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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MEDICINE

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Message from the Dean

Catharine Whiteside

As a leading international research institution, the Faculty of Medicine has high aims for its research productivity, impact and excellence. Research is our bedrock and something in which we take considerable pride.

However, a recent article in *The Economist* reminds us research is not a simple system; there are inherent challenges with ensuring validity and verification. Our common challenge is the lack of publication outlets for experiments that replicate novel

and exciting results -- a core concept of science. This challenge provides an opportunity to renew our commitment to research excellence.

Increasing competition for precious research dollars, academic positions and acceptance of articles in leading scientific journals has put pressure on people and institutions that have led to poor scientific and publication practices. These erroneous practices must be addressed quickly and efficiently by the scientific community. As leaders, we have an obligation through our own research and the roles many of us play on journal editorial boards, to demand better.

Under the leadership of Alison Buchan, Vice Dean of Research and International Relations, our Faculty is rethinking its key performance indicators as they pertain to research publications. Specifically, we must place our emphasis on quality, not quantity. Our goal should be to place our papers in appropriate journals, ensuring that our best work is published in the best journals and limit the number of papers that "vanish without trace" -- uncited and unread. The most significant research is inherently methodologically rigorous, carefully analyzed, verifiable and responsive to the peer review process. It must also be produced according to our stringent U of T ethical standards and free of academic misconduct.

By publishing in higher impact journals, we also have the opportunity to improve our position in peer rankings. Consider the National Taiwan University Ranking, which employs bibliometric methods to analyze and rank the scientific papers and performances of the top 500 universities in the world. While research quantity accounts for 25 per cent of the total evaluation, the citations of our work and the number of articles published in high-impact journals contribute towards the other 75 per cent of their evaluation.

These rankings matter -- they are viewed by decisions-makers, donors, prospective faculty and future students as indicators of our success. But what matters even more than achieving a high ranking is doing good work that has lasting impact. Setting our standards high and working to ensure our research is

published in the best journals allows us to do both.

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

IN THE NEWS:

Premature babies helped by mom's touch at Mount Sinai

Where someone drowns determines their chance of survival

New bulimia treatment could cure patients for up to a year by 're-tuning' the brain to boost self-control

Delivering personalized medicine for cancer patients

You can't treat addiction with willpower and denial

Toronto lab identifies proteins that could form basis of male infertility test

In an oddly tranquil Emerg, the only drama is on the

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EVENTS CALENDAR

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1. In Memoriam

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Professor James Arthur Sharpe

Professor James (Jim) Arthur Sharpe passed away peacefully on November 12, 2013. He was 72.

Professor Sharpe was Head of Neurology at the Faculty of Medicine from 1989-2002, and served as director of Neurology at University Health Network from 1989 to 1996. He was a world-renowned neurologist and neuro-ophthalmologist, known for his inquisitive mind. He was a prominent scientist and a towering figure in eye movement research.

As a clinical neurologist, research scientist and author, he made significant contributions in the areas of ocular motor disorders, vestibular disorders, and visual perception. He served as president of the North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society from 1992-1994 and was editor of the Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences from 1991-1999. Professor Sharpe mentored generations of graduate students, residents, fellows and well-respected colleagues.

2. Honours and Awards

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waiting room
TV

If you would like to have a news item, research or education award announcement placed in MedEmail please forward it by e-mail to [Jim Oldfield](#).

Canadian Innovation Exchange's Top 20 Hottest Innovative Companies

The Canadian Innovation Exchange has named [Seamless Mobile Health](#), co-founded by alumnus **Joshua Liu** (MD, 1T3), as one of the Top 20 Hottest Innovative Companies.

Seamless Mobile Health provides a mobile platform for engaging with and helping postoperative patients monitor early warning signs, helping medical professional catch complications earlier and prevent readmissions.

The Canadian Association of Internes and Residents' Dr. Joseph Mikhael-CAIR Award

The Department of Medicine's Professor **Marika Hohol** is the Staff recipient of the Canadian Association of Internes and Residents 2013 Dr. Joseph Mikhael-CAIR Award for Medical Education.

Professor Hohol was the director for the Adult Neurology Residency Program at U of T from 2006 to July 2013. She is a hands-on educator dedicated to innovation in medical education and developing teaching and evaluation tools to enhance the learning experience of medical students and resident physicians alike.

3. Announcements

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Medical Student Research Day 2014: Call for Judges

Organizers of the Faculty's Medical Student Research Day (MSRD) 2014 are looking for volunteer judges to join the Judging Committee.

The MSRD, a one-day conference on January 28, 2014, showcases basic and clinical research by medical students, who work in laboratories affiliated with research institutes in Toronto, University departments and other academic medical centres.

View more information about MSRD [here](#).

MSRD judges will assess a group of student posters limited to one of nine research categories. They will also have the opportunity to offer constructive feedback.

Judges may attend the whole day, but must stay from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. to fulfill judging duties.

Please fill out [this form](#) before **Friday, December 7, 2013**, if you would like to participate.

Send questions to MSRD organizers at: ut.msrd@gmail.com.

Improving & Driving Excellence Across Sectors

Improving & Driving Excellence Across Sectors (IDEAS) is a province-wide

educational initiative to advance Ontario's health system priorities by building capacity in quality improvement, leadership and change management across all health care sectors. Its nine-day Advanced Learning Program provides physicians, health care professionals and administrators with the knowledge and tools to lead quality improvement and change management initiatives.

The next application deadline for the Advanced Learning Program is **November 29, 2013**.

Learn more about the program [here](#).

4. Call for Nominations

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2014 CAME Certificate of Merit Awards

The University of Toronto representative to the Canadian Association for Medical Education (CAME) is calling for nominations for the [CAME Certificate of Merit Awards](#). This national organization presents a number of awards annually to outstanding educators in Canadian medical schools. Among these are the CAME Certificates of Merit, which recognize faculty committed to medical education.

Criteria

Faculty members who have made valuable contributions to medical education (including undergraduate, postgraduate, continuing education and faculty development) in the areas of teaching, evaluation, leadership and course coordination -- but who have not been nationally recognized for their contributions -- are eligible for the award.

Nomination Procedures

Each department of the Faculty of Medicine is eligible to nominate one faculty member for a Certificate of Merit. Nominations consist of a letter from the department chair outlining the specific contributions of the Faculty member. Letters should not exceed two pages. It is not necessary to append CVs, teaching dossiers or other documents. A decision about the three awardees will be made by a selection committee based on the letter of the chair.

Nomination letters should be submitted electronically by **December 6, 2013** to [Brian Simmons](#), U of T's CAME Representative c/o Jaimi O'Hara at edudeans@utoronto.ca.

Helen P. Batty Awards for Excellence and Achievement in Faculty Development

The Centre for Faculty Development is now accepting nominations for the 2014 [Helen P. Batty Awards for Excellence and Achievement in Faculty Development](#).

Nominations are open to all faculty in the Faculty of Medicine. An adjudication committee will select the winners. All winners will receive their awards at the annual Faculty of Medicine Educational Achievement Celebration event.

Nominations are due by Monday, January 20, 2014 at 5pm.

For more information on award criteria and required nomination materials, visit [CFD's site](#) or contact Jasmine at sheehan@smh.ca.

5. Around Campus

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24th Annual Baycrest Rotman Research Institute: Memory and the Brain in Health and Disease

Join world-renowned scientists at the 24th annual Baycrest Rotman Research Institute conference "Memory and the Brain in Health and Disease."

The conference brings together neuroscientists, clinicians and future scientists to address the science of memory. Presentations will highlight research conducted in Canada and around the world, and poster sessions will provide an opportunity for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows to present their work and interact with leaders in the field.

Event details

Date: March 10-11, 2014

Time: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: Omni King Edward Hotel

Post-conference workshops will take place on March 12, 2013 at [Baycrest](#).

[View the complete program and register.](#)

The Symphony of Science: An IMS alumni reception and concert by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra

Please join the Institute of Medical Science (IMS) for the Symphony of Science, the department's first-ever alumni reception. Reconnect with old friends, network with renowned scientists, and celebrate the legacy and future of the Institute of Medical Science.

Reception will start at 6:30 p.m. in the lobby of Roy Thomson Hall, followed by the TSO's much-anticipated performance of the *Sounds of Simon and Garfunkel* with the TSO at 8:00 p.m.

The symphony is the first in a series of alumni events that will be hosted by IMS.

Event details

Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Roy Thomson Hall

Please contact Morgan Tilley at morgan.tilley@utoronto.ca or 416-978-3588 for more information about purchasing tickets. Please note that admission to the reception is with a ticket only.

6. Medicine Research Online

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The submission deadline for the next issue of MedEmail (to be published on Wednesday, December 11, 2013) is Wednesday, December 4, 2013.

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