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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
FACULTY OF MEDICINE

# MedEmail

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## Message from the Dean

Catharine Whiteside

High standards of ethics and professionalism are core values across medical and research professions. Understanding the obligations and responsibilities embodied by these values is critical to ensuring they inform our actions as physicians and scientists providing patient care and conducting quality research.

We also recognize the fundamental importance of diversity at our Faculty, and assuring equitable treatment to all in everything we do, including providing a welcoming and accommodating environment to visible

minorities, sexual minorities and people with disabilities.

In the past few years, we've taken a number of steps to ensure we're able to address these challenging issues. In 2007, we were the first medical faculty in Canada to create a dedicated decanal-level post - the Associate Dean, Equity & Professionalism - to address these issues.

Subsequently, in September 2011, Faculty Council adopted a [Diversity Statement](#) that clearly sets out our commitment to equity and diversity. In that statement we commit to recruiting and retaining students, faculty, and staff that reflect the diversity of Canadian society; maintaining an environment of fairness and respect where all can work and learn free of discrimination; and assuring that our programs and curricula prepare our graduates to meet the needs of the diverse communities they will serve in their careers in Canada and around the world.

As well, our current strategic planning process has reaffirmed our commitment to equity and diversity as key factors in fulfilling our social responsibility, which stands at the heart of our *mission* and *vision* as a medical school. At present, we have identified three groups for priority attention in ensuring equity and diversity at the Faculty: Indigenous Peoples of Canada (First Nations, Inuit, and Métis); people of African ancestry; and students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

In order to better understand the barriers faced by certain groups within our profession and assess any challenges at the Faculty of Medicine, in November 2011 we conducted a pilot survey of faculty members to learn from their experience with diversity and equity issues at the Faculty.

Of the 1755 respondents, 22% identified themselves as a member of a visible minority group, and 20% of the surveyed faculty grew up in families with lower-than-average or considerably-lower-than-average (i.e. low-income) families. As we have previously identified for the undergraduate MD program, the survey results showed that we need to particularly focus on growing our numbers of faculty members from the Indigenous Peoples of Canada and

those of African ancestry. Overall, we were pleased that 81% of respondents believe the Faculty of Medicine is welcoming to diversity, but we will continue to strive to push this result higher still to meet our goal of ensuring a welcoming and accommodating environment for all.

I want to thank everyone who participated and offered their insight into these important issues. This pilot survey will inform future surveys and strategies, and your feedback is essential to all of the senior leadership at the Faculty in helping us continually improve our approach to these complex questions.

Working together, I am confident that we can harness the strength of our diversity, and provide the most welcoming and respectful environment for world-leading teaching, learning and patient care.

**Catharine Whiteside**

Dean, Faculty of Medicine

Vice-Provost, Relations with Health Care Institutions

**IN THE NEWS:**

Three drug injection sites recommended for Toronto, two in Ottawa

Tax day in US linked to spike in fatal car crashes: University of Toronto study

If you would like to have a news item or a research or education award announcement placed in MedEmail please forward it by e-mail to [Leslie.Church@utoronto.ca](mailto:Leslie.Church@utoronto.ca).

**TABLE OF CONTENTS:**

- 1. Academic Appointments**
- 2. Honours and Awards**
- 3. Announcements**
- 4. Call for Nominations**
- 5. Around Campus**
- 6. Medicine Research Online**

**EVENTS CALENDAR**

**MEDEMAIL ARCHIVE**

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**1. Academic Appointments**

[Back to Top](#)

**Appointment of Dr. Ian Witterick as Chair, Department of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery**

The Academic Board has approved the appointment of **Professor Ian Witterick** as Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery for a five year term commencing July 1, 2012.

Dr. Witterick is Professor and Vice-Chair in the Department of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery at the University of Toronto and serves as the Department's Director of Postgraduate Education and Continuing Education. He holds leadership positions in the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery and the Royal College of

Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

A highly regarded teacher, Professor Witterick has received numerous teaching awards including the Postgraduate Medical Education Program Development and Innovation Award and the Charles Mickle Fellowship Award. He has organized more than 40 continuing education courses or conferences and was recently Program Chair for the North American Skull Base Society. He is an associate editor for the Journal of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery and the American Journal of Rhinology & Allergy and has published widely in the fields of head & neck oncology, rhinology, and skull base surgery.

Dr. Witterick graduated from medical school at the University of Western Ontario. He completed his residency training program at the University of Toronto followed by fellowships in head & neck oncology and rhinology, and an MSc in Clinical Epidemiology. His current clinical appointments are at Mount Sinai Hospital, the University Health Network, and Saint Joseph's Health Centre, Toronto.

May I extend sincere thanks to **Pat Gullane** for his outstanding leadership of the Department of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery since 2002.

Please join me in warmly welcoming Ian Witterick to his new role in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto.

**Catharine Whiteside**

Dean, Faculty of Medicine

Vice-Provost, Relations with Health Care Institutions

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### **Appointment of Professor Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker as Chair, Department of Immunology**

The Academic Board has approved the appointment of **Professor Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker** as Chair of the Department of Immunology for a five year term commencing July 1, 2012.

Professor Zúñiga-Pflücker has been a faculty member in the Department of Immunology since 1994. He is currently a Senior Scientist at the Sunnybrook Research Institute where he serves as Interim Director, Biological Sciences. Professor Zúñiga-Pflücker is also a Fellow of Trinity College, and an Affiliate Scientist at the Ontario Cancer Institute and the Campbell Family Institute for Breast Cancer Research. Professor Zúñiga-Pflücker holds a Canada Research Chair (Tier 1) in Developmental Immunology.

The recipient of numerous awards, funding, and patents, Professor Zúñiga-Pflücker is the co-author of an extensive list of peer-reviewed publications, which include several important breakthroughs in the field of T lymphocyte development. He currently sits on the Editorial Boards of Seminars in Immunology, BMC-Immunology, and Stem Cell Research, among other journals. Professor Zúñiga-Pflücker has served in senior administrative roles including Undergraduate Coordinator of the Department of Immunology and Director of the Advanced Regenerative Tissue Engineering Centre. His doctoral students and postdoctoral trainees consistently receive provincial and national distinctions and scholarships.

Professor Zúñiga-Pflücker completed graduate studies at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, earning his PhD from The George Washington University and

undertaking a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

May I extend sincere thanks to **Michael Ratcliffe** for his outstanding leadership of the Department of Immunology since 2001.

Please join me in warmly welcoming Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker to his new role in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto.

**Catharine Whiteside**

Dean, Faculty of Medicine

Vice-Provost, Relations with Health Care Institutions

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**Reappointment of Dr. Pamela Coates, Director, Mississauga Academy of Medicine**

On behalf of Dr. Norman Hill, Senior Executive Lead for Medical Education at The Credit Valley Hospital and Trillium Health Centre, Dr. Amy Mullin, Dean at the University of Toronto Mississauga, and Dr. Jay Rosenfield, Vice-Dean, Undergraduate Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine, we are very pleased to announce the re-appointment of **Dr. Pamela Coates** as Director of the Mississauga Academy of Medicine (MAM), for a second five-year term.

The Search/Advisory Committee received and reviewed much feedback from faculty, staff and students and made a unanimous recommendation for reappointment.

Dr. Coates has shown exceptional leadership skills in her first term, taking MAM from a concept and vision, to a well-functioning reality. Her infectious enthusiasm for the development of a stellar new campus for undergraduate medical education in Mississauga is noteworthy. Indeed, the successful opening of MAM in August 2011 is in large part due to the unrelenting and capable commitment of Dr. Coates to excellence in teaching, a high quality student experience, and to a community focused program.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Coates on her re-appointment!

**Jay Rosenfield, MD, MEd, FRCPC**

Vice-Dean, Undergraduate Medical Education

Faculty of Medicine

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**2. Honours and Awards**

[Back to Top](#)

**2012 Canadian Stem Cell Network Till & McCulloch Award**

**Dr. Aaron Schimmer** (Depts. of Medicine and Medical Biophysics, and Ontario Cancer Institute, UHN) has received the prestigious 2012 Till & McCulloch Award presented by the Canadian Stem Cell Network. This Award recognizes the year's most influential peer-reviewed article by a researcher in Canada. Dr. Schimmer is being recognized for his leadership in drug screening with stem cells to identify potential leukemia therapies. He will accept the award and present a lecture entitled "Novel therapeutic strategies to target leukemia stem cells" as part of the Till and McCulloch Meetings in Montréal on April 30, 2012.

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## **2012 CIHR-ICRH Distinguished Lecturer in Cardiovascular Sciences Award**

**Dr. Peter Liu** (Dept. of Medicine, and Toronto General Hospital Research Institute) has been selected as the 2012 CIHR-ICRH Distinguished Lecturer in Cardiovascular Sciences. In honour of scholarship and creativity in the cardiovascular sciences, the CIHR Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health (ICRH) has established this annual award to recognize outstanding researchers who have contributed to the advancement of cardiovascular sciences. Dr. Liu will receive the award and deliver this prestigious lecture at the annual Canadian Cardiovascular Congress in October 2012.

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## **2012 John P. Hubbard Award - National Board of Medical Examiners**

**Dr. Brian Hodges** (Dept. of Psychiatry and Wilson Centre for Research in Education) was selected as the recipient of the 2012 John P. Hubbard Award from the National Board of Medical Examiners. The award is given to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the pursuit of excellence in the field of evaluation of medicine. Dr. Hodges is being recognized for his "relentless efforts to enhance the quality of evaluation locally, nationally and internationally," and "sustained innovation in assessment research."

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## **CITAC establishes Diana Alli National Award for Community Service**

The Clinician Investigator Trainee Association of Canada (CITAC) has announced that it will be establishing a national award in honour of **Diana Alli** of the Office of Health Professions Student Affairs. The Award, available to MD-PhD students nationwide, will be given to a student demonstrating outstanding community service, in recognition of the "national and global impact" Diana Alli has had over the course of her distinguished career.

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## **University of Toronto Chancellor's Award - Emerging Leader**

**Heather Drouillard** (Division of Teaching Laboratories, Faculty of Medicine) has been awarded the Chancellor's Award - Emerging Leader Category, recognizing staff members for exceptional leadership in their role in advancing the university's mission and who demonstrate significant potential to assume more senior leadership in the organization. Heather was recognized for her influence in many areas outside the purview of her role as a finance and administration professional.

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## **2012 W.T. Aikins Award - Individual Teaching Performance - Large Group**

**Dr. Dante Morra** (Dept. of Medicine and University Health Network) has been awarded the 2012 Aikins Award for Individual Teaching Performance (Large Group) for his scholarly and innovative approach to teaching in a demanding subject area. The Aikins Awards are the most prestigious awards presented by the Faculty of Medicine for commitment to and excellence in undergraduate medical education. Dr. Morra is being presented with this award in recognition of his "ability to challenge our students and to lead them through the sometimes difficult learning process in an engaging and enthusiastic manner."

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## **2012 David Keeling Award for Administrative Excellence**

**Merle Casci** has been selected as the recipient for the 2012 David Keeling Award for Administrative Excellence, recognizing her valuable service to the Faculty of Medicine for the past 20 years. She served as the Executive Coordinator of the Department of Medical Biophysics from 1992-2010 and has now assumed the position Business Manager and Administrator. She has played a transformative role in the growth of the graduate student program and has had a considerable impact upon the cultural and academic life of the Faculty's students. She is commended by her peers, supervisors and colleagues as an energetic individual known for her compassion, innovation in the face of diversity and willingness to always make time to lend a hand wherever help is needed.

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### **Medical Students' Society establishes the Diana Alli Award**

On behalf of the undergraduate medical students in the Faculty of Medicine, MedSoc has established the Diana Alli Award in recognition of the enormous contributions **Diana Alli** (Office of Health Professions Student Affairs) has made to student life for medical students and to the broader community through initiatives including the Summer Mentorship Program, Earthtones, and University of Toronto International Health Programs. The Award will be presented annually to the graduating medical student who demonstrates a commitment to enhancing student life and community outreach throughout all four years of their undergraduate medical education.

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## **3. Announcements**

[Back to Top](#)

### **Rose Family Chair in Supportive Care**

**Dr. Camilla Zimmermann** (Dept. of Medicine and University Health Network) has been selected to assume the Rose Family Chair in Supportive Care. This endowed chair in the Faculty of Medicine was established to promote scholarship in research and education in palliative care at the University of Toronto. Camilla was chosen by the University Search Committee in recognition of her significant scholarly accomplishments in research and program development in palliative care. This Chair was made possible by the generous support of Mr. Barrie Rose. Mr. Rose has been an ardent supporter of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto.

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## **4. Call for Nominations**

[Back to Top](#)

### **Reminder: 2011 External Education and Teaching Awards – Deadline May 31st, 2012**

The Faculty of Medicine Education and Teaching and Awards Committee reviews proposed nominations for external awards twice annually. To ensure sufficient lead time for adjudication and preparation of nomination dossiers, the internal nomination deadlines are set well in advance of deadlines for final submission. The Education Vice-Deans are now calling for internal nominations for the following external awards with fall/winter deadlines:

Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC)

*Award for Outstanding Contribution to Faculty Development in Canada*

*Young Educators Award*

*John Ruedy Award for Innovation in Medical Education*

*May Cohen Gender Equity Award*  
*President's Award*  
*E-Health Award*

Canadian Association for Medical Education (CAME)  
*New Educator's Award*  
*Ian Hart Award for Distinguished Contribution to Medical Education*

Canadian Medical Association (CMA)  
*May Cohen Award for Women Mentors*  
*Award for Young Leaders*

Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC)  
*The Duncan Graham Award*

Society for Teaching & Learning in Higher Education (STLHE)  
*Alan Blizzard Award*

University of Toronto  
*President's Teaching Award*

For additional information about eligibility criteria and internal nomination procedures, visit: <http://www.facmed.utoronto.ca/staff/teach/external.htm>, or contact Jeananne Robertson.

Nominations must include:

- the name of the award
- a summary paragraph or statement explaining why the nominee is suitable for this award
- a current CV for the nominee, and
- a teaching dossier (if available).

Please submit nominations electronically to Jeananne Robertson at [edudeans@utoronto.ca](mailto:edudeans@utoronto.ca) by end of day on **Thursday, May 31st, 2012**.

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## **5. Around Campus**

**Back to Top**

### **Reminder: Education Achievement Celebration April 30th**

This is a reminder on behalf of the Education Vice-Deans to all members of the Faculty of Medicine community to join the 10th annual Education Achievement Celebration, a Faculty-wide forum to celebrate and reward excellence in teaching. Poster presentations will showcase some of the innovative educational scholarship within the Faculty.

The Celebration will be held on **Monday, April 30, 2012 from 4:15pm to 7:00pm** in the Great Hall at Hart House. The Keynote Address, "I think I can, I think I can," will be given by Professor **Tom Chau**, Institute for Biomechanics and Biomedical Engineering, Vice-President Research Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, and Director, Bloorview Research Institute.

While RSVPs have been requested, last-minute attendees are welcome! For additional information, visit:

<http://www.facmed.utoronto.ca/about/governance/council/celebrate.htm>.

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## 6. Medicine Research Online

[Back to Top](#)

### **RESEARCH GRANTS**

- [CIHR Catalyst Grants - CEEHRC Epigenetics, Environment & Health](#)
- [CIHR Clinician Scientist Awards - Phase 1 & Phase 2](#)
- [CIHR Various Operating Grants](#)
- [Physicians' Services Inc. Foundation – Research Grants](#)

*~ Our congratulations to all! ~*

### **UPCOMING AWARD DEADLINES**

#### **May**

[Canadian Cardiovascular Society Awards](#)

[King Faisal International Prize](#)

[World Food Prize](#)

[Rolf Luft Award in Endocrinology and Diabetes Research \(May 12\)](#)

[Bower Award](#)

#### **June**

[Killam Prize](#)

[Canadian Medical Hall of Fame](#)

[Steacie Prize for Natural Sciences](#)

[BBVA Foundation - Frontiers of Knowledge Awards](#)

For any queries regarding awards, please contact:

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Phone: 416 978-7342

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[Updates from CIHR University Delegate](#)

[Funding News & Opportunities - local, national, international](#)

[Links to Departmental Research Seminars](#)

[Back to Top](#)