

# PhysioLINK

June 13, 2019

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I am pleased to see so much positive activity in the department as we look forward to the summer months. Stay tuned for updates on upcoming departmental meetings and some of the new strategic initiatives we are planning for next academic year.

**Scott P. Heximer, PhD**  
Interim Chair,  
Department of Physiology

## JUNE CONVOCATION

**Many congratulations to all of our trainees** upon the successful completion of their degree programs. We wish them the very best in their future endeavors!

Student	Program	Supervisor
Aggarwal, Jasmin	MSC	Horner R
Chow, Theresa	PHD	Rogers I
Guskjolen, Axel	PHD	Frankland P
Jiang, Anlong	MSC	Liu F
Lau, Jocelyn Man Hay	MSC	Josselyn S
Leung, Celeste	PHD	Jia Z
Mohamed, Aisha	MSC	Rogers I
Nosi, Ursula	PHD	Cox B
Rondeau, Justin	MSC	Lye S
Sidorova, Elena	PHD	Eubanks J
Szeto, Vivian Ying	MSC	Feng ZP
Wu, Qiu Jing	PHD	Tymianski M

## HONOURS & AWARDS

### Graham Collingridge receives Queen's Birthday Honours



We are delighted to announce that Graham Collingridge, our own former Chair (2015-2019) and current Professor within the Department of Physiology, is named in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours. The **Queen's Birthday Honours** are appointments by some of the 16 Commonwealth realms of [Queen Elizabeth II](#) to [various orders and honours](#) to reward and highlight good works by citizens of those countries. The Birthday Honours are awarded as part of the Queen's Official Birthday celebrations during the month of June.

Graham was awarded the **Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE)** for his transformative work in our understanding of the cellular basis of memory and its role in brain disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease.

*"I am delighted to receive this honour, which recognizes the work of the many researchers who I have had the great pleasure to work alongside in my laboratories in Vancouver, Sydney, Bristol, Birmingham and Toronto. Making progress in such complex disorders requires a highly multidisciplinary and collaborative approach and nowhere that I have been has such a great collaborative research spirit as Toronto."*

*My current works benefits enormously from collaborations with other members of the Department of Physiology, in particular, Zheng-Ping Jia, Mike Salter, Lu-Yang Wang and Min Zhuo".*

Graham Collingridge

Graham, is currently the Director of the Tanz Centre for Research in Neurodegenerative diseases within the Faculty of Medicine and a Senior Investigator at the Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute at Mount Sinai Hospital.

*"On behalf of the entire department, I would like to extend our sincere congratulations to Graham for this monumental achievement and to thank him for his ongoing contributions to the Toronto neuroscience research community."*

Scott Heximer, Interim Chair



Congratulations to **Dr. Anita McGahan** (cross appointee) on receiving the highly distinguished designation of **University Professor**. [More details](#).

## PHYSIOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES

~ Eligible for PSL1000H/PSL2000H Course Seminar Attendance ~

**Neil Goldenberg, MD, PhD, FRCPC**

Staff Anesthetist

Department of Anesthesia and Pain Medicine

Scientist-Track Investigator, Program in Cell Biology

The Hospital for Sick Children

Assistant Professor, Department of Anesthesiology

Title: **The Immunobiology of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension**

Location: Medical Sciences Building, Room 2170

## U of T Teaching Academy

Our large physiology courses, PSL300H, PSL301H and PSL201Y were three of ten U of T courses this past academic year to use Team Up! a web-based app that is designed to promote active learning. Team Up! allows students to sign in with their own electronic devices to form groups and to submit group answers to questions posed. The game-like nature of Team Up! is fun while promoting deeper discussions and peer teaching. Student marks are automatically uploaded to Quercus.



Melody Neumann (left); Michelle French (right). Photo by Perry King

The app was developed by Melody Neumann, Cell and Systems Biology and further development of Team Up! to allow for use in Convocation Hall was supported by a LEAF grant to Melody Neuman, Franco Taverna, Human Biology and Michelle French.

## 2ND PAN-AMERICAN CONGRESS OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

**"Physiology without borders", May 27-31, 2019, Havana, Cuba**

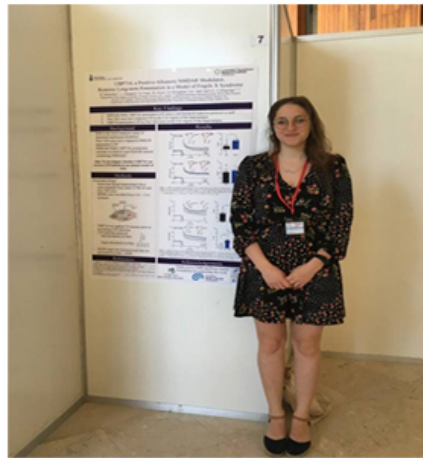
### Meeting Report

The 2nd Pan-American Congress of Physiological Sciences was held in Havana, Cuba from May 27th thru May 31st, 2019. The purpose of this congress is to bring physiologists from across the American continent together every ~4 years to discuss

the latest developments across the whole range of physiological sciences. Our Department was represented by myself in my capacity as President of the Canadian Physiological Society, Lu-Yang Wang, Amira Klip, and Rasa Volianskis. It was a splendid conference which opened with an outstanding historical Plenary lecture by Martin Frank, a very well-known physiologist who served as Executive Director of the American Physiological Society for 33 years. Indeed, the APS was instrumental in helping Cuba host this conference against the odds. At the meeting it was decided by the Executive that the 3rd Pan-AM conference will be held in Chile in 2023.



Panam 2019 Physiology without borders



Graham Collingridge  
President, the Canadian Physiological Society



## GASP News

As the 2018-2019 academic year comes to an end, GASP would like to thank all the faculty, staff, and trainees who helped make this year a great success. We saw great turnout and enthusiasm at all of our social and academic events and we hope we can continue our success for the years to come.

If you would like to be a part of the leadership team for the 2019-2020 academic year, come out to the GASP executive team elections! The following positions are available:

- President\*
- Vice President (x3)\*, \*\*
- Financial Advisor
- Administrative Advisor

\*must have previously had experience on GASP or \*\*FIPComm

Stay tuned for more details! Please send all questions to Sammy:  
[sammy.cai@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:sammy.cai@mail.utoronto.ca)

GRADUATE ASSOCIATION OF  
STUDENTS IN PHYSIOLOGY  
**ELECTIONS**

Stay tuned for more details!

Interested in shaping the experience  
of students for the coming year? The  
following positions are available  
(please come prepared with a 1-2 min  
speech):

**President\***

**Vice-President (x3)\*, \*\***

**Financial Advisor**

**Administrative Advisor**

For more information, please  
contact Sammy at:  
[sammy.cai@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:sammy.cai@mail.utoronto.ca)

\*must have previously had experience on GASP or \*\*FIPComm

## RESEARCH RADIO

As soon as a controversial topic arises, it is almost guaranteed that not everyone will be on the same page. Groups of people stand at odds with one another regarding issues that affect millions of lives. Climate change, is it real or not? Vaccines, do they give our kids autism? Abortion laws, who does it benefit? The stakes are high. How do we overcome ill-informed ideas, miscommunication, and personal convictions that plague any attempt towards an educated discourse and address these questions in an evidence-based way? One way to educate the masses on controversial topics is to have well-informed leaders in our government. In today's episode, "Policing Science and Science Policy", we discuss the role of science and that researchers have in encouraging our government leaders on impartial policy-making that can then better people's lives. We speak with **Daniel Eisenkraft Klein**, an incoming PhD student in Exercise Sciences and Public Health Policy, as well as **Canada's Chief Science Advisor, Dr. Mona Nemer** on how research can end any doubts on controversial topics by looking at the evidence and having more researchers in leadership roles.



Listen to the episode to learn how Dalla Lana School of Public Health prepares its future policy-makers, and learn how Dr. Mona Nemer utilized her prolific scientific career to help the Canadian government with scientific affairs.

**Listen to our latest episode here:**

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[Spotify](#)

[Soundcloud](#)

[Apple Podcasts](#)

### **About us:**

Research Radio is a podcast produced by graduate students in the Department of Physiology at the University of Toronto. Each month, we release 1-2 episodes highlighting a graduate student or scientist's research, and talking about all things grad life and pop culture! Check out our [website](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#), and if you are interested in working with us, please email us at [researchradiotoronto@gmail.com](mailto:researchradiotoronto@gmail.com)



**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](mailto:e.katsoulakos@utoronto.ca)