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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
FACULTY OF MEDICINE

# MedEmail

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## Faculty Message

### Supporting Excellence in Medicine at U of T

This past Sunday, November 20 saw the official launch of the University's new \$2 billion capital campaign themed "Boundless". Quoting David Palmer, VP Advancement, "Boundless, the theme we have chosen for our Campaign, is one that we hope will resonate with the values and aspirations of our community members, for its openness, optimism and inclusiveness, for the expanding reach and

global impact of our research, and for the many opportunities [donor] support makes possible for our students." You can explore the campaign's major themes and priorities by visiting: <http://boundless.utoronto.ca>. There you can view compelling narratives of our students, faculty and alumni, as well as the Campaign video showcased at the launch.

Over the coming year, the Faculty of Medicine will incorporate this theme into major public activities (events, donor communications, etc.). We will also officially launch the Medicine at UofT campaign in the spring at which time we will announce our goal as well as our key public platforms. Importantly, philanthropic support will be focused on 3 broad areas: student financial support, the retention and recruitment of faculty members and priority capital projects.

There are many compelling reasons for Medicine at UofT to be launching a campaign, not the least of which is a strong track record of discovery. Leading up to the Launch we have been undertaking an environmental scan of research activity across the Faculty involving Departments, Institutes, Centres and the affiliated Toronto Academic Health Sciences Network (TAHSN) Research Institutes. Areas of particular strength are Human Development, Neuroscience, Personalized Health and Global Health. These areas of strength will form the expressive themes for the campaign. The goal of the overarching themes is to reflect those areas where there is critical mass and activity across all sectors of the Faculty of Medicine including TAHSN affiliates and our community partners. We are committed to working in partnership with our local, national and international communities to improve health and wellbeing.

It will also be important to promote our global brand. In that regard, we will develop the University's new "Boundless" theme, to develop a Campaign communications strategy for Medicine.

As we develop our campaign themes we are working from a position of strength. We have just completed the annual data collection of research activity in the Faculty for 2010-11 with expanded criteria to reflect the

breadth of support received by our researchers and students. In 2010-11 there were 1,613 (14% increase over 2009-10) active researchers in the Faculty of Medicine, who obtained 8317 (50% increase) research grants and contracts (includes studentships/fellowships) totaling \$792 million (18% increase over previous year) from internal and external sources. The research conducted ranges from basic biomedical laboratory-based to large population health epidemiological studies.

Our research network is unprecedented globally in its size and impact. And it continues to grow. For example, this month saw the launch of two significant research partnership collaborations with the University Health Network; the Techna Institute for the Advancement of Technology for Health (Techna) and the iDAPT Centre for Rehabilitation Research. At the launch of Techna, Dr. Catharine Whiteside, Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Vice Provost, Relations with Health Care Institutions at U of T, said: "Techna will provide an environment for faculty and students in clinical, biomedical and bioengineering fields to work collaboratively to create biotechnical solutions for diagnostic and therapeutic challenges. The clinical and graduate departments involved in Techna will design new teaching and learning opportunities to prepare the next generation of biotechnology innovators." The goal of the iDAPT Centre is to create partnerships with leading investigators from major Institutions across the world. At the core is the [Challenging Environment Assessment Lab \(CEAL\)](#) featuring the world's first simulator that can mimic everyday environmental challenges faced by older people and those with disabling illness and injury. Both initiatives exemplify the integration goal of the Faculty of Medicine bringing together scientists, clinicians, students, engineers and consumers

Kudos and thanks to all in the Faculty of Medicine community who contributed to these outstanding outcomes and we look forward to working with all of you to make 2012 an exciting and impactful year.

**Alison Buchan**

Vice-Dean, Research and International Relations

**Mike den Haan**

Executive Director, Advancement

**IN THE NEWS:**

The Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC) Primer on Population Health is now available

Paying Attention to Failure

How Muscles Coordinate to Achieve Movement

UofT Launches Techna Innovation Hub

Predicting MS Diagnosis in Children

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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](#).

**TABLE OF CONTENTS:**

**1. Academic Appointments**

**2. In Memoriam**

**3. Honours and Awards**

**4. Announcements**

**5. Call for Applications**

**6. Call for Nominations**

**7. Advancement**

**8. Medicine Research Online**

**EVENTS CALENDAR**

**MEDEMAIL ARCHIVE**

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# 1. Academic Appointments

[Back to Top](#)

## Director, Dalla Lana School of Public Health

The Agenda Committee of the Academic Board has approved the appointment of **Dr. Howard Hu**, MD, MPH, ScD, to lead the Dalla Lana School of Public Health for a five-year term effective July 1, 2012.

Dr. Hu is a physician, board-certified in internal medicine and occupational/environmental medicine, who also holds a doctoral degree in epidemiology. Since 2006 he has been at the University of Michigan Schools of Public Health & Medicine, where he is the NSF International Department Chair, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, and Professor of Environmental Health, Epidemiology and Internal Medicine. During Dr. Hu's tenure, the Department of Environmental Health Sciences added 14 new faculty, expanded the recruitment of top students, and created new programs and laboratories in nutrition-toxicant interactions and environmental epigenetics. Dr. Hu also led the establishment of the Michigan NIEHS Center for Research on Lifestage Exposures, Epigenetics and Adult Disease. Prior to that, as Professor of Occupational and Environmental Medicine at the Harvard School of Public Health and the Channing Laboratory of the Brigham & Women's Hospital, he directed the Harvard Metals Epidemiology Research Group, the Center for Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research and the Harvard University Residency Program in Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

Dr. Hu's creative and innovative research on environmental health has focused on issues such as the adverse health effects of lead and other heavy metals, the impacts of gene/environment interactions, the long-term effects of fetal exposure to lead and other chemical toxicants, interactions between aging and the environment, and global climate variability and change. Much of his work has been conducted internationally with collaborators in Mexico and India. He has authored or co-authored over 300 scientific papers and book chapters and co-edited or co-authored 7 books. Dr. Hu was the founding Medical Editor and continues as an Associate Editor of *Environmental Health Perspectives*, the official journal of the U.S. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS).

A respected researcher, clinician and educator, Dr. Hu's numerous awards and honours include: the 1999 NIEHS Progress and Achievement Award; the 2006 Harriet Hardy Award; the 2009 Linus Pauling Lifetime Achievement Award; and most recently, the 2011 American Public Health Association (APHA) Award for Excellence for his work on environmental health issues as well as his advocacy for human rights.

Dr. Hu served as the principal epidemiologist and/or leader on fact-finding missions related to potential violations of human rights in South Korea, Iraq, Burma and Guatemala on behalf of Physicians for Human Rights, and he also served on that organization's founding board of directors. He was chair of the Research Commission for the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, has served on the Population and Public Health Practice Board of the Institute of Medicine and currently serves on

the Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology of the National Research Council.

Dr. Hu brings a highly distinguished record of research and service to the Dalla Lana School of Public Health. Please join us in welcoming him to the University of Toronto.

Cheryl Misak  
Vice-President and Provost

Catharine Whiteside  
Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Vice Provost, Relations with Health Care Institutions

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## 2. In Memoriam

[Back to Top](#)

Dr. Fraser Mustard passed away peacefully on November 16, 2011. A well known advocate of investing in early human development, Dr. Mustard's contributions to education, research and to the scientific community will be sorely missed. Our condolences go out to his children and grandchildren. A celebration of Dr. Mustard's life will be held in the Great Hall at Hart House on November 25 at 1:00pm. For the memorial article from the University, please click [here](#).

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## 3. Honours and Awards

[Back to Top](#)

### Canadian Kidney Foundation Medal for Research Excellence

**Dr. Norman Rosenblum** (Department of Paediatrics) has been awarded The Kidney Foundation of Canada's 2011 Medal for Research Excellence for his internationally recognized research in the area of pediatric nephrology, his outstanding role as a clinician scientist and his leadership in mentoring Canada's next generation of kidney researchers. Each year, The Kidney Foundation presents The Medal for Research Excellence to a Canadian researcher whose work is deemed by peers as having improved the treatment and care of people living with kidney disease.

Dr. Rosenblum's research work is focused on studying malformations which occur during development of the kidney and urinary tract. Poorly understood, these abnormalities result in a whole family of diseases that are the leading cause of childhood renal failure. Yet, his laboratory has provided important new insights. Specifically, they have succeeded in genetically modifying the function of a number of critical protein pathways, which in turn affect the work of key cells. By manipulating the amount of intercellular communication or "signaling" in these pathways, his research team has generated mouse models that replicate human problems. The malformations appear in a number of ways, from anomalies in the number of kidney filters (nephrons) and the integrity of kidney tissue to the swelling of the kidney or urinary tract (a condition known as hydronephrosis). Investigating the roles of signaling pathways in their particular context during the actual process of kidney development is vital,

providing unprecedented knowledge and understanding of the function of specific genes and the genesis of specific diseases. This can potentially lead to novel treatment of the disease itself and improved health for patients.

A patient-centered researcher, Dr. Rosenblum is also a much sought-after mentor. For the past 10 years he has been the Principal Investigator of an interdisciplinary program that trains clinician-scientists in the field of child health in Canada. The principles of the program, which links 17 universities across the country in 7 child health disciplines, have served as a model for others.

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### **Eric W. Martin Award for Excellence in Medical Writing**

**Dr. Bart Harvey**, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, received the Eric W. Martin Award for Excellence in Medical Writing in the professional (intended for a medical audience) writing category from the American Medical Writer's Association (AMWA). The AMWA is the leading professional organization for written medical information.

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### **Canadian Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism**

**Dr. Lawrence Leiter**, Departments of Medicine and Nutritional Sciences, has been elected for a two-year term as the President of the Canadian Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism (CSEM). CSEM is a professional organization bringing together clinical endocrinologists, educators and researchers engaged in providing health care, training and research within the broad domain of endocrinology. The CSEM is a national advocate for excellence in endocrinology research, education, and patient care, and its mandate is to advance the discipline of endocrinology and metabolism in Canada.

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### **Canadian Cardiovascular Society Research Achievement Award**

**Dr. John Floras**, Department of Medicine, has been selected as the 2011 Canadian Cardiovascular Society Research Achievement Award recipient, one of the most prestigious honours bestowed by the CCS. This award is in recognition of Dr. Floras' contributions to research in Canadian cardiovascular health and care. Dr. Floras received the award at the CCS Awards Ceremony held at the Canadian Cardiovascular Congress in October 2011.

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## **4. Announcements**

[Back to Top](#)

### **University of Hong Kong and University of Toronto Joint Education Placements**

The University of Hong Kong (HKU) and the University of Toronto are committed to work closely on joint activities designed to foster and promote collaboration in the field of education, research and other

scholarly activities. HKU has signed a renewed Memorandum of Understanding and an Addendum with the University of Toronto for joint educational placements for doctoral students. The signing of agreement with the University of Toronto is an important milestone in HKU's Centenary Year.

The joint PhD programmes offer students the opportunities to benefit from shared research excellence in a wide range of disciplines between HKU and its prestigious partner. Students will acquire enriching international experience in learning and research, an invaluable asset in their career development. Joint PhD programmes are elite programmes that will admit only a very small number of high calibre students. The annual intake will be no more than 5 students from each institution.

The first joint PhD programme will be made between the Department of Biochemistry, Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, HKU and the Department of Molecular Genetics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto. The two parties have been collaborating extensively and further collaboration is likely in the fields of Developmental and Functional Genomics, Genetics and Molecular Genetics, Stem Cells, Molecular and Cellular Signaling, Protein Science and Structural Biology, and Synthetic Biology and Technology.

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### **Vice Dean, Continuing Education and Professional Development**

In accordance with the University's "Policy on Appointment of Academic Administrators," an Advisory Committee has been struck to guide the search for Professor Ivan Silver's successor as Vice Dean, Continuing Education and Professional Development. The composition of the committee is as follows:

**Catharine Whiteside**, Dean, Faculty of Medicine (Co-Chair)  
**Sarita Verma**, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Medicine (Co-Chair)  
**Mathieu Albert**, Wilson Centre  
**Mary Bell**, Department of Medicine  
**Katherine Berg**, Department of Physical Therapy  
**Teodor Grantcharov**, Department of Surgery  
**Brian Kavanagh**, Department of Anesthesia  
**Karen Leslie**, Centre for Faculty Development  
**Jamie Meuser**, Department of Family & Community Medicine  
**Susan Rock**, Office of Continuing Education and Professional Development  
**Jay Rosenfield**, Vice Dean, Undergraduate Medical Education  
**James Rutka**, Department of Surgery  
**Simarjot Sandhu**, Medical Student  
**Carolyn Shiau**, Clinical Fellow  
**Sal Spadafora**, Vice Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education  
**Joshua Tepper**, Vice President, Education, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

The committee encourages and welcomes input. Please send comments and nominations to Meg Connell, Director, Office of the Dean, at [meg.connell@utoronto.ca](mailto:meg.connell@utoronto.ca). Your opinions will be treated in strictest confidence and will be made known only to the Advisory Committee for

the Appointment of the Vice Dean, Continuing Education and Professional Development.

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## 5. Call for Applications

[Back to Top](#)

### Chair, Dept. of Biochemistry

Applications and nominations are invited for the position of Chair, Dept. of Biochemistry. For position (Faculty Job # 1101059) and contact details, visit <http://www.jobs.utoronto.ca/faculty>.

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### Director, University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine Donald R. Wilson Centre for Research in Education at University Health Network

Applications and nominations are invited for the position of Director, University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine Donald R. Wilson Centre for Research in Education at University Health Network. For position (Faculty Job # 1101178) and contact details, visit <http://www.jobs.utoronto.ca/faculty>.

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## 6. Call for Nominations

[Back to Top](#)

### 2012 Cressy Student Leadership Awards

Nominations for the 2012 Cressy Student Leadership Awards are now open!

The Cressy Student Leadership Awards recognize students who have made outstanding extra-curricular contributions to their college, faculty or school, or to the University as a whole. Students must be graduating in March 2012, June 2012 or November 2012 and have demonstrated leadership through their volunteer activities.

The awards aim to encourage and recognize participation in university affairs by alumni and students. Through the Gordon Cressy Awards, student and new alumni involvement is fostered across the University. The awards also provide an excellent opportunity for the Faculty of Medicine to have the outstanding contributions of our students acknowledged at the University level.

If you have any questions about the nomination process or to receive a copy of the nomination form and nomination guidelines please contact the Manager of Alumni Relations at [julie.lafford@utoronto.ca](mailto:julie.lafford@utoronto.ca). Nominators are advised to submit their nominations on or before **Friday, December 16, 2011**. E-submissions are preferred.

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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 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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### **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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## **Aikins Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching**

The W. T. Aikins Awards are named after Dr. W.T. Aikins, the first Dean of the University of Toronto, Faculty of Medicine after it was re-organized in 1887. These awards are the Faculty's most prestigious awards for commitment to and excellence in undergraduate teaching. All Faculty of Medicine academic staff who teach in the undergraduate medical (MD degree) program are eligible for the awards. The Award winners are selected from nominees in a Faculty-wide process that requires support from both faculty and students. This teaching award is given serious consideration in the academic promotions process.

The nomination procedure is a two-stage process: The first stage (deadline, February 1, 2012) requires nominators to complete the [on-line nomination form](#) and to submit a letter(s) indicating why they are nominating the individual(s). The letter should address the [criteria for the award](#) and show how the nominee meets the criteria. Letters that are particularly helpful to the committee include evidence supporting the conclusion that the nominee is an outstanding teacher. The nomination form requires the name of the

nominee(s), the names of the nominators (at least 5 required for large group nominations and at least 2 required for small group nominations) and the award category. The Aikins committee will review and evaluate all nominations. Only nominees who are selected for further review will be required to submit more materials for the second stage.

Both faculty members and students are welcome to submit nominations. Nominations that are received by February 1, 2012 will be recognized at the 10th Annual Education Achievement Event in 2012. Any nominations received after February 1, 2012 will be considered for the following academic year.

The award categories are:

- Individual teaching performance (large group: seminars, lectures)
- Individual teaching performance (small group: PBL tutoring, ward-based group teaching)
- Development and use of innovative instructional methods
- Course/program development and coordination.

Specific details about the nominations process and eligibility requirements can be viewed at

<http://www.facmed.utoronto.ca/staff/teach/internal/aikins.htm>. For further information please contact Neil Neebar at 416-978-1831 or [neil.neebar@utoronto.ca](mailto:neil.neebar@utoronto.ca).

As the Aikins Award specifically targets teaching in the undergraduate medical program (MD degree), Faculty of Medicine Academic staff who teach in the undergraduate Arts and Science Program are eligible for an [Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in Life Sciences Award](#)

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## 7. Advancement

[Back to Top](#)

### Ryley Family Donates \$250K to Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

The celebration of excellence among the members of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology was made even more special with the announcement of a \$250,000 gift to the Department at the annual Faculty Professional Development Day (FPDD) event at the Vaughan Estate on October 26, 2011.

Mr. Tom Ryley, the son of the late Dr. Thomas Ryley, former long-standing member of the Department, handed over a cheque for \$250,000 which will be matched by Ontario Trust for Student Support (OTSS) to provide a \$500,000 endowment for the Dr. Thomas G. Ryley Clinical Investigator Award. The funds will support residents in Obstetrics and Gynaecology who are enrolled in the Clinical Investigator Program.

"This is a very generous gift from the Ryley family, for which we are extremely grateful," says Dr. Alan Bocking, Gordon C. Leitch Chair, Obstetrics and Gynaecology and host of FPDD.

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## 8. Medicine Research Online

[Back to Top](#)

### Research Grants

- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation - Grand Challenges in Global Health
- Canadian Lung Association
- CIHR China-Canada Joint Health Research Initiative
- CIHR Team Grants: China-Canada: Alzheimers's Disease and Related Disorders
- CIHR Planning Grants
- Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada/CIHR: Catalyst Grant

*~ 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

[Back to Top](#)

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