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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
FACULTY OF MEDICINE

# MedEmail

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## Faculty Message

**Celebrating Excellence in Medicine at U of T** • As we near the close of another year, this is a good time to reflect on and recognize significant events and achievements of 2011. Over the past several months, we in Medicine participated in a broadly consultative process that culminated with the forward-thinking Faculty of Medicine Strategic Plan 2011-2016. The Plan's unifying themes are **Integrate • Innovation • Impact**. Research plays a key role and we are incredibly well positioned to implement "integrate, innovate and impact"

through our network of partnerships across TAHSN, with our 20 Community Affiliated Hospitals, and our 15 inter-disciplinary Centres and Institutes.

Recognizing **Integration** • The Institute of Human Development (IHD), officially recognized by its participating academic units (Faculty of Medicine, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto Mississauga, and Mount Sinai Hospital) is an exemplar of integration across disciplines, methodologies, Faculties, campuses and affiliated hospitals. The IHD mandate is aimed at understanding the full relationship between children's earliest experiences and their well-being throughout the life course. The Institute will explore the interaction between genes and environment - a crucial component of how we develop but not well understood. Investigators will look at the role of development on a child's ability to learn and how we form relationships as children and into adulthood. The IHD will provide great insights into how trajectories, set early in life, have consequences on our health and that of our children, potential for learning, and social functioning. Researchers and educators alike can then consider ways to best modify these trajectories so that the full potential of all children is optimized to truly impact their quality of life.

Recognizing **Innovation** • This year the world celebrates the 90th anniversary of one of the most important milestones in health research - the Discovery of Insulin. On July 27, 1921, at UofT, Sir Frederick Banting and Dr. Charles Best made an enormous breakthrough isolating insulin and discovering how to administer it to diabetic patients. Their Nobel award-winning findings have saved millions of lives and improved the lives of those who suffer from diabetes. The Connaught Laboratories first mass-produced insulin and, its sale in 1972, brought about the creation of the Connaught Fund here at UofT. The legacy of the Banting and Best discovery carries through to today with funding from the Connaught Awards, supporting excellence in research across the spectrum at the University and our affiliated hospitals. Since its inception, the University has stewarded the Fund, awarding more than \$100 million to UofT researchers. The fund now invests nearly \$4 million annually in emerging and established scholarship.

Recognizing **Impact** • The prestigious [Canada Excellence Research Chairs \(CERC\)](#) program awards world-class research teams significant funding to establish ambitious research programs. The Faculty of Medicine boasts two CERCs, each of which provides \$10 million in research funding over 7 years. The two CERCs, one in Structural Neurobiology and the second in Integrative Biology, support interdepartmental and university-TAHSN research. The funding also enables the investigators to create and enhance global collaborative networks.

**Integration • Innovation • Impact** • As we look back on 2011, the Faculty of Medicine celebrates not only these incredible accomplishments but many more, large and small, that permeate and weave through every aspect of our work as we continue to improve and impact the lives of Canadians through excellence, integration and innovation in our research, education and work in the health sciences.

As we move forward, just imagine what our achievements can be in 2012.

**Alison Buchan**

Vice Dean, Research and International Relations  
Faculty of Medicine

**IN THE NEWS:**

[U of T well represented in Canadian Medical Hall of Fame](#)

[How hemp got high: Canadian scientists map the cannabis genome](#)

[Next-generation Database of Genomic Variants launches](#)

[Toronto researchers find first physical evidence that bilingualism delays onset of Alzheimer's symptoms](#)

[U of T awarded three new Canada Research Chairs; sixteen researchers receive renewals, promotions](#)

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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 [Jennifer Holland](#).

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**1. Honours and Awards**

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**Canadian Medical Hall of Fame 2012 Inductees**

The Faculty of Medicine is proud to announce that three members of its community are 2012 inductees to the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame.

**Dr. John H. Dirks** of Toronto has elevated Canadian and international science and education to unprecedented heights. He is perhaps best known for transforming the Gairdner Foundation International Awards, often referred to as 'Canada's Nobel Prizes', into one of the most prestigious awards programs for medical research in the world. In a career now spanning five decades, Dr. Dirks has made huge impacts in every field he has touched, including scientific and academic achievements in nephrology (kidney function and disease).

**Dr. John James Rickard (J.J.R.) Macleod** is now recognized for collaborating in one of the most important breakthroughs in medicine.

Known internationally at the time for his research in carbohydrate metabolism and physiology, Dr. Macleod was recruited to the University of Toronto where he directed the research that led to the discovery and clinical use of insulin as an effective therapy for diabetes. Following the breakthrough in 1922, Dr. Macleod shared the 1923 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with Dr. Frederick Banting.

**Dr. Lap-Chee Tsui** made what is described as the most significant breakthrough in human genetics in 50 years, namely the discovery of the cystic fibrosis gene. Born in Shanghai, China, and coming to the University of Toronto and the Hospital for Sick Children in the early 1980s, Dr. Tsui has made extraordinary contributions to science through his discoveries and is a leader in developing the field of genomics in Canada and throughout the world.

The 2012 Induction Ceremony, presented by BMO Harris Private Banking, will be held for the first time in Toronto on March 21. Over 500 of Canada's leading citizens will join honorary chair Dr. David Naylor, University of Toronto President, committee chairs Dr. Catharine Whiteside, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto, and Dr. Mark Poznansky, President and CEO of Ontario Genomics Institute, and other distinguished guests for an evening of inspiration and celebration. For more information regarding the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame, please visit <http://www.cdnmedhall.org/2012-inductees-named-hall-fame>.

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### University of Zagreb Honorary Doctorate

On November 4, 2011, **Mladen Vranic** (Professor Emeritus, Department of Physiology and Medicine) is getting the academic title of Honorary Doctorate from the University of Zagreb (Doctor Honoris Causa Universitas Studiorum Zagrabiensis). This degree is very rarely given to their own graduates, and it is given once a year, so it will be the 94th honorary doctorate. He is the third Canadian to get this award. The previous honorary doctorates from Canada were given to Charles Best and Northrop Frye. This is Mladen's fourth honorary doctorate, having received one from the Karolinska Institute Medical Faculty (1992) and from the University of Toronto and the University of Saskatchewan in June 2011.

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## 2. Announcements

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### Department of Anesthesia Faculty Development Day 2011

On November 11, the University of Toronto Department of Anesthesia will hold a Faculty Development Day at 89 Chestnut Residences and Conference Centre from 7am - 2.30pm.

A format similar to Shields Day will be followed - mixing work, social networking and a bit of pleasure. Several keynote addresses by experts in the fields of Faculty Development and Continuing Medical Education are planned. This includes [Dr. Peter Minich](#) who will present on delivering

solutions to health care issues in Canada. In addition to six interactive workshops - the focus will be on engaging in discussion with regards to common challenges in anesthesia education rather than dry educational theory.

A number of oral presentations and a poster session will conclude the academic part of the day. Staff or fellows involved in projects in areas of education or creative professional activities, including knowledge translation, development of clinical protocols or practice reviews are encouraged to submit their projects for presentation at Faculty Development Day. For more information please click [here](#).

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### **Education Development Fund**

The Education Vice-Deans would like to announce that the Education Development Fund is under a process of review and revision. This review is intended to align the fund with the Faculty of Medicine's new Strategic Plan. While this means that the usual timeline of a January submission for funding will be delayed, we do anticipate that a new announcement of the fund's intent and the funding cycle will be announced in the coming academic year. Thank you for your patience and we look forward to continuing to support educational innovations within the Faculty.

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### **Institute of Medical Science Magazine**

The Institute of Medical Science (IMS) department has recently begun a new journal called the IMS Magazine that highlights the breadth and diversity of research taking place at the IMS. The IMS Magazine is distributed electronically and in print four times per year to our students, faculty and other academic departments at the University of Toronto. The Fall issue of the Magazine can be found online at <http://issuu.com/imsmagazine/docs/imsfall2011>.

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## **3. Call for Nominations**

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### **Faculty of Medicine Continuing Education Awards 2010-2011**

This is a reminder that nominations are now being requested for the Faculty's Continuing Education Awards for 2010-2011. These six awards provide an opportunity for the University of Toronto's Faculty of Medicine faculty to be recognized for their outstanding achievement in program development, research, on-line education, teaching excellence, and long-term contributions to continuing education. The awards are named for exceptional University Toronto Faculty recognized internationally for their scholarly contributions to the field of continuing education and professional development.

The six named awards are:

1. The Colin Woolf Award for Excellence in Teaching
2. The Colin Woolf Award for Excellence in Course Coordination

3. The Colin Woolf Award for Long-Term Contributions to Continuing Education
4. The Fred Fallis Award for Excellence in Online Education
5. The David Fear Fellowship
6. The Dave Davis Award for Excellence in Research

These awards are presented to worthy faculty following a rigorous peer review process.

Please submit, **by Monday, November 14, 2011**, the names of faculty in your Department and the Continuing Education programs they have developed which you feel are worthy of a CEPD award. In addition, we have extended the deadline for receipt of materials supporting nomination(s) to **Wednesday, November 30, 2011** (was formerly October 31).

We are also providing a link to the U of T CEPD Website that provides criteria for each award and the nomination submission process:

[http://www.cepd.utoronto.ca/?page\\_id=222](http://www.cepd.utoronto.ca/?page_id=222)

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### **2011-12 External Education and Teaching Awards - Internal Deadline November 30th, 2011**

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 external awards with spring/summer deadlines:

#### **American Association Medical Colleges - Abraham Flexner Award**

**Description:** The Abraham Flexner Award for Distinguished Service to Medical Education is granted annually to an individual for extraordinary contributions to the medical education community. The Flexner Award recognizes the highest standards in medical education and honors individuals whose impact on medical education is national in scope.

#### **American Association Medical Colleges - Alpha Omega Alpha (Ω) Robert J. Glaser Distinguished Teacher Awards**

**Description:** The Alpha Omega Alpha Robert J. Glaser Distinguished Teacher Awards were established by the AOA medical honor society in 1988 to provide national recognition to faculty members who have distinguished themselves in medical student education.

#### **Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations Teaching Award**

**Description:** Each year the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations recognizes outstanding teachers and academic librarians in Ontario universities through its Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards.

#### **Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education - 3M National Teaching Fellowship**

**Description:** Excellence in teaching over a number of years, principally

(but not exclusively) at the undergraduate level.

Please submit nominations electronically to Jeananne Robertson at [edudeans@utoronto.ca](mailto:edudeans@utoronto.ca) by end of day on **Wednesday, November 30th, 2011**.

For additional information visit:

<http://www.facmed.utoronto.ca/staff/teach/external.htm>. 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 applicable).

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## **Annual Graduate Faculty Teaching Awards**

The Faculty of Medicine will award up to 3 graduate faculty teaching awards annually. The purpose is to honour and celebrate outstanding contributions to graduate education by full time faculty in the Faculty of Medicine who teach in doctoral stream or professional graduate programs. The award will consist of a framed certificate, a cash prize and formal recognition at the Faculty of Medicine Educational Achievement Event on April 30, 2012.

### **Categories (one award in each category):**

#### **Sustained contribution (more than 5 years) to excellence in graduate teaching**

This award recognizes sustained contribution(s) to any aspect of graduate teaching including a course, curriculum development, graduate program administration, graduate student supervision or academic role modeling. This individual should demonstrate regular support of their Graduate Departmental activities including participation in seminars, annual scientific days and significant contribution to service on student committees including thesis examinations.

#### **Graduate student mentorship**

This award recognizes sustained (more than 5 years) contribution to graduate student mentorship exemplified by but not limited to: major contribution to graduate student learning; enthusiastic and empathic critical appraisal of students' work; timely assessment of students' research programs including program advisory committee meetings and prompt turnaround of written work; and, careful attention to a critical path laid out for students' research.

#### **Early career excellence**

This award recognizes outstanding contribution to the training and experience of graduate students, as evidenced by excellence in teaching, supervision or mentorship and dedication to students. This award is restricted to Faculty in the early stages of their career within 5 years of their initial SGS appointment.

#### **Eligibility**

The nominee must hold a full time primary appointment in the Faculty of Medicine and be either an associate or full member of the School of Graduate Studies. Contributions to teaching in either the doctoral (thesis

MSc or PhD) or professional graduate programs will be considered.

### **Nomination**

Candidates for these awards must be nominated by a Graduate Department through a student (or recent graduate)-initiated process. **Please Note: Each Graduate Department may only nominate ONE faculty member per award category.**

**Nomination Deadline:** December 9, 2011 (Note: Each Graduate Department will have an earlier internal deadline)

### **Further Information:**

<http://www.facmed.utoronto.ca/programs/graduate/award.htm>

**Contact:** [debbie.chau@utoronto.ca](mailto:debbie.chau@utoronto.ca)

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## **4. Medicine Research Online**

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### **Research Grants**

- CIHR Operating Grants - Secondary Analysis of Databases
- CIHR Miscellaneous Grants
- Parkinson Society of Canada

*~ Our congratulations to all! ~*

### **UPCOMING AWARD DEADLINES**

#### **November**

Canada's Top 40 Under 40  
Harvey Prize

#### **December**

Royal Society of Canada Fellowship  
Albert Einstein World Award of Science  
Kavli Prize

#### **January**

Henry G Friesen International Prize in Health Research

For any queries regarding awards, please contact:

Elizabeth Fragnelli  
Email: [elizabeth.fragnelli@utoronto.ca](mailto:elizabeth.fragnelli@utoronto.ca)  
Phone: 416 978-4660 or

MaryAnn DeFrancis  
Email: [maryann.defrancis@utoronto.ca](mailto:maryann.defrancis@utoronto.ca)  
Phone: 416-978-8316

### **Resources:**

Henry Stewart Talks (University of Toronto Libraries)  
Faculty of Medicine Equipment Repair Centre  
UHN Shanghai Custom Chemical Synthesis

**Regular Departments:**

Updates from CIHR University Delegate

Funding News & Opportunities - local, national, international

Links to Departmental Research Seminars

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