

# Collaborative Program in Neuroscience (CPIN)

## University of Toronto

Newsletter – Vol. 36, No. 10 – June 2020



*Photo Credit: Creative Commons*

As we send out this final edition of the CPIN Newsletter until September 2020, we wish all members of the CPIN Community a safe and enjoyable summer. Any updates regarding the program will be posted online and communicated through the emailing lists. We encourage any member with questions about the program or about completing requirements to contact us at [p.neuroscience@utoronto.ca](mailto:p.neuroscience@utoronto.ca).

## Featured In This Issue

**News – CPIN Trainees** Congratulations to CPIN student members **Alexandre Boutet**, **Chesarahmia Dojo Soeandy**, and **Shahrzad Firouzian** on recently completing the CPIN requirements and graduating from their programs. Please see pages 2 and 3 for details.

**Welcome New CPIN Students** Please see page 3 for details.

**Neuroscience Opportunities** Please see page 3 for details.

## COVID-19 Update Sources

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

For COVID-19 regular updates impacting graduate students in the University:

University of Toronto: <https://www.utoronto.ca/message-from-the-university-regarding-the-coronavirus>

School of Graduate Studies: <https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/covid19/>

City of Toronto's COVID-19 information page: <https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/>

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

### CPIN Newsletter

Zhong-Ping Feng  
Director  
CPIN  
Graduate Studies

Iulia Park  
Administrator  
CPIN Office

CPIN Office  
[p.neuroscience@utoronto.ca](mailto:p.neuroscience@utoronto.ca)  
Tel.: 416 978 8637

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

## News – CPIN Trainees

[http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/communications/news\\_cpिन\\_students.htm](http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/communications/news_cpिन_students.htm)



Congratulations to CPIN student member **Alexandre Boutet** (Institute of Medical Science, Dr. Andres Lozano) on recently completing the CPIN requirements and graduating from his PhD program.

His research focused on using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to improve deep brain stimulation treatment in patients with Parkinson's disease.

During his graduate studies, Alexandre received the Graduate Student Award from Parkinson's Canada as well as various Post-Graduate Medical Education Awards. Following a successful grant application, the Michael J. Fox Foundation generously supported Alexandre's

projects. During his PhD, Alexandre has co-authored more than 25 peer-review publications. Alexandre was involved with the CPIN Mentorship Program.

Alexandre will be going back to Diagnostic Radiology residency.



Congratulations to CPIN student member **Chesarahmia Dojo Soeandy** (Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dr. Jeffrey Henderson) on recently completing the CPIN requirements and graduating from her PhD program.

Chesa's doctoral work focused on the examination of necroptotic-apoptotic cell death signalling interaction *in vivo* in a murine adult stroke model and *in vitro* in a toxicant-induced stem cell death model, through which she observed a fascinating, novel interaction between these two cell death pathways. Her studies were supported by several federal (NSERC), provincial and local scholarship programs (totaling over \$100,000). Her work had been presented in various national and international conferences and were awarded the AFPC Rx

and D Student Research Poster Award, CPIN Excellence in Poster Presentation award, and Molecular Toxicology departmental student seminar award. They also resulted in the publication of a first-author paper, with two others currently in review.

Outside her studies, Chesa was a teaching assistant for several pharmacy courses, a health and safety instructor/representative, and an avid volunteer. Within the CPIN community, she served in Brain Bee and CPIN research day events. She also aided the organization and implementation of China-Canada-USA Pharmacology/Physiology Conference (CCUPPC), worked as a health promotions volunteer with the IMAGINE clinic, volunteered for several Science Rendezvous events, and served many roles in the Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Student Association (PSGSA), which culminated in her presidency.

### Reminder: 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](http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/students/cpin_student_completion_form.htm)

## News – CPIN Trainees (continued)

[http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/communications/news\\_cpिन\\_students.htm](http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/communications/news_cpिन_students.htm)



Congratulations to CPIN student member **Shahrzad Firouzian** (Institute of Medical Science, Dr. Karen D. Davis) on recently completing the CPIN requirements and graduating from her MSc program.

Her research focused on psychophysical measures. She studied conditioned pain modulation (CPM), which is a behavioural phenomenon that measures the change in pain intensity using the application of two painful stimuli at different body regions. She found that healthy individuals exhibit variability, with both increases and decreases in pain. This CPM effect was related to both personal attributes—sex and resilience—and stimulus attributes—pain unpleasantness and salience.

During her time as a graduate student, she served as both a copy editor and journalist for the IMS Magazine. She also presented her research at the Society for Neuroscience 2019 conference in Chicago. In her first year, she published a commentary on pain chronification, and in her second year, she published the work that went towards her thesis. Her time as a graduate student developed her critical thinking and communication skills, which she plans to use after graduation in her future work.

## Welcome New CPIN Students

<http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/students/currentstudents.htm>

CPIN extends a warm welcome to the following new CPIN Trainees:

Last Name	First Name	Home Unit	Degree	Supervisor
Nigam	Anukrati	IMS	PhD	Dr. Shreejoy Tripathy and Dr. Sean Hill
Punjani	Nayaab	IMS	MSc	Dr. Michael G. Fehlings

Students interested in applying to CPIN are encouraged to apply within a month of starting their degree.

The application form is available here:

[http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/students/cpin\\_student\\_application\\_form.htm](http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/students/cpin_student_application_form.htm)

The requirements and expectations for the program are available here:

<http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/CSIN/requirements2010.htm>

## Neuroscience Opportunities

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

### Support Engineer

#### Blackrock Microsystems

**Description:** Blackrock aims to provide Best of Class approved neurosciences tools to the research community to push the boundaries of human applications. We are a high-tech company that continuously innovates to empower researchers to better understand the brain.

[Click here for position and application details](#)