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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
FACULTY OF MEDICINE

# MedEmail

January 30, 2013  
Vol. 21, No. 9



## Message from the Dean

Catharine Whiteside

In 2011, the Faculty of Medicine's Global Health Strategy Working Group created a Roadmap for Global Health. I am pleased to report we have met several initial goals outlined in the Roadmap, and have great momentum as we launch our International Relations and Global Health Advisory Committee, which held its first meeting last month. I am very excited about the Faculty's role in the future of global health.

We are expanding and strengthening our current relationship with the University of São Paulo in Brazil. Through a bi-lateral agreement, U of T

and USP will co-sponsor workshops and seed grants in neuroscience, oncology, global cities and international relations. We are also looking to strengthen current collaborations in cardiovascular health, and primary care training and research. Several of our researchers travelled to Brazil in December last year for a conference on neuroscience research and education, focused on aging, neurogenetics and neuroimaging. Under the global cities focus the topic of inner city health is a growing area of mutual interest.

In Bangladesh, we recently established three areas of joint interest with BRAC University, J.P. Grant School of Public Health, including a joint centre of excellence for public health and primary care; chronic disease, epidemiology and nutritional sciences; and public health doctoral training for Bangladeshi women.

We are also expanding our collaborations with Chinese Institutions, focusing on major universities in Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong. An area showing rapid uptake is the training of the next generation of family physicians in China. We held fruitful discussions on sharing expertise in resident and undergraduate education in family medicine -- only 3% of China's physicians are family doctors. Representatives from the Faculty of Medicine attended the 60th anniversary celebrations for the Shanghai Jiao Tong School of Medicine and the 100th anniversary of Peking University Health Sciences Centre in recognition of our extensive collaborations in medical and bio-sciences education and research.

In addition to building international relationships, creating and growing global health programming within our academic units is a key goal of the Faculty's global health strategy. Several departments have made significant progress on these goals, to date.

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, as the North American lead of the reproductive health component of the AMPATH consortium spearheaded by Indiana University's School of Medicine, has for years collaborated with Moi University to improve women's and reproductive health in Kenya. Dr. Astrid Christoffersen-Deb is on the

ground in Kenya, working to improve maternal health outcomes through community engagement.

Grand Challenges Canada recently granted Professor Claire Pain \$1 million to train psychiatrists in Ethiopia, who will then train almost 300 counselors to help thousands of Ethiopians, many of whom currently receive no treatment for their mental disorders. This work builds on the Department of Psychiatry's Toronto Addis Ababa Psychiatry Project, which helped establish Ethiopia's first psychiatry residency program.

Our Rehabilitation Sector's faculty and students gave over 200 international scientific presentations last year, and more than 10 per cent of the Sector's graduate and doctoral theses focus on global health research questions. Professor Stephanie Nixon and colleagues in the Department of Physical Therapy are studying how we can apply research in HIV in Canada to patients in Zambia. And Professors Helen Polatajko and colleagues in Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy have created an educational program to help rehabilitation faculty in China teach to international standards, in online and in-person formats.

As our Global Health Strategy Working Group and our Office of Strategy, Communications and External Relations continue their environmental scan of global health activity within the Faculty, I look forward to hearing about new global health initiatives in our academic units, and to the opportunities they provide to work together, as we strive to reduce the burden of disease around the world through scholarship, shared learning and sustainable relationships.

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

## IN THE NEWS:

Preemie babies who grow quickly in hospital face fewer learning difficulties later

Severely ill flu patients saved with lung transfer technology in Toronto

Slaight family donates \$50 million to Toronto hospital for cancer research

Quitting cigarettes before 40 markedly boosts life expectancy, study finds

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

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### 1. Academic Appointments

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#### **Chair, Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology**

Professor **Ruth Ross** has been appointed Chair, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, for a five-year term that began on January

1, 2013. A leading authority in cannabinoid research, Professor Ross was the former Chair in Molecular Pharmacology at the University of Aberdeen and Director of the university's Kosterlitz Centre for Therapeutics.

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### **Director, Collaborative Program in Neuroscience**

Professor **Zhong-Ping Feng** (Department of Physiology) has been appointed Director of the Collaborative Program in Neuroscience (CPIN), effective November 1, 2012. Professor Feng succeeds Professor **David Hampson** (Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology), who introduced academic programs that expanded neuroscience education and scholarship at U of T, and contributed to the success of graduate education.

Professor Feng's research has focused on neuronal maturation and synaptogenesis. She has received several awards including the CIHR New Investigator Award, HSF New Investigator award, Premier's Research Excellence Award and the 2012 Faculty of Medicine Graduate Faculty Teaching Award for excellence in Graduate Student Mentorship. Professor Feng has been a member of the graduate faculty of the Department of Physiology, School of Graduate Studies, and CPIN, since 2003.

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## **2. Honours and Awards**

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### **McLaughlin-Gallie Visiting Professorship**

Professor **Frances Chung** (Department of Anesthesia) has received the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada's McLaughlin-Gallie Visiting Professorship for 2013. This endowed professorship commemorates the scientific contributions of Dr. William Edward Gallie, a former Professor of Surgery and Dean at U of T's Faculty of Medicine. McLaughlin-Gallie visiting professors spend up to one week at two Canadian faculties of medicine, where they teach undergraduate and postgraduate students and exchange ideas with colleagues.

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### **Royal College Medal Award in Surgery**

Professor **Subodh Verma** (Department of Surgery) is the recipient of this year's Royal College Medal Award in Surgery. The award recognizes outstanding research by a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada who is early in his or her career. Professor Verma -- the Canada Research Chair in Atherosclerosis -- was honoured for his work on the role of the BRCA1 gene in heart function.

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### **Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal**

The Faculty of Medicine is pleased and honored to report that four

members of our Faculty are recipients of a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. They are:

Professor **Molly Shoichet** (Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering). Professor Shoichet is a pioneer in applying chemical and biochemical sciences and engineering to the field of regenerative medicine.

Professor **Patrice Lindsay** (Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation). Professor Lindsay is one of 30 award recipients from the Canadian Nurses Association, and was honoured for her work on stroke quality of care.

Professor **Sandra Black** (Department of Medicine). Professor Black has spent over 30 years studying neurological effects of stroke, stroke recovery and dementia -- including Alzheimer's -- and their impact on behaviour.

Professor **Mingyao Liu** (Department of Surgery). Professor Liu is a leader in the field of cellular and molecular biology. His research focuses on mechanisms and molecular therapies for lung injury during and after lung transplantation.

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### **Paul Morley Mentorship Award in Stroke**

Professor **Michael Tymianski** (Department of Surgery) is the recipient of the 2012 Paul Morley Mentorship Award in Stroke from the Canadian Stroke Network. The award recognizes the mentorship and leadership efforts of stroke researchers. Professor **Tymianski** was nominated for the award by colleagues and trainees, who praised his dedication to furthering education and training in basic medical research and clinical education.

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*\*Please note Professor **Shirley Lee's** departmental affiliation was incorrectly listed as Department of Medicine in the 2013 CAME Certificate of Merit Award announcement in the January 16th issue of MedEmail. Professor Lee is an Associate Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine.*

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## **3. Announcements**

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### **New IMS Magazine Available**

The Institute of Medical Science (IMS) Magazine's fall 2012 issue is now available. This issue focuses on blunt and penetrating traumatic injury. Professors **Ori Rotstein, Sandro Rizoli, John Marshall, Michael Cusimano** and **Andrew Howard**, among others, discuss prevention strategies, acute care and post-traumatic injury management. Please click [here](#) to read the fall 2012 issue online. For previous issues of IMS Magazine, click [here](#).

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## 4. Around Campus

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### Annual Shields Research Day

The 34th Annual Shields Research Day will take place on Friday, May 10, 2013. This event brings together clinical faculty, fellows, residents and anesthesia assistants from U of T's affiliated hospitals for an update and discussion on the frontiers of clinical science in anesthesia and related topics -- including critical care management, obstetrical anesthesia and pain management. All residents, fellows, or postgraduate students affiliated with the Department of Anesthesia are welcome to submit one or more projects for presentation at the event.

Click [here](#) for more information on submissions requirements, deadlines and timelines.

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### Best Practice in Education Rounds

"Effective Use of E-Portfolios in Health Professions Education" -- a Best Practice in Education Rounds session -- will be held on Tuesday, February 5, 2013. Department of Family and Community Medicine's Professors **Shirley Lee**, **Helen Batty** and **Abbas Ghavam-Rassoul** will lead the session.

#### Session Description:

Portfolio use and supporting reflections of learners is a challenging undertaking in health practitioner education. Participants will leave this session with an understanding of the utility of portfolios, the strengths and weaknesses of different electronic platforms, and the use of rubrics for assessment of portfolios.

**Date:** Tuesday, February 5, 2013

**Time:** 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

**Location:** Li Ka Shing Building, 209 Victoria St.  
2nd floor, Allan Waters Family  
Auditorium (LKSKI Auditorium)

Click [here](#) to view the poster or contact [sheehan@smh.ca](mailto:sheehan@smh.ca) for more information

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### Daffydil 2013

Now entering its 102nd year of production, Daffydil is one of the longest-standing traditions at the Faculty of Medicine. Since it first started in 1905, the theatrical fundraiser has contributed over \$600,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society. Over 1,500 guests attend each year to see a fantastic and comical musical performance!

**Date:** Performances run from Wednesday, February 20, 2013 – Saturday, February 23, 2013.

**Tickets:** Purchase tickets online at UofT Tix

For more information, please contact: Daffydil Producers 2013 at  
daffydil2013@gmail.com

**Website:** www.daffydil2013.com

**Twitter:** @Daffydil2013

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## 5. Medicine Research Online

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### **RESEARCH GRANTS**

- Canadian Foundation for Innovation – Leading Edge Fund
- Physicians' Services Inc. Foundation – Operating
- Prostate Cancer Canada – Rising Star in Prostate Cancer Research

*~ Our congratulations to all! ~*

### **UPCOMING AWARD DEADLINES**

#### **January**

Rolf Luft Award in Endocrinology and Diabetes Research

#### **February**

Japan Prize

Lasker Awards

Margolese National Brain and Heart Disorders

Membership in the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies

#### **March**

Balzan Prize

FASEB Excellence in Science Award

Fellowship in the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences

Ken Standing Award

Order of Ontario

Orion Awards

Prince of Asturias Awards

SSHRC Gold Medal for Achievement in Research

#### **April**

American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology Gold Medal

American Society of Microbiology Cubist-ICAAC Award

American Society of Microbiology ICAAC Young Investigator Awards

Fellowship in the American Association for the Advancement of Science

For any queries regarding awards, please contact:

Janet Hyer

Email: [Janet.Hyer@utoronto.ca](mailto:Janet.Hyer@utoronto.ca)

Phone: 416 978-7342

#### **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

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**The submission deadline for the next issue of MedEmail (to be published on Wednesday, February 13, 2013) is Wednesday, February 6, 2013.**

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