail.com

Neuroscience Opportunities

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

Senior Postdoctoral Fellow

Nencki Institute-EMBL Center of Excellence for Neural Plasticity and Brain Disorders: BRAINCITY

Warsaw, Poland

Search closes May 17, 2019 and interviews will be held July 22-23

[Click here for details](#)

Follow CPIN on social media: CPIN faculty and trainee members are welcome to follow us at the following links:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Collaborative-Program-in-Neuroscience-212564644049/>

LinkedIn: <https://ca.linkedin.com/in/cpinuoft>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/CPIN_UofT

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

2019 Toronto Brain Bee

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



The 21st Annual Toronto Brain Bee competition took place at the newly opened Myhal Centre at the University of Toronto (U of T) on April 12, 2019. 142 students from 29 high schools in the Toronto area participated in the competition. 22 student volunteers and 4 faculty members were involved in organizing this successful outreach event. The students were welcomed by Professor Zhong-Ping Feng (Toronto Brain Bee Coordinator and CPIN Director, Physiology). Other CPIN faculty judges at the event included Professor Kaori Takehara (Chief Judge; Psychology), Professor Hong-Shuo Sun (Chief Judge; IMS/ Surgery-Anatomy), and Professor William Ju (Judge; Human Biology). The competition was hosted by Julia Bandura (Graduate student, PSL) and Irene Harmsen (Graduate student, IMS). In between the competition rounds, presentations were made to the high-school students by Joseph Steinman (Graduate student, MBP) and Raymond Wong (Graduate student, PSL). Participants also viewed a video overview of the 2018 Firefly Foundation Bright Lights in the lab program (provided by Sharon Zillmer, Firefly Foundation).

Following three rounds of questions, the top winners were: **Vanshika Chintakunta** (Richmond Hill High School, first place), **Michael Cheng** (University of Toronto Schools, second place), and tied for third place, **Dawei He** (Lawrence Park Collegiate Institute, third place) and **Matthew Huynh** (Bayview Secondary School, third place).



(Toronto Brain Bee Photos credits: Lindsey Thurston)

A word from the winners:

Vanshika has always been into STEM, especially robotics, and hopes to become a doctor. As the first place winner, Vanshika will represent Toronto at the 12th Annual CIHR Canadian National Brain Bee competition (www.brainbee.ca), which takes place at McMaster University in Hamilton on May 24-25, 2019. Dawei is interested in aerospace engineering and neuroscience, and hopes to be back for the 2020 Brain Bee competition. Matthew is interested in Neuroscience because it's a vast and unexplored field, and hopes to go into Medical Science.

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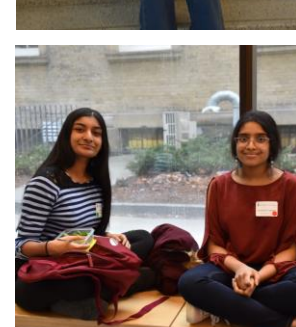
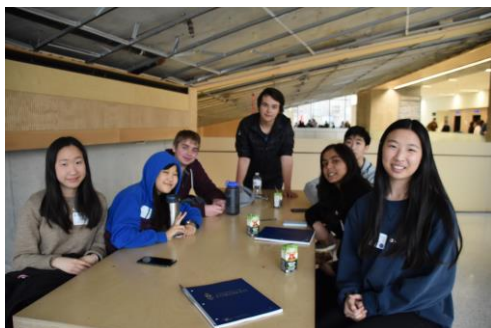
Words from other participants:

A grade 12 student from Stephen Lewis S.S. who made it to the second round told us she finds the brain fascinating and is interested in genetics and disorders such as dyslexia and how people can be high functioning despite it.

A group of students in grades 10-12 from Marc Garneau C.I. shared how they started a neuroscience club at their high school, where two of them teach their peers the content they learn from the Neuro101 course. They are interested in the virtual brain as well as the how dopamine works in the brain. For most of them, this is their second time participating in the Toronto Brain Bee competition and they will be back again! Congratulations to two of them who made it all the way to the final round!

Words from the teachers:

We heard from two teachers from competing schools who are also long time friends. One of them is a big believer in experiential learning, which is why she advocates for the Brain Bee, and the other modestly inferred he only provides a space for study at lunch time, and the students do the rest. Both were very proud of their students and how hard they've worked!



(Toronto Brain Bee Photos credits: Lindsey Thurston)

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Many thanks to our graduate student organizers and volunteers Julia Bandura (Physiology), Nadia Boachie (Institute of Medical Science), Dipashree Chatterjee (Pharmacology & Toxicology), Jonathon Chio (Institute of Medical Science), Lida Du (Postdoctoral, Physiology), Sarah Eide (Physiology), Ann Gong (Physiology), Nancy Hamdy (Physiology), Irene Harmsen (Institute of Medical Science), Amin Kamaledin (Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering), Manroop Khroud (Physiology), Joie Luo (Physiology), Joseph Steinman (Medical Biophysics), Lindsey Thurston (Psychology), Stephanie Tran (Institute of Medical Science), Sridevi Venkatesan (Physiology), Raymond Wong (Physiology), Kristiana Xhima (Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology), Nadia Zafar (Biochemistry), undergraduate volunteers Michael Betlej, Maida Duncan, and Emilio Garcia Flores from the Faculty of Arts and Science, and Iulia Park (CPIN Office).

The questions preparation committee of the 2019 Toronto Brain Bee comprised of Zhong-Ping Feng (Physiology; Committee Chair), Julia Bandura (Physiology), Sarah Eide (Physiology), Irene Harmsen (Institute of Medical Science), Joie Luo (Physiology), Yash Patel (Institute of Medical Science), (Stephanie Tran (Institute of Medical Science), Sridevi Venkatesan (Physiology).

The 2019 Brain Bee competition was **sponsored by the Firefly Foundation and the Collaborative Program in Neuroscience (CPIN)**. We would like to express our appreciation to the Firefly Foundation for their continued support!



(Toronto Brain Bee Photos credits: Lindsey Thurston)

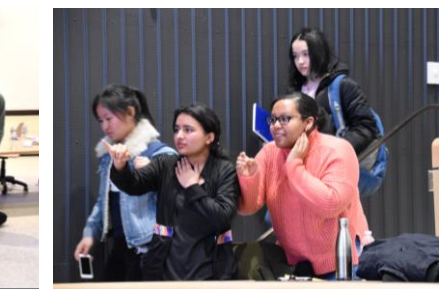
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(Toronto Brain Bee Photos credits: Lindsey Thurston)

Congratulations to Awardees

Top 3 Ranking Participants

Vanshika Chintakunta (Richmond Hill High School, first place), Michael Cheng (University of Toronto Schools, second place) and tied for third place, Dawei He (Lawrence Park Collegiate Institute, third place) and Matthew Huynh (Bayview Secondary School, third place).

Top Ranking Novice Participant Award

Vanshika Chintakunta (Richmond Hill High School)

Top Ranking Participants according to school (with at least 5 participants)

Matthew Huynh (Bayview Secondary School), Khushkaran Rajput (Chinguacousy Secondary School), Yashveer Chohan (Erindale Secondary School), Reetaj Jasser (Fletcher's Meadow Secondary School), Vaishnavi Bhamidi (Glenforest Secondary School), Josh Saha (Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute), Jason Zhang (Markville Secondary School), Vanshika Chintakunta (Richmond Hill High School), Kendrick Siu (St. Marcellinus Secondary School), Michael Cheng (University of Toronto Schools)

Student Leadership in Promoting Early Education in Neuroscience Award

Vaisnavi Bhamadi (Glenforest Secondary School), Sasha Korolov (Richmond Hill High School), Joseph Lee (St. Marcellinus Secondary School), Jordan Ramnarine (St. Marcellinus Secondary School), Josh Saha (Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute), Smiksha Sharma (Fletcher's Secondary School), Kevin Tong (Markville Secondary School), Vicky Xie (Richmond Hill High School)

Teacher Recognition Awards

Ralph-Anthony Masciello (Bayview Secondary School), Philip Walton (Chinguacousy Secondary School), Marijana Kanisek (Erindale Secondary School), Holly Nightingale (Fletcher's Meadow Secondary School), Marybeth Bertovic (Glenforest Secondary School), Jackelyn Hermanovsky (Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute), Karen Williams (Markville Secondary School), George DelBianco (Richmond Hill High School), Paul Correale (St. Marcellinus Secondary School), Alan Kraguljac (University of Toronto Schools)

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