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Summer Lite Edition

Good Luck, Carolyn!



The ORT celebrates its 1 year anniversary and it could not have done it without the help of Ms. Carolyn Goard. We would like to thank Carolyn who has assisted the ORT with various projects with her writing skills, especially for The ORT Times. She is currently completing her PhD thesis in Medical Biophysics and will be pursuing science and medical writing in her future. Good luck, Carolyn and all the best!

Science Writer Needed

Are you a graduate student or postdoctoral fellow who likes to write and would like to augment their cv with writing experience? The ORT is now looking for a science writer to help with various projects including The ORT Times, our monthly newsletter. The time commitment is no more than 5-10 hours per month.

To inquire about more information, please contact:
ort.admin@uhnres.utoronto.ca

Sincerely,
The Office of Research Trainees

August 2012

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recent awardees

CIHR Postdoctoral Fellowship & CIHR Strategic Training HCTP Postdoctoral Fellowship

Congratulations to Dr. Alison Novak, who not only received a CIHR Strategic Training Program in Health Care, Technology, and Place (HCTP) Postdoctoral Fellowship, but she also received a highly competitive CIHR Postdoctoral Fellowship. These awards help support Dr. Novak's research entitled, "Optimizing stair design to prevent falls and influence community accessibility." Pictured here is Dr. Novak (left) and her colleague Tilak Dutta (right) on her experimental setup in the Challenging Environment Assessment Laboratory (CEAL).

Describing her work, Dr. Novak summarizes her research: "Stair-related falls are rapidly increasing for individuals of all ages. Over half of these falls, due to stair design errors, can be prevented with improved building codes. This work explores stair ambulation across age and disability to understand the relationship between user behaviour and stair design elements. Findings will bridge health and building sectors and be used to advocate for changes in standards to improve safe stair ambulation."



Postdoctoral Fellow: Dr. Alison Novak
Supervisor: Dr. Geoff Fernie, TRI



Graduate Student: Mr. Michael Velec
(PhD program)
Supervisor: Dr. Kristy Brock, PMH

CIHR Fellowship

Mr. Michael Velec, a PhD student and a Radiation Therapist, MRT(T), working in the Radiation Medicine Program at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre with Dr. Kristy Brock, was recently awarded a CIHR Fellowship.

Summarizing his research, Michael explains: "Many liver cancer patients receive suboptimal radiotherapy doses due to the risk of damage to healthy tissues. Daily image-guidance helps target tumours but breathing, deformation, and positioning errors cause deviations from the intended plan. I am using a novel deformable image registration algorithm to reconstruct the delivered dose over the treatment course. Characterizing uncertainties in our clinical protocols has allowed me to design a new delivery technique to maximally spare healthy tissue. This offers more personalized, dose-escalated treatment plans that could result in improved tumour control while minimizing radiation-induced toxicities."

conference reports

ORT Conference Travel Awardees

This section of The ORT Times includes research highlights from recent ORT Conference Travel Awardees. In this issue, learn about the cutting edge research in mammary alveolar differentiation, new mechanisms underlying the link between the DNA damage response and human diseases, the latest information about diabetes, exciting research and patient-focused care issues related to 22q11.2DS, developments in vision science, clinical applications in immunotherapy, and the cutting-edge research in the synthesis, characterization and application of porphyrin/phthalocyanines.

Ms. Leena Baker is currently pursuing her PhD studies in Dr. Senthil Muthuswamy's laboratory at the OCI. She recently attended the Gordon Research Conference in Lucca, Italy where she presented her research entitled, "The role of the polarity protein Scribble in mammary alveolar differentiation."

Click here to find out the latest cutting edge research directed at the basics of mammary gland biology: the developmental cycle of proliferation, differentiation, lactation and involution.



Want to find out the link between the DNA damage response (DDR) and genomic instability with human diseases such as cancer? Dr. Chiara Gorrini, a Postdoctoral Fellow in Dr. Tak Mak's laboratory at the CFIBCR has recently attended the Barcelona Biomed Conference in Barcelona, Spain.

Click here to read about her report on new mechanisms underlying the link between DDR and human diseases.

Dr. Beatrice Maria Filippi is a Postdoctoral Fellow in Dr. Tony Lam's laboratory at the TGRI. She recently attended the 72nd scientific session of the American Diabetes Association in Philadelphia where she presented her research entitled, "Insulin activates Erk1/2 signaling in the dorsal vagal complex to inhibit glucose production."

Click here to read about the latest information about diabetes.



conference reports

CONT'D.....ORT Conference Travel Awardees

A graduate student in Dr. Candice Silverside's laboratory at the TGRI, Mr. Gregory Costain is currently completing a PhD/MD degree. He recently attended the 8th Biennial International 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome Conference in Lake Buena Vista, Florida where he presented his research entitled, "Reproductive issues in adults with 22q11.2 deletion syndrome."

Read about his report on the cutting-edge research and clinical care practices related to 22q11.2DS.



Mr. Kenneth Ng is currently completing the PhD program in Dr. Gang Zheng's laboratory at OCI. He recently attended the 7th Annual International Conference of Porphyrins and Phthalocyanines (ICPP) held in Jeju, Korea. He had the opportunity to present his research entitled, "Reversible Size and Shape Modulation of Porphyrin Bilayers by Amphipathic Alpha-Helical Protein-Induced Lipid Constriction."

Click here to read about the highlights and cutting edge research in synthesis, characterization and application of porphyrin/phthalocyanines.



Ms. Leigh Christopher, a MSc graduate student with Dr. Antonio Strafella at the TWRI, recently attended the 16th International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders held in Dublin, Ireland. This international conference provided Leigh the opportunity to showcase her research entitled, "Identifying Striatal and Extrastriatal Dopaminergic Abnormalities of Cognitive Impairment in Parkinson's Disease."

Click here to read her report on this internationally renowned conference focused on Parkinson's disease and movement disorders.

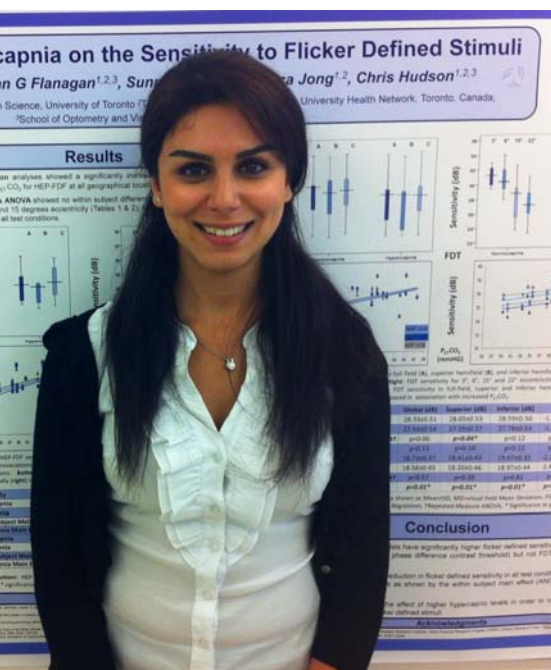


conference reports

CONT'D.....ORT Conference Travel Awardees

Interested in finding out what the top Canadian Immunologists have presented on topics ranging from development of the immune system to clinical applications in both autoimmunity and immunotherapy? Dr. Megan Nelles has provided a snapshot of the Canadian Society for Immunology conference held in St. John's, Newfoundland.

[Click here to read about these latest developments.](#)



The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) hosts the world's leading conference in vision research, with over 12,500 participants this year from a variety of backgrounds including optometry, ophthalmology, neurology, optics, biology and physiology.

Read here what Dr. Ayda Moaven Shahidi, a Postdoctoral Fellow in Dr. John Flanagan's laboratory at the TWRI, found most interesting about the latest developments in vision science.

Dr. Izhar Livne-Bar, a Postdoctoral Fellow in Dr. Jeremy Sivak's laboratory at the TWRI, recently attended the June 2012 meeting of The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO). He had the opportunity to present his research entitled, "Establishing a New Mouse Glaucoma Model."

[Click here to read the latest advances in the field of retinal degenerative diseases.](#)





UPCOMING EVENTS & FUNDING CALENDAR:

08/10

OCI Special Seminar.

Dr. Adam Shlien from the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute will be presenting his research entitled, "Integrative genome & transcriptome sequencing studies of human cancer." Location: PMH 610 University Ave, Room 6-604.

08/20

Industrial Problem Solving Workshop on Medical Imaging.

The Thematic Program on Inverse Problems and Imaging is hosting a workshop on Medical Imaging generously supported by the Fields Institute and Mitacs. See [website](#) for details.

08/20

CFIBCR Seminar Series.

Dr. David Tuveson from the Cambridge Research Institute will be presenting his talk entitled, "Animal Models of Pancreatic Cancer and Melanoma." Location: PMH 610 University Ave, Room 6-604.

08/21 MITACS Step Business & Etiquette.

This business etiquette workshop will show you all about evolved business conduct & will help you maximize your work relationships and send the right message about yourself (and your organization). Location: 89 Chestnut St, Toronto. Register [here](#).

09/04

CIFAR Junior Fellowships.

The Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR) is offering several fellowships to junior postdoctoral fellows. Click [here](#) to find out more information.

Visit www.uhntrainees.ca for more information.

QUESTIONS?

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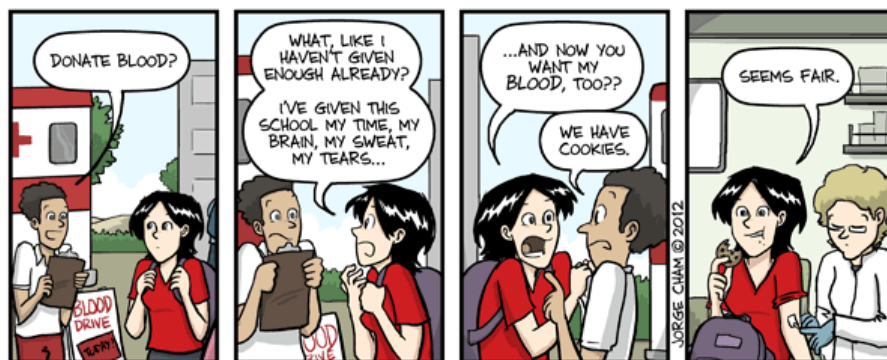
'TRAINEE PROFILES'

Featuring TRAINEES at work

'Trainee Profiles' is a new feature of The ORT Times. Each issue will feature stories about or by individual students or postdocs, highlighting their project and experience. Write in your ideas to:

ort.admin@uhnres.utoronto.ca.

We look forward to hearing from students and postdocs through the UHN system.



"Piled Higher and Deeper" by Jorge Cham
www.phdcomics.com