



Physiology
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

PhysioLINK

November 8, 2021

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

In preparation for the external review of our educational and research programs in March 2022, I want to thank everyone for their valuable contributions to the preparation of our self-study document. This is an important time for reflection and introspection that will help us shape the future of the department.

Scott P. Heximer, PhD

Ernest B. and Leonard B. Smith Chair,
Department of Physiology

PHYSIOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES – Upcoming Seminars

“Islet cellular clocks' disruption and diabetes”

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

~

When: *Thursday, November 18, 2021 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)*

Speaker: Professor Charna Dibner

Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes, Nutrition and Patient Education, Department of Medicine/Department of Cell Physiology and Metabolism/Diabetes Center, Faculty of Medicine, University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland

A link to her website for more information:

<https://unige.ch/medecine/demed/en/groupe-de-recherche/948dibner/>

<https://www.unige.ch/medecine/diabetescentre/fr/membres/charna-dibner/>

Join Zoom Webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87000235193>

Hosted by the Brubaker lab

“Smooth Muscle Cell-Derived Resident Vascular Stem Cells: Role in pathological Vascular Remodeling”

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

~

When: *Thursday, Dec 2, 2021, 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)*

Speaker: Mary C.M. Weiser-Evans, Ph.D., FAHA

Charles Boettcher II Professor of Medicine

Co-Director, Consortium for Fibrosis Research and Translation

Department of Medicine

Division of Renal Diseases and Hypertension

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

More info on her research: <https://som.ucdenver.edu/Profiles/Faculty/Profile/5117>

Join Zoom Webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86333806627>

Hosted by the Husain Lab

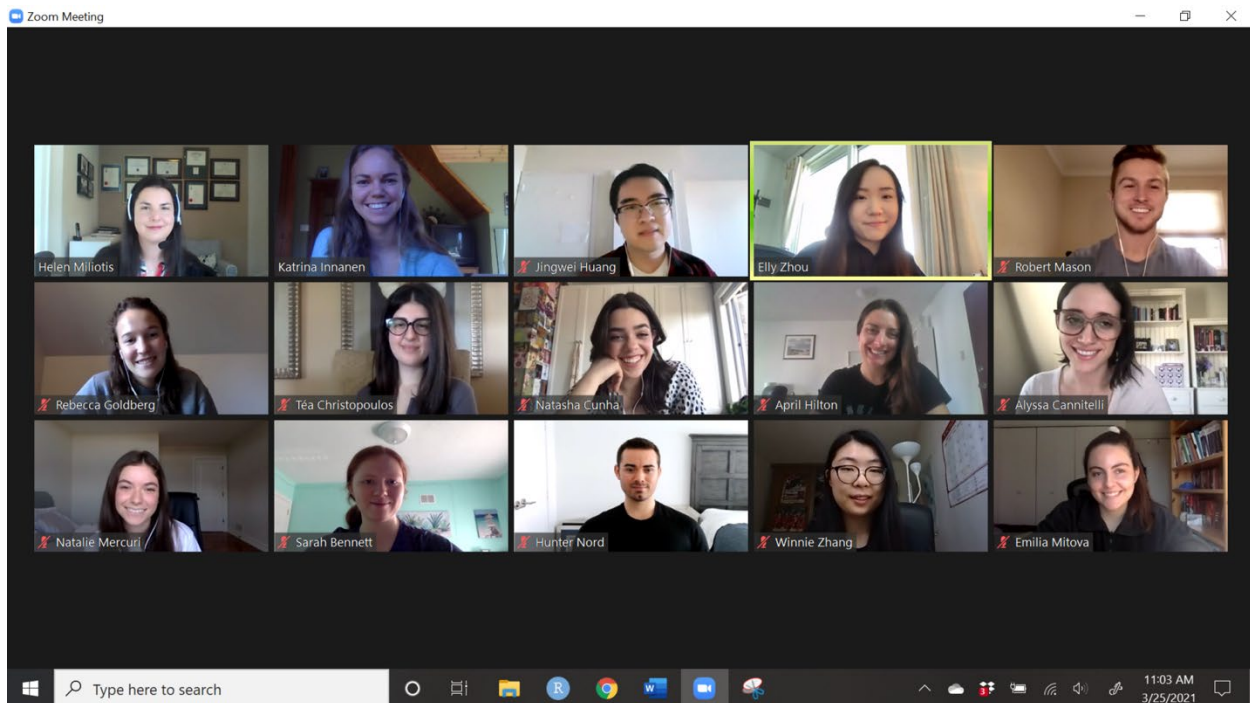
Please visit [Physiology's Home Page](#) to see the Full Seminar Listing

FALL CONVOCATION 2021

Congratulations to all of the 30 (!) graduate students below on the successful completion of their degree programs. **Well done everyone – we are very proud of you!**

Student	Supervisor(s)	Degree
Aggarwal, Aashi	Librach C	MSc
Boros-Rausch, Adam	Lye S / Shynlova O	MSc
Cazorla-Bak, Melina	Hare G / Mazer D	MSc
Chi, Leon	Goldenberg N	MSc
Danaei, Zehra	Lam T	MSc
Foley, Meredith	Wittnich C	MSc
Ganji, Niloofar	Pierro A	MSc
Gasner, Avishai	Librach C	MSc
Grande, Elisabeth	Adeli K	MSc
Lim, Jessie Mei	Post M / Seed M	PhD
Liu, Daheng (Leo)	Orser B	MSc
Mabbott, Connor	Matthews S	MSc
MacKeigan, Daniel	Ni H	MSc
Mahiny-Shahmohammady, Donya	Billia F	MSc
Mahmud, Neemat	Miller F	PhD
Mazza, Frank	Hay E / Griffiths J	MSc
McGaugh, Emily	Nostro C	PhD
Niakani, Sepehr	Horner R	MSc
Nishat, Eman	Wheeler A / Ameis S	MSc
Pinguelo, Arsene	Orser B	PhD
Raheem, Javeria	Pausova Z	MSc
Rehaluk, Christine	Zhen M	MSc
Samson, Isaiah	Frankland P	MSc
Srikrishnaraj, Arjuna	Brubaker P	MSc
Sweeney, Maegan	Brubaker P	MSc
Tran, Lina	Frankland P	PhD
Visram, Aylin	Connelly K	MSc
Woo, Anita	Pausova Z	MSc
Yang, Chengye	Wang LY	MSc
Yung, Justin	Giacca A	MSc

MHSc in Medical Physiology - Off to a Remarkable Start



Congratulations to the first cohort of the Department's MHSc in Medical Physiology program who graduate November 18th. Our students are now thriving in industry positions, professional, and PhD programs, and are publishing in major journals.

"The work they did helped us both internally and for consumer-facing messaging," said Bastien Moineau, R&D Lead at the wearable device start-up Myant Inc. who hired two MHSc candidates for summer placements. "They provided advice on *how* to use data on heart rate and steps, *why* inactivity is dangerous...they also understood what data is, what an ECG is supposed to look like, so we didn't have to explain health monitoring 101 to them."

Student Elly Zhou Zhou was able to readily use what she learned in the Big Data course. "I loved it. Especially the machine learning aspect," she said. "I was able to apply a lot of those concepts in my current project, because we're trying to improve AI-based diagnostics in lung transplants. It feels meaningful and we can hopefully help more patients as we develop the algorithm." Zhou and many other graduates were hired upon finishing their practicums.

Read on to learn more about our remarkable first cohort!

<https://physiology.utoronto.ca/news/mhsc-medical-physiology-remarkable-start>

NEW FACTULY MEMBERS – Drs. Balki and De Pittà

Mrinalini Balki, MBBS, MD



We are delighted to welcome Dr. Mrinalini Balki to Physiology as a status-only faculty member. Dr. Balki is participating in the activities of the Neurosciences and Reproduction & Development Research Platforms.

Mrinalini.Balki@uhn.ca

Mrinalini Balki is a staff Anesthesiologist at Mount Sinai Hospital since Aug 2004, and is affiliated with the Dept of Physiology, and Obstetrics & Gynaecology, University of Toronto as well as Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute, Sinai Health system. She was promoted to the rank of Professor at the University of Toronto in July 2021. She completed Neuroanesthesia and Obstetric Anesthesia fellowships at the University of Toronto prior to joining Mount Sinai Hospital.

She has received funding for her laboratory research from several sources including that from *Canadian Institutes of Health Research*. She is an Editorial board member of the *Canadian Journal of Anesthesia*. She currently has more than 100 peer-reviewed publications and 7 Book chapters. She has received several honors and awards including Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society Career Scientist Award; Merit Awards at University of Toronto; Zuspan, Patient Safety, and Research in education awards at the Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology; and several best paper awards at conferences. Her interests include obstetric anesthesia and critical care, uterotonic agents, postpartum hemorrhage, spinal ultrasound, airway management, simulation and labor analgesia.

Maurizio De Pittà, PhD

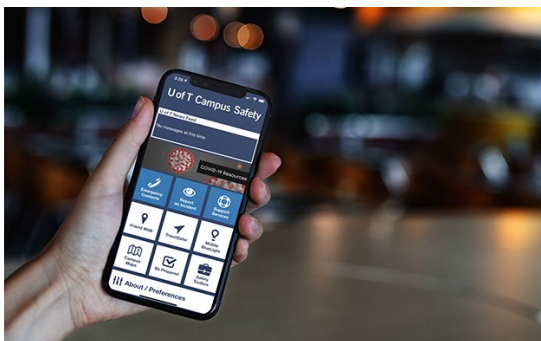


Physiology welcomes Dr. Maurizio De Pittà as a primary status-only faculty member. Maurizio joined the Krembil Research Institute in August after an international search. Dr. De Pittà is participating in the activities of Physiology's Neurosciences Research Platform.

Maurizio.DePitta@uhnresearch.ca

Maurizio De Pittà is a neuroscientist at the Krembil Research Institute. He specializes in studying the structure and function of neuron-glia interactions from subcellular to Systems' levels of operation. Maurizio pioneers computational approaches to record, quantify, and replicate neuron-glia interactions in the human brain and animal models, to elucidate their role in cognition and pathology. He is also a Principal Investigator in the H2020 European Training Network ASTROTECH and a funding member of the CliSyne Spanish Consortium for Translational Systems Neuroscience

U of T Campus Safety App



Did you know that U of T has a campus safety app? It helps students, faculty, and staff move safely on and off-campus, and is integrated with the safety and support services the Campus Safety team offers. [Download the U of T Campus Safety app on Google Play or the App Store.](#)

Stay safe everyone!

**Please continue to visit the central COVID-19 hub
for the U of T community**

UTogether