

Collaborative Program in Neuroscience (CPIN)

University of Toronto

Newsletter – Vol. 37, No. 2 – October 2020



SG Front campus in the Fall - University of Toronto Media

Featured In This Issue

News – CPIN Trainees Congratulations to CPIN student members **Raymond Wong** and **Jarred Garfinkle** on their achievements. Please see pages 1 and 2 for details.

Welcome New CPIN Students Please see page 2 for details.

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News – CPIN Faculty We would like to welcome **Dr. Daniel Felsky** as a new faculty member to the CPIN community. Please see page 4 for details.

NeuroSci 101 – Our annual lecture series for high school students started on October 26, 2020. Please see page 5 for details.

News – CPIN Trainees

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



Congratulations to CPIN student member **Raymond Wong** (Department of Physiology, Dr. Hong-Shuo Sun) on recently completing the CPIN requirements and graduating from his PhD program.

Raymond's PhD thesis examined potential drug targets for treatment of glioblastoma (GBM), which is the most common primary brain cancer. Considered incurable, there is urgency to identify novel therapeutic strategies. Raymond investigated the roles of certain ion channels that are poorly defined in GBM. Employing a multidisciplinary approach, his work provided salient evidence for

the involvement of these ion channels in GBM malignancy, thus identifying them as potential targets for pursuit of further drug development.

During his time in CPIN, Raymond received scholarships from NSERC, OGS, and the University of Toronto. He has presented at multiple international, national and local conferences. Additionally, he has contributed to 18 peer-reviewed publications, of which 10 are first-authored.

Outside of the lab, Raymond was involved in various CPIN initiatives, some of which included organizing the annual CPIN research day, directing the CPIN mentorship program, and assisting at the local Brain Bee high school neuroscience competition.

He hopes to continue brain cancer research from translational and clinical perspectives.

<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
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 (continued)

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



Congratulations to CPIN student member **Jarred Garfinkle** (Institute of Medical Science, Dr. Steven Miller) on completing the CPIN requirements and graduating from his MSc program.

Dr. Jarred Garfinkle is a neonatologist with subspecialty training in neonatal neurology. He completed a CIHR Fellowship in Dr. Steven Miller's lab at The Hospital for Sick Children with an MSc in the Institute of Medical Science and successful completion of CPIN at the University of Toronto. His thesis advanced our understanding of how cerebellar hemorrhages affect neurodevelopment in preterm children.

He was awarded the Richard D. Rowe Award in Clinical Research from the Society for Pediatric Research for his work, which was published in *Annals of Neurology*:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/ana.25899>

He is now faculty in the Department of Pediatrics at McGill University. His research will focus on preterm brain health, and specifically how the antecedents of preterm delivery and the adversities in the neonatal intensive care unit impact brain development in this vulnerable but resilient group of children.

Welcome New CPIN Students

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

CPIN extends a warm welcome to the following new Trainees:

Last Name	First Name	Home Unit	Degree	Supervisor
Banning	Joseph	CSB	MSc	Dr. Junchul Kim
Brooke	Calaina	REHSC	MSc	Dr. Stephen Perry
Harracksingh	Alicia	PSL	PhD	Dr. Zhong-Ping Feng
Ji	Delphine	PSL	MSc	Dr. Hong-Shuo Sun
Kazi	Intishar	PCL	PhD	Dr. Rachel Tyndale
Khorshid	Niyousha	PSL	MSc	Dr. Darren Kadis
Latypov	Timur	IMS	PhD	Dr. Mojgan Hodaie
Leung	Emily	LMP	MSc	Dr. Lili-Naz Hazrati
Moussaoui	Simar	PSY	PhD	Dr. Matthias Niemeier
Pauli	Quinn	PHM	MSc	Dr. Rob Bonin
Ray	Cody	MUS	MA	Dr. Michael Thaut
Sino	Sara	PSL	MSc	Dr. Darren Kadis
Tio	Earvin	IMS	MSc	Dr. Daniel Felsky
Wang	Grace	PSY	MA	Dr. Jed Meltzer
Weng	Yifang	PSL	PhD	Dr. Lu Yang Wang

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

Congratulations CPIN Graduating Students

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



Lauren Cole
Program: MA
Music and Health Science
Supervisor: Dr. Michael Thaut

Final Project Title: The effect of music in psychosocial counselling and training on cognitive flexibility:
A case study



Abigail D'Souza
Program: MSc
Pharmaceutical Sciences
Supervisor: Dr. Robert Bonin

Thesis Title: Modulation of Spinal Dorsal Horn Long-Term Potentiation by Non-Ionotropic NMDA
Receptor Activity



Simar Moussaoui
Program: MA
Psychology
Supervisor: Dr. Matthias Niemeier

Thesis Title: Working memory in action: Visual field differences in transsaccadic working memory



Matthew Skarsgard
Program: MSc
Medical Biophysics
Supervisor: Dr. John Sled

Thesis Title: Saturation Transfer Neuroimaging Features of Sickle Cell Anemia



Ji Myung Yoon
Program: MA
Music and Health Science
Supervisor: Dr. Michael Thaut

Final Project Title: Musical Attention Control Training (MACT) on Cognitive skills for Healthy Elderly
People

Congratulations CPIN Graduating Students (continued)

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

Last Name	First Name	Home Unit	Degree	Supervisor
Abi-Jaoude	Elia	IMS	PhD	Dr. Paul Sandor
Breton	Vanessa	PSL	PhD	Dr. Peter Carlen
Dawson	Victoria	CSB	MSc	Dr. Kaori Takehara-Nishiuchi, Dr. Junchul Kim
Oh	Hyemin (Amy)	IMS	PhD	Dr. Lucy Osborne
Winberg	Jordan	PCL	MSc	Dr. Jane Mitchell
Xhima	Kristiana	LMP	PhD	Dr. Isabelle Aubert
Yuk	Veronica	PSY	PhD	Dr. Margot Taylor

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

News – CPIN Faculty Members

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



We would like to welcome **Dr. Daniel Felsky** (Head, Whole Person Modeling, Krembil Centre for Neuroinformatics (KCNI), Centre for Addiction and Mental health (CAMH); Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto (U of T)) as a new faculty member to the CPIN community.

Dr. Felsky completed his PhD in Imaging-Genetics of Alzheimer's disease at the Institute of Medical Science (U of T) in 2015, and completed postdoctoral fellowships in the Department of Neurology at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston, and the Center for Translational and Computational Neuroimmunology at Columbia University Medical Center in New York. While abroad, Dr. Felsky taught in South Africa, Uganda, and the United Kingdom for

the Global Initiative for Neuropsychiatric Genetics Education in Research, supported by the T.H. Chan Harvard School of Public Health and the Stanley Center for Psychiatric Research at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard.

Dr. Felsky's team uses machine learning to understand interactions between genomic and environmental risk factors for mental illness, and is actively involved in collaborative studies of Alzheimer's disease, major depression, suicidal ideation, and youth psychosis. Ultimately, the Whole Person Modeling Group aims to deliver population-based models of disease risk and treatment response to improve clinical decision making and discover the underlying mechanisms of mental illness across the lifespan.

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NeuroSci 101

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

Our annual lecture series for high school students started with its first lecture this week, on October 26, 2020.

Formerly known as the Neuroscience Enrichment Program, NeuroSci 101 started in 2011 as an annual series of 12 lectures organized and taught by graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in the Collaborative Program in Neuroscience at the University of Toronto. The course is free of charge and offered with the goal of promoting neuroscience interest among secondary school students and helping them prepare for the annual Toronto Brain Bee competition.

The course takes place Monday nights, 5-6:30pm, from October 26th, 2020 to March 22nd, 2021. Due to COVID-19 restrictions during this difficult time, NeuroSci101 has transitioned to virtual delivery, using Microsoft Teams.

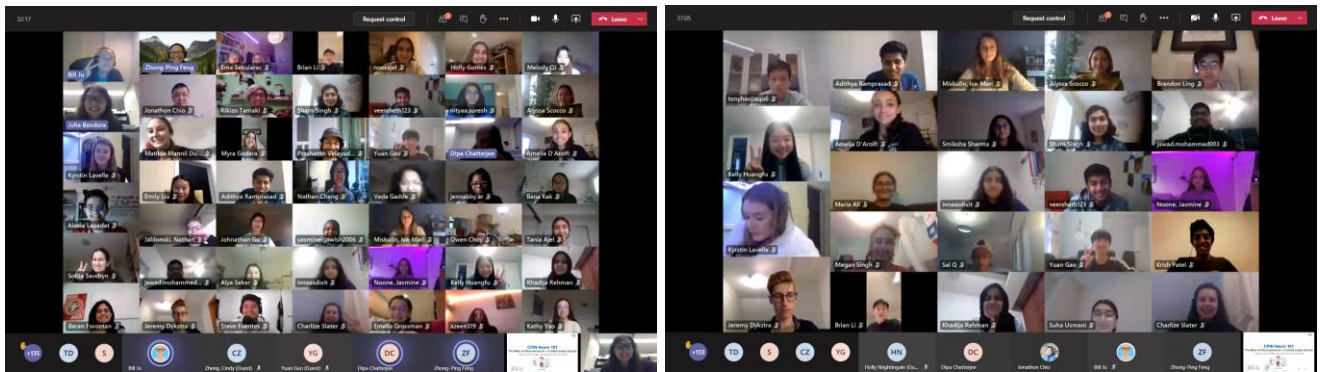


Photo credits Julia Bandura

The winter session lectures are delivered by Professor William Ju (Human Biology), Azadeh Sabetghadam (Postdoctoral Fellow, IMS), Sridevi Venkatesan (PhD candidate, Physiology), Julia Bandura (PhD candidate, Physiology), Prashanth Velayudhan (MSc candidate, Physiology), Simar Moussaoui (PhD candidate, Psychology). Lecture topics include multiple facets of neuroscience research; ranging from neuroanatomy, sensory systems, neurodegenerative conditions to imaging techniques.

This year, NeuroSci101 is coordinated by Jonathon Chio (PhD candidate, IMS), Dipa Chatterjee (PhD candidate, Pharmacology) and Julia Bandura (PhD candidate, Physiology), with support from CPIN staff Iulia Park (CPIN Administrator) and Dr. Zhong-Peng Feng (CPIN Director).

Over 130 students from 78 schools in the GTA were in attendance at the first lecture. At the final review session on March 22nd, 2021, students who have attended at least 9 lectures (not counting review sessions) will be presented with a certificate of participation in NeuroSci101.

High school students who are interested in knowing more about how the brain works can still register on our course website <http://www.neuroscience.utoronto.ca/events/course.htm>, until November 1, 2020.

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

The requirements and expectations for the program are available here:

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