

PhysioLINK

December 15, 2022



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Thank you again to everyone who joined us in person and virtually for yesterday's Holiday Lunch. It was wonderful to catch up with each other, enjoy the camaraderie and celebrate our award winners.



As we approach the end of 2022, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the Department for all of their important contributions to the Department!

I hope everyone gets a chance to relax over the holidays and spend time with family and friends.

Wishing you all a safe and Happy Holiday Season!

Scott P. Heximer, PhD

Ernest B. and Leonard B. Smith Chair,
Department of Physiology
Temerty Faculty of Medicine

Department of Physiology Sponsored Special Seminar / CPIN Distinguished Lecture

~ Eligible for PSL1000H/PSL2000H/PSL4000Y Course Seminar Attendance ~

TOMORROW! FRIDAY DEC 16, 2022 | 2:00 - 3:00pm

Professor Hirofumi Morishita

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York NY

"Maturation of Frontal Circuits in Control of Cognitive and Social Behavior"

Profile: <https://icahn.mssm.edu/profiles/hirofumi-morishita>

This is a hybrid lecture.

- In Person: MSB 2172, Medical Sciences Building, 1 King's College Circle;
- Online: <https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/87215510537>

Hosted by Dr. Evelyn Lambe

34 U of T researchers awarded Canada Research Chairs

Thirty-four scholars at the University of Toronto have been awarded new or renewed Canada Research Chairs — **19 of whom are affiliated with the Temerty Faculty of Medicine.**

Many of the Canada Research Chairs are working on topics related to complex global challenges – advancing knowledge that will help accelerate the transition to clean energy, for example, achieve more equitable societies or develop new treatments for cancer and other debilitating diseases.



Among the 19 new chairs at U of T is our own **Denise Belsham** (Tier 1 in neuroendocrinology).

[Here is the full list of new and renewed Canada Research Chairs at U of T](#)

[New Temerty of Medicine Canada Research Chairs](#)

MHSc in Medical Physiology Class of 2022

Congratulations to Physiology's second cohort of our Professional Master's program – the MHSc in Medical Physiology – who convoked on November 8th. We couldn't be more pleased with how our program is going and growing, and the accomplishments of our alum so far.

Second Cohort Highlights

- The 2022 cohort was the first to test-drive the *Physiology Meets Business* mentorship program, and their feedback allowed us to grow and strengthen the program for our current group of students.

- Two students have submitted their literature reviews for publication, under the mentorship of Dr. Zhong-Ping Feng. Dr. Feng is confident that their work will be published, joining the two students who published their reviews last year, and alum Natalie Mercuri whose work with Dr. Brian Cox was just accepted by eLife this month. We are finding this aspect of the program to benefit students and mentors alike, with high quality work consistently emerging from these collaborations.
- Students continued to thrive in their summer placements, receiving rave reviews from their supervisors. Brian Lynch, COO of HeroAI – who hired two of our students for placements – explained the value of our students’ skill sets to his organization:

Keep reading.... More highlights and Where are They Now.

We are also accepting applications for the September 2023 cohort. [Click here](#) if you are ready to apply!

HOLIDAY RAFFLE 2022



A tremendous **THANK YOU** to all of the people who participated in this year’s [CP24/CHUM Christmas Wish](#) Holiday Raffle. “The Wish was originally established in 1966 as CHUM’s Kid’s Crusade Foundation, for the purpose of assisting children in need and children’s charities. In 1973, the name was changed to the CHUM Charitable Foundation in order to broaden the scope of the foundation’s work, including the increase in requests for financial assistance from adults in need. In 2008, the program became known as the CP24 CHUM

Christmas Wish. The Wish has become one of the largest distributors of toys to those in need in the Greater Toronto Area, as well as providing financial assistance to hundreds of agencies”.

A huge appreciation note to GASP/UPSA/PSL who advertised the tickets, all of the people who provided the **35 (!) prize contributions**, and especially those who bought tickets!

We managed to raise a **record \$3,185** for the charity and this demonstrates the **outstanding generosity** of our faculty, students and staff - and especially important in this remarkably difficult year.

[See list of all the lucky winners attached.](#)

Happy Holidays to All!

Justin Kim on behalf of Dr. Denise Belsham

DEPARTMENTAL TEACHING AWARDS

Congratulations to all of the faculty members below on receipt of a Teaching Award at the Holiday Party.... outstanding! Your continuing dedication to the education mission of our department is enormously appreciated.

Undergraduate Teaching Awards 2022

- **Sandra Pereira** – Robert Goode Early Career Teaching Award
- **Nohjin Kee** – Undergraduate Large Class Teaching Award
- **Jeremy Sivak** – Undergraduate Small Class Teaching Award
- **Steffen-Sebastian Bolz and Darcy Liddington** - Innovative Course Design Award and Excellence in Teaching Performance
- **Michael Tymianski** – Outstanding Guest Lecturer in Undergraduate Physiology

Graduate Teaching Awards 2022

- **Steffen-Sebastian Bolz** – Excellence in Graduate Teaching
- **Zhong-Ping Feng and Lu-Yang Wang** – Excellence Joint Graduate and Undergraduate Teaching



L-R Dr. Tony Gramolini, Dr. Scott Heximer (Chair), Dr. Zhong-Ping Feng, Dr. Lu-Yang Wang

MHSc In Medical Physiology Award Recipient 2022

Each year, the Department of Physiology issues the MHSc in Medical Physiology Award to honour the accomplishments of one student in the program who has achieved excellence not only in PSL4010Y (Mentored Literature Review in Physiology) but also across their entire MHSc program (excluding the practicum). The award supports the costs of publishing their mentored literature review in an appropriate journal.



This year, the committee honours **Melissa Misztal**, whose Mentored Literature Review on Huntington's disease, written under the guidance of Dr. Zhong-Ping Feng, made a particular impact.

KRAICER AWARD 2022

Recognizes excellence in scholarship during doctoral studies in the Department of Physiology

Each year there is one award recipient who is awarded \$1,000 and an inscribed trophy. In addition, the award recipient's name is added to the Kraicer Award Wall Plaque located in the corridor near the Chair's Office.



Congratulations to **Dr. Sarah Martchenko** (Brubaker lab) who is this year's winner!

Do you have a news item for the next PhysioLINK?

Please send it to Jenny e.katsoulakos@utoronto.ca



Happy Holidays Everyone!

Stay Safe & See you in the New Year!