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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MEDICINE

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Message from the Dean

Catharine Whiteside

Nothing is more important than the health of children. We know nutrition is the key determinant for healthy development of children across the globe and yet the challenges have never been greater. The crisis of childhood nutrition deficiency leading to neurocognitive impairment and susceptibility to infection remains startlingly high locally and globally. In Bangladesh over 50 per cent of children under age five are malnourished. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), being underweight is the single largest risk factor contributing to the global burden of disease in the developing world. But this is also a local concern. In 2012

in the GTA, of the 1,123,500 visits to the Daily Bread Food Banks, 32 per cent were children.

The paradox is that in emerging and developed countries the rapid rise in childhood obesity rates over the last decade is alarming. In Canada, the overweight and obesity rates in children have tripled in a generation to 30 per cent. Between 1980 and 2008, the WHO data show that rates of obesity have nearly doubled in every region of the world.

The Ontario government has shown great leadership in aiming to reduce childhood obesity by 20 per cent in five years, and they recently released an important report. *No Time to Wait: The Healthy Kids Strategy* is the result of six months of research and consultation with parents, children, health organizations, the food and hospitality industries and the medical and public health sectors. Five of our faculty contributed to this comprehensive report, lending great expertise in paediatrics, early human development, health care and policy. The report offers a three-pronged approach to curbing childhood obesity: start all kids on the path to health; change the food environment; and, create healthy communities.

The Faculty of Medicine has prioritized child nutrition in implementing its strategic plan as a theme that addresses human development, brain health, global health and management of complex chronic diseases (diabetes, cardiovascular disease). The Departments of Nutritional Sciences, Family and Community Medicine, and Paediatrics are co-leading the launch of the Centre for Child Nutrition, Health and Development. The inaugural co-directors are Professors Mary L'Abbé and Harvey Anderson (Department of Nutritional Sciences). The goal of this extra-departmental unit is to integrate and build on the incredible expertise and current research and education initiatives underway across our departments and affiliated institutions including the Hospital for Sick Children, the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute (St. Michael's) and the Fraser Mustard Institute for Human Development. The complex global questions that need to be addressed will be the focus of this Centre. For instance: How do families in socio-economic communities access affordable health foods? How can government assist through policy

development and implementation? How can the private sector, including the food industry, provide solutions?

An important example is the necessity to reduce sodium consumption, which starts with clear evidence linking hypertension and cardiac disease to salt intake. The reliance on manufactured foods requires changes to the food supply, which cannot happen without cooperation from food manufacturers and distributors. Government regulation of food product labeling is necessary. Perhaps most important is the direct engagement of the consumer in calculating sodium intake. To that end, researchers led by Professor L'Abbé and postdoctoral fellow JoAnne Arcand have developed an [online salt calculator](#) that lets Canadians track how much salt they are eating and see which sources in their diet contain the most sodium. The tool is [one of the first of its kind](#) in North America.

Contributing to the health of children in Canada and across the globe is perhaps the most important investment our Faculty of Medicine can make to fulfill our social responsibility. We have the capacity to tackle complex questions through interdisciplinary collaboration generating the evidence and new thinking required for effective solutions.

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

IN THE NEWS:

Nobel Peace Prize Nominee
Dr. Izzeldin Abuellaish visits
Cyprus

Symptoms of Alzheimer's
significantly improved with
new treatment

Diabetes screening tests made
easier

Experts split on adequacy of
surveillance since SARS

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 [Jim Oldfield](#).

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EVENTS CALENDAR

MEDEMAIL ARCHIVE

1. Honours and Awards

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Honorary Degree, McMaster University

McMaster University will grant Professor **Mladen Vranic** (Department of Physiology) an honorary Doctor of Science. Professor Vranic -- one of the last post-doctoral fellows to work with co-founder of insulin Dr. Charles Best -- will receive the degree during McMaster's spring convocation.

Fellows of the AACR Academy

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) has named Professors **Emmanuel Farber** (Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology) and **Tak Mak** (Department of Medical Biophysics) Fellows of the AACR Academy.

The AACR Academy recognizes scientists whose major scientific contributions have propelled significant innovation and progress against cancer. Fellows are selected through a rigorous peer review process that evaluates individuals for their scientific achievements in cancer research.

YWCA Women of Distinction 2013

Professor **Ophira Ginsburg** (Department of Medicine) is being honoured with a Women of Distinction award from the YWCA. The award honours women who have a bold vision in significantly improving the lives of women and girls at home and abroad. Professor Ginsburg is co-founder of the Amader Gram Breast Care Centre in Bangladesh, which helps disadvantaged women receive free breast cancer treatment.

Mark Dailey Local Hero Award

Professor **Rajiv Singal** (Department of Surgery) has won Prostate Cancer Canada's Mark Dailey Local Hero Award. He is the head of the urology division at Toronto East General Hospital and is involved in clinical research studies.

Jonas Salk Award

Professor **Michael Fehlings** (Department of Surgery) has received the 2012 Jonas Salk Award for Scientific Achievements. Given by March of Dimes Canada, this award honours a scientist whose work improves quality of life for people with disabilities or prevents, alleviates or eliminates a physical disability.

2013 HFSP Awards

Professor **Philip Kim** (Department of Molecular Genetics) is the recipient of a Human Frontier Science Program grant. The grants support collaboration among scientists working in different countries. Working with teams from Germany and Japan, Professor Kim is studying the effects of alternative splicing on protein interaction networks.

Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal

Professor **Robert Boyko** (Department of Family and Community Medicine) has won a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. Professor Boyko is the Provincial Medical Advisor for St. John Ambulance and has developed a home caregiver support program for caregivers of palliative care patients.

Professor **Michael Fehlings** (Department of Surgery) has also won a Diamond Jubilee Medal for his scientific and medical contributions to society.

2. Call for Applications

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Certificate Course in Patient Safety and Quality Improvement

The Centre for Patient Safety is accepting applications for a 16-week certificate course in patient safety and quality improvement, which will start October 2013. The course is for clinicians and administrators whose work relates to patient safety or quality improvement, and for senior trainees focusing on quality improvement.

The course runs for 48 hours over eight months, covering core concepts in patient safety and methods of quality improvement. Teaching methods include didactic lectures, interactive workshop-type sessions, workplace-based exercises and presentations by class participants. Participants need not be part of an ongoing quality improvement project.

This course is accredited by Continuing Education and Professional Development for 48 credits.

For more information, please contact [Lisha Lo](#).

3. Call for Nominations

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Faculty of Medicine Launches Staff IMPACT Awards

Starting this year, a new awards program will honour Faculty staff for their work. The Staff IMPACT Awards will acknowledge the dedication, skills and hard work of the Faculty's 800 administrative and technical staff through awards in eight categories:

- David Keeling Award for Administrative Excellence
- Quality Improvement Award
- Social Responsibility Award
- Fostering an Environment and Culture of Diversity and Inclusion Leadership Award
- Service in a Laboratory Research Environment Award
- New Employee Award

The nomination process is very simple. For program details and online nomination forms, please visit [this page](#).

Nominations are due **Friday, May 24, 2013**.

Lawrence Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing Awards

Each year the Lawrence Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing honours alumni who have been recognized by their peers for outstanding achievements in their field and in health care.

The Faculty of Nursing is soliciting nominations for the Bloomberg Nursing Award of Distinction and many other awards.

For a list of awards and nomination information, please download a form [here](#) and submit your letter of reference before **April 16th, 2013**, to development.nursing@utoronto.ca.

4. Around Campus

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Engineering Global Health

The Institute for Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering (IBBME), the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering, and the Centre for Global Engineering invite you to a one-day symposium on the challenges and opportunities surrounding global health engineering.

Event Details

Date: Monday, April 22, 2013

Time: 2:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Location: Bahen Centre Atrium and room 1190

Visit [IBBME's website](#) for more information.

MindFest 2013

The Department of Psychiatry and Hart House are proud to host MindFest 2013, a free one-day event to kick off National Mental Health Awareness Week.

Come out to Hart House on May 6th for fun exhibit booths, film screenings, workshops, guest speakers, free food, stand-up comedy, and prizes. MindFest promotes public awareness, dialogue, and understanding about mental health and illness. If you're interested in having fun while contributing to your community in a meaningful way, please sign up to be an event volunteer [here](#).

For more information, please visit the Department of Psychiatry's [website](#).

Three Minute Thesis Competition

Faculty of Medicine students outshone the competition at the School of Graduate Studies' Three Minute Thesis Competition. Doctoral students had three minutes to present their research to a panel of non-specialist judges.

There were four finalists from the Faculty of Medicine:

- **Jenna Evans** (Institute of Health Policy, Management & Evaluation)
 - **Tzu Huan Chen** (Department of Nutritional Sciences)
 - **Alex Albanese** (Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering)
 - **Jasdeep Saggur** (Department of Medical Biophysics), who was one of two winners
-

2013 U of T Oliver Smithies Lecture

The 2013 U of T Oliver Smithies Lecture and Institutional Visit of the 2012 Henry G. Friesen International Prizewinner will be held on April 23, 2013. Sponsored by the Faculty of Medicine and Friends of CIHR, this public lecture features a keynote address by Dr. Marc Tessier-Lavigne from The Rockefeller University.

Registration is required, and interested participants can get more information [here](#).

IHPME's Annual Research Day 2013

The Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation will be hosting their Annual Research Day on Wednesday, May 1, 2013 at the Health Sciences Building. The event features an engaging panel discussion on leadership in innovative health systems change, poster presentations, networking lunch and wine and cheese reception. For a full list of speakers, location, and schedule, please visit IHPME's [website](#).

Reminder -- Canadian Conference on Medical Education Alumni and Friends Reception

Dean Catharine Whiteside invites you to attend a reception for alumni and friends during the upcoming Canadian Conference on Medical Education.

All members of the University of Toronto community, including alumni, staff, faculty, students and friends, are welcome. Join us for an opportunity to reconnect with former classmates and colleagues.

Date: Saturday, April 20, 2013

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Location: Hilton Quebec Hotel, Quebec City, Portneuf & Sainte Foy Rooms

RSVP: [Acceptances online](#) or by phone 416-978-7142

More info: [Morgan Tilley](#)

Reminder -- TEDMED comes to U of T!

The Faculty of Medicine is celebrating TEDMED with two great events!

The first is Continuing Education and Professional Development's TEDMED Live -- CEPD U of T, a live feed of the TEDMED talks streamed directly from Washington, DC. This free event will take place on all three TEDMED days at 500 University Avenue, Suite 650. Visit CEPD's [website](#) for more information.

The second is TEDMED Day -- Faculty of Medicine U of T, hosted by the Institute of Medical Science. This one-day event will take place on April 19, and features live talks from IMS faculty members along with streamed TEDMED presentations from Washington. The event is open to all University of Toronto community members and will take place in the JJR Macleod Auditorium, Medical Sciences Building. Visit <http://www.tedmedims.com> for a list of speakers and more information.

Counselling & Psychotherapy in Family Medicine

The Department of Family and Community Medicine is offering Counselling & Psychotherapy in Family Medicine, an intensive, year-long introductory course on current approaches and techniques in office counselling and psychotherapy. Designed with busy family physicians in mind, it runs on five weekends -- from September 2013 to June 2014 -- to minimize practice disruptions. Small group mentoring takes place twice between each weekend at times determined by individual groups. The program will help physicians increase their knowledge and clinical skills.

For more information, please visit Continuing Education and Professional Development's [website](#).

Simulation Research Refined

The Wilson Centre and SIM-one is offering a four-day intensive program in simulation-based education research May 14-17, 2013. Participants will refine and enhance their skills in this dynamic and interactive program led by world-respected researchers in simulation-based education research. For more information, please visit SIM-one's [website](#).

Qualitative Research in Depth: Theory, Methodology, Perspectives

The Wilson Centre is offering two programs in qualitative health. The first is a four-day intensive program in Qualitative Health Professions Education Research, which will take place from October 7th to the 10th.

The second is a one-day workshop called Advanced Qualitative Research: Analysis and Interpretation, which will be held on October 11, 2013.

Please visit the Wilson Centre's [website](#) for more information on both programs.

5. Medicine Research Online

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RESEARCH GRANTS

- CIHR Catalyst Grants
- CIHR Clinician Scientist – Phase 2 Awards
- CIHR – Healthcare Renewal Policy Analysis
- CIHR -- Operating Grant -- HIV/AIDS Community Based Research Program
- CIHR Team Grants: Community-Based Primary Healthcare
- CIHR Team Grant: Mild Traumatic Brain Injury in Children and Youth - Ontario
- Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada -- Career Investigator Award
- Physicians' Services Inc. Foundation: Research Grants
- The W. Garfield Weston Foundation -- Rapid Response Program Award

~ Our congratulations to all! ~

UPCOMING AWARD DEADLINES

April

American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology Gold Medal Fellowship in the American Association for the Advancement of Science
NSERC Synergy Awards for Innovation
Paul Marks Prize for Cancer Research

May

CIHR Barer-Flood Prize for Health Services and Policy Research
Bower Award and Prize for Achievement in Science
King Faisal International Prize in Medicine
J. Allyn Taylor International Prize in Medicine
Rolex Awards for Enterprise
Thomas E. Starzl Prize in Surgery & Immunology

June

AAAS Newcomb Cleveland Prize
Eppendorf and *Science* Prize for Neurobiology

For any queries regarding awards, please contact:

Janet Hyer
Email: Janet.Hyer@utoronto.ca
Phone: 416-978-7342

Resources:

Henry Stewart Talks (University of Toronto Libraries)
UHN Shanghai Custom Chemical Synthesis

Regular Departments:

Updates from CIHR University Delegate
Funding News & Opportunities - local, national, international
Links to Departmental Research Seminars

The submission deadline for the next issue of MedEmail (to be published on Wednesday, April 24, 2013) is Wednesday, April 17, 2013.

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