The ORT Times

A monthly newsletter featuring UHN Trainees

www.uhntrainees.ca

For information on UHN training courses, scholarships, seminars happening around the city and so much more, visit www.uhntrainees.ca.

Tutorial

REMINDERS & HELPFUL TIPS WHEN ENGAGING A RESEARCH TRAINEE

By Priscilla De Luca

Are you a Principal Investigator (PI) who is thinking of engaging a Postdoctoral Fellow (PDF) or a Graduate Student (GS) to work in your lab in the near future? Are you an administrator who processes paperwork for new trainees? Research trainees are a unique group in the UHN community whose administration can be quite complex.

The ORT is happy to announce the launch of the New Research Trainee Engagement Package. All essential forms and instructions required to engage a research trainee can now be found in one location on the ORT's Intranet page. This includes the new ORT registration form, the banking information form, occupational health assessment form, etc. This Package is completed by new trainees in advance of, or upon, their arrival at UHN.

Below are helpful reminders and tips when engaging a new research trainee.

Research trainees are not employees

As per UHN policies[1], PDFs and GS, are referred to as research 'trainees' and as such trainees are not UHN employees. Therefore the method for 'engaging' trainees differs from that for 'hiring' employees.

Advertising for trainee positions

Another important difference between engaging a trainee and hiring an employee is that Human Resources (HR) staff usually does not post job vacancies for trainee positions. Most PIs recruit research trainees

Cont'd, see PAGE 02

October 2012

Inside this issue....

UHN Toronto General Toronto Western Princess Margaret Toronto Rehab

Cont'd from PAGE 01

themselves. The ORT website (www.uhntrainees.ca) is an excellent hub that allows PIs to post research trainee positions when they are available. Contact the ORT to post your advertisement today!

The UHN Letter of Engagement
Graduate Students
Trainees at the Masters or Doctorate level will independently receive a letter of acceptance from their university or graduate department. PIs do not need to provide a UHN Letter of Engagement–the letter of acceptance from their university is sufficient to stipulate the terms of agreement. A copy of this letter is submitted as part of the New Research Trainee Engagement Package.

Postdoctoral Fellows
The Letter of Engagement is an agreement letter between the PI and the PDF. Depending on the status of the PDF in Canada (Resident or non-Resident), PDFs must receive a Letter of Engagement from their PIs. The template is provided on the new ORT Intranet site. Once all fields have been entered, sign and send three copies of the letter to the new trainee for his/her signature. The trainee keeps one copy, one copy is kept for the PI's office, and one copy must be provided along with the New Research Trainee Engagement Package. Once you've obtained all of the documentation necessary to engage the trainee, send it to one of the Administration Centre Councillors in HR.

International Postdoctoral Fellow
Once you've accepted an international PDF to start in the lab, you will need to provide him/her a Letter of Engagement for non-Canadian Residents. It is important you enter the dates of employment and a summary of research the PDF has been hired to lead. This will help speed up the work permit process. The PDF will need to take the offer letter to the Canadian Embassy in his/her home country where the authorities will let he/she know if they are accepted to work in Canada or not. In some cases a Labour of Market Opinion may be required. The PDF will notify you if such a form needs to be completed by the PI. The ORT can help PIs complete this form if needed.

Once they arrive in Canada, the PDF will need to apply for a temporary Social Insurance Number (SIN). Before they start in the lab, they will need to forward to the PI or the PI's administrator a copy of the SIN card and a copy of their work permit. This is to provide proof to UHN that he/she is legal to work in Canada. The new Research Trainee needs to be cleared by UHN's Occupational Health and get a Tuberculosis skin test—mandatory for all new UHN employees and trainees.

Health Insurance & Benefits for Postdoctoral Fellows
PDFs and their dependents who are non-residents of Ontario or Canada are eligible to obtain health insurance coverage through The University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP) through the University their PI is affiliated to. OHIP is not active until 3 months of being in Canada. So it is highly recommended for the PDF to either obtain UHIP or private insurance for the three months of being provincially uninsured.

UHN and the ORT has negotiated a special monthly rate for extended health benefits for PDFs administered through Sun Life Financial. If you are a PDF and would like an application and information, please email the ORT for more information.

Resources for new and current trainees living in Toronto
To find information on living in Toronto, from housing to transportation to taxes, go to www.uhntrainees.ca to find ample information on resources in Toronto.

References:
1. Policy #40.40.001 Research Post-doctoral Fellows; Policy #40.40.003 Graduate Students

Continue the Discussion!

If you would like to comment on this article, please visit 'My ORT' at www.uhntrainees.ca

success

recent awardees

CIHR Banting & Best Graduate Scholarship Award

Carol, a PhD student in Dr. J. David Cassidy laboratory in the Clinical Epidemiology and Health Care Research program at TWRI, was awarded a CIHR Banting & Best Graduate Scholarship Award for her project entitled, "*Incidence and Prognosis of Post-traumatic Headache*."

Summarizing her research, Carol says, "There is little research on post-traumatic headache (PTH) and its burden in society. To improve patient management, objectives are to (1) systematically review the scientific literature to address the incidence, course, and prognosis of PTH; and (2) analyze the incidence, course, and prognosis of PTH from large population-based studies of traffic injuries from Saskatchewan, Ontario, and Sweden."

Graduate Student:
Ms. Carol Cancelliere, DC, MPH
(PhD Candidate)
Supervisor: Dr. J. David Cassidy, TWRI

Graduate Student: Dr. Eric Morgen, MPH, MD
(MSc Candidate)
Supervisor: Dr. Geoffrey Liu, OCI

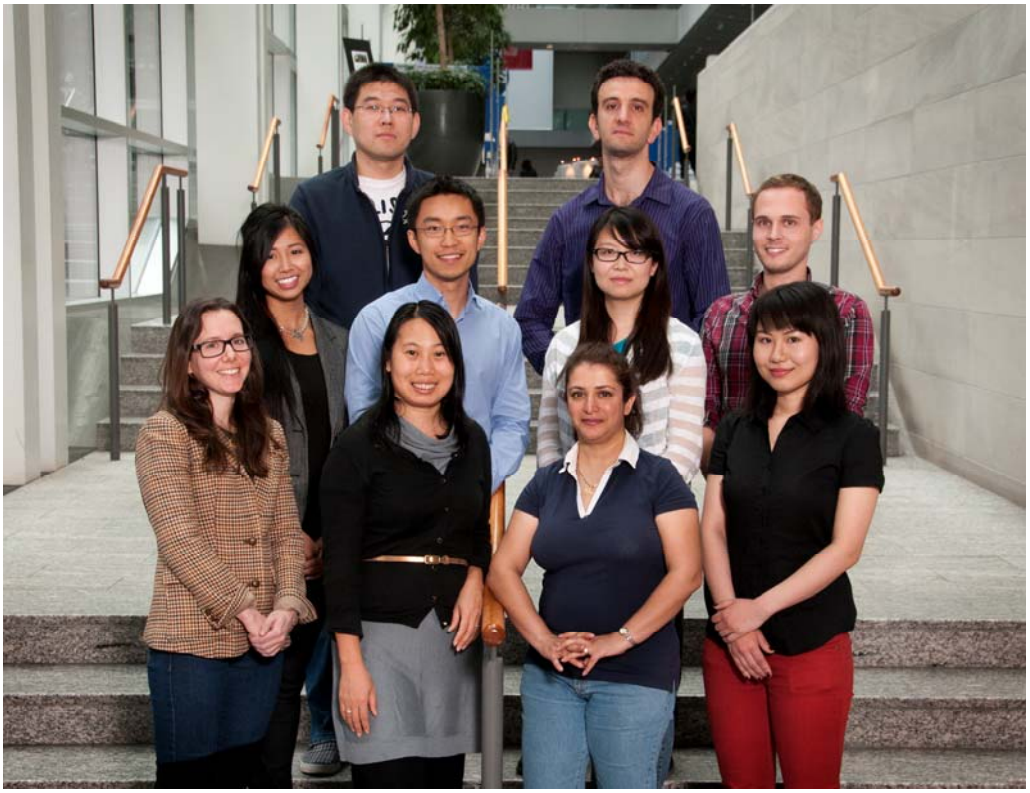
Eric, a MSc student in Dr. Geoffrey Liu's laboratory at OCI and member of the Cancer Outcomes Medicine Biostatistics Informatics Epidemiology Laboratory Medicine (COMBIEL) at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, recently won a CIHR Banting and Best Graduate Scholarship Award for his research entitled, "*Genetic Epidemiology of Esophageal Adenocarcinoma.*"

Regarding his research, Eric says, "Esophageal adenocarcinoma is increasing in frequency and is an extremely aggressive disease with among the worst prognosis of all cancers. We will examine germline polymorphisms as prognostic and pharmacogenetic markers in this disease using genome-wide data from the international BEACON consortium, and will employ both traditional and innovative techniques in statistical and bioinformatics analysis."

success

recent awardees

The July 2012 ORT Conference Travel Awardees



From Left to Right
Bottom Row: Sarah Steinbach, Stephanie Xie, Nafiseh Tabaei, Angela Zhang
Middle Row: Charlene Chu, Sam Liu, Sally Yu Shi, Shawn Clark
Top Row: Man Yu, Amir Haddad

The ORT is pleased to announce the recipients of the July 2012 travel award.

Congratulations to our awardees!

PhD Program:

Ms. Angela Zhang (TGRI—Dr. Shannon Dunn)
Mr. Ali Akram (TWRI—Dr. Robert Inman)
Mr. Bimal Lakhani (TRI—Dr. William E. McIlroy)
Ms. Charlene Chu (TRI—Dr. Katherine McGilton)
Ms. Danielle De Souza (TWRI—Dr. Karen Davis)
Ms. Maja Stupar (TWRI—Dr. Pierre Coté)
Ms. Nafiseh Talaei (TWRI—Dr. Joan Wither)
Ms. Sally Yu Shi (TGRI—Dr. Minna Woo)
Mr. Sam Liu (TGRI—Dr. Robert Nolan)
Mr. Shawn Clark (TGRI—Dr. David Hwang)
Ms. Sonja Molfenter (TRI—Dr. Catriona Steele)
Ms. Vincy Chan (TRI—Dr. Angela Colantonio)
Mr. Wilfred Ip (TGRI—Dr. Tianru Jin)

Postdoctoral Fellows:

Dr. Amir Haddad (TWRI—Dr. Dafna Gladman)
Dr. Man Yu (OCI—Dr. Ian Tannock)
Dr. Zhen Ni (TWRI—Dr. Robert Chen)
Dr. Sang Soo Cho (TWRI—Dr. Antonio Strafella)
Dr. Sarah Steinbach (TGRI—Dr. Mansoor Husain)
Dr. Stephanie Xie (OCI—Dr. John Dick)

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 importance of 'Global Evidence' and the impact of international diversity. Read also about the latest advances in research and treatment of pain.

Qi (Keith) Wu, a Postdoctoral Fellow in Dr. Karen Davis' lab at TWRI, recently attended the 14th World Congress in Pain held in Milan, Italy. He had the opportunity to present his research entitled, "Pain Qualities And Cortical Thickness in Patients with Ankylosing Spondylitis."

Click here to find out the latest advances in research and treatment of pain.

Ms. Stephanie Hylmar, a graduate student in the MSc program in Dr. Anna Gagliardi's lab at TGRI, recently presented her research findings at the Guidelines International Network (G-I-N) conference held in Berlin in a presentation entitled, "Exploring Optimal Conditions for Knowledge Transfer and Exchange in the Guideline Implementability Research and Application Network (GIRAnet)."

Click here to read about new developments in clinical practice guidelines (CPGs).

Spotlight on: UHN Centre for Microfabrication

By Duoaud Shah, Research Associate for UHN Centre for Microfabrication

The UHN Microfabrication Centre, a new facility within the Techna Institute, is now available to users from UHN and the University of Toronto (U of T) community.

The facility offers unique capabilities for prototyping and producing polymer-based lab-on-a-chip devices in class 1,000 and 10,000 cleanroom space. Capabilities include photolithography, wet chemistry, electroplating, UV cleaning and substrate bonding. The facility also features two large wet benches, inverted and upright microscopes (with fluorescence), spin coaters, vacuum ovens, digital hotplates, plasma cleaners and more. These tools complement those available in the cleanroom at U of T.

A Jenoptik HEX-02 Hot Embosser is the pride of the facility, the only hot embosser available in Southern Ontario. The embosser is a machine that presses a stamp with a pattern for a microfluidic device (e.g. a lab-on-a-chip, or a device to route and trap cells for analysis) into a piece of plastic at high temperatures and pressures. The heat makes the plastic easily deformable, so it will take on the shapes pressed into it by the stamp. Then, when cooled, the plastic becomes rigid and retains the channels and other features from the stamp.

Users of the facility produce a variety of devices, such as microchips, waveguides, and silicone based substrates. Microfluidics is a particularly popular application of microfabrication techniques. In microfluidics very small amounts of fluids are manipulated in a system with tiny channels—micrometers or smaller. At that scale, fluids behave very differently than in a large flask: surface tension becomes a much more important force, and more precise control over mixing, concentration, or other parameters important to chemical reactions can be obtained.

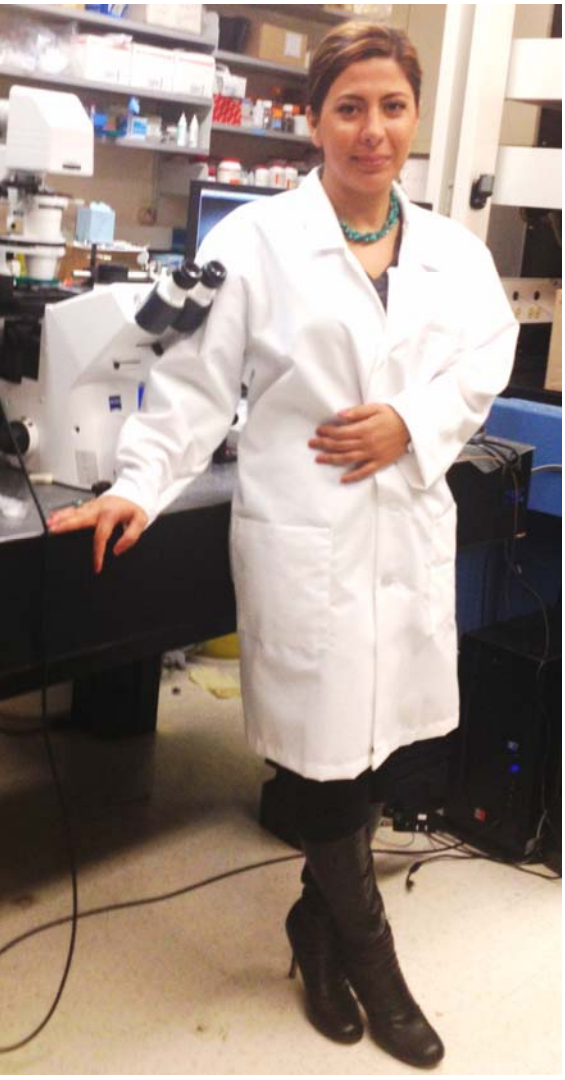
Managing the facility is Duoaud Shah, MSc, an engineer ready to lend his expertise in microfluidics to help research teams design or troubleshoot their devices and fabrication processes.

The UHN Microfabrication Centre is conveniently located in the Toronto Medical Discovery Tower, 101 College St. For more information about the Microfabrication Centre or to book time in the cleanroom, please contact Duoaud Shah at dshah@uhnresearch.ca.

A close-up view of the embossing chamber showing the pressure/heating plate combination, capable of temperatures up to 220°C and forces up to 200kN.

The automated Jenoptik HEX02 hot embosser allows high precision molding of thermoplastics containing dimensions as small as nanometers with high aspect ratios.

Spotlight on: UHN Centre for Microfabrication



Graduate Student: Ms. Setareh Ghorbanian (PhD Candidate)
Supervisor: Dr. Lothar Lilge, OCI

To get an insider's view on training in collaboration with the Microfabrication Center, we sat down with Ms. Setareh Ghorbanian, a PhD student in Dr. Lothar Lilge's laboratory at the Ontario Cancer Institute (OCI).

ORT: What unique features at the UHN Microfabrication Centre supported your research?

SG: As a part of my project I had to micromachine a microfluidic chip and I was able to complete this chip at the UHN Microfabrication Centre. SU8 spin coating and prebake was performed in the Class 1 laminar flowhood and exposure was undertaken with the Newport mask aligner and exposure system, which was very easy to use compared to the previous aligners I have worked with. UHN Microfabrication Centre has a separate laminar flowhood for soft lithography. Hence after SU8 microfabrication PDMS preparation, moulding and spincoating was done in that flowhood. Finally, I used the stereomicroscope to manipulate the PDMS chip and used the upright microscope to take images of the chip. This chip will be used for optimization of capillary electrophoresis of cellular mRNA.

ORT: How has your experience at the UHN Microfabrication Centre helped you develop as a trainee?

SG: UHN Microfabrication Centre has been very useful, and the staff was helpful when I ran into problems.

ORT: How do you think having this new centre will benefit the advancement of research at UHN?

SG: The Microfabrication Centre at UHN is conveniently located at MaRS building. It is spacious and contains many different instruments for microfabrication. Micro and nanotechnologies have helped in the rapid advancement of biology and medicine and the presence of such facility strengthens multidisciplinary research at UHN, which I believe is critical in advancement of science.

alumni focus

Ms. Corinne Daly, Research Coordinator

St. Michael's Hospital

Recently, I started as a Research Coordinator in the Division of General Surgery at St. Michael's Hospital. I completed my MSc training, under the supervision of Dr. David Urbach ('10-'12) at the Toronto General Research Institute and Dr. Nancy Baxter at St. Michael's Hospital, through the Institute of Medical Science at the University of Toronto.

During my time as a graduate student, I had the pleasure of interacting with a variety of researchers and scientists in the Department of Clinical Decision-Making and Healthcare at the Toronto General Hospital. Interactions with other graduate students, as well as research analysts and coordinators, provided me with a unique learning environment and truly enhanced my graduate experience.

After about a year into my Master's thesis, I knew that I was interested in pursuing a job in healthcare research with a focus in surgical oncology and health services research. I also wanted a position that would allow me to network with clinician-scientists, work as part of an integral team and manage many aspects of research.

My current position has been a perfect fit! I am achieving many of the goals that I set out for myself since defending my thesis and transitioning into a new environment. New challenges and endeavours are the most exciting part!

In my spare time, I really enjoy travelling and soaking up other cultures. Since I've completed my MSc, I have been able to escape to Europe and ventured to the UK, France and Switzerland. I also enjoy the outdoors, especially in the Fall, when the weather is perfect for apple picking and trail hiking.

UPCOMING EVENTS & FUNDING CALENDAR:

10/15 **Funding Opportunity.**
The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) is offering the Doctoral Research Awards through two programs, The Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarships Doctoral Awards and the Doctoral Foreign Study Award. Click here for details.

10/15 **Funding Opportunity.**
The Canada-UK Millennium Research Award, administered through NSERC and the Royal Society of London, will be awarding Postdoctoral Fellows who have specified a location of tenure in the U.K. Click here for details.

10/19 **Funding Opportunity.**
The Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation (CBCF) is funding research for graduate and post-graduate level scientists in all disciplines to develop expertise in breast cancer. Click here for details.

11/01 **Funding Opportunity.**
Through CIHR, the 2012-13 Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships competition is due on November 1st. Click here for details.

11/01 **Funding Opportunity.**
The Heart and Stroke Foundation supports the development of researchers across the research career spectrum from doctoral students to career investigators. Click here for details.

11/01 **Funding Opportunity.**
The ORT is pleased to offer the ORT Travel Award for conferences between January to April 2013. Contact the ORT for the application form.

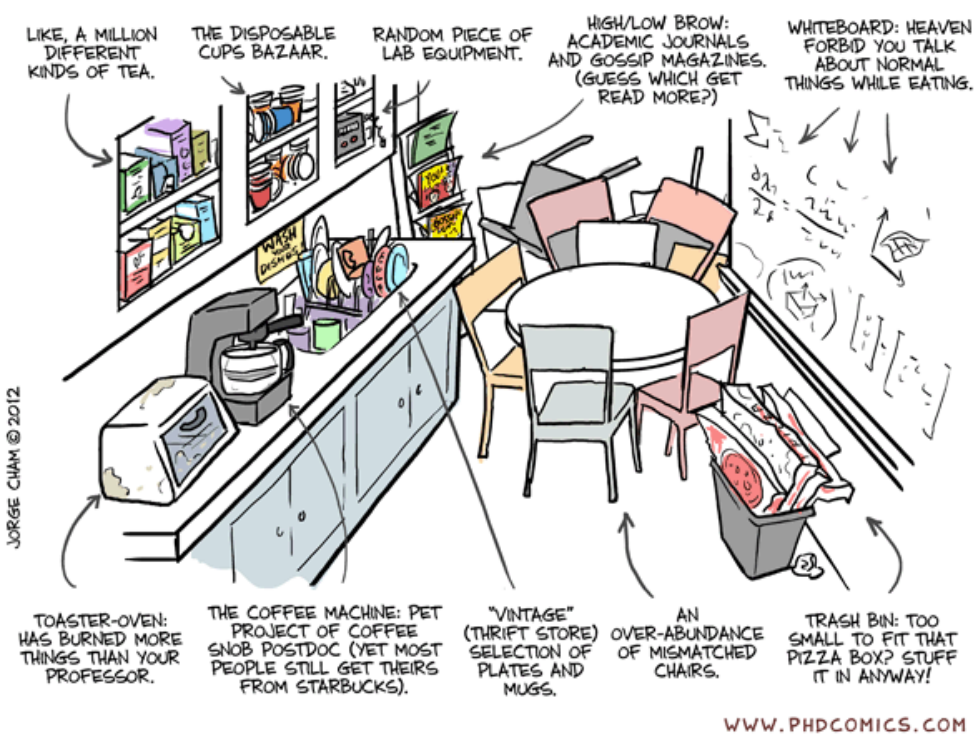
Visit www.uhntrainees.ca for more events and funding information.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact:
Priscilla De Luca, ORT Coordinator
University Health Network
ort.admin@uhnres.utoronto.ca
t. 416-946-2996

The ORT encourages trainees and scientists to send us pictures of the lab, departmental events, or eye-catching scientific images. Your submission may appear in *The ORT Times*' next issue.

(Photo: Courtesy of C. Bros, Penn Lab, OCI/PMH)



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