MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I am looking forward greatly to the Macallum Lecture and the FIP Keynote Lectures to be delivered next week by Dr. Mona Nemer, Canada’s Chief Science Advisor. Dr. Nemer is a distinguished medical researcher whose focus has been on the heart, particularly on the mechanisms of heart failure and congenital heart diseases. As Canada’s Chief Science Advisor, Dr. Nemer represents Canadian science and research, and provides impartial scientific advice to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Science. One of her key mandates is to keep government science accessible and public.

Please ensure the following two lectures are firmly in your calendars:

**Macallum Lecture:** Thursday May 3\(^{\text{rd}}\), 3 pm, Mount Sinai Hospital Auditorium. Reception to follow. [More information](#)

**Frontiers in Physiology (FIP) Keynote Lecture:** Friday May 4\(^{\text{th}}\), 11:00 am, MaRS Auditorium. [More information (FIP)](#).

Hope to see all members of the department at these two important and very exciting events.

See below for more details.

Best wishes,

Graham
## PHYSIOLOGY’s MACALLUM LECTURE – Thursday May 3rd

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 PM – 4 PM</td>
<td>Dr. Mona Nemer</td>
<td>Mount Sinai Hospital, Ben Sadowski Auditorium 18th Floor, 600 University Ave</td>
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<td></td>
<td>&quot;Genetic Basis of Valve Disease&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 PM – 5 PM</td>
<td>Reception</td>
<td>Hennick Family Wellness Gallery, Mount Sinai Hospital, Ground floor</td>
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<td>Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 AM – 12:10 PM</td>
<td>Dr. Mona Nemer</td>
<td>MaRS Auditorium, lower level, 101 College St.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>&quot;A Journey From Discovery Science To Science Policy&quot;</td>
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<td>12:15 - 12:20 PM</td>
<td>Departmental Photo</td>
<td>MaRS Lobby</td>
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See [LINK](#) for all the exciting FIP details!
Congratulations to Winston Li (MSc Student, Orser lab) on receipt of a 2018-2019 CIHR Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarship Master’s Award for his project entitled: Ketamine prevents post-anesthetic cognitive deficits by reducing persistent hyperactivity of extrasynaptic gamma-aminobutyric acid type-A receptors.
PHYSIOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES
~ Eligible for PSL1000H/PSL2000H Course Seminar Attendance ~

Simon Alford, PhD
Sweeney Professor of Basic Sciences
& Head Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology
University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine

Title: "Probability and transient fusion in the synapse and the control of behaviour"

Date: Thursday, April 26th, 2018
Time: 4 p.m.
Location: Medical Sciences Building, Room #2170
Host: Neuroscience Platform

A reminder that all upcoming seminars are posted on Physiology’s Home Page:  www.physiology.utoronto.ca
PHYSIOLOGY & CPIN Distinguished Lecture

Speaker | Dr. John Isaac, Senior Director, Neuroscience, J&J London Innovation Centre, London, UK; Adjunct Professor, Department of Physiology, U of T

Title | TBA

Date | Monday, June 4, 2018

Time | 12:00 pm

Location | Rm. 2172, Medical Sciences Building, 1 King's College Circle, U of T

Host | Dr. Graham Collingridge, Chair, Department of Physiology, U of T

NEW FACULTY MEMBER

We are delighted to introduce you to Dr. Agostino Pierro who joined Physiology as a status-only member effective April 1st, 2018.

Dr. Pierro joined the Hospital for Sick Children and The University of Toronto as Professor of Surgery and Division Chief of Pediatric Surgery and a Senior Associate Scientist in May 2013. His previous position was the Nuffield Professor of Paediatric Surgery and Head of Surgery unit at Great Ormond Street Hospital and University College London, institute of Child Health, London, UK.

Dr. Pierro is an internationally recognized pediatric surgeon with expertise and a research interest in Neonatal Intestinal Disorders Requiring Surgery. His clinical interest is in neonatal, pancreatic, minimally invasive surgery and neuroblastoma surgery. He is affiliated with multiple prestigious medical and Scientific societies, which includes holding a Fellowship ad Eundem from the Royal College of Surgeons of England (FRCS Eng) in addition to Honorary Fellowship from Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (FRCS Ed) to name a few. He is also the Co-Editor in Chief of the Paediatric Surgery International journal.
Dr. Pierro has over 410 publications including peer reviewed articles, books and book chapters and has been a visiting professor and an invited speaker to more than 240 institutions globally. His Research Program has received continuous support by competitive grants including the most recent Canadian Health Research Institute Foundation Grant.

More recently, Dr. Pierro has been privileged to have been appointed an honorary Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE). This honour was conferred by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 2016 in recognition of services to medicine and charity.

Dr. Pierro will be participating in the activities of the Endocrine and Diabetes Research Platform. Email: agostino.pierro@sickkids.ca

**GASP News**

On Friday, May 6th, the Department hosted its first annual open house event for interested and newly accepted graduate students. The purpose was to give an overview of the Physiology Department's graduate program, as well as each platforms' general research areas. The Karolinska Exchange, the Graduate Professional Development Program, the direct entry PhD program, GASP, PhysioCup, DoPTSS, and FIP were some of the all highlighted features. Following this, the graduate coordinators (Drs Feng and Tweed) talked about scholarships and academic matters, and the platform heads (Drs Jurisicova, Gramolini, Prescott, and Wheeler) gave a wonderful overview on the research being done in each platform. After the students learned what great things the Physiology Department had to offer, they were allowed to openly network with the current graduate students and faculty that were present at the open house. A special thanks to Dr. Lu-Yang Wang, Rosalie Pang, and Jenny Katsoulakos.

Melanie Markovic  
GASP President  
PhD candidate, Brubaker lab

**9th ANNUAL PHYSIOLOGY DAY – Update**

On Thursday, April 12th, 80 high school students visited the Department of Physiology to partake in the 9th annual Physiology Day event. Organized by graduate student Ashkan Salehi, the event allowed students from 8 high schools across the GTA to perform interactive labs. Students isolated their own DNA, performed a “DNA crime-scene” investigation, and studied the effect of exercise on their respiratory and cardiovascular systems. During lunch, Drs. Belsham, Horner, Wittnich, Brubaker and French joined the students for a Q&A session. The event was a great success, with attendants requesting an increase in number of admissions for next year’s event.
A sincere **THANK YOU** is extended to participating faculty, as well as graduate students Melanie Markovic, Frances Wong, Neemat Mahmud, Tao Wang, Winston Li, Jessie Lim, Josiane Mapplebeck, Shelly Chauhan, Sridevi Venkatesan and Amy Xu. Lastly, thank you to Division Teaching Laboratories, Let’s Talk Science (Sandhya Mylabathula), and administrative personnel for making this day possible.

**Ashkan Salehi**
GASP Science Outreach Coordinator &
MSc Trainee, Belsham Lab
We want to hear about the great things happening in Physiology.

Please share your accomplishments, awards...
Send news items to the Chair’s Office
c/o e.katsoulakos@utoronto.ca