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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
FACULTY OF MEDICINE

# MedEmail

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## Dean's Message

Dean Catharine Whiteside and Hong Kong University  
President Lap-Chee Tsui

Welcome back! While we're still in the early days of 2012, I know we can look forward to a year of discovery and achievement at U of T Medicine.

I have returned to the Faculty this month following my administrative leave inspired and energized by the opportunities I had in the final months of 2011 to lead two U of T Medicine delegations to China and the United Kingdom. Together, we met with diplomatic officials and senior leaders from top universities in both countries.

Right from the start, it was a gift to "see ourselves as others see us" - as a global leader in health research and education, powered by our unique position at the heart of the extraordinary health network we've built here in Toronto. TAHSN - the Toronto Academic Health Science Network - is a remarkable accomplishment, creating the conditions for innovative and inter-disciplinary research, teaching and patient care that other universities, and other *countries*, are striving to create.

Still, nowhere more than in China was it obvious how globalization and the dramatic expansion of some economies continue to push us to reach new heights, seek new partners, and open our doors to a world of incredible new research and educational opportunities.

During our visits to medical faculties and scientific institutes in Hong Kong and Beijing, we learned firsthand about the opportunities that exist when scientists in inter-disciplinary fields are given the chance to collaborate in international clusters. And we set our sights on developing a new generation of scientists who will seek out and engage in inter-disciplinary research around the world.

With that in mind, during our visit we launched the University of Toronto's **first international joint PhD program** between our Department of Molecular Genetics and the Department of Biochemistry at Hong Kong University. It's the first program of its kind, breaking new ground for many more we hope to create in conjunction with the aims of our *Strategic Academic Plan*.

As we look to an exciting year ahead, the leadership of U of T Medicine will be relentlessly focused on implementing our strategic plan. Drawing on these experiences abroad, I look forward to working with you to find new ways to *integrate* and *innovate* across disciplines as we seek to expand our *impact* on health and prosperity across the globe.

All the best in 2012.

**Catharine Whiteside**

Dean, Faculty of Medicine

Vice-Provost, Relations with Health Care Institutions

**IN THE NEWS:**

Free and Accessible Health  
Care, No ID Required

The Single Best Thing You Can  
Do for Your Health

Hospital study looks at  
frequency of cardiac arrests in  
Toronto neighbourhoods

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item or a research or education  
award announcement placed in  
MedEmail please forward it by  
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Leslie.Church@utoronto.ca.

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**1. Honours and Awards**

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**Order of Canada**

**Lawrence S. Bloomberg** and **Dr. Bernie Zinman** are among fourteen University of Toronto faculty, alumni and benefactors appointed to the Order of Canada by the Governor General on December 30th, 2011. The honour recognizes a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation.

**Lawrence Bloomberg** has been honoured as a Member of the Order of Canada for his social engagement and philanthropy in health care and education. He is the Chairman of Mount Sinai Hospital of Toronto and formerly Co-Chairman of the Toronto Academic Health Science Network (TAHSN).

**Dr. Zinman** is Professor of Medicine and Director of Mount Sinai Hospital's Leadership Sinai Centre for Diabetes. He has been appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada in recognition of his internationally renowned achievements in diabetes patient care and research.

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**American Association for the Advancement of Science**

**Dr. Eleftherios Diamandis**, Department of Laboratory Medicine

and Pathobiology and Director of the Advanced Centre for Detection of Cancer, has been honoured as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science for his contributions to the field of genomics and pathobiology of serine proteases, particularly the kallikrein family, and their application as diagnostic cancer biomarkers.

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### **American Society of Hematology**

**Dr. Armand Keating**, Professor of Medicine and Director of the Division of Hematology, has been elected President of the American Society of Hematology for 2012, becoming the second-ever Canadian to take on this role after the late Fraser Mustard, who served as President of ASH in 1970.

ASH is the pre-eminent hematology society internationally and has the mission to understand, diagnose, treat and prevent disorders affecting the blood, bone marrow, and the immunologic, hemostatic and vascular systems. Dr. Keating is internationally recognized for his research and clinical contributions to malignant hematology, hematopoietic cell transplantation and regenerative medicine. We congratulate him on this new role!

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### **Foreign Policy Magazine 2011 Albie Award**

**Dr. Prabhat Jha**, University of Toronto Chair in Disease Control and Director of the Centre for Global Health Research at St. Michael's Hospital, and his team of international co-authors have been recognized by Foreign Policy magazine, winning the magazine's *2011 Albie Award* - named in honour of noted political economist Albert Hirschman - for the "best writing in global political economy" for their paper, "[Trends in selective abortions of girls in India.](#)"

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### **American College of Rheumatology**

**Dr. Dafna Gladman**, Department of Medicine and Toronto Western Research Institute, was honoured with the designation of *Master of the American College of Rheumatology* recognizing outstanding lifetime contributions to the field of rheumatology through scholarly achievement and service to the profession.

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### **Lombardy Region Peace Prize**

**Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish**, Associate Professor of Global Health at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, received the *2011 Lombardy Region Peace Prize* and was selected as one of the *Top 500 Most Influential Muslims in the World* by the Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre for his inspiring work promoting peace and public health.

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## **Outstanding Clinical Spine Research Paper, Cervical Spine Research Society**

**Dr. Michael Fehlings**, Department of Surgery and Krembil Chair in Neural Repair and Regeneration at the University Health Network, has been recognized with his team for Outstanding Clinical Spine Research Paper by the U.S.-based Cervical Spine Research Society for their paper, "Early vs. Late Surgical Decompression for Traumatic Cervical Spinal Cord Injury: Results of the Surgical Trial in Spinal Cord Injury Study (STASCIS)." Fellow U of T contributors included **Drs. Jefferson Wilson** and **Anoushka Singh**, and **Professors Eric Massicotte, Stephen Lewis, and Raja Rampersaud**.

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## **Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada Award**

**Dr. Susan Lief**, Department of Psychiatry and Director of Academic Leadership Development at the Centre for Faculty Development, has been awarded the *2012 AFMC Award for Outstanding Contribution to Faculty Development in Canada*.

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## **College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario Council Award**

**Dr. Charles Tator**, Department of Surgery and Toronto Western Research Institute, has received a *College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario Council Award for 2012* in recognition of his achievements in neurosurgery research, education, teaching and advocacy.

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## **2. Call for Applications**

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Office of Continuing Education Research and Development Internal Grants - Winter 2012 Cycle

We are now soliciting nominations for the Winter 2012 Office of Continuing Education Research and Development Awards. These grants have been offered three times per year since 1997, and are intended to support projects (up to \$5,000) that directly relate to the planning, implementation, delivery and evaluation of continuing education for health professionals. Examples might include a needs assessment and methods of evaluation to measure the impact of continuing education activities on health professional competence or behaviour.

For further information and details, please visit our [website](#) or contact Vashty Hawkins at [vashty.hawkins@utoronto.ca](mailto:vashty.hawkins@utoronto.ca). Application forms and information about deadlines, criteria and a list of past recipients is available on the website. The deadline for winter cycle nominations is **Friday, January 20, 2012 at 5:00pm**. Should you require an extension, please contact Ms. Hawkins

directly.

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### 3. Call for Nominations

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#### **Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in Life Sciences Awards**

The Faculty of Medicine is pleased to call for nominations for the Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in Life Sciences Awards. The nomination deadline is **Tuesday January 31, 2012**. There are three awards available:

- 1. Excellence in undergraduate teaching in life sciences**  
This award is for sustained excellence in teaching, coordination and/or development of undergraduate lecture or seminar courses in Arts and Science offered by the Basic Sciences Departments in the Faculty of Medicine.
- 2. Excellence in undergraduate laboratory teaching in life sciences**  
This award is for sustained excellence in the teaching, coordination and/or development of laboratory based instruction in formal Arts and Science laboratory courses.
- 3. Excellence in linking undergraduate teaching to research in life sciences**  
This award is for sustained excellence, mentorship and innovative methods to link undergraduate teaching to experiential research opportunities in the classroom, formal laboratory courses, research project courses, summer student research project courses, or summer student research programs.

*\*Please note that with the addition of the third award, we have clarified the criteria for the 2nd award to clearly distinguish between the 2nd and 3rd awards.*

Nomination packages should include:

- a completed nomination form (2 pages)
- a supporting letter from the Department Chair
- supporting letters from students (minimum 2 students)
- a 1-2 page summary of contributions to teaching
- summaries of student evaluations of teaching/course material
- a current curriculum vitae
- the nominee's statement of teaching philosophy. (1 page max.)

The nomination form and a list of previous winners can be found [online](#). For additional information, please contact Jeananne Robertson, Education & Teaching Awards Coordinator at [edudeans@utoronto.ca](mailto:edudeans@utoronto.ca).

**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 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 [here](#). 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, 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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## 4. Medicine Research Online

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- Ontario Genomics Institute (OGI) Technology Seed Grant

- Physicians' Services Inc. - Research Grants

~ *Our congratulations to all!* ~

### **Upcoming Award Deadlines**

#### **January**

Henry G Friesen International Prize in Health Research (January 16th)

#### **February**

Institute of Medicine  
The Japan Prize  
Lasker Prize

#### **March**

SSHRC Gold Medal for Achievement in Research  
Canadian Academy of Health Sciences  
Order of Ontario  
NSERC John C. Polanyi Award  
CIHR Michael Smith Prizes in Health Research  
Balzan Prize

For any queries regarding awards, please contact:

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MaryAnn DeFrancis

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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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