

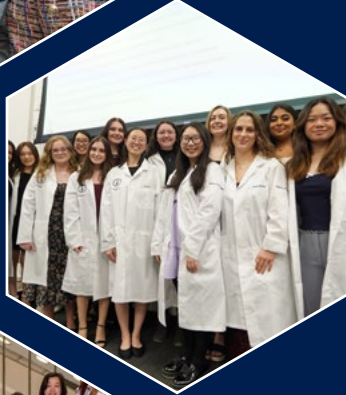


Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

LMP ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE 2024–2025



Temerty Medicine



LMP ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE 2024–2025

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2025

Malaparte, 350 King St W, 6th floor

5:30 P.M.

Awards Presentation – Main Hall

6:30 P.M.

Reception – Outdoor Terrace

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Isabelle Aubert



**LETTER FROM
THE CHAIR**



GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME TO THE LMP ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

I always look forward to this time of year, when we come together as a department to reflect, recognize, and reconnect. Today's celebration gives us the chance to pause and celebrate the past year - to honour the achievements of our students, trainees, faculty, and staff, and to enjoy time with colleagues and friends.

We also take this time to recognize those reaching important milestones - whether through service, promotion or retirement. Their accomplishments and continued contributions to education, research, and clinical excellence are truly remarkable.

We also extend our warmest congratulations to those who completed one of our academic or clinical training programs over the past year, which includes graduates from:

- Undergraduate Specialist Program in Pathobiology
- Research Stream Graduate Program (MSc and PhD)
- MHSc in Translational Research (TRP)
- MHSc in Laboratory Medicine
- MScAC in Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare
- Residency training programs
- Postdoctoral programs in Clinical Chemistry and Clinical Microbiology
- Clinical fellowships

Completion of these programs is a mark of excellence, dedication, and resilience. We are proud of you. I hope that you will remain connected with the department as alumni, mentors, and future leaders in our field.

I also want to recognize the broader community of LMP - faculty, staff, and learners - for their ongoing commitment and countless contributions. It is this collective effort and shared sense of purpose that makes our department a vibrant and inspiring place to be.

Thank you for everything you do. I hope you enjoy this evening of recognition and celebration.

Rita Kandel
Professor and Chair

A glowing blue, textured, branching structure resembling a tree or coral against a black background. The structure has a complex, organic form with multiple branches and a highly detailed, layered surface. The word "PROGRAM" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on the left side of the image.

PROGRAM

WELCOME REMARKS

LMP GRADUATES

AWARDS

2nd Year Allan Gornall Pathobiology Award

Ana Lehmann
Charlotte Selda

3rd Year Allan Gornall Pathobiology Award

Ashley Bhang
Patrick Wang
Christopher Situ

4th Year Allan Gornall Pathobiology Award

Eric Kim
Aaron Chan

The Avrum Gottlieb Award for Curriculum Development and Teaching Excellence in Training

Negar Khosraviani

Stuart Alan Hoffman Memorial Prize

Qin Ji

Dr. Rajalakshmi S. Dittakavi and Dr. Prema M. Rao Graduate Award

Krystyna Gorospe

Norman Bethune Award

Jeffrey Eo
Joseph Zeppa

Stanley Raphael Award for Professionalism

Daniel Schlam Rozanes

Alan Pollard Post-Doctoral Clinical Chemistry Travel Award

Mary Kathryn Bohn

MENTORING AWARDS

Outstanding Student Mentor
Cori Lau

Outstanding Alumni Mentor
Stephanie Ouzikov

FACULTY AWARDS

Award for Undergraduate Teaching

Paul Hamel

Early Career Teaching Award
Anjelica Hodgson

Clinical Teaching Excellence Award in Residency Teaching
Stephen Smith

Teaching Excellence Award in Fellowship Education

Ozgur Mete

Clinical Teaching Excellence Award in Hematological Pathology

Jan Delabie

Sustained Excellence Education Award

Ilan Weinreb

The John B. Walter Prize for Course & Curriculum Design & Development

Michael Seidman

Danny Ghazarian Award

Linda Kocovski

Richard G. Hegele Award for Excellence in Research and Innovation

Gabor Kovacs
Stephan Ong Tone

Leadership Award

Fang-I Lu

Distinguished Service Award
Avrum Gottlieb

SENIOR ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS

Faculty Promoted to the Rank of Professor

Vathany Kulasingam
Jordan Lerner-Ellis
Sonya MacParland

Faculty Promoted to the Rank of Associate Professor

Aaron Campigotto
Lei Fu

Scot Hamilton

Abdul Noor

Rola Saleeb

Lusia Sepiashvili

LONG TERM SERVICE

20 Years of Service

Lynn Allen
Ravinder Dhillon
Zeina Ghorab
Elena Greenfeld
David Hwang
Nades Palaniyar
Gino Somers

25 Years of Service

Mohamed Abdelhaleem
Michelle Bendeck
Bo-Yee Ngan

30 Years of Service

Arun Seth

45 Years Of Service

Allison McGeer

50 Years of Service

Pui-Yuen Wong

RETIREMENTS

Avrum Gottlieb
Marc Grynpas
Janice Lage
Michal Opas
Bayardo Perez-Ordenez
Margaret Rand
Simon Raphael
Robert Riddell

A glowing blue, textured, branching structure resembling a tree or coral against a black background. The structure is composed of multiple layers of translucent, wavy lines that create a sense of depth and movement. The overall appearance is ethereal and futuristic.

GRADUATES

PATHOBIOLOGY SPECIALIST PROGRAM GRADUATING CLASS OF 2025



Roni Abdel Samad
Riley Denise D. V. Alvarez
Aaron Jordan Wei Yip Chan
Jessy Chen
Jiaxuan Chen
Tin Yan Cheung
ZhiYang Ding
Amanda Lynn Farrington
Caroline Karthika Francis
Hana Masood Hasan
Lily Anjali Johnson
Eric Teheon Kim

Ping-Yu Lee
Jason Jian Xiang Leung
Yunting Liu
Yan Hei Mok
Jane Ngo
Yun Qing Chris Ouyang
Jiali Pan
Ye Peng
Hamza Sghayare
Ian Tsun Hin Tiu
Hao-Yuan River Zhang

GRADUATES WHO COMPLETED THEIR DEGREES IN THE LAST YEAR



Matthew James Prebeg
Arani Ravichandran
Eric Rotgaus
Abitha Suthakaran
Mouzhan Varshoueitabrizi
Christina Nga Jing Wong

MHSc in Translational Research

Anisatu Alhassan
Amena Ali
Julija Atanasova
Elio Barbosa Raimondi Belfiore
Sumaya Bhatti
Zoya Aziz Bhatti
Kaitlin Anne Boddison
Derek Sheunghei Choi
Brianna Renee Rowe Dunstan
Anabela Esteves Cotovio
Sumegha Jain
Shalini Jaisankar Sumathi
Owen Jones
Shayna Cristall Kay
Carolyn Moira Kelly-Ruetz
Julia Lauren Claire Kulczynski
Izzar R. Linares
Suzan Michele Lorenz
Sara Macanovic
Janna Mohamed
Alena Teresa Moya
Subiksha Nagaratnam
Osarumwense Brenda Omoruna
Chimaobi favour Oyiliagu
Morgan Emily Porteous



MHSc in Laboratory Medicine

Clinical Embryology Field

Saudah Butt
Tsz Wing Chu
Alexandra Meshcherekova
Taylor Pham
Cassandra Stan

Pathologists' Assistant Field

Isabel Gu
Samantha Nacci
Angela Yan

MScAC in Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare

Zixuan Dong
Zhe Fan
Yasamin Nouri Jelyani
Yiwen Song

MSc

Graduate's name | Supervisor's
(Prof.'s) name | *Thesis Title*

Michelle Sofia Alkanjari | Eldad Zacksenhaus | *Therapeutic Strategies Targeting Aggressive MYC-Driven Cancers*

Sarah Linda Aloi | Adele Changoor | *Advancing Osteochondral Allograft Preservation: Development and Evaluation of a Novel Storage Medium*

Ashley Amiraslani | Joanne McLaurin | *Recuperating Glial Function via the Partial Ablation of Reactive Astrocytes*

Ari Belotserkovsky | Gerold Schmitt-Ulms | *Brain targeted AAV delivery of a CRISPR-Cas9-based gene therapy for PRNP knockout*

Ashlan Best | Catherine O'Brien | *The Expansion of Drug Tolerant Persister Models*

Ingrid Campbell | Phedias Diamandis | *Remote monitoring of electroencephalographic power spectra patterns in patients with high-grade gliomas using brain wearables*

Connor Charton | Peter Dirks | *Modelling the Effects of Pediatric Sonic Hedgehog Medulloblastoma Driver Mutations on Cerebellar Granule Lineage Development*

Noa Anat Chazot | Heyu Ni | *Atherothrombotic Diseases: Investigating the Role of Apolipoprotein A-IV in Blood Coagulation*

Abolfazl Dadvar | Shinichiro Ogawa | *Modulating Mitochondrial Activity of hPSC-Derived Hepatocytes: A Potential Strategy to Enhance Hepatic Function and Optimize Transplantation Efficiency*

Joseph Vincent De Fazio | Mario Ostrowski | *Determining if viral rebound during analytical treatment interruption is due to mutational escape from CD8+ CTL responses in acute/early cART-treated persons with HIV*

Joseph Robert D'Ercole | Jeremy Sivak | *Characterizing the Neuroprotective Effect of RNA-Binding Protein ZC3H14*

Narisa Dhupar | Stephan Ong Tone | *Differential Expression of NEAT1 in the Central Corneal Endothelium Leads to an Altered Oxidative Stress Response in Fuchs Endothelial Corneal Dystrophy*

Sahara Jillian Haas | Warren Lee | *Optimization of Genetic and Soluble Cargo Delivery to the Injured Lung using Ultrasound and Microbubbles*

Brock Kent Hoard | Heyu Ni | *Essential Role of PSI Domain in Integrin Expression and Function*

Mia Hubert | Michael Ohh | *Investigating Hypoxia Inducible Factor-1 Regulation During Glucose Deprivation*

Nan Jiang | Norman Rosenblum | *Investigating the physiologic role of the stromal factor CXCL12 in renal development*

Christopher James Khoury | Heyu Ni | *Pathogenesis of miscarriages in Fetal and Neonatal Alloimmune Thrombocytopenia*

Daniela Andrea Lozano Casasbuenas | Scott Yuzwa & Maryam Faiz | *Establishment of cortical cell type and spatial diversity by V-SVZ progenitors during late embryonic and early postnatal development*

Yunfan Lyu | Warren Lee | *Vascular Leakage in Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome: The Role of Endothelial Cell Death and Endothelial Regeneration*

Amanda Anqi Mao | Michelle Bendeck | *The Role of Yes-Associated Protein 1 (YAP) and Transcriptional Coactivator with PDZ-binding Motif (TAZ) in Vascular Smooth Muscle Cell (VSMC) Calcification*

Khyati Mittal | Theo Moraes | *Understanding the Impact of E-cigarette exposure on Airway Epithelial Cell Function*

Victor Quoc Binh Pham Truong | Valerie Wallace | *Functional analysis of axon guidance programs in developmental photoreceptor connectivity*

Viktor Prifti | Heyu Ni | *Novel Mechanism of Thrombosis and Hemostasis: Investigating the Role of Platelet -Dystroglycan*

Syeda Hania Qamar | Naomi Visanji | *Creating an in vivo model of progressive supranuclear palsy*

Ryan Gabriel Ripsman | Adam Shlien | *Integrating multi-omic liquid biopsy into a pediatric precision oncology program*

Babishaa Sauntharajan | Yeni Yucel & Neeru Gupta | *Mapping of the Uveolymphatic Drainage Pathway from the Suprachoroidal Space*

Mackenzie Sarah Scott | Jennifer Taher & Jordan Lerner-Ellis | *From Result to Response: Investigating the Link between Laboratory Testing and COVID-19 Patient Outcomes*

Raghav Sharma | Janice Robertson | *Integrative Analysis of Single-Nucleus RNA-Seq and ATAC-Seq in C9orf72 Knockout Mouse Brain: Unraveling the Molecular Mechanisms Underlying Neurodegeneration in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and Frontotemporal Dementia*

Sandra Shenouda | Janice Robertson | *Investigating the Therapeutic Potential of JRMS Targeting TDP-43 Aggregation*

Jasmeet Kaur Singh | Phedias Diamandis | *Cerebral organoid cell heterogeneity is organized in non-random positionally-dependent anatomical compartments*

Cherisse Grace En Sing Tan | Lorraine Kalia | *Investigating the effects of abacavir on alpha-synuclein-mediated neurodegeneration*

Claire Elizabeth Verkuyl | Gerold Schmitt-Ulms | *A proof-of-concept AAV-delivered gene-editing trials for the treatment of prion diseases*

Nathaniel Bao Tam Vo | Hoon-Ki Sung | *Characterization of Healthy and Obese Adipose Neurovascular Architecture and Cellular Landscape*

Timmy Tianheng Wen | Adam Shlien | *Identifying the Role of Hypertranscription in Pediatric Tumor Evolution*

PhD

Graduate's name | Supervisor's
(Prof.'s) name | *Thesis Title*

Polina Balin | Michael Taylor
| *Ependymoma subgroups
mirror embryonic dorsal midline
derivatives across the CNS*

Li Yaw Cheng | Sonya MacParland
| *Investigating the role of recently
recruited and tissue-resident myeloid
cells and T cells in liver regeneration*

James Dunbar | Michael Reber
| *Mechanisms of Topographic
Map Development Within the
Mammalian Visual System*

Shehab Eid | Gerold Schmitt-
Ulms | *Targeting the Sodium
Potassium ATPase Pump for the
Treatment of Prion Diseases*

Joseph Atif Soliman Hanna | Carol
Schuurmans & Isabelle Aubert |
*Elucidating the role of Pten in the retina
as a tool for elucidating developmental
principles and for disease modeling*

Tse Wing Winnie Ho | Warren Lee |
*Characterization of the Intracellular
Route of Basal and Inflammation-
Stimulated LDL Transcytosis*

Danielle Karakas | Heyu
Ni | *Novel Mechanisms of
Thrombopoietin Generation: The
Essential Role of Kupffer Cells*

Kaitlin Elizabeth Kharas | Michael
Taylor | *The Microenvironment
of the Pediatric Brain Cancers
Medulloblastoma and Ependymoma*

Negin Khosraviani | Karim
Mekhaïl | *Transcriptional balance
between RNA polymerase I and
II at the rDNA intergenic spacers
controls ribosome biogenesis*



Ain Kim | Gabor Kovacs | *Towards the
Development of Artificial Intelligence
for Morphological, Biochemical and
Cytopathological Characterization of
Neurodegenerative Synucleinopathies*

Seojin Lee | Gabor Kovacs |
*Neurodegenerative Proteinopathy-
Specific Dysregulation of Iron
Homeostasis in the Human Brain*

Evan Christopher Lubanszky | Cynthia
Hawkins | *Investigating the Role of
Oncogenic H3.3 p.K27M Mutation
in Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma*

Winnie Ong | Michael Taylor |
*Transcriptional Differences Between
Males and Females in Childhood
Posterior Fossa Ependymoma Group A*

David Adam Przelicki | Michael
Taylor | *Characterization of novel
drivers in recurrent posterior
fossa group A ependymoma*

Joshua Cody Rosen | Ming-Sound
Tsao | *Dissecting KRAS Functional
Heterogeneity in Patient-Derived
Lung Adenocarcinoma Models*

Mitra Shokrollahi | Karim Mekhail |
*DNA double-strand break–capturing
nuclear envelope tubules promote
human DNA repair with implications
in breast cancer therapeutics*

Michael Salvatore Taccone | James
Rutka | *Mitochondrial Fission
Drives Human Glioblastoma*

Lakshmy Vasan | Carol Schuurmans |
*Deciphering the regulatory mechanisms
that govern proneural gene function
in the embryonic neocortex*

Alena Alexandra Zelinka-Malajczuk
| Rita Kandel | *In Vitro Formed
Deep Zone Articular Cartilage
Tissues: Insights into the Formation
of a Localized Mineralized Zone*

Wenda Zhao | Gerold Schmitt-
Ulms | *Dilations of the Endoplasmic
Reticulum Contribute to Spongiform
Degeneration and Unlock a Door to a
Unified Model of Neuropathological
Features in Prion Diseases*



GRADUATING RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS

Diagnostic and Molecular Pathology

Alexander Mark Oberc
Thomas Sabljic
Daniel Schlam Rozanes
Niloofer Sina
Khalil Udwan

Forensic Pathology

Jonathan Lai
Youheng Xie

Hematological Pathology

Tarannum Syed
Qianghua Zhou

Medical Microbiology

Rahel Zewude

Clinical Microbiology Post- Doctoral Training Program

Ellen Germaine Avery

Clinical Chemistry Post-Doctoral Training Program

Meshach Asare-Werehene
Mary Kathryn Bohn

Transfusion Medicine Area of Focused Competence Fellows

Caroline Malcolmson
Sheharyar Raza

Clinical Fellows

Sedigheh Abazari
Yasmeen Talal M Abulkhair
Salafa Fadal A Albaghli
Salman Alfaifi



Esra'a Ramzi Hussain Al-Fraihat
Muna Saif Nasser Aljabri
Shahd Al-Mohsen
Hala Abdulrahman M Alnuaim
Moayad Saleh S Alqazlan
Assem Alrumeh
Summayah Abdullah A Alsabei
Sukaina Mohammed S Altafaq
Mohammed Alwahbi
Muath Ahmed A Alyahya
Harsh Batra
Kevin Cote
Daniele Mario Di Capua
Fatih Mert Dogukan
Yael Fisher
Tulasi Geevar
Sophia Green
Simon Guertin
Soyini Jackson
Nurul Akmal Binti Kamarudin
Darrell Martin
Mehdi Masoomian
Nnamdi Sergius Ozor
Sugunah Sallapan
Alexandra Christina States
Kethly Tejada
Mark Anthony Turingan
Yan Hong Yu

A glowing blue, textured, branching structure resembling a tree or coral against a black background. The structure is composed of multiple layers of thin, parallel lines, giving it a layered, almost crystalline appearance. The main trunk curves from the top left towards the bottom right, with several smaller branches extending outwards. The overall effect is ethereal and futuristic.

AWARDS

ALLAN GORNALL PATHOBIOLOGY AWARDS



Recipient

Ana Lehmann

Ana Lehmann has recently finished her second year in the Pathobiology Specialist Program with a major in Physiology. She is an Arts & Science Internship Program member and is currently exploring opportunities to apply her learning to hands-on experience.

As her third year draws closer, Ana is excited to dive into more specialized LMP courses and integrate that knowledge with other specialized life science courses outside of the department to contribute to research.



Professor Allan Gornall (1914 - 2006) is regarded as the founder of clinical chemistry in Canada, having initiated the certification program. He pursued a PhD in the Department of Pathological Chemistry in 1936, then returned as its Chair from 1966 to 1976. During that time, it was renamed as the Department of Clinical Biochemistry, one of the founding Departments of LMP. He retired in 1980 and established an endowment fund to recognize outstanding students in the Arts & Science Pathobiology Specialist Program.

Second-Year Award

This award is given to a student in the Pathobiology Program with the highest overall grade in LMP200H1.

ALLAN GORNALL PATHOBIOLOGY AWARDS



Recipient

Charlotte Selda

Charlotte Selda has recently completed her second year of study in the Pathobiology Specialist Program, with a major in Biochemistry and a minor in Immunology.

Her research journey began in neurobiology, where she investigated the substrates of opioid motivation. She is currently working in Dr. Brian Nieman's

lab, studying the long-term effects of chemotherapy on brain structure and behaviour in survivors of acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

As she enters her third year, Charlotte looks forward to exploring more specialized LMP courses and expanding her research experience within the department.



Second-Year Award

This award is given to a student in the Pathobiology Program with the highest overall grade in LMP200H1.

ALLAN GORNALL PATHOBIOLOGY AWARDS



Recipient

Ashley Bhang

Ashley Bhang recently finished her third year in the Pathobiology Specialist Program. She is currently a summer student in the lab of Drs. Golnaz Karoubi and Tom Waddell, studying mechanotransduction during stem cell differentiation into distal lung epithelium.

Going into her fourth year, Ashley is excited to continue learning from her professors, mentors, and peers in LMP. She looks forward to exploring diverse areas of research and pursuing her own scientific interests.



Third-Year Award

This award is given to a student in the Pathobiology Program with the highest overall averaged percent grade in third year LMP courses.

ALLAN GORNALL PATHOBIOLOGY AWARDS



Recipient

Patrick Wang

Patrick is entering his final year of study in the Pathobiology Specialist Program with a major in Immunology.

Over the past year, he has been involved with research investigating a mechanism of chemotherapeutic resistance in lung adenocarcinoma

Moving into the summer, Patrick is excited to further apply what he's

learned to studying pathways driving multiple myeloma progression as well. Beyond that, Patrick is excited to learn even more about cancer biology in his fourth year courses in addition to further developing his understanding of cancer and oncological research.



Third-Year Award

This award is given to a student in the Pathobiology Program with the highest overall averaged percent grade in third year LMP courses.

ALLAN GORNALL PATHOBIOLOGY AWARDS



Recipient

Christopher Situ

Christopher Situ recently completed his third year in the Pathobiology Specialist Program and a Neuroscience Major, where he enjoyed exploring the diverse mechanisms underlying human health and disease.

Over the summer, he will continue his research on alpha-synuclein strain formation under the supervision of Dr. Joel Watts.

In the fall, he will begin medical school at the Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine, where he looks forward to engaging in novel clinical research opportunities and expanding his understanding of translational medicine.



Third-Year Award

This award is given to a student in the Pathobiology Program with the highest overall averaged percent grade in third year LMP courses.

ALLAN GORNALL PATHOBIOLOGY AWARDS



Recipient

Eric Kim

Eric recently graduated from the Pathobiology Specialist Program with an Immunology minor and actively participated in multiple research projects.

At UHN, he worked in Dr. Shinichiro Ogawa's lab investigating the effects of cryopreservation on liver organoids for optimal cell therapy storage. At SickKids, he

worked in Dr. Cynthia Hawkins' lab exploring the immune microenvironment of Diffuse Midline Glioma to identify potential therapeutic targets.

Eric's time at university was shaped by his meaningful experiences in the LMP community, which he greatly valued.



Fourth-Year Award

This award is given to the graduating student with the highest cumulative grade in the Pathobiology Program.

ALLAN GORNALL PATHOBIOLOGY AWARDS



Recipient

Aaron Chan

Aaron Chan recently completed his undergraduate studies in the Pathobiology Specialist Program.

He has had the privilege of working in Dr. Jeffrey Lee's laboratory where he contributed to the development of nanobodies as a non-hormonal contraceptive.

Aaron is grateful to have been a part of LMP and to have grown alongside such a wonderful group of classmates. He is thankful to have shared this journey with them and is excited to see what the future holds for himself and his fellow graduates.



Fourth-Year Award

This award is given to the graduating student with the highest cumulative grade in the Pathobiology Program.

THE AVRUM GOTLIEB AWARD FOR CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND TEACHING EXCELLENCE IN TRAINING



Recipient

Negar Khosraviani

Negar Khosraviani is a 4th year PhD student in Dr. Jason Fish's lab studying the molecular and cellular mechanisms driving the formation and maintenance of brain arteriovenous malformation.

Negar holds the CIHR-doctoral scholarship and has been the recipient of the departmental Norman Bethune award and

the Meredith & Malcolm Silver Scholarship in Cardiovascular award. She is also a member of the Cardiovascular Specialist Collaborative Program and was the 2024 recipient of the Bigelow Book Prize.

For the past three years, Negar has been a teaching assistant for the undergraduate course LMP420H1 'Cancer Pathogenesis'. Since the launch of the course in 2022, Negar has helped coordinate lectures, organize and grade course materials, and assist students with presentations.



Professor Avrum Gotlieb is the founding Chair of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology and served from 1997 to 2008. The Department endowed this award in his name to a trainee in LMP graduate or postgraduate programs to recognize distinction in curriculum development and teaching.

STUART ALAN HOFFMAN MEMORIAL PRIZE



Recipient

Qin Ji

Qin Ji is a PhD candidate in Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology at the University of Toronto, with a background in Nanotechnology Engineering from the University of Waterloo.

His research focuses on deciphering the interaction of tumour cell biology and nanoparticle transport for cancer nanoparticles, with publications in

Nature Nanotechnology and Nano Letters. He has contributed to both academic and industry-led innovation, holding roles at Mesosil Inc. and Harvard University.

Beyond research, he has mentored students, represented peers as an academic rep, and led science outreach efforts. With a strong foundation in interdisciplinary research, translational science, and leadership, he is committed to advancing the understanding of cancer biology and nanoparticle interaction with real-world impact.



This award was first established in 1959 by the Hoffman family after their son, Stuart, became a patient at the Hospital for Sick Children and was treated by clinical chemists. The Hoffman family generously donated funds for an endowment, which is now used to award the annual recipient with an engraved silver plate and a cash prize.

This prize is awarded annually to the top LMP MSc or PhD graduate who has demonstrated excellence in research, evidenced by their accepted thesis, published or in-press papers, and contributions to their research field.

DR. RAJALAKSHMI S. DITAKAVI AND DR. PREMA M. RAO GRADUATE AWARD



Recipient

Kristyna Gorospe

Kristyna completed her BSc and MSc in Cell & Systems Biology at the University of Toronto, where she investigated nuclear envelope protein complexes involved in skeletal muscle stem cell-mediated regeneration.

She is now a second-year LMP PhD student co-supervised by Dr. Kelsie Thu and Dr. Ming-Sound Tsao. Her research investigates the

mechanisms underlying residual disease in EGFR-mutant lung adenocarcinoma, focusing on how drug-tolerant persister cancer cells survive targeted therapy.

Kristyna is dedicated to advancing cancer treatment by identifying novel strategies to overcome resistance and improve the efficacy of targeted therapies.



Donated by past and present students of Doctors Rajalakshmi and Rao, this award is given to a graduate student in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology who is pursuing study and research on the cause, prevention, pathogenesis, and cure of cancer.



NORMAN BETHUNE AWARD



Graduate Recipient

Jeffrey Eo

Jeffrey Eo joined Dr. Michael Ohh's laboratory as an MSc student following his undergraduate studies in LMP.

As part of the Ohh lab, he investigates how the von Hippel-Lindau (VHL)/hypoxia-inducible factor (HIF) pathway allows cells to sense and adapt to hypoxia, a common characteristic of solid tumours. His work focuses on elucidating the

molecular mechanisms underlying the differences between two paralogs of HIF: HIF1 and HIF2. By doing so, he aims to enrich our understanding of clear cell renal cell carcinoma in VHL disease patients, where HIF1 and HIF2 reportedly play opposing roles as a suppressor and driver of pathogenesis, respectively.

Jeffrey hopes to further his work upon transferring to the PhD program in LMP.



Norman Bethune graduated from the University of Toronto's Faculty of Medicine in 1916. Dr. Bethune travelled to China in 1938 where he spent the better part of two years operating on war casualties and training Chinese doctors and paramedics. He subsequently became a well-known symbol of U of T's longstanding relationship with China.

In 1987, Frederick H. Kahan, a graduate of U of T won an honourarium to be contributed to the college or university of his choice. Mr. Kahan asked that it be given to his alma mater, U of T, to endow a prize in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine in the field of infectious diseases, including bacterial, viral, fungal, and protozoal infections, named in honour of Dr. Norman Bethune.

The aim of this award is to recognize and encourage young, talented researchers and microbiologists on the threshold of their careers. This award goes to both a top microbiology trainee and a graduate student in LMP.



Postgraduate Recipient

Joseph Zeppa

Dr. Joseph Zeppa is a second year Clinical Microbiology Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Toronto.

He completed his PhD at the University of Western Ontario in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology under Dr. John McCormick where he studied Group A Streptococcus. He then went on to complete a Postdoctoral Fellowship

in the laboratory of Dr. JoAnne Flynn at the University of Pittsburgh Studying Tuberculosis and a Research Associateship in the laboratory of Dr. Scott Gray-Owen at the University of Toronto studying the pathogenic *Neisseria* species.

Dr. Zeppa has published 17 peer-reviewed manuscripts in prestigious journals including *Nature*, the *Journal of Experimental Medicine* and *Cell Host and Microbe*.

STANLEY RAPHAEL AWARD FOR PROFESSIONALISM



Recipient

Daniel Schlam Rozanes

Dr. Daniel Schlam Rozanes is a University of Toronto medical graduate and a PGY5 resident in Diagnostic and Molecular Pathology.

He has a special interest in the molecular basis of pediatric disease and spent his last year of residency at the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), where he was exposed to world-renowned pediatric

pathology and leading-edge molecular tools driving precision medicine. Prior to medical school, he completed a PhD at SickKids, focusing on fundamental cell biological processes that govern phagocyte immunity, with a special emphasis on rare diseases such as chronic granulomatous disease and cystic fibrosis.

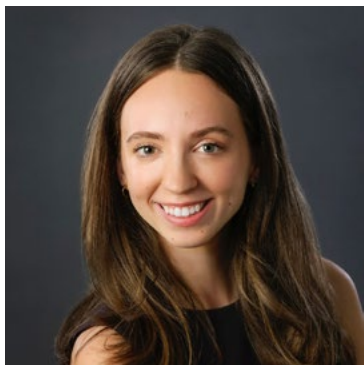
Daniel is a strong believer in balance, healthy professional relations, and looking out for one another. He is profoundly grateful and humbled to receive the Dr. Stanley Raphael Award.



Established in 2012, This award is named after Dr. Stanley Raphael who practiced pathology in Canada for 40 years. Dr. Raphael passionately believed in, and fought for, the principle that laboratory physicians work for the patient and their allegiance was to the patient alone. Dr. Stanley Raphael would be proud to have this award named after him, and of the generation of young physicians who receive it.

This award honours a senior resident whose performance most embodies the ideals of professionalism as defined by the CanMEDs roles of the Royal College.

ALAN POLLARD POST-DOCTORAL CLINICAL CHEMISTRY TRAVEL AWARD



Recipient

Mary Kathryn Bohn

Dr. Mary Kathryn Bohn completed her undergraduate degree in Integrated Science with a specialization in Biochemistry at McMaster University.

She then obtained her PhD in Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology at the University of Toronto where her research focused on improving interpretation of biomarkers of health and disease in pediatrics and pregnancy.

Dr. Bohn is soon completing the Clinical Chemistry Postdoctoral Fellowship. She is excited to begin her position as a clinical biochemist at Unity Health Toronto this summer.



Established to recognize the sustained contribution over 28 years of Professor Alan Pollard to Clinical Biochemistry at Mount Sinai Hospital and the University of Toronto. The award helps subsidize travel costs of a clinical chemistry trainee to present their research work at the annual meeting of American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) and other international meetings.

This award recognizes excellence in performance by a Clinical Biochemistry Postdoctoral Diploma candidate.



MENTORING AWARDS

Mentoring is a vital part of learning and teaching. Through these awards, LMP recognises the vital role mentors play in the development of members of the LMP community.

OUTSTANDING STUDENT MENTOR



Recipient

Cori Lau

Cori Lau is a third-year PhD candidate in Dr. Jason Fish's laboratory, where he is currently investigating the transcriptomic landscape of endothelial cells in diabetes-induced heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF). He also the current President of CLAMPS, the LMP graduate student union.

Throughout his academic journey, Cori has been fortunate to receive mentorship from academic mentors who generously shared their time and wisdom. Inspired by their guidance, he is committed to mentoring the next generation. For Cori, mentorship is not just a responsibility - it is a profound opportunity to foster growth and transformation, much like a seed that flourishes into a tree, expanding beyond what we can initially envision.

One of his mentees commented, "Cori was always available and quick to meet, and had advice or tips from multiple perspectives. He's advised a lot on exploring, connecting and meeting people outside in the department and larger community, and being open to changes and different opportunities. I found his advice important when thinking about where I'm headed with my research and the different opportunities I'm being exposed to."



This award recognizes a graduate student's dedication as a mentor as part of the LMP Peer-to-Peer Graduate Mentoring Program.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI MENTOR



Recipient

Stephanie Ouzikov

Stephanie Ouzikov earned her BSc in Biomedical Science from the University of Guelph (2017–2021) before completing her MSc in the LMP program under the supervision of Dr. Scott Yuzwa (2021–2024). Her thesis focused on the mechanism and function of the LRIG1 protein in adult neural stem cells and its potential applications in treating neurodegenerative diseases. She

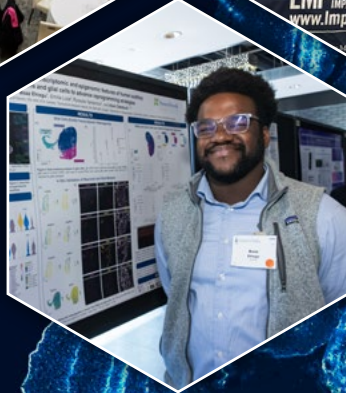
is currently a research fellow in the Department of Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology at Harvard University, where she investigates brain regeneration and disease mechanisms in the aging brain across various neural cell types.

Inspired by the mentorship and support she received during her undergraduate and graduate studies, Stephanie became actively involved in the mentorship program - first as a mentor during her graduate studies, and now as an engaged alumna. Her goal is to provide others with the same guidance and encouragement she benefited from, helping students navigate the challenges of academia while developing their strengths and confidence.

One of her mentees commented, “Being mentored by Stephanie has been one of the most meaningful parts of my graduate experience. From the very beginning, she approached our mentorship with warmth, patience, and a genuine desire to help me grow. She’s played a pivotal role in helping me explore potential career paths.”



This award recognizes the dedication of one of our alumni as a mentor and the contribution they make to students’ personal, professional or academic development as part of the LMP Alumni Graduate Mentoring Program.





FACULTY AWARDS

We recognize and celebrate outstanding contributions in teaching, research and service through our annual departmental awards.

Nominations for many of these awards come from our faculty, staff and learners.

AWARD FOR UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING



Recipient

Paul Hamel

Dr. Paul Hamel is a Professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology at the University of Toronto.

He earned his PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Toronto in 1986 after completing his BSc at the University of Ottawa.

His research previously focused on the Hedgehog signaling pathway, particularly its role in mammary gland development and cancer. Currently, his lab focusses on the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)/Intellectual Disability (ID)-associated protein, PtchD1.

Paul teaches the LMP Pathobiology of Cancer course in collaboration with Dr. George Charames. Paul is also engaged in a number of global health research, program development, and teaching initiatives, including teaching global health courses in the Human Biology Program in the Faculty of Arts & Science and in the Public Health/Health Studies Program at University College.



Awarded to a faculty member who has shown sustained excellence for at least three years in individual teaching performance in Undergraduate Medicine, Arts and Science, and other Health Sciences.

EARLY CAREER TEACHING AWARD



Recipient

Anjelica Hodgson

Dr. Anjelica Hodgson, originally from Ottawa, Ontario, is a Gynecologic Pathologist at University Health Network-Toronto General Hospital and an Assistant Professor in the University of Toronto's Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology.

She completed her pathology training at the University of Toronto affiliated hospitals and Memorial

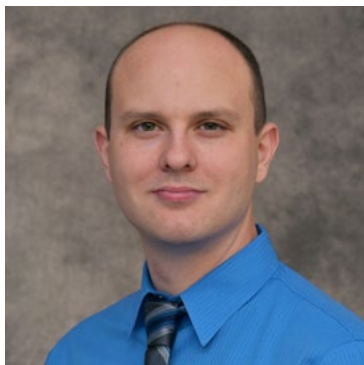
Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Her practice covers the full spectrum of oncologic gynecologic pathology, and she participates in all levels of medical education.

Her academic work is primarily focused on classification and prognostic of cervical adenocarcinomas and she is an expert author on this topic in the upcoming 6th edition book from the World Health Organization on the Classification of Female Genital Tract Tumours.



Awarded to a faculty member who has shown excellence in clinical teaching and/or education in LMP within the first six years of their university appointment.

CLINICAL TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD IN RESIDENCY TEACHING



Recipient

Stephen Smith

Dr. Stephen Smith presently serves as a staff Endocrine, Head & Neck and Dermatopathologist at Toronto General Hospital (University Health Network) while holding an appointment as an Assistant Professor in Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Smith is a U.S.-born and trained physician,

completing his training in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. He is fellowship-trained in Endocrine, Head & Neck Pathology at Yale University under Dr. Manju Prasad; and in Dermatopathology at The Ohio State University under Dr. Sara Peters. Dr. Smith holds board certification from the American Board of Pathology in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology as well as Dermatopathology.

He maintains research interests in understanding diagnostic errors in surgical pathology, as well as in biomarker identification in dermatopathology, otolaryngologic and endocrine pathology. He extends his gratitude to the wonderful trainees who have nominated him and looks forward to continuing his career in training future pathologists.



Awarded to a faculty member who has shown excellence in medical residents' education. This can be demonstrated through course teaching, one-on-one teaching or lectures, in addition to other educational tools. This award is for resident teaching, excluding clinical fellows and medical students.

TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD IN FELLOWSHIP EDUCATION



Recipient

Ozgur Mete

Dr. Ozgur Mete is a Senior Consultant Endocrine Pathologist at the University Health Network and Professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology at the University of Toronto.

He completed medical school and pathology residency at Istanbul University, followed by fellowship training

in endocrine pathology at the University of Toronto.

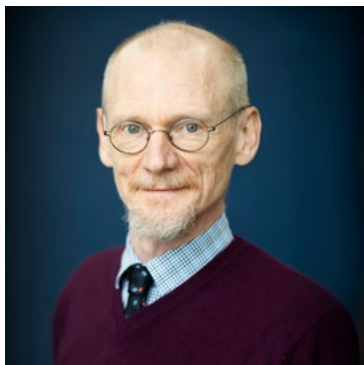
His research focuses on translating basic discoveries into clinical biomarkers for endocrine and neuroendocrine tumors, with additional interests in digital pathology, personalized medicine, and education.

Dr. Mete has published extensively, co-editing five textbooks and contributing to over 250 peer-reviewed articles. He is Editor-in-Chief of Endocrine Pathology, a former President of the Endocrine Pathology Society, and a WHO expert editor for multiple tumor classification bluebooks.



Awarded to a faculty member who has shown excellence in clinical fellowship teaching.

CLINICAL TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD IN HEMATOLOGICAL PATHOLOGY



Recipient

Jan Delabie

Dr. Jan Delabie received his medical degree and completed his PhD from the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium. He completed his postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

He was a visiting professor at the Center for Cancer Biomedicine, University of Oslo from 2013-2018. He has been involved with 261 publications.

As a hematopathologist, his main interest is lymphoma in general. He has supervised five PhD students and co-supervised another five PhD students in the area of lymphoma. His most current interests are cold agglutinin disease and integrative data analysis in lymphoma.



Awarded to a faculty member who has shown sustained excellence in individual teaching performance in hematologic pathology.

SUSTAINED EXCELLENCE EDUCATION AWARD



Recipient

Ilan Weinreb

Dr. Ilan Weinreb is Division Head of Anatomical Pathology at UHN and Associate Professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology.

Dr. Weinreb has attained a sustained national and international reputation for his exemplary professional practice in head and neck pathology. He has made

significant contributions to defining new diagnostic entities, especially of the salivary gland that are of clinical significance and developing a new salivary gland tumour classification based on histomorphology and molecular biomarker assays, which have led to changes in practice across Canada and internationally. He is also advancing the practice and discipline through his educational activities at the local, national, and international level.



Awarded to a faculty member with 10 or more years of appointment who has shown sustained excellence in clinical education at any level (undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate).

THE JOHN B. WALTER PRIZE FOR COURSE & CURRICULUM DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT



Recipient

Michael Seidman

Dr. Michael Seidman is a cardiovascular, autopsy, and rheumatologic pathologist, currently practicing at University Health Network.

He is engaged in diverse clinical, administrative, research, and teaching endeavours. His teaching specifically includes marked engagement in the graduate

program, MHSc in Laboratory Medicine for Pathologists' Assistants and Clinical Embryology, and in the Diagnostic and Molecular Pathology residency program.

He oversees the medical autopsy rotations and is involved in the lab quality management curriculum in both programs. In the MHSc program, he worked from the strong base established by Dr. Scot Hamilton to evolve a course curriculum aimed at preparing our LMP learners to be managers and leaders in any future endeavors.



This award recognizes outstanding contributions by any member of LMP to the design, development or coordination of any course or digital education initiative in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine, Arts and Sciences, Postgraduate Education and Continuing Education. The course or program must be successfully running for at least two years.

DANNY GHAZARIAN AWARD



Recipient

Linda Kocovski

Dr. Kocovski completed her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, Honours (MBBS – Medical Degree) at the University of Sydney in 2009 and an Honours Bachelor of Science (HBSc), with Distinction in Forensic Science and Anthropology at the University of Toronto in 2003. She completed her postgraduate training at McMaster University in General Pathology

and then Forensic Pathology in 2016 and 2017, respectively.

Dr. Kocovski has worked as a forensic pathologist with the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service since 2017 (Hamilton Regional Forensic Pathology unit 2017-2019, and Provincial Forensic Pathology Unit in Toronto 2020-present). She was also the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Program Director for the Forensic Pathology Subspecialty Training Program in Hamilton from 2018-2019 and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine at McMaster University.

She currently holds additional university faculty appointed positions with the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology at the University of Toronto, and Northern Ontario School of Medicine University. She currently oversees the provision of medicolegal autopsy services in Thunder Bay, Ontario. She has served as the site supervisor for pathology residents and medical students at the Provincial Forensic Pathology Unit in Toronto since 2023.



In 1996, Professor Danny Ghazarian was a trainee in the University of Toronto's Anatomical Pathology Training Program and was the representative on the residents training committee.

Struck by the dedicated, enthusiastic teaching delivered by the staff, and wanting to acknowledge this in a formal manner, he decided to honour the best teachers every year with a teaching award. The award persisted as the "Best Teacher" award until 2004 and thereafter was entitled the Danny Ghazarian Resident Teaching Award.

This award is voted for by current residents in LMP.



RICHARD G. HEGELE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



Recipient

Gabor Kovacs

Dr. Gabor G. Kovacs (MD, PhD) is Professor of Neuropathology and Neurology at the University of Toronto. He is Consultant Neuropathologist and Neurologist at the University Health Network (UHN) and a Principal Investigator at the Tanz Centre for Research in Neurodegenerative Disease. Dr. Kovacs holds the Rossy Chair in Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP)

Research at UHN and is the Co-Director of the Rossy Program for PSP Research.

Dr. Kovacs is a board-certified neurologist and neuropathologist and received a PhD in Neuroscience. His major research interest is the neuropathology of neurodegenerative diseases to identify early biomarkers and therapy targets. He has published more than 400 peer-reviewed papers and edited three books on Neuropathology including the recent edition of Greenfield's Neuropathology.



This award recognizes a faculty member in LMP for original research, invention, or creative professional activity that improves our understanding of mechanisms of disease or advances in clinical practice relevant to the discipline. Open to both the life sciences and clinical streams.

This year we have two recipients for this award.



Recipient

Stephan Ong Tone

Dr. Stephan Ong Tone is an early career researcher and clinician scientist at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and Sunnybrook Research Institute, and an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Ophthalmology and Vision Sciences and Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology at the University of Toronto. He is also Associate Graduate Faculty in Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology.

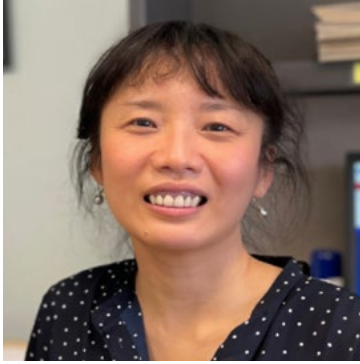
He completed his BSc, MD, and PhD in Neurological Sciences at McGill University, followed by residency training in Ophthalmology at the University of Toronto and a Cornea and External Diseases fellowship at Massachusetts Eye and Ear, Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Ong Tone specializes in diseases and surgery of the cornea, anterior segment, and cataracts. His research program builds on his success in conducting state-of-the-art basic science, translational, and clinical research, coupled with his specialized surgical expertise. This has allowed him to identify knowledge gaps in the care of individuals affected by corneal diseases, propose strategies to elucidate pathogenic mechanisms leading to corneal dysfunction, develop novel therapeutics aimed at preventing disease progression, and improving surgical outcomes.

He has made significant contributions in characterizing corneal endothelial cell migration during corneal regeneration, and its importance for a novel surgical technique called Descemet's Stripping Only. His research bridges clinical ophthalmology and translational science to advance patient care in vision-related diseases such as Fuchs Endothelial Corneal Dystrophy.

He is emerging as a world leader in corneal diseases and has been recently selected for a 2025 Ontario Early Researcher Award.

LEADERSHIP AWARD



Recipient

Fang-I Lu

Dr. Fang-I Lu is a pathologist at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto.

She is honored and humbled for being the recipient of this year's LMP Leadership Acknowledgment Award for her role as the program co-director for the University of Toronto's Master of Health

Science in Laboratory Medicine - Pathologists' Assistant field.

In this role, she successfully led the program to be granted full accreditation by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences.

Several current and former Pathologists' Assistant students won prestigious research awards at national and international meetings and hold leadership positions at local and national Pathologists' Assistant organizations.

Dr. Lu would like to thank all current and former program leaders, faculty members, administrative staff and students for making this program a success. She looks forward to further developing the Pathologists' Assistant community in LMP and beyond through impactful education, innovative research and mentorship.



Chosen by the Department Chair of LMP, this award is given to a faculty member in appreciation for their leadership role and commitment to advancing clinical excellence in LMP.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



Recipient

Avrum Gotlieb

Professor Gotlieb is grateful to McGill University and the University of California San Diego for the inspiring training he received in Pathology and in fundamental biomedical research. For the past 47 years the University of Toronto has provided him with incredible opportunities to create and grow the academic mission in Pathology focusing on Pathobiology and


on teaching of, and research in, mechanisms of disease.

He was fortunate to work with and mentor exceptional students whose curiosity and hard work challenged the boundaries of pathobiology. He met and worked with talented and motivated educators, researchers and administrators in championing innovation and excellence at LMP, Temerty Faculty of Medicine, the University of Toronto and the scientific and professional societies and journals he volunteered at and, in some cases, created and led, both international US based societies and Canadian societies.

The future is bright for those who stay the course and lead the faculty with clarity of vision and purpose to promote merit-based excellence in our biomedical community and pursue our core academic mission to understand the fundamental principles of wellness (biology) and disease (pathobiology) to deliver successful health care.



This award recognizes faculty or administrative staff who have demonstrated the highest level of sustained service to the department in education, research, creative professional activity or administrative services. The recipient demonstrates innovation, excellence or scholarship and provides outstanding leadership that advances the vision and mission of the department. The recipient of this award will have provided outstanding leadership for at least 10 years.



SENIOR ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS

We are pleased to congratulate the nine faculty members in LMP who received Provostial approval for promotion effective July 1, 2025.

FACULTY PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF PROFESSOR



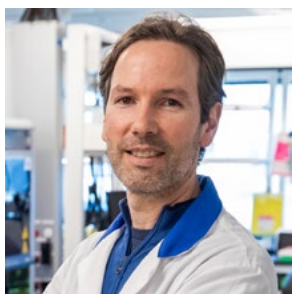
Vathany Kulasingam

Toronto General Hospital, University Health Network (UHN)

Excellence in creative professional activity (CPA)

Dr. Kulasingam has attained an international reputation for her sustained contributions to diagnostic innovation within the fields of clinical chemistry and immunology. Her accomplishments, which have improved the practice of clinical chemistry, are

exemplary and sustained and include: the development of innovative sample preparation techniques for metabolomics; demonstrating the importance of SARS CoV-2 vaccination in immunocompromised kidney transplant patients; advancing tumor biomarker precision diagnostics; and contributing to the international guideline development on use of biochemical tumor markers. She received the Research Excellence Award (2019) from the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists in recognition of her contributions to research in the field.



Jordan Lerner-Ellis

Mount Sinai Hospital, Sinai Health

Excellence in creative professional activity (CPA)

Dr. Lerner-Ellis has attained an international reputation for his transformative contributions to creating and building genetic database networks for inherited diseases, helping Canada achieve a global presence in molecular diagnostics. His work has advanced

standards, facilitated collaboration, and shaped ethical frameworks, creating a lasting impact on the field of clinical genomics. Dr. Lerner-Ellis' innovative vision integrates clinical practice, research, and infrastructure development at individual and population levels. His ability to bridge these domains has not only advanced the scientific understanding of genomics and identified new genetic-based disease associations, but also reshaped how genomic data is utilized in healthcare.

FACULTY PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF PROFESSOR



Sonya MacParland

Ajmera Transplant Centre, University Health Network (UHN)

Excellence in Research

Dr. MacParland is an internationally renowned expert in liver immunobiology, which she has interrogated using leading edge multi-omics. Her focus on translation of this information to clinical application to prevent disease or liver transplant rejection or liver cancer is laudatory. Her recent research has focused on understanding the complexities of liver diseases, including primary sclerosing cholangitis (PSC) and liver fibrosis, using a patient-partnered and open science approach. Dr. MacParland has had a very significant international impact and has identified new pathways that are potentially targetable to treat primary sclerosing cholangitis. Her research is novel and impactful on the discipline of hepatology.

FACULTY PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR



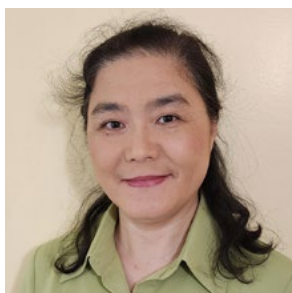
Aaron Campigotto

The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids)

Excellence in creative professional activity (CPA)

Dr. Campigotto is nationally recognized as an expert in the use of whole genome sequencing for pediatric microbiological epidemiology and diagnosis. He is well respected, not only for his outstanding scholarly contributions that have had significant clinical impact on

diagnosing pediatric infections and informing strategies for infection prevention and control, but also in outbreak investigation and for his leadership in provincial and national infectious disease test quality committees. His role in advancing quality pediatric microbiology diagnostics, filling gaps with advanced technologies and data analysis, has had a positive impact on pediatric patient care.



Lei Fu

Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

Excellence in creative professional activity (CPA)

Dr. Fu's scholarly activities have included making significant contributions to advancing excellence in professional practices as it relates to clinical chemistry and molecular diagnostics. Her main activities focus on developing new tests,

such as for pharmacogenetics, and identifying biomarkers for disease, as well as enhancing the quality and proficiency of practice and education by developing standards of practice. For her many contributions she received the 2024 Canadian Society for Clinical Chemists (CSCC)/SCCC Award for Innovation in Laboratory Medicine. This award recognizes "outstanding accomplishment through innovation in the field of Clinical Chemistry, or Pathology and Laboratory Medicine for projects where a CSCC member was directly involved."

FACULTY PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR



Scot Hamilton

Mount Sinai Hospital, Sinai Health

Excellence in creative professional activity (CPA)

Dr. Hamilton is nationally recognized for his contribution to changing professional practices in clinical embryology through enhancing quality by innovation in education and advancing clinical lab standards. Dr. Hamilton was one of the leaders involved

in creating the MHSc in Laboratory Medicine for clinical embryologists in the field of assisted reproductive technologies in LMP, the first in Canada. He is a leader in clinical embryology and played a role in advancing clinical standards in this field. Dr. Hamilton is renowned for his contributions to clinical embryology and has received accolades such as the J.B. Walter Prize for Course and Curriculum Design and Development from LMP in 2024.



Abdul Noor

Mount Sinai Hospital, Sinai Health

Excellence in creative professional activity (CPA)

Dr. Noor has attained a national reputation by making significant contributions to the development and enhancement of professional practice and quality in the practice of prenatal diagnostic genetics. He has done this by sequential development of increasing leading-

edge tests with transfer of information to other labs and to advancing the practice via education of lab geneticist trainees. He has also contributed to the creation of the new national genetic and genomic diagnostics (GGD) fellowship training program, as well as making significant contributions to the Canadian College of Medical Genetics (CCMG) national certification examination, which has national impact as the new fellows take their places running labs across the country.



Rola Saleeb

St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto

Excellence in creative professional activity (CPA)

Dr. Saleeb has achieved national and early international recognition based on her professional innovation and creative excellence and exemplary professional practice in the field of genitourinary (GU) pathology. She has made significant

contributions to the professional practices in genitourinary pathology by advancing renal carcinoma classification and standardized reporting, identifying new biomarkers, and identification of potential therapeutic strategies. Her ability to bridge these domains has not only advanced the scientific understanding of renal cancer, but also led to consideration of a new therapeutic trial.



Lusia Sepiashvili

The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids)

Excellence in creative professional activity (CPA)

Dr. Sepiashvili has become nationally recognized as an expert in pediatric clinical biochemistry and diagnostic immunology. She has contributed to the enhancement of professional practices by implementing innovative tests for the pediatric population

by developing robust biochemical serology tests; determining reference ranges to allow for evidence-based treatment decisions and, where possible, utilizing them in clinical studies; as well as disseminating lab test utilization strategies of immunological tests through education and guidelines she helped to develop to influence best practices nationally and internationally. Her scholarly contributions to the pediatric population have had national and international clinical impacts.



LONG TERM SERVICE

We celebrate those primary-appointed faculty and staff who have reached significant milestones in their service at LMP.

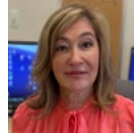
20 YEARS OF SERVICE



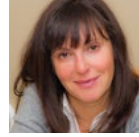
**Lynn
Allen**



**Ravinder
Dhillon**



**Zeina
Ghorab**



**Elena
Greenfeld**



**David
Hwang**



**Nades
Palaniyar**



**Gino
Somers**

25 YEARS OF SERVICE



**Mohamed
Abdelhaleem**



**Michelle
Bendeck**



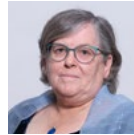
**Bo-Yee
Ngan**

30 YEARS OF SERVICE



**Arun
Seth**

40 YEARS OF SERVICE



**Allison
McGeer**

50 YEARS OF SERVICE



**Pui-Yuen
Wong**

A glowing blue, textured, branching structure resembling a tree or coral against a black background. The structure is composed of multiple layers of translucent, wavy lines that create a sense of depth and movement. The overall appearance is ethereal and organic.

RETIREMENTS



Avrum Gotlieb

Dr. Avrum Gotlieb, Professor, is a renowned cardiovascular pathologist and founding Chair of the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology at the University of Toronto. His pioneering research in atherosclerosis and heart valve disease, his teaching, and his service have earned him numerous accolades: Distinguished Achievement Award, Society for Cardiovascular Pathology

(2012); the J.B. Walter Award as Founding Program Director for LMP's Master of Health Science in Laboratory Medicine Program (2023); and the Distinguished Service Award, Association of Pathology Chairs (2013). For over 47 years, Dr. Gotlieb's dedication to education and mentorship has shaped the careers of many in the field of pathology at the University of Toronto.



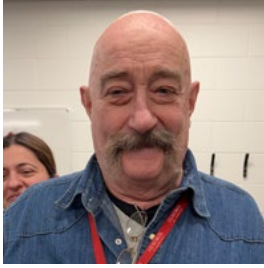
Marc Grynepas

Dr. Marc Grynepas, Professor, was a Senior Scientist at the Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute and has held an appointment in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology for 42 years. His research focused on the nature of bone mineral, animal models of osteoporosis and osteoarthritis, the effects of drugs and trace elements on bone quality and the determinants of bone fragility

and bone fatigue. The research he conducted on the structure and chemistry of bone has significantly advanced our understanding of osteoporosis and osteoarthritis. He has authored over 260 publications and holds five patents, continuing to share his expertise through select collaborations and mentorship.

Janice Lage

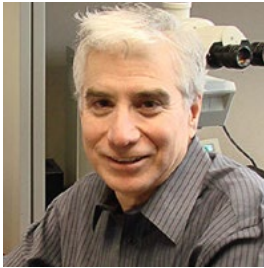
Dr. Janice Lage, Professor Emerita, was appointed as a Staff Pathologist at St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto and has been appointed in LMP since 2019. Dr. Lage has had a distinguished career and is internationally recognized for her work in gynecological pathology, particularly in placental and perinatal pathology. She has received numerous awards and recognitions including being listed in America's Top Doctors for Cancer guide (2005-2017). She contributed to teaching of LMP's pathology residents during their rotation at St. Michael's Hospital where her mentorship was greatly appreciated.



Michal Opas

Dr. Michal Opas, Professor Emeritus, has been appointed for over 40 years in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology at the University of Toronto. His field of expertise is in cell motility and adhesion, cytoskeleton and cell differentiation. His work on calreticulin and its role in cell differentiation has provided valuable insights into stem cell biology and tissue engineering. Dr. Opas has shared

his expertise through his mentorship of numerous students and researchers. He remains engaged in collaborative research and mentorship, drawing on over four decades of expertise in cell biology and cardiovascular science.



Bayardo Perez-Ordenez

Dr. Bayardo Perez-Ordenez, Associate Professor, was appointed as Staff Pathologist and Consultant in Head and Neck Pathology at University Health Network. His research interests included human papillomavirus (HPV) and squamous cell carcinoma, which led to significant advancements in cancer diagnostics and treatment. Since his appointment 25 years ago in the Department

of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, Dr. Perez-Ordenez has been highly regarded for his contributions to pathology education and research.



Margaret Rand

Dr. Margaret Rand, Professor Emerita (Status-Only), held a Scientific Associate Staff appointment at the Hospital for Sick Children. She held faculty appointments at the University of Toronto since 1986, moving to the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology in 2001. Dr. Rand's research focus has been on blood platelet function and dysfunction, which

has resulted in a total of 136 peer-reviewed publications and 28 book chapters. In 2019, she was awarded the Victor S. Blanchette Award for Excellence in Pediatric Hemostasis from the Canadian Pediatric Thrombosis and Hemostasis Network in recognition of her contributions to the field.



Dr. Simon Raphael

Dr. Simon Raphael, Associate Professor Emeritus, was Chief Pathologist and Director of Laboratories at North York General Hospital. He specialized in gastrointestinal pathology and his research focus was on inflammatory bowel disease and colorectal cancer. Dr. Raphael held an appointment in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology for the last 24 years, during

which time he was the Program Director of the Anatomical Pathology Residency Training Program (2008-13). He was recognized for his leadership and exceptional contributions to resident well-being, social advocacy and mentorship with the Sarita Verma Award by the Temerty Faculty of Medicine (2013).



Dr. Robert Riddell

Dr. Robert Riddell, Professor Emeritus, has served in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology for over 23 years. As a Gastrointestinal (GI) Pathologist, and previously Head of Immunopathology at Mount Sinai Hospital, his research focus was primarily in inflammatory diseases, dysplasia and carcinoma throughout the GI tract, particularly Barrett's esophagus. Dr. Riddell was lead author on

the 1983 paper defining and grading dysplasia in inflammatory bowel disease. His contributions were recognized with the Distinguished Service Award from University of Toronto (2015) and the Harvey Goldman Lifetime Achievement Award by The Rodger C. Haggitt Gastrointestinal Pathology Society (2017).



SPECIAL THANKS



DIRECTOR, BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATION

Nelson Cabral

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

January Adams

Nezha Ahsan

Dominic Ali

Tara Asgharzadeh

Jenni Bozec

Jordan Crawford

Louella D'Cunha

Ravinder Dhillon

Yolanda Durante

Xilonem Lopez

Kate McDonald

April Morris

Paula Nixon

Zoryana Salo

Marianne So

Rutvik Solanki

Julie Wei

Beatrice Wong

Queenie Wong

Debb Yorke

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Co-Presidents

Riley Alvarez & Steven Ding

Vice President Academic

Sofija Volkanoska

Vice President Finance

Aja Michalski

Vice President Social

Olivia Ruffolo

External Affairs Officer

Rahim Kassam-Suleman

Internal Affairs Director

Angela (Ye) Peng

3rd Year Specialist Representative

Catherine Wang

2nd Year Specialist Representatives

David Geng & Ingrid Jin

Webmaster

Logan MacDonald

Graphic Designer

Chelsea Wen

CLAMPS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

President

Cori Lau

Vice President Communications

Andrew Yim

Vice President Social

Josh Haebe

Vice President Academics

Gizelle Lionel & Kristen Schulz

Vice President External

Vanessa Vuong

Head Location Director

Lina Li

Treasurer

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Vice President Mentorship

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