



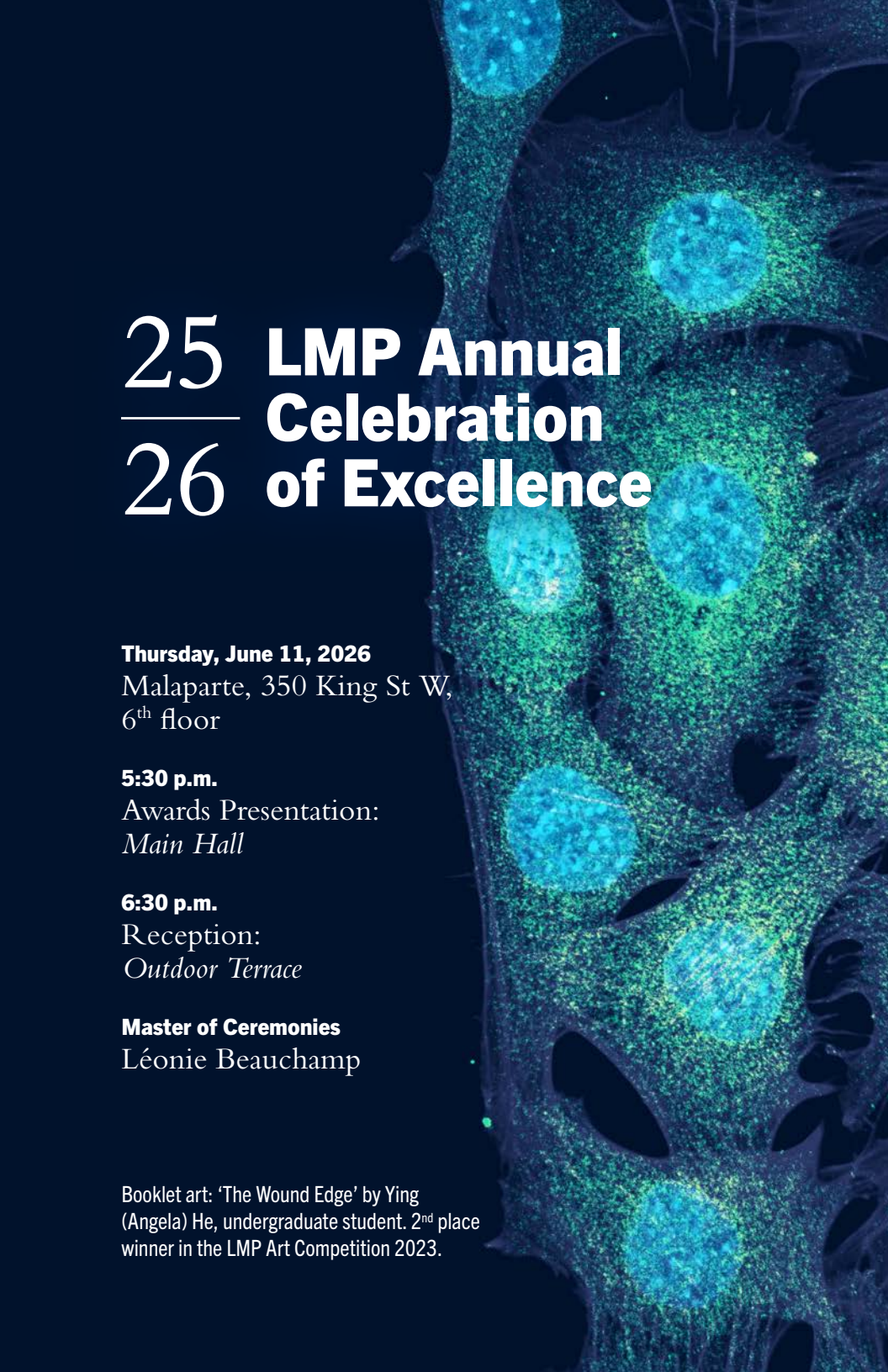
Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

25 — 26 LMP Annual Celebration of Excellence



Temerty Medicine





25 **LMP Annual** 26 **Celebration of Excellence**

Thursday, June 11, 2026

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

Léonie Beauchamp

Booklet art: 'The Wound Edge' by Ying
(Angela) He, undergraduate student. 2nd place
winner in the LMP Art Competition 2023.



Letter from the Chair



Good evening and welcome to the LMP Annual Celebration of Excellence.

This evening is one of the highlights of the year for our department. It gives us the opportunity to come together as a community to reflect on the past year, celebrate our achievements, and recognize the many people whose dedication and contributions continue to shape LMP.

Tonight, we celebrate the accomplishments of our students, trainees, faculty, and staff, and acknowledge those reaching important milestones in promotion, service, leadership, and retirement. These achievements reflect the remarkable depth of talent, commitment, and collegiality that define our department.

We also extend our warmest congratulations to those who completed one of our academic or clinical training programs over the past year, including 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
- Postgraduate residency training programs
- Postdoctoral programs in Clinical Chemistry and Clinical Microbiology
- Clinical Fellowships

The completion of these programs represents years of hard work, perseverance, and excellence. We are proud of all that you have achieved and look forward to seeing the many ways you will continue to contribute to healthcare, science, education, and discovery in the years ahead.

As I reflect on another year of celebrating the accomplishments of this department, I am reminded how much I value the opportunity to share evenings like this with the LMP community. The strength of our department has always come from its people — from the generosity, collaboration, and shared commitment that continue to move us forward together.

Thank you for all that you do for LMP and for one another. I hope you enjoy this evening of recognition and celebration.

Rita Kandel
Professor and Chair



Program

Welcome Remarks

LMP Graduates

Awards

2nd Year Allan Gornall Pathobiology Award
Elizabeth Dieroff

3rd Year Allan Gornall Pathobiology Award
Maya Honda-Granirer
Charlotte Jade Selda

4th Year Allan Gornall Pathobiology Award
Logan MacDonald

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

Stuart Alan Hoffman Memorial Prize
Cassandra Taber

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

Norman Bethune Award
Aisha Adil
Kumudhavalli
Kavanoor Sridha

Stanley Raphael Award for Professionalism
Cathy Cao

Alan Pollard Post-Doctoral Clinical Chemistry Travel Award
Chien-Yi Lu

Mentoring Awards

Outstanding Student Mentor
Susanna Fang

Outstanding Alumni Mentor
Ioannis Prassas

Faculty Awards

Award for Undergraduate Teaching
Rajeevan Selvaratnam

Teaching Excellence in Graduate Education
Phedias Diamandis

Early Career Teaching Award
Ashley Di Meo

Clinical Teaching Excellence Award In Residency Teaching
Christine Cserti-
Gazdewich

Teaching Excellence Award in Fellowship Education
Daniel Xia

Clinical Teaching Excellence Award in Hematological Pathology
Ali Sakhdari

Sustained Excellence Education Award
Anna Plotkin

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

Danny Ghazarian Award
Niloofar Sina

Richard G. Hegele Award for Excellence In Research and Innovation
Daniel Winer

Leadership Award
Michael Ohh

Distinguished Service Award
Susan Done
Jeff Lee

Senior Academic Promotions

Faculty Promoted to the Rank of Professor
Michelle Downes
Katerina Pavenski
Clinton Robbins

Faculty Promoted to the Rank of Associate Professor
Ramzi Fattouh
Anjelica Hodgson
Carlo Hojilla
Golnaz Karoubi
Robert Kozak
Amy Wong

Long Term Service

20 Years of Service
Hal Berman
Stephen Girardin
Paul Yip
Zeina Ghorab

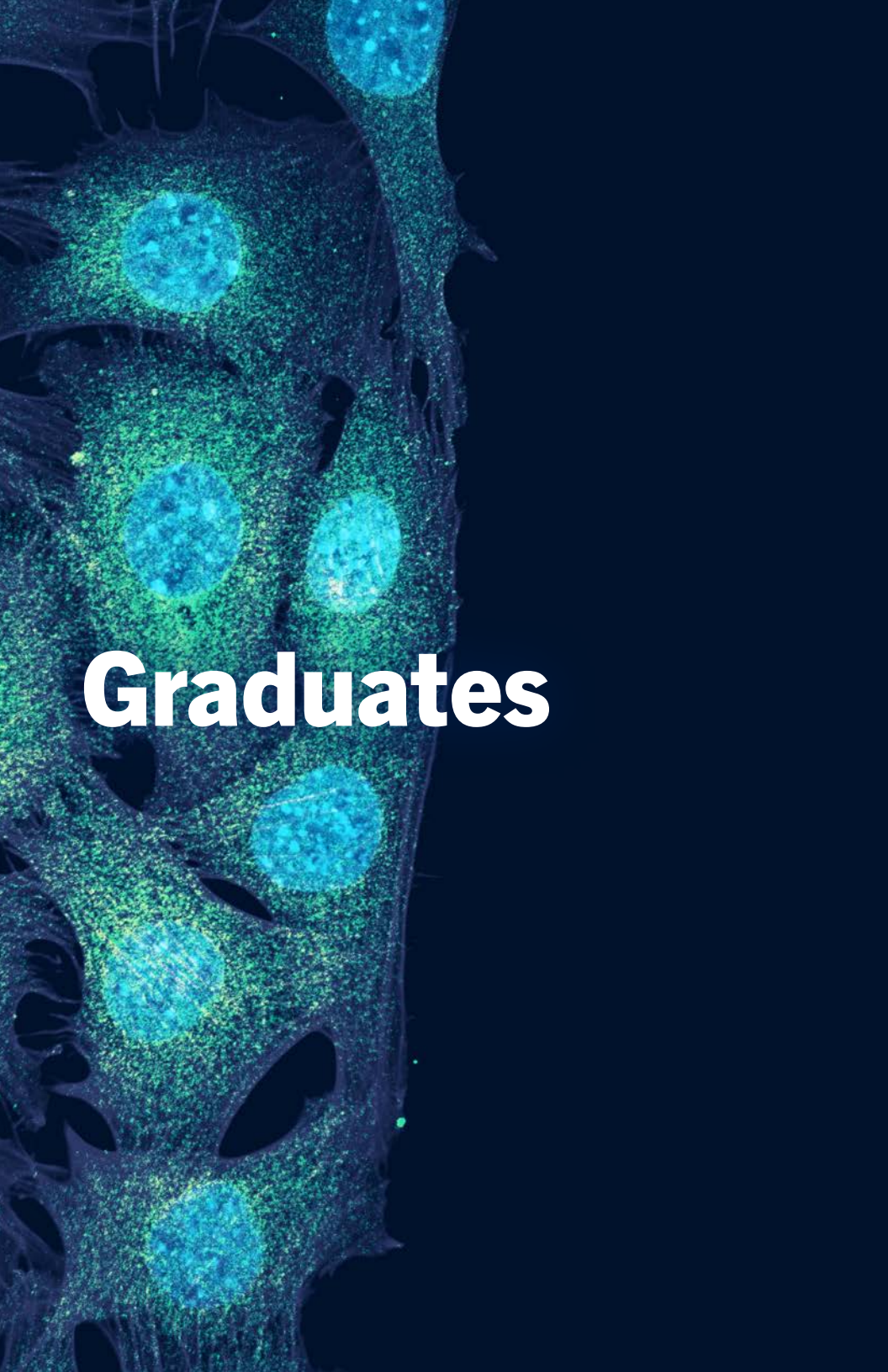
25 Years of Service
Maja Barnard
Susan Done
Linda Kapusta
Aaron Pollett

30 Years of Service
Ming-Sound Tsao

45 Years of Service
Barry Hoffman

Retirements

Li Zhang
Nades Palaniyar



Graduates

Pathobiology Specialist Program Graduating Class of 2026



Ashley Shiqi Bhang
Anne-Marie Bulboaca
Sophie Anna Linnea Grunnesjo
Rahim Karim Kassam-Suleman
Raphael Chin Hei Kwok
Matthew Ho Cheong Lei
Catherine Liu
Yuning Liu
Logan Remo MacDonald
Aja Thomas Michalski
Ian Chun Yin Ngai
Ethan Matthew Ortiz
Junyoung Park

Eric Johannes Pham
Landon Richmond See
Parth Shah
Eleni Sotirakos
Huimeng Sun
Nicole Sun
Sofija Volkanoska
Patrick Hong Gang Wang
Catherine Jiayi Wang
Jason Zisheng Ye
Sunny Yun
Huidan Zuo

Graduates Who Completed Their Degrees in the Last Year



MHSc in Translational Research

Laura Elisabeth Abbatangelo
Setareh Aghamohammadi
Aflyn Amaleethan
Federico Carlos Carini
Miranda Alice Chan
Djellza Dani
Kristen Di Stefano
Roofaidah Durdana Haque
Fahim Mohammad Iqbal
Daniyal Kashif
Zoe Desiree Lambert
Carl Froilan De Guzman Leochico
Mikhail Richard Lobo
Tala Lumbu
Manshi Maheswaran
Shayan Mohammadzadeh Novin
Alya Mohmood
Madeline Claire Morton
Linette Penney
Dominique Pilon
Parnian Puramat
Keshanah Raviendran
Gabriela Fernanda Roselli Ferrari
Asnia Shah
Lashvanthy Shanmuganathan
Vedant Rahul Shukla
Hafsah Amal Umar



MHSc in Laboratory Medicine

Clinical Embryology Field

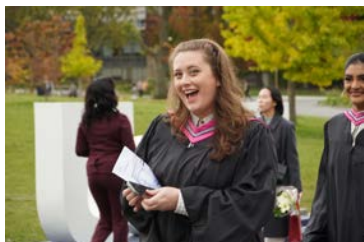
Amanda Dias
Megan MacRae
Raquel Rodrigues
Thien Hy Quach
Vanessa Vuong

Pathologists' Assistant Field

Adryan Korzen
Chen Jun Gao
Lydia Bonello
Pei Yu
Victor Fang

MScAC in Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare

Fangrui Dong
Ofek Gross
Jin (Jenna) Jiang
Naomi Kothiyal
Hao Li
John Lin
Anandita Mahika
Bailey Ng
Sipu (Bill) Qi
Ashka Shah
Yukthi Wickramarachchi
Natalie Won



MSc

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

Ream Abdullah | Carol Swallow | The Role of KCNQ1 in FAM46C-induced tumour suppression in gastric adenocarcinoma

Kajol Aggarwal | Allison McGeer | The Epidemiology of Carbapenemase-Producing Enterobacterales (CPE) Associated with Long-Term Care in Toronto

Krista Alyanna Antonio | Amy Wong | Assessing a novel dual-endonuclease system in cystic fibrosis models

Ryan Christopher Appings | Michelle Bendeck, Paul Santerre | N-cadherin Peptide Nanoparticle Conjugates as a Therapy for Restenosis

Kathrine Laxmi Bhargava | Stephan Ong Tone | Altered Levels of Cytokines in the Aqueous Humor of Glaucoma Patients Undergoing Endothelial Keratoplasty Promote Apoptosis in Corneal Endothelial Cells

Justin Daisuke Callahan | Slava Epelman | Sex Differences in Adolescent Viral Myocarditis

Fiona Xu Cui | Daniel Drucker | Investigating the role of glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide receptor (GIPR) signalling in neuroinflammation

Nakita Gopal | Susan Done | Multi-Omic Profiling of Molecular Heterogeneity in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer

Lindsay Kathleen Hillis | Donald Branch | Immunologic Mechanisms Underlying Chronic Hemolysis in Sickle Cell Anemia

Zoya Hussain | Alan Lazarus | Differential Induction of Erythrocyte Trophocytosis and Phagocytosis by Monoclonal and Polyclonal Antibodies

Manami Marian Kondo | Shinichiro Ogawa | Generation of hPSC-derived multi-lineage liver organoids containing retinoic acid-induced mesodermal cells: roles of hepatic stellate and endothelial cells in hepatic progenitor maturation

Lu Yi Li | Stephen Girardin | Characterizing the NLRP6 Inflammasome in the Human Intestinal Epithelium

Gizelle Jerlyn Lionel | Donald Branch | CD4 is not required for HIV-1 Infection

Johnny Lu | Katalin Szaszi | Regulation of RhoA Signaling by MARK Family Kinases in Kidney Tubular Epithelial Cells

Lauren Omoto | Phedias Diamandis | Dual high-throughput screening of invasion and viability identifies synthetically lethal combination therapies for glioblastoma

Tera Nicole Petchiny | Gregory Czarnota, JoAnne McLaurin | Acoustically Stimulated Microbubbles Enhance Radiotherapy in Large Prostate Tumors: In Vivo Characterization of Acute Tissue and Vascular Response

Stylianos Zaharias Prattas | Myron Cybulsky, Jason Fish | A Transcriptomic Characterisation of Murine Aortic Endothelial Cells in Regions Predisposed to Atherosclerosis and During Early Atherosclerosis

Kristen Erika Schulz | Jason Fish, Kathryn Howe | Exploring the role of the ETS transcription factor ERG as a gatekeeper of endothelial cell

Ojas Singh | Stephen Girardin | Characterizing the Expression of STING in the Intestinal Epithelium

Andrew Song | Rita Kandel, Paul Santerre | Towards the formation of the nucleus pulposus-cartilage component in a biological intervertebral disc replacement

Aideen Shannon Teeling | Mario Ostrowski | Using Predicted Viral Epitopes to Characterize T Cell Immune Responses Against Human Monkeypox Virus

Suji Udayakumar | Mario Ostrowski | Investigating HIV-specific T cell responses and the viral reservoir in an exceptional elite controller

Ming-Heng Wang | Rod Bremner | Deducing the Role of TEADs in Acute Myeloid Leukemia

Andrew Junyoung Yim | Rod Bremner | Delineating the Molecular Mechanisms Underlying Lineage Transdifferentiation in Lung Cancers

Dachuan Zhang | Heyu Ni | Investigating the Multifunctional Roles of Apolipoprotein A-IV: Effects of Q360H and T347S Polymorphisms on Thrombosis and Its Role in Transfusion-Mediated Inflammation and Immune Response

Jiajie Zhang | Brian Ballios | New Insights into the Origin of USH2A-Associated Retinitis Pigmentosa from a Human Retinal Organoid Model



PhD

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

Ranmal Avinash Bandara | Jim Hu | Cystic Fibrosis Gene Therapy Using Helper-Dependent Adenoviral Vectors: CRISPR/Cas9-Mediated CFTR Repair in Porcine Genome

Lauren Christina Belfiore | Samira Mubareka, Venkata Duvvuri | Investigation of the Genomic Epidemiology and Evolution of Viral Respiratory Pathogens SARS-CoV-2 and RSV

Bram Bussin | Jim Hu, Amy Wong | CRISPR/Cas9 based gene therapy for Cystic Fibrosis

Kleio Chatanaka | Annie Huang | Investigating molecular heterogeneity and therapeutic vulnerability in childhood pineoblastoma

Hongmin Chen | Amy Wong, Theo Moraes | Elucidating the role of CFTR in human fetal lung development

Ziyan Chen | Michael Taylor, Vijay Ramaswamy | Defining the Involvement of the Leptomeningeal Niche in the Survival and Spread of Medulloblastoma Metastases

Marieke Noelle de Korte | Carol Schuurmans | Investigating factors underlying myelinating glial cell development and maturation and engineering repair Schwann cells for clinical transplantation

Anders Wilder Erickson | Michael Taylor, Xi Huang | A Human-Specific Segmental Duplication Drives Groups 3 & 4 Medulloblastoma

Vernon Fong | Cynthia Hawkins | The Investigation of Novel Therapeutics for H3K27M Diffuse Midline Glioma (DMG)

Belay Tadesse Gebregergis | Janice Robertson | Investigating the Role of C9orf72 in Synaptic Function

Shawn Goyal | Philip Marsden | MARVEL, is a VHL-, hypoxia-, and HIF-dependent long noncoding RNA that enhances expression of HIF-2 α in clear cell renal carcinoma

Ben Lok Bun Ho | Annie Huang | Characterising mechanisms of intra-tumoral heterogeneity in Atypical Teratoid Rhabdoid Tumours

Adrian Beckett Levine | Cynthia Hawkins | Understanding the biological factors contributing to aggressive behaviour in pediatric low-grade glioma

Kincheon Bryan Li | David Hwang | Developing Tools for Multiplexed Point of Care Infectious Disease Diagnostics

Ann Mansur | Ivan Radovanovic | Defining the Role of MEK Inhibitors for Arteriovenous Malformations

Mashiat Lamia Mimosa | Armand Keating, Chen Wang | Characterizing the effects of simulated microgravity on human Natural Killer cells

Ranju Nair | Alain Dabdoub | The Stria Vascularis: Molecular Insights and Clinical Implications for Hearing Research

Kuganya Nirmalarajah | Eleftherios Diamandis | Blood-based Proteomic Signatures for Distinguishing Glioma Subtypes and Predicting Patient Outcomes

Alessia Portante | Cynthia Hawkins | Elucidating the Clinical and Molecular Landscape of Diffuse Hemispheric Glioma, H3 G34-Mutant to Identify Novel Therapeutic Targets

Henry Tat Quach | Sonya MacParland | Omics Screening to Elucidate Interactions Between Nanoparticles and Biological Systems

Stefanie-Grace Sbergio | Stephen Girardin, Scott Gray-Owen | The Role of ALPK1-TIFA Signalling in Intestinal Epithelial Cells

Zoya Fatima Tawhidi | Alan Lazarus | FcyRIII as a Central Effector in Antibody-Mediated Platelet Clearance: Mechanistic Insights Across Immune Thrombocytopenic Disorders

Kabriya Charles Thavaratnam | Mohit Kapoor | A Cell Atlas of Human and Mouse Synovium from Early and Advanced

Matsya Ruppari Thulasiram | Rola Saleeb, Ramzi Fattouh | Diagnosing and Characterizing CNS Tumours Using Nanopore DNA Sequencing Tools

Ruilin Wu | Jason Fish | Metabolic Reprogramming of Endothelial Cells with KRAS Mutations in the Pathobiology of Sporadic Brain Arteriovenous Malformations

Graduating Residents and Fellows



Diagnostic and Molecular Pathology

Cathy R. Cao
Sarah Khan
Jennifer Nguyen
Trevor Teich



Forensic Pathology

Teaghan Koster
Andrew Mazurek
Lindsay Ninivirta

Hematological Pathology

Iran Rashedi

Medical Microbiology

James Burns

Clinical Microbiology Post-Doctoral Training Program

Joseph Zeppa

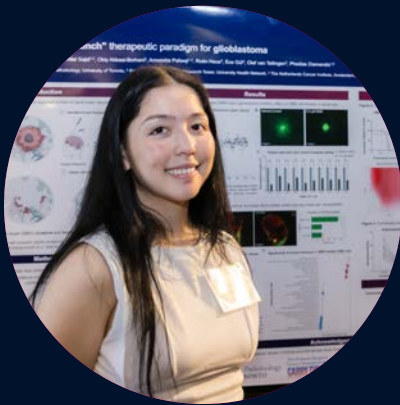


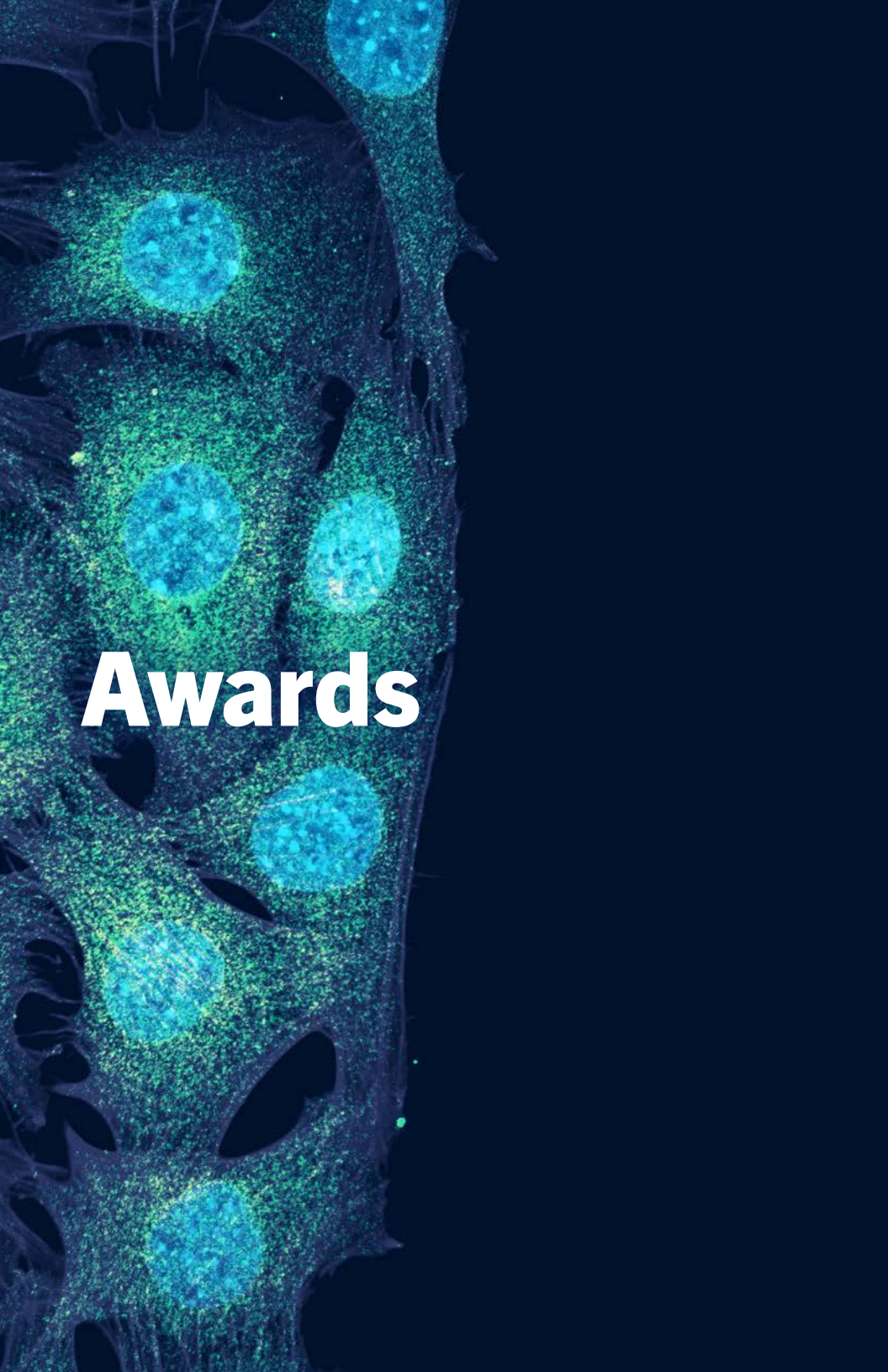
Clinical Chemistry Post-Doctoral Training Program

Mehdi Hooshmandi
Chien-Yi Lu

Clinical Fellows

Zahra Abdullah	Silva Kristo
M Al Turaifi	Clara Ferrer
Nader Ayed	Lightner
A Alhejaily	Darrell
Abdullah Dhafer	Christopher Martin
A Alqarni	Fazarina Binti
Assem Saleh	Mohammed
A Alrumeh	Chukwuemeka
Hussain Khaled	Charles Nwafor
J Alsaman	Thomas Sabljic
Mohammed	Yalda
Khalid S Alwhabi	Soleimanifard
Reedan Chavez	Ingrid Susan Tam
Kylie Everard	Camille-Ann Alafia
Sophia Marie	Thoms Rodriguez
Green	Khalil Udwan
Moreen Haddad	Boris Virine
Soyini Jackson	





Awards

Allan Gornall Pathobiology Awards



Recipient

Elizabeth Dieroff

Beth Dieroff has recently finished her second year in LMP. She is currently working in Dr. Long Nguyen's lab, researching clonal heterogeneity and fitness in breast cancer.

Going into her third year, she is looking forward to the more specialized LMP courses that focus on the mechanisms underlying different types of diseases. She is also eager to continue exploring research through the various opportunities offered by the LMP department.

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

Maya Honda-Granirer

Maya Honda-Granirer is an incoming fourth-year student in the Pathobiology Specialist program and is majoring in Biochemistry. She is currently conducting research to develop and evaluate digital pain management tools with Dr. Hance Clarke's team.

She is deeply grateful for the invaluable learning and research opportunities provided by the

LMP program. She looks forward to her fourth-year LMP courses and continuing to being a part of the vibrant and diverse LMP community. Beyond her undergraduate studies, Maya aims to pursue research that connects fundamental scientific insights to real-world patient care.

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. This year we have two recipients of this award.



Recipient

Charlotte Jade Selda

Charlotte Selda recently completed her third year in the Pathobiology Specialist Program with a major in Biochemistry. Throughout her undergraduate studies, she explored a range of research areas, including the neurobiological substrates of motivation and the long-term cognitive effects of chemotherapy agents.

As she enters her fourth year, Charlotte is excited to continue exploring her scientific interests through advanced LMP courses, new research opportunities, and experiences in clinical settings.

Allan Gornall Pathobiology Awards



Recipient

Logan MacDonald

Logan MacDonald has recently graduated from the Pathobiology Specialist program with an Immunology Minor.

Throughout his undergraduate studies, he conducted research in Dr. Susan Done's lab, investigating the molecular alterations that drive breast cancer progression. Building on this foundation, Logan is excited to continue his academic journey in the MD Program at the Temerty Faculty of Medicine this fall.

Fourth-Year Award

The Gornall Prize is awarded annually to the graduating student with the highest cumulative overall percent grade.

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



Recipient

Maryam Khalil

Maryam is a PhD Candidate in Dr. Ming Tsao's lab at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre and a recipient of a CIHR Doctoral Scholarship. Using patient-derived xenograft (PDX) mouse models, she is investigating how chemotherapeutic agents can modulate the expression of PD-L1 on tumour cells and how this change in expression can be therapeutically exploited by subsequent treatment with immune checkpoint inhibitors.

Over the past five years, Maryam has been a teaching assistant in the Human Biology Program and the LMP department for both graduate and undergraduate courses. She has also been a course instructor for two courses in the Human Biology Program where she has independently developed novel curricula and delivered course content.

Professor Avrum Gotlieb was 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

Cassandra Taber

Cassandra Taber is completing her PhD in Dr. Michael Ohh's laboratory this May. Originally from Buffalo, NY, she completed her BSc in biochemistry at SUNY Geneseo before starting her PhD in Toronto in 2020. Her doctoral research in the Ohh lab focuses on the pathogenic deregulation of the hypoxic response on a molecular level. Cassandra's work investigating the mechanism behind disease-

causing mutations on prolyl hydroxylase 2 (PHD2) using biophysical and in cellulo techniques has been published in eLife.

Her current work focuses on one unique PHD2 mutation that displays a striking preferential defect against a target domain widely believed to be redundant and biologically insignificant, suggesting a bona fide and necessary function for this cryptic domain. Through her research, Cassandra hopes to contribute to the groundwork knowledge of the newly discovered PHD2-driven disease and ultimately solve the remaining mysteries surrounding the hypoxic response.

During her graduate career, Cassandra has had the opportunity to develop her skills as a researcher through various workshops and conferences, including poster presentations in Killarney, Ireland and Lake Louise, Alberta.

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. Dittakavi and Dr. Prema M. Rao Graduate Award



Recipient

Ryunosuke Hoshi

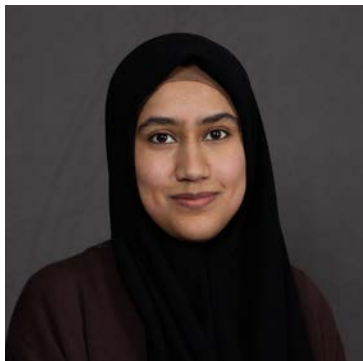
Ryunosuke completed his undergraduate degree in Biology at Nagoya University (Japan) before earning his MSc in Biology at McGill University. Currently, he is a PhD candidate in LMP, co-supervised by Drs. Kelsie Thu and Warren Lee.

His research focuses on investigating the use of oncolytic viruses as a vehicle for delivering CD47 blockade, a promising immune checkpoint inhibitor, to treat

lung adenocarcinoma. Ryunosuke hopes that his work will help reduce the systemic toxicities associated with CD47 blockade observed in clinical trials, ultimately making this emerging immunotherapy safer and more accessible for patients.

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

Aisha Adil

Aisha Adil is a second-year PhD candidate with Drs. Michelle Bendeck and Paul Santerre within LMP and the Translational Biology & Engineering Program under the Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research. Her research focuses on nanoparticle drug delivery for rare pediatric vascular stenoses and adult vascular narrowing diseases (e.g. atherosclerosis, restenosis). She is exploring both the basic cell biology mechanisms as well

as alternate drug delivery for targeting these stenoses. She previously obtained her MSc in tissue engineering from the Institute of Medical Science at U of T.

Along with lab work, she leads the mentorship program for the Life Sciences Career Development Syndicate, volunteers with the Canadian Donation and Transplantation Research Program, and leads the research and collaborations portfolio within the Translational Biology and Engineering Program education committee.

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 and subsequent Senior Scientist in Exploratory Biological Research at Merck Sharp & Dohme, was awarded the Merck Sharp & Dohme Directors' Scientific Award for his



Postgraduate Recipient

**Kumudhavalli
Kavanoor Sridhar**

Dr. Kumudhavalli Kavanoor Sridhar is a fourth-year Medical Microbiology resident at the University of Toronto and an international medical graduate. She completed postgraduate training in Medical Microbiology in India, where her thesis on invasive fungal infections in immunocompromised patients sparked a lasting interest in mycology.

At the University of Toronto, she was recognized with the CACMID President's Student Award (2025) for research using mass spectrometry to enable rapid mold identification via a direct transfer technique. She also maintains interests in tropical medicine and parasitology and holds a Diploma in Tropical Medicine from Baylor College of Medicine and the CTropMed® designation. She has authored 10 peer-reviewed manuscripts in journals including JAMMI, Pathogens, and Microorganisms.

Her professional interests include medical education, molecular diagnostics, quality improvement, and mycology.

contribution to the development of the antibiotic Primaxim. With the award came 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 medical microbiologists on the threshold of their careers. This award goes to both a top medical microbiology resident and a graduate student in LMP.

Stanley Raphael Award for Professionalism



Recipient

Cathy R. Cao

Dr. Cathy R. Cao completed her undergraduate medical studies at the McMaster University Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine. She is a PGY5 resident, completing her training in Diagnostic and Molecular Pathology at the University of Toronto.

She has a special interest in thoracic and cardiovascular pathology and spent the last year of her

residency at Toronto General Hospital, where she learned from leading experts in cardiothoracic disease. She hopes to apply her skills to her upcoming fellowship training at the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service in July.

Within her residency program, Cathy is a staunch advocate for resident wellness and community. She is indebted to the support of her mentors, her peers and family and is incredibly 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 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

Chien-Yi Lu

Dr. Chien-Yi Lu earned his PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Toronto, where his research focused on the biosynthesis of platelet granules and mechanisms underlying inherited platelet disorders. He also holds a dual MSc degree from Georgia State University and China Medical University, where his research investigated antiviral compounds targeting Flaviviruses and non-antibiotic antimicrobials

against *Pseudomonas* infections. Prior to pursuing graduate studies, he trained as a Medical Laboratory Technologist at National Cheng Kung University.

Dr. Lu is soon completing his Clinical Chemistry Fellowship. He is excited to begin his new role as a Clinical Chemist at LifeLabs.

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

Susanna Fang

Susanna is a third-year PhD candidate in Dr. Daniel Drucker's laboratory where she researches the roles of the astrocyte glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor and glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide (GIP) receptor in inflammation and metabolism.

The mentorship she has received throughout her undergraduate and graduate studies has inspired her to support fellow graduate students navigating similar experiences. She is committed to fostering a strong sense of community while promoting both personal and professional growth.

One of her mentees commented, "Susanna has had a profound impact on both my academic and professional development throughout my graduate school journey. From the very beginning, she created a supportive and approachable environment that made it easy for me to ask questions, seek guidance, and grow with confidence. Susanna has not only shaped my development as a researcher but has also made my journey more positive and fulfilling."

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

Ioannis Prassas

Dr. Ioannis Prassas (PhD 2012) is a translational scientist in the Lab Medicine Program at University Health Network whose work focuses on advancing pathology-driven discoveries into clinical practice. His research centers on molecular diagnostics, biomarker discovery, and the identification of disease mechanisms and therapeutic targets through translational research. Specializing in mass spectrometry–

based proteomics, he also applies diverse omics and multiplex diagnostic platforms, including spatial transcriptomics, single-cell proteomics, and multiplex immunohistochemistry. Prassas integrates digital pathology, machine learning, and large-scale biological datasets to develop diagnostic algorithms and uncover clinically actionable insights. His work spans data extraction, experimental validation, and regulatory compliance, with the goal of transforming pathology data into innovative diagnostic tools with immediate impact on patient care and precision medicine.

One of his mentees commented, *"Dr. Prassas has been a consistent source of honest, grounded advice at moments when I needed clarity most. He did not tell me what I wanted to hear but rather helped me think critically. He has generously shared valuable insights from his own academic journey, including the connections and experiences he has built along the way. He has gone the extra mile to connect me with professionals in industry, demonstrating his sincere commitment to helping me achieve my career goals in pharma and industry."*

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

Rajeevan Selvaratnam

Dr. Rajeevan Selvaratnam is a clinical biochemist at the University Health Network. He earned his PhD at McMaster University, where he focused on the fundamental and biophysical aspects of protein-ligand interactions using NMR spectroscopy with Dr. Giuseppe Melacini. Subsequently, he completed a clinical chemistry fellowship at the University of Minnesota, which led to clinical practice in a large community hospital setting.

Driven by his affinity for academia and student mentorship, Dr. Selvaratnam transitioned to his current academic appointment at UHN to help train the next generation of clinical biochemists.

His teaching philosophy emphasizes asking “why?” and exploring beyond the textbooks, an approach rooted in his own undergraduate years at the University of Toronto. Coming full circle, Dr. Selvaratnam is deeply honored by this recognition and dedicates the award to the students he mentors.

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.

Teaching Excellence in Graduate Education



Recipient

Phedias Diamandis

Dr. Phedias Diamandis is a Neuropathologist at the University Health Network and a Scientist at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre. He completed his combined MD/PhD and residency training at the University of Toronto, where he now serves as an Associate Professor. His research program integrates chemical biology, mass spectrometry-based proteomics, and deep learning to resolve phenotype-

level heterogeneity within glioblastoma niches and other neurological diseases.

A leader in computational pathology, Dr. Diamandis focuses on the clinical translation of AI-driven diagnostic platforms to improve diagnostic objectivity and precision medicine. Through his commitment to open-science tools and high-performance computing, he aims to bridge the gap between advanced multi-omics research and real-world clinical implementation to improve management of complex brain diseases. He also runs an online education platform that aims to educate trainees and the public on concepts related to neuropathology.

Awarded to a faculty member for their excellence in the teaching and supervision of MSc and PhD graduate and life sciences students (GLSE). This award was formerly combined as the Award for Graduate and Postgraduate Education.

Early Career Teaching Award



Recipient

Ashley Di Meo

Dr. Ashley Di Meo is a Clinical Biochemist at University Health Network, a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Clinical Biochemists, and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology at the University of Toronto. She completed her PhD and postdoctoral training in clinical biochemistry at the University of Toronto and serves as a Council Member of the Ontario Society of Clinical Chemists.

Dr. Di Meo is an early-career educator who contributes to curriculum development and provides clear, clinically focused teaching. She is involved in teaching and mentoring trainees across levels, supporting their learning and development. Her research interests focus on macro-troponin interference in cardio-oncology.

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

Christine Cserti-Gazdewich

Dr. Christine Cserti-Gazdewich is an Associate Medical Director of the Blood Transfusion Laboratories at University Health Network and its client sites, a clinical hematologist in the Blood Disorders Program in the Division of Medical Oncology and Hematology and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology.

Her work focuses on hemovigilance and immunohematology in transfusion and transplantation. Prior to client partnerships, she conducted research with a team at Makerere University/Mulago Hospital in Uganda, examining blood group relationships with malaria, and the clinical performance of red cell transfusions in profound anemia. Recently she has been advocating for national hemovigilance and was awarded the Ortho Award by the Canadian Society for Transfusion Medicine in 2022 for contributions to transfusion medicine in Canada.

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

Daniel Xia

Dr. Daniel Xia has been a hematopathologist at the University Health Network and an Assistant Professor at the Department of Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology at U of T since 2017. He previously trained in Hematopathology and Molecular Genetic Pathology in Boston, Massachusetts.

Current hematopathology classifications, particularly for leukemias, are largely driven by molecular and cytogenetic biomarkers. The integration of these with traditional bone marrow morphology and flow cytometry is not routinely taught during training. To address this, Dr. Xia introduced case-based teaching sessions for hematopathology residents and fellows at UHN, focusing on how to use cytogenetic and next-generation sequencing data from bone marrow samples in the 5th Edition World Health Organization and International Consensus Classifications.

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

Clinical Teaching Excellence Award in Hematological Pathology



Recipient

Ali Sakhdari

Dr. Ali Sakhdari is an American Board of Pathology–certified pathologist in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology with subspecialty certification in Hematopathology. He is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology at University of Toronto and a consulting hematopathologist at the University Health Network, where he contributes to diagnostic

service, education, research, and program development. He also serves as Co-Director of the Immunopathology Laboratory at UHN and Director of Outreach and Business Development for the Laboratory Medicine Program.

His work focuses on lymphoma classification, hematologic neoplasms and emerging diagnostic technologies. Deeply committed to mentorship and education, Dr. Sakhdari leads teaching initiatives, collaborates internationally, and contributes extensively through publications, presentations, and funded translational research.

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

Sustained Excellence Education Award



Recipient

Anna Plotkin

Dr. Anna Plotkin completed her residency in Anatomic Pathology followed by a clinical fellowship in Gynecologic and Breast Pathology at the University of Toronto. She also holds a Master's Equivalent in Physician Leadership from OMA/Schulich in Toronto and a Laboratory Medical Director Program from the College of American Pathologists.

An active member of several prestigious professional organizations, Dr. Plotkin serves as the Director of Continuing Professional Development at the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology at the University of Toronto, where she is also an Associate Professor. She has collaborated with leading global organizations, such as the WHO, to support pathologists in under-resourced regions, enhancing their expertise in laboratory medicine. She is the first pathologist awarded the Lifetime Teaching Award from the International Society of Gynecologic Cancer (IGCS).

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

Davor Brinc

Dr. Davor Brinc completed his PhD and Postdoctoral Clinical Chemistry Fellowship at the University of Toronto and is certified by the Canadian Academy of Clinical Biochemistry. He currently serves as a Clinical Biochemist in the Laboratory Medicine Program at University Health Network and as an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto.

His professional interests include point of care testing and quality indicators at the clinical–laboratory interface. He is actively involved in provincial and national clinical chemistry working groups, with a strong commitment to education and mentorship of clinical chemistry trainees and visiting international specialists.

Dr. Brinc receives this award for his work on LMP1203H: Basic principles of analytical clinical biochemistry, open to medical biochemistry residents, postdoctoral diploma in clinical chemistry fellows and graduate students.

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

Niloofar Sina

Dr. Niloofar Sina's journey in academic medicine began as a practicing clinical dermatologist prior to immigrating to Canada. Upon arrival, determined to return to clinical medicine, she earned her LMCC and began her path at University Health Network (UHN) and the University of Toronto, which has been her academic home ever since.

She completed a dermatopathology fellowship at UHN under the mentorship of Dr. Ghazarian and subsequently began residency training in Anatomical Pathology, with a focus on thoracic pathology in her final year. She joined UHN directly as a dermatopathologist and thoracic pathologist in July 2025.

Her dedication to education is reflected in weekly resident slide review sessions, initiated during her final year of residency and continued as staff.

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

Dan Winer

Dr. Dan Winer is appointed in the University of Toronto Departments of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology and Immunology. He is also a Senior Scientist at the Toronto General Research Institute, and an Associate Professor at the Buck Institute for Research on Aging with adjunct affiliation to the University of Southern California.

Dr. Winer is known as an early pioneer in three emerging fields of immunology: immunometabolism, mechanoinmunology and astroimmunology. He is also the co-founder and Chairman of a company, exploring gut microbiome metabolites in chronic diseases of aging, and co-founder of another start-up that runs medicine simulations. His work has been published in the world's leading journals, including *Nature*, *Cell*, *Cell Metabolism*, *Science Immunology*, *Nature Medicine*, and *Nature Reviews Immunology*.

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.

Leadership Award



Recipient

Michael Ohh

Dr. Michael Ohh received his PhD from the University of British Columbia under the supervision of Dr. Fumio Takei and advisor Dr. Connie Eaves at the Terry Fox Laboratory, BC Cancer Agency. He trained as a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Dr. William G. Kaelin Jr. at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School, where he made landmark contributions to our understanding of the general oxygen-

sensing pathway present in all animal species throughout evolution. This discovery would lead to the recognition of his mentor W.G. Kaelin with the 2019 Nobel Prize.

Michael is a tenured professor, graduate coordinator and Vice Chair of Education and has supervised over the past 25 years many undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral fellows studying the role of oxygen-sensing in health and disease. He is most proud to see his trainees thrive in life and establishing their own academic enterprises at world-class institutions around the world.

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 academic excellence in LMP.

Distinguished Service Award



Recipient

Susan Done

Dr. Susan J. Done completed her medical training at Cambridge University and then moved to Canada, where she is currently a Professor in the Departments of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology and Medical Biophysics at the University of Toronto. She is a breast pathologist at the University Health Network and a member of the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre Research Institute. Her research is focused

on breast cancer intratumoural heterogeneity, circulating tumour markers and early events in invasion and metastasis.

For the past 8 years, she has been the Program Director of the Diagnostic and Molecular Pathology Residency Program at the University of Toronto. In this role, she has had the joy and privilege to see young pathologists develop and go out into independent practice.

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. This year we have two recipients of this award.



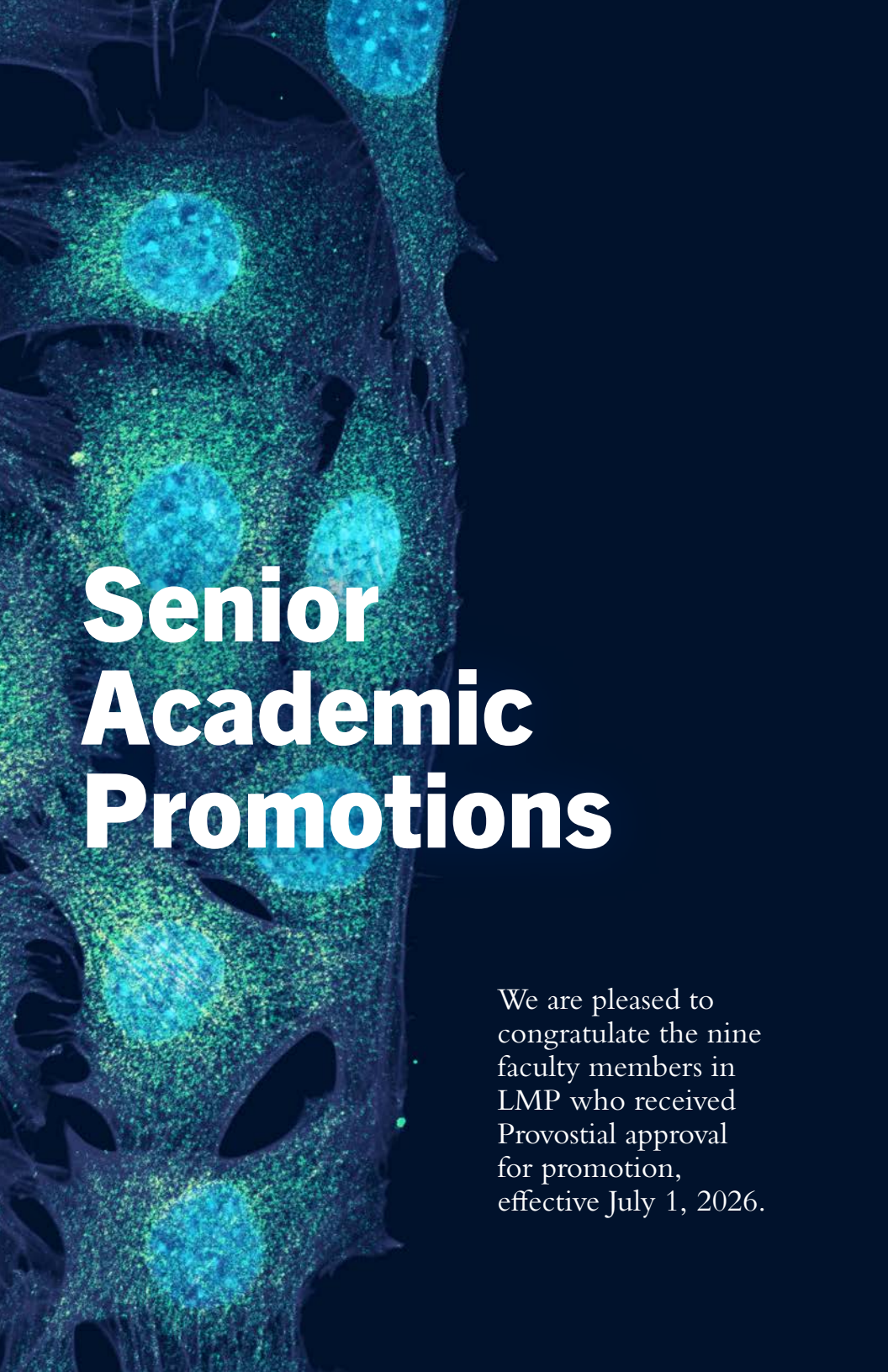
Recipient

Jeff Lee

Dr. Jeff Lee completed his undergraduate studies in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of British Columbia. He then pursued graduate studies with Dr. P. Lynne Howell at the University of Toronto and the Hospital for Sick Children, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship with Dr. Erica Ollmann Saphire at The Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California.

In 2010, Jeff returned to the University of Toronto to establish his laboratory in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology. His research examines the molecular mechanisms by which viral and cellular fusogens mediate membrane fusion, with particular emphasis on sperm–egg interaction and viral entry.

In 2019, he became Program Director of the LMP SURE program and Co-Undergraduate Coordinator of the Pathobiology Specialist program. In these roles, he has made significant contributions to undergraduate education through curriculum development, mentorship, and experiential learning initiatives that connect students with research, career exploration and personalized learning opportunities.

A microscopic image of cells, likely from a tissue section, showing several bright blue, glowing nuclei. The cells are arranged in a cluster, and the background is dark. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Senior Academic Promotions

We are pleased to
congratulate the nine
faculty members in
LMP who received
Provostial approval
for promotion,
effective July 1, 2026.

Faculty Promoted to the Rank of Professor



Michelle Downes

Excellence in Creative Professional Activity (CPA)
Sunnybrook Health Science Centre

Dr. Michelle Downes has attained an international reputation in Genitourinary Pathology and has made significant contributions to advancing clinical practice in bladder and prostate cancer pathology worldwide. She contributed to the development of several diagnostic guidelines,

consensus papers, and standardized reporting in several international organizations and holds leadership roles in key international pathologic organizations. These activities enhance quality and accuracy of pathology reporting and promote equitable access to essential healthcare resources across the globe. She has contributed to improving the diagnosis and treatment of urologic malignancies by leading studies and collaborating with international groups to expand and advance prognostic factors and predictive markers.



Katerina Pavenski

Excellence in Creative Professional Activity (CPA)
St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto

Dr. Katerina Pavenski is internationally recognized for her sustained contributions to Transfusion Medicine and hematology. She has been involved in numerous observational studies as well as clinical trials in different areas of transfusion medicine, thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura, and

apheresis, which have already changed clinical practice. She has impacted the Transfusion Medicine profession through guideline development, global leadership, and education, all having a clinical impact. Dr. Pavenski is a recognized expert nationally and internationally for her expertise in patient blood management and Transfusion Medicine. Her record of scholarship, leadership, and impact places her as one of the leading transfusion medicine specialists worldwide.

Faculty Promoted to the Rank of Professor



Clinton Robbins

Excellence in Research

Toronto General Hospital, University Health Network (UHN)

Dr. Clinton Robbins has attained an international reputation due to his research excellence in the immunobiology of macrophages and B cells in cardiovascular diseases. His research program focuses on cellular mechanisms that drive chronic vascular injury and immune dysregulation.

His recent research contributions are related to: tissue-resident macrophage ontogeny, maintenance, and niche biology; macrophages as a driver of vascular remodeling and aortic aneurysm development; and development of an animal model to study immune cell trafficking. His research has resulted in the identification of novel mechanisms by which one type of innate immune cells, macrophages, are maintained in health and disease. Dr. Robbins has advanced our fundamental understanding of immune regulation of the development and progression of cardiovascular disease, and vascular pathology.

Faculty Promoted to the Rank of Associate Professor



Ramzi Fattouh

Excellence in Creative Professional Activity (CPA)
St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto

Dr. Ramzi Fattouh has attained a national reputation in microbiology and has strengthened diagnostic reliability during microbial outbreaks by validating new molecular and rapid testing platforms and integrating whole-genome sequencing into surveillance and outbreak investigations. He has played key leadership roles in multi-site and national studies that inform microbiology laboratory practice and stewardship, infection prevention, and public health policy in Canada. Dr. Fattouh has contributed to advancing patient care by bridging innovative laboratory diagnostics with real-world clinical and public health impact, ensuring that diagnostic testing remains accurate, timely, and clinically meaningful.



Anjelica Hodgson

Excellence in Creative Professional Activity (CPA)
Toronto General Hospital, University Health Network (UHN)

Dr. Anjelica Hodgson is a nationally recognized authority in gynecologic pathology, distinguished by her clinical expertise and her pivotal role in developing and implementing novel classification systems for female genital tract malignancies. Her accomplishments span the interconnected themes of cervical cancer classification and prognostication, identification of prognostic and therapeutic biomarkers in gynecological pathology, and unique contributions in the Canadian Clinical Trials Group. She has changed the clinical practice of cervical pathology and made significant contributions to bridging major gaps between biomarkers discovery to implementation and utilization of these assays in routine oncologic setting in Canada.

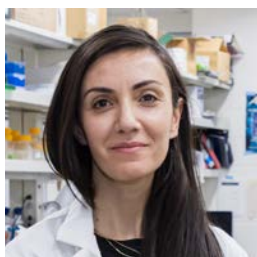
Faculty Promoted to the Rank of Associate Professor



Carlo Hojilla

Excellence in Creative Professional Activity (CPA)
Mount Sinai Hospital, Sinai Health

Dr. Carlo Hojilla has achieved a national reputation due to his significant contributions to Surgical Pathology practice through education and knowledge translation. Education models he established in LMP have become benchmarks for other programs and influenced national certification exam practices. He is a leader in transforming pathology education and evaluation through the implementation of new technologies in pathology residents' education. He has developed novel educational tools such as a Bootcamp for new pathology postgraduate trainees, led the digital library upgrade, and developed and does weekly virtual gross rounds. He has also established novel ways to attract medical students into Lab Medicine subspecialties by developing such activities an example of which is the Pathology Summit. His teaching accomplishments have led to him receiving accolades such as the Canadian Association of Pathologists Leadership in Education Award (2021), LMP's John B. Walter Prize for Course Design and Development (2020), and LMP's Early Clinical Teaching Excellence Award (2018).



Golnaz Karoubi

Excellence in Research
Toronto General Hospital, University Health Network (UHN)

Dr. Golnaz Karoubi established a national reputation through her high-impact contributions to the bioengineering of tracheal airways and lungs. She has pioneered perfusion-based bioreactor systems, developed advanced cell delivery strategies, and computationally informed tissue engineering approaches which include mechanobiology. Her work spans the full translational pipeline - from stem cell or cells to tissues to preclinical large-animal models. Her research program has made valuable contributions to addressing critical unmet clinical needs in lung disease, including epithelialization, graft patency, and large-segment tissue engineering.



Robert Kozak

Excellence in Creative Professional Activity (CPA)
Sunnybrook Health Science Centre

Dr. Robert Kozak has developed an expertise in clinical microbiology and a national reputation for his accomplishments in detecting and evaluating emerging and pandemic pathogens by developing advanced diagnostic testing that involves leading edge tools such as next-generation sequencing.

He contributed significantly to advancing knowledge regarding the diagnostics related to the SARS CoV-2 pandemic. His creative professional activity program contributes evidence that informs patient care, laboratory practice, and public health decision-making during both routine and crisis conditions. He was recognized by the Canadian Association of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases with the Early Career Award (2025) for making noteworthy contributions to his field.



Amy Wong

Excellence in Research
Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids)

Dr. Amy Wong is nationally recognized for her research in lung developmental biology and cystic fibrosis. Her cutting-edge research integrates developmental biology, stem cells, regenerative medicine, and systems biology to advance the mechanistic understanding and therapeutic

innovation in lung developmental biology and disease, in particular for cystic fibrosis. The significance of her body of work to date is demonstrated by external acknowledgments including the 2025 Charles III Coronation Medal and the 2023 Marsha Morton Early Career Investigator Award. Dr. Wong's creative and interdisciplinary approach has impacted lung biology and regenerative medicine, positioning her as a leading national figure in her field.

A microscopic image of cells, likely from a tissue section, showing several bright blue, glowing nuclei. The cells are arranged in a somewhat regular pattern, with some nuclei appearing more prominent than others. The background is dark, and the overall image has a high-contrast, scientific feel.

Long Term Service

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

20 Years



Hal Berman



Stephen Girardin



Paul Yip



Zeina Ghorab

25 Years



Maja Barnard



Susan Done



Aaron Pollett

30 Years



Ming-Sound Tsao

35 Years



Linda Kapusta

45 Years



Barry Hoffman

A microscopic image of cells, likely from a tissue section, showing several large, rounded cells with prominent, glowing blue nuclei and green cytoplasm. The cells are arranged in a cluster, and the background is dark blue. The word "Retirements" is overlaid in white text.

Retirements



Li Zhang

Dr. Li Zhang, Professor, was appointed as a Senior Scientist at the Toronto General Hospital Research Institute and has been appointed in LMP since 1994. She has had a distinguished career and her pioneering research in immunology and transplantation has had international impact. As the inaugural Maria H. Bacardi Chair in Transplantation, she advanced understanding of immune tolerance

and developed innovative immunotherapies for cancer, graft-versus-host disease, and transplant rejection, including groundbreaking work on double negative T cells as “off-the-shelf” cellular therapies. In addition to her influential scientific contributions, Dr. Zhang has been a dedicated mentor and collaborator whose leadership and commitment to translational research have helped shape the fields of cancer immunotherapy and transplantation medicine for future generations.



Nades Palaniyar

Dr. Nades Palaniyar, Associate Professor, was appointed as a Senior Scientist at the Hospital for Sick Children and was appointed in LMP since 2004. His research focused on the innate immune system, neutrophils, rare pediatric lung diseases, COVID-19, and other infectious and inflammatory diseases. He has made outstanding contributions to biomedical research and education

at the University of Toronto, earning recognition for his work in immunology and host defense. His research has significantly advanced understanding of innate immune mechanisms, particularly the role of neutrophils and antimicrobial proteins in combating infection and inflammation. His commitment to excellence, collaboration, and knowledge of translation has left a lasting impact on both the scientific community and the next generation of researchers.



**Special
Thanks**

Director, Business & Administration

Nelson Cabral

Administrative Staff

January Adams

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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Diagnostic and Molecular Pathology

Jennifer Nguyen

Sarah Khan

Neuropathology

Shane Eaton

Hematopathology

Iran Rashedi

Medical Microbiology

James Burns

Forensic Pathology

Andrew Mazurek

Lindsay Ninivirta

Teaghan Koster

Postgraduate Junior Representatives

Razan Almohamedi

Maryam Alduhoori

Teslin Sandstrom

Kumudha

Sridhar-Kavanoor

Andra Banete

Trainee Representatives

Forensic Pathology

Thomas Sabljic

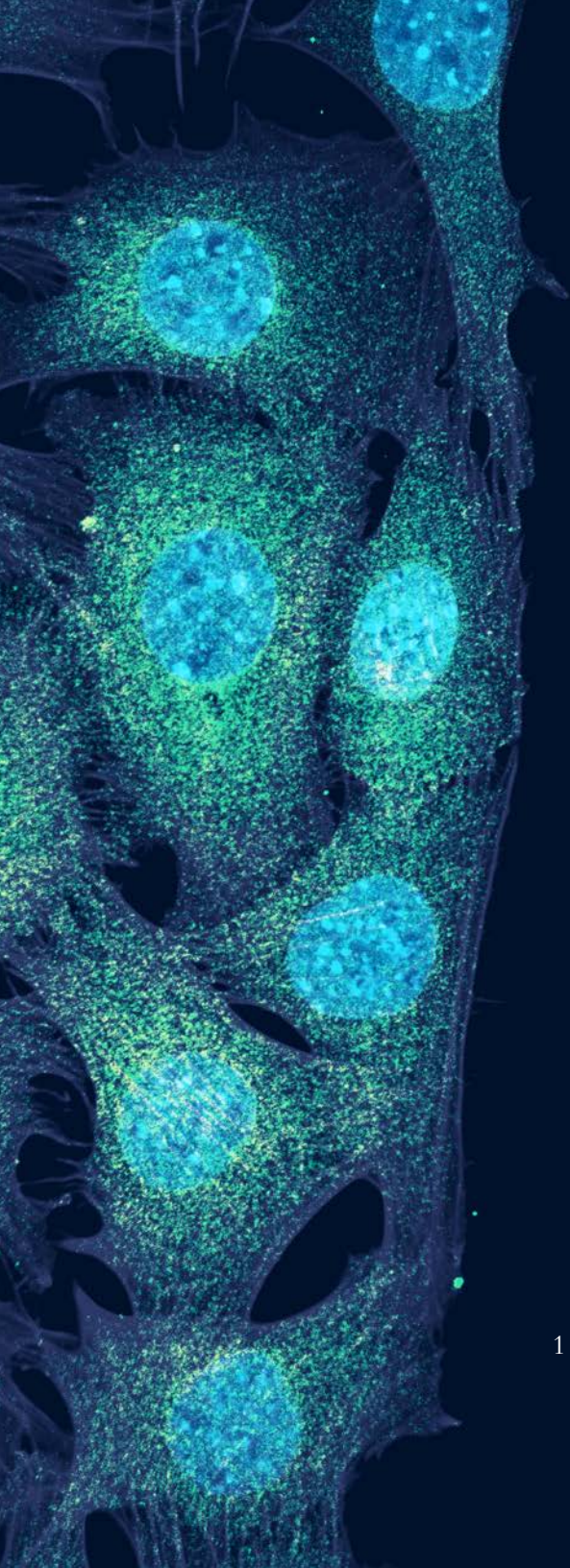
Transfusion Medicine

Area of Focused

Competence Program

Lianne Rotin

Nicole Relke



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