LMP ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE 2023–2024
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Thursday, June 13, 2024
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
Tony Mazzulli
LETTER FROM THE CHAIR
I like this time of the year as we take the time to come together as a department. Today's event provides us with an opportunity to pause and reflect on the past year, celebrate the accomplishments of our students, trainees, faculty, and staff, and connect with friends and colleagues.

We acknowledge those who are reaching significant milestones in terms, service, or retirement and celebrate faculty who were promoted this year. The breadth of their accomplishments and many contributions to advancing knowledge and teaching are outstanding.

We congratulate those who have graduated in the last year from our:

- Undergraduate Specialist Program in Pathobiology
- Research Stream Graduate Program, both MSc and PhD
- MHSc in Translational Research
- MHSc in Laboratory Medicine
- Postgraduate clinical training programs
- Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Chemistry and Clinical Microbiology
- Clinical and research fellowships.

Our programs are competitive, rigorous, and demanding. They are evolving to give our learners the best experience possible and to prepare them for a bright future. Successfully completing one of our programs attests to your excellence. I hope you will always remain part of what we do – there are many opportunities to remain involved with the department and support those following in your footsteps through mentorship and coaching.

I would like to acknowledge the many others in our department, faculty, learners, and staff, for their countless contributions to LMP. This selfless giving is one of the things that makes our department so great.

Thank you for all you do. Please enjoy the evening.

Rita Kandel
Professor and Chair
PROGRAM
WELCOME REMARKS

LMP GRADUATES

AWARDS

2ND YEAR ALAN GORNALL PATHOBIOLOGY PRIZE
Parth Shah
Huidan Zuo

3RD YEAR ALAN GORNALL PATHOBIOLOGY PRIZE
Riley Alvarez

4TH YEAR ALAN GORNALL PATHOBIOLOGY PRIZE
Lilian Zhai

THE AVRUM GOTTLIEB AWARD FOR CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND TEACHING EXCELLENCE IN TRAINING
Emily Forster

STUART ALAN HOFFMAN MEMORIAL PRIZE
Susanna Fang

DR. RAJALAKSHMI S. DITTAKAVI AND DR. PREMA M. RAO GRADUATE AWARD
Sharon Khavkine-Binstock

NORMAN BETHUNE AWARD
Ellen Avery
Catherine Lin

STANLEY RAPHAEL AWARD FOR PROFESSIONALISM
Henry Xie

ALAN POLLARD POST-DOCTORAL CLINICAL CHEMISTRY TRAVEL AWARD
Janet Zhou

MENTORING AWARDS

OUTSTANDING STUDENT MENTOR
Priya Mistry

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI MENTOR
Richard Hegele

OUTSTANDING FACULTY MENTOR
Catherine Streutker

FACULTY AWARDS

AWARD FOR UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING
Sunit Das

TEACHING EXCELLENCE IN GRADUATE EDUCATION
Scott Yuzwa

EARLY CAREER TEACHING AWARD
Mario Capitano

CLINICAL TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD IN RESIDENCY TEACHING
David Barth

TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD IN FELLOWSHIP EDUCATION
Blaise Clarke

CLINICAL TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD IN HEMATOLOGICAL PATHOLOGY
Hubert Tsui

THE RAYMOND CHANG AWARD IN FORENSIC MEDICINE
Michael Pollanen

SUSTAINED EXCELLENCE EDUCATION AWARD
Lianna Kyriakopoulou

THE JOHN B. WALTER PRIZE FOR COURSE & CURRICULUM DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT
Scot Hamilton
Yulia Lin

DANNY GHAZARIAN AWARD
Corwyn Rowseill
Brendan Dickson

RICHARD G. HEGELE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
Sara Vasconcelos
Daniel Beriault

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
Myron Cybulsky

LEADERSHIP AWARD
David Hwang

SENIOR ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS

FACULTY PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF PROFESSOR
Susan Done
Jason Fish
Yulia Lin
Adam Shliën

FACULTY PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
Gregory German
Lananh Nguyen
Ilan Weinreb

LONG TERM SERVICE

20 YEARS OF SERVICE
Christine Cserti-Gazdewich
Lei Fu
David Munoz
Susan Poutanen
Janice Robertson
Maria Rozakis-Adcock
Cuihong Wei
John Wong

25 YEARS
Khosrow Adeli
Hong Chang
Patrick Shannon
Lea Velsher

30 YEARS
Tony Mazzulli
Li Zhang

40 YEARS
Denis Macdonald

RETIREFMENTS

Christopher Sherman
Brendan Mullen

LMP ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE 2023–2024
PATHOBIOLoGY SPECIALIST PROGRAM
GRADUATING CLASS OF 2024

Minhal Ahmed
Omaria As’sadiq
SemiNi Uththara Beragama Jathunga
Sara Ciganovic
Victoria Fortuna
Mu Hang Guan
Rachelle Lee
Jiaqi Li
Jin Lin
Dipjeet Majumder
Samuel Mikhail
Mu Yan Ren
Linus Schweizer
Ryan Alexandre Hubert Snelling

Mika Sun
Abenan Thayaparan
Jiayue Wu
Kathleen Wu
Ming Hong Xu
Lilian Guangwen Zhai
Wenda Zhang
Sabrina Xinyu Zhu
Kangni Zou
GRADUATES WHO COMPLETED THEIR DEGREES IN THE LAST YEAR

MHSc in Translational Research

Mohamed Abdalla
Allison Denise Alvares
Geil Han Astorga
Shayan Bashir
Kimberly Veronica Benn
Jamie Louis Block
Lisa Ann Caldana
Kimberly Marian Crasta
Peola Jayne Ellis
Mehrdad Farahani
Zihan Gao
Jessica Dilber Jenkins
Fairuz Karim
Tobi Puiyue Lam
Jocelyn May Yan Lee
Avery On Kiu Leung
Xianyi Liang
Lexiana Pavlina MacLean
Sai-Amrit Maharaj
Alexander Moore
Samuel Joshua Neumark
Emily Lauren Newton
Janine Noorloos
Radhika Nandkumar Prabhune
Jaspree Randhawa
Tyler Christian Redublo
Yun Jun (Stella) Rho
Mary Abigail Schmitz
Andrew Sedmihradsky
Siobhan Mackenzie Wilson
Melanie Yang

MHSc in Laboratory Medicine

Clinical Embryology Field

Meghan Biggar
Emma Jeanne Elizabeth Campbell
Madison Erb
Hannah Paquette
Afton Taborek

Pathologists’ Assistant Field

Katherine Allum
Jordyn Chartrand
Marina Eskandar
Polina Goldberg
Cassie Hillock-Watling
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<th>Graduate's name</th>
<th>Supervisor's (Prof.'s) name</th>
<th>Thesis Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Shawar Ali</td>
<td>Scott Yuzwa</td>
<td>Neural stem cell fate decisions: Clonal approaches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jasmine Kaur Bhatti</td>
<td>Norman Rosenblum</td>
<td>Defining the Roles of the Iroquois Homeobox Factors in Murine Nephrogenesis</td>
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<td>Zi Yan Chen</td>
<td>Heyu Ni</td>
<td>Pathogenesis of Fetal and Neonatal Alloimmune Thrombocytopenia: Role of Maternal Anti-αIIb Antibodies on Fetus Survival and Megakaryocytes</td>
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<td>Paolo Miguel De Guzman</td>
<td>Karun Singh</td>
<td>Establishing a Major Depressive Disorder patient to Neural Organoid pipeline</td>
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<td>Karen Kai-Lin Fang</td>
<td>Li Zhang</td>
<td>Targeting T-Cell Malignancies Using Allogeneic Double-Negative CAR-T Cells</td>
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<td>Atefeh Ghorbani</td>
<td>Eleftherios P. Diamandis</td>
<td>Non-invasive serum biomarkers of brain tumors</td>
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<td>Crystal Gouravski</td>
<td>Melanie Spears</td>
<td>Assessing ER Positive Breast Cancer Heterogeneity and Identification of Tumour Microenvironment Molecular Markers in Response to Treatment Via Multi-omic Approach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farbod Khorrami</td>
<td>Yeni Yucel &amp; Neeru Gupta</td>
<td>Non-Invasive In Vivo Imaging of a Novel Retinal Phenotype in a Mouse Model of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis</td>
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<td>Kenneth Yanis Richmond G</td>
<td>Michael Pollanen</td>
<td>Characterization of Tau Pathology-Associated with Nodding Syndrome in Uganda</td>
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<td>Christian Chun Him Lai</td>
<td>Rod Bremner</td>
<td>Mechanisms underlying susceptibility to cancer initiation or lineage-switching in established cancer</td>
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<td>Juliette Lee</td>
<td>Jeffrey Lee</td>
<td>Developing Nanobodies for Imaging and Inhibiting Sperm-Egg Fusion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan James Mazzone</td>
<td>Stephen Girardin &amp; Jeremy Mogridge</td>
<td>Characterizing the NLRP1B Inflammasome in the Intestinal Epithelium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mitchell Austin Ng</td>
<td>Lili-Naz Hazrati</td>
<td>Mild Traumatic Brain Injury in Women: Neuropathological Features and Neuroinflammatory Gene Expression Profile</td>
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</table>
Stephanie Ouzikov | Scott Yuzwa | The Mechanism Underlying LRIG1 Function in Adult Neural Stem Cells

Matthew Raphael Renaud | Isabelle Aubert | Characterizing proNGF and NGF Expression in a Mouse Model of Alzheimer’s Disease

Martin Rotbauer | Susan Done | Exploring the Role of Circulating Tumour Cell-Associated Genes in Estrogen Receptor-Positive Breast Cancer

Bana Samman | Stephen Girardin & Dana Philpott | Elucidating the Role of Leucine-Rich Repeat Kinase 2 in Crohn’s Disease Pathogenesis and Neutrophil Biology

Qian Wen Shi | Minna Woo & Daniel Winer | Investigating the Role of Skeletal Muscle Bcl6 in Glucose Homeostasis and Investigating the role of skeletal muscle Bcl6 in Glucose Homeostasis and muscle mass and function

Arya Zarrinbakhsh | Yeni Yücel & Neeru Gupta | Developing a Mouse Model of Spaceflight-Associated Neuro-ocular Syndrome

Bill Ling Feng Zhang | Michael Reber | Visual rehabilitation in a pediatric population of patients with homonymous hemianopia: a pilot study on immersive virtual-reality stimulation (HH-IVR)

Xinyuan Zhao | Shinichiro Ogawa | Generation of Functional Hepatic Stellate Cells from Human Pluripotent Stem Cells

Sophia Shek Wa Zhong | Cynthia Hawkins | The Oncohistone landscape in Paediatric brain tumours

PhD

Nyan Abdulqadir | Khosrow Adeli | Investigating the Molecular and Physiological Roles of GLP-1R, SR-BI and Gut Microbiota in Modulating Intestinal Chylomicron Production

Dhia Azzouz | Nades Palaniyar | Uncovering the Mechanism of how ROS drive NETosis: The Crucial Role of DNA Repair Pathway

Mary Kathryn Bohn | Khosrow Adeli | Closing the Gaps in Pediatric and Maternal Reference Standards for Biomarkers of Health and Disease

Jonah Burke-Kleinman | Michelle Bendek | Inhibition of Vascular Smooth Muscle Cell Migration and Intimal Thickening with Chimeric N-Cadherin Mimetic Peptides: Development of a Novel Therapeutic Strategy for Restenosis

Robert D'Cruz | Norman Rosenblum | Hedgehog Signaling in Kidney Development and Disease

Rebecca Earnshaw | Suneil Kalia | The role of C-terminus of HSP70 Interacting Protein (CHIP) in Mitochondrial Autophagy (Mitophagy) and Spinocerebellar Ataxia
Akshay Grudita | Valerie Wallace | Investigating the mechanisms that regulate rod photoreceptor positioning and connectivity in the developing murine retina

Xinying Guo | Warren Lee | Regulation and function of Atypical Chemokine Receptor-1 (ACKR1/DARC) in primary endothelial cells

David Jose Mathew | Jeremy Sivak | Evaluating Lipidomic Circuit Modulation in Glaucoma Management

Sarah Genevieve Hui | Suneil Kalia | Investigating the Effect of Phosphorylation of Carboxyl-Terminus of HSP-Interacting Protein (CHIP) on Alpha-Synuclein Mediated Mitophagy

Erika Jang | Warren Lee | Mechanisms of LDL Transcytosis during Basal and Inflammatory States

Elyse Latreille | Warren Lee | Phenotypic screening in larval zebrafish identifies a novel anti-inflammatory compound that acts via the Nrf2 pathway

Lilian Tsai-Wei Lin | Janice Robertson | Investigating the effects of C9orf72 haploinsufficiency on TDP-43 pathology in ALS

Melika Loriamini | Donald Branch | Identification and Characterization of Small Molecule Drugs that Inhibit Phagocytosis

Justin Meade | Jeremy Mogridge | Characterizing the Activation of NLRP1B by Lipopolysaccharide and Metabolic Stress

Sofia Melliou | Phedias Diamandis | Modeling proteomes of neurodevelopment in human cerebral organoids

Nenad Pokrajac | Valerie Wallace | Investigating anti-cancer signalling in the meninges during medulloblastoma development

Marc Shenouda | Janice Robertson | Targeting TDP-43 Aggregation as a Therapeutic Strategy for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and Frontotemporal Lobar Degeneration

Michael Taccone | James Rutka | Mitochondrial Fission Drives Human Glioblastoma
GRADUATING RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS

Diagnostic and Molecular Pathology
Maryam Abdollahi
Mehdi Masoomian
Youheng (Henry) Xie
Yanhong (Shirley) Yu

Forensic Pathology
Samuel Jacquet

Medical Microbiology
Mohammed Sarhan

Clinical Microbiology Post-Doctoral Training Program
Ghulam Dhubaan

Clinical Chemistry Post-Doctoral Training Program
Veni Bharti
Janet Zhou

Research Fellows
Fabio Tironi

Transfusion Medicine Area of Focused Competence Fellows
Sumedha Arya
Charles Lafrance

Clinical Fellows
Yasmeen Abulkhair
Salman Al-Faifi
Saifyh Aljohani
Shahd AlMohsen
Amna AlMutrafi
Hala Alnuaim
Moayad AlQazlan
Assem Saleh Alrumeh
Dhuha Al-Sajee
Azhar AlShoumer
Sarah AlWaraf
Muath AlYahya
Alhareth Azaizeh
Mirielle Boivin
Roselyne Choiniere
David Dodington
Zoe Fadden
Yael Fisher
Tameika Fletcher
Tulasi Geevar
Orli Greenberg
Simon Guertin
Siah Hui Hui
Mehmet Kefeli
Naoimh O’Farrell
Sophie Pendergrast
Cherry Pun
Harpreet Rai
Calvin Tseng
Minqi Xu
Roman Zyla
AWARDS
ALLAN GORNALL PATHOBIOLOGY AWARDS

Second-Year Award

This award is given to the students in the Pathobiology Program with the highest overall grade in LMP200H1. This year we have two recipients sharing the 2nd year prize.

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.

RECIPIENT

Parth Shah

Parth Shah has recently finished his second year in LMP with a major in Neuroscience. He is currently working in Dr. Dana Philpott’s lab, investigating the role of Nod2 in Crohn’s Disease-associated Type 2 Diabetes. Going into his third year, Parth is excited to explore the specialized courses and research opportunities offered by the LMP department.
Second-Year Award

This award is given to the students in the Pathobiology Program with the highest overall grade in LMP200H1. This year we have two recipients sharing the 2nd year prize.

RECIPIENT

Huidan Zuo

Huidan Zuo has recently finished her second year of study in LMP with a minor in Psychology. Currently, she is working as a summer student in Dr. Susan Done’s laboratory, researching the association between intratumour heterogeneity, tumour stromal immune microenvironment, and the metastasis and recurrence of triple-negative breast cancer. As Zuo enters her third year, she eagerly anticipates engaging in more specialized and intriguing LMP courses and contributing further to advanced 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.

RECIPIENT

Riley Alvarez

Riley Alvarez is an incoming fourth-year student in the Pathobiology Specialist program. She is currently conducting research with Dr. Greg German, outlining the regulatory frameworks that govern phage therapy across the world. This work — alongside her other pursuits — will ideally illustrate science’s reach beyond its conventional realms. Moving forward, Riley is driven to continue fueling her love for learning with an even greater love for what learning promises: boundless growth.
Fourth-Year Award

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

RECIPIENT

Lilian Zhai

Lilian Zhai recently graduated from the Pathobiology Specialist program. Throughout her undergraduate studies, she engaged in diverse research projects with focuses on diabetes, cystic fibrosis, and lung adenocarcinoma. She is deeply grateful for the invaluable opportunities provided by LMP and looks forward to pursuing clinical research in the future.
THE AVRUM GOTLIEB AWARD FOR CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND TEACHING EXCELLENCE IN TRAINING

RECIPIENT

Emily Forster

Emily Forster is a 3rd year PhD student in Dr. Jeffrey Lee’s laboratory. She researches structures and functions of fusion-critical proteins present at the human sperm-egg membrane interface in order to further elucidate the fertilization mechanism.

For the last two years, she has been a teaching assistant for courses within the Clinical Embryology, Master of Health Science in Laboratory Medicine program, including Innovation in ART (LMP2105) and Reproductive Genetics (LMP2103). During this time, Emily has helped by coordinating guest lecturers, organizing course materials, and training students on course content. Additionally, she has endeavored to ensure that these courses remain up to date by developing new materials, such as an in-class workshop on the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots within the clinical embryology field.

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

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.

RECIPIENT
Susanna Fang

Susanna Fang completed her undergraduate degree in the Biochemistry and Biomedical Research Co-op program at McMaster University.

She is currently a first-year MSc student in Dr. Daniel Drucker’s laboratory at the Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute at Mount Sinai Hospital. Her work focuses on the roles of the astrocyte glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor and glucose-dependent insulinotropic receptor in central and systemic metabolism and inflammation. Through her work, she hopes to inform the use of therapeutic interventions in the treatment of diabetes and neurodegenerative disease.
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.

**RECIPIENT**

**Sharon Khavkine-Binstock**

Sharon completed her Bachelor’s of Science at McMaster University in Molecular Biology and Genetics in Hamilton before moving to Toronto to pursue her PhD.

She is currently a second-year PhD candidate working under the supervision of Dr. Kelsie Thu at the Keenan Research Centre in St. Michael’s Hospital. Sharon’s work focuses on understanding a novel mechanism of chemotherapy resistance involving YAP/TAZ in lung cancer.
Ellen is currently a second-year candidate in the Clinical Microbiology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program at the University of Toronto, working towards becoming a Fellow of the Canadian College of Microbiologists (FCCM).

Research has been an integral part of Ellen’s time at the University of Toronto and upon fellowship completion, she hopes to continue with her research alongside her work as a clinical microbiologist.

Prior to moving to Toronto, Ellen completed her Bachelor’s and Master’s of Science degrees at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario, in Honours Biology and Experimental Medicine, respectively. Ellen received her doctorate from Freie Universität Berlin and her research was conducted at the Experimental and Clinical Research Center, jointly operated by the Charité University Hospital and the Max-Delbrück-Center for Molecular Medicine.

Ellen’s research interests include the impact of helpful and harmful microbes on sexual and reproductive health and the use of data analytics to support continual quality improvement in the clinical laboratory.
GRADUATE RECIPIENT

Catherine Lin

Catherine completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Toronto, double majoring in Neuroscience and Immunology.

She is currently a first-year PhD student supervised by Dr. James Rutka at SickKids. Her project focuses on improving drug delivery for the treatment of diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma, a type of pediatric brain cancer. She hopes to improve the survival and quality of life for patients with this disease.
Henry Xie

Youheng (Henry) Xie is in his fifth year of residency in the Diagnostic and Molecular Pathology Program at the University of Toronto.

Prior to pursuing medicine, he completed his BSc and BEd at Queen’s University where his interest in anatomy and teaching blossomed. He went on to medical school at the University of Saskatchewan, and then the University of Toronto for postgraduate training.

During his time in residency, Henry engaged with his peers and promoted resident excellence. He served as Chief Resident in his final year, where he shared his passion for pathology and advocated for the career. Henry will be pursuing Fellowship training in Forensic Pathology at the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service.
RECIPIENT

Janet Zhou

Janet Zhou completed her undergraduate training in Medical Laboratory Science at the University of Alberta and obtained certification through the Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science. Her training in laboratory medicine continued as she pursued a PhD in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at the University of Alberta where she studied the hepatobiliary handling of arsenic.

She is completing the Clinical Chemistry Postdoctoral Training Program at the University of Toronto and looks forward to starting her position as a Clinical Biochemist at Alberta Precision Laboratories back in Edmonton where she will oversee clinical chemistry testing for the rural communities of Alberta.

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 learners and faculty.
Priya Mistry is a second-year PhD candidate in Dr. Jason Fish’s lab where her current research is focused on understanding the pathogenesis of chemotherapy-induced cardiotoxicity.

Inspired by the support she has received throughout her academic career from her own mentors, Priya seeks opportunities to pay it forward and empower her community. Through her mentorship, she aims to help students navigate the challenges of graduate school and foster resilience and personal growth along the way.

One of Priya’s mentees commented, “We had regular monthly discussions about various graduate school-related topics, such as time management with different experiments and coursework, as well as conferences, career paths, and work-life balance. Priya was very helpful with her advice and provided personal anecdotes on how she overcame common graduate school challenges that I was encountering.”
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.

RECIPIENT

Richard Hegele

Dr. Richard Hegele, Professor Emeritus, served as Professor and Chair of LMP (2009-15) and Vice Dean, Research & Innovation (2016-20) in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine at U of T and was Chief, Department of Paediatric Laboratory Medicine at SickKids (2011-16). He is an alumnus of the LMP resident training program in pathology.

He is an internationally distinguished researcher in the areas of viral and inflammatory lung diseases. Since retiring to Vancouver Island, he has continued to be involved in the affairs of LMP, including serving as Course Co-Director in LMP2005Y in the MHSc in Laboratory Medicine, and participating in mentorship. He views mentorship as “an opportunity for participants to become better versions of themselves.”

One of Dr. Hegele’s mentees commented, “Throughout our mentoring relationship, his guidance, support, and wisdom have been invaluable, shaping my journey in ways I could have never imagined. His insights and advice have helped me navigate through various challenges, both personal and professional, instilling in me the confidence to strive for excellence and pursue my goals relentlessly.”
RECIPIENT

Catherine Streutker

Dr. Catherine Streutker is the Chief and Medical Director of Laboratory Medicine at Unity Health Toronto. She is renowned as an international expert in the diagnosis of the pathology of gastrointestinal diseases with an emphasis on upper gastrointestinal tract malignancies.

Dr. Streutker served as the Chair of LMP’s Appointments and Promotion Committee from 2015 to 2023 and Vice-Chair of Promotions and Mentorship from 2017 to 2023. Through these roles, Dr. Streutker developed a very successful program of workshops and mentorship to help department members identify pathways to promotion and develop strategies for preparing effective dossiers.

Dr. Streutker was nominated for this award by Dr. Daniel Beriault, who wrote, “Dr. Streutker has helped many faculty members, including myself, in selecting their promotion streams, advice on which committees to join, and providing letters of support. She meets with me regularly and asks about my latest research, and committee work, and encourages me to get more involved at the international level… It is a pleasure to have these conversations with her, and I really feel lucky that she is willing to dedicate so much of her own time to help me.”
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.
RECIPIENT

Sunit Das

Dr. Sunit Das is a neurosurgeon and scientist at St. Michael’s Hospital and the Hospital for SickKids, and Associate Professor and Keenan Chair in the Department of Surgery.

Dr. Das’s clinical practice is focused on the care of patients with brain tumours. His laboratory in the Arthur and Sonia Labatt Brain Tumour Centre at the Hospital for Sick Kids focuses on the molecular and genetic mechanisms that regulate tumour evolution and treatment resistance in glioblastoma.

Dr. Das currently serves as the Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusiveness at the Institute for Medical Sciences, and as the Chair of the Residency Competency Committee for the Toronto neurosurgical training program. He is a Senior Fellow at Massey College.
**Awarded to a faculty member for their excellence in the teaching and supervision of MSc and PhD graduate and life sciences students (GLSE).**

**RECIPIENT**

**Scott Yuzwa**

Dr. Scott Yuzwa completed his PhD at Simon Fraser University in 2013, where he studied the O-GlcNAc post-translational modification on tau protein and its role in neurodegeneration. As a post-doctoral fellow at the Hospital for Sick Children, he turned his attention from the aging and degenerating brain to the developing brain and the application of single-cell genomics.

In 2019, Dr. Yuzwa was recruited to LMP as an Assistant Professor and established his research group. Dr. Yuzwa is deeply committed to the success of students, be it in the classroom or in the lab. He has completed certification in university instruction, designed and delivered three new courses in LMP and has already graduated three MSc students since joining the department. The Yuzwa lab is focused on understanding the mechanisms underlying cell genesis in the developing and mature brain and the impacts of disease and injury therein.
RECIPIENT

Mario Capitano

Dr. Mario Capitano is a pathologist working at Unity Health Toronto in his third year of practice. He is trained in anatomical pathology with a hematopathology fellowship and primarily practices dermatopathology and hematopathology.

Dr. Capitano has a strong interest in education at all levels of training. He is extensively involved in the new MAPS (medical imaging, anatomy, pathology, and surgery) component of the Foundations curriculum as the pathology co-lead. He is also the coordinator of the Lab Medicine Interest Group Case of the Month, which serves to increase the engagement of medical students with Laboratory Medicine. Additionally, he supervises enriching educational experiences (EEE) students and is involved with teaching residents and fellows at the hospital level.
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.

RECIPIENT

David Barth

Dr. David Barth is a Hematologic Pathologist and Clinical Hematologist at University Health Network (UHN). After completing his MD at the University of Toronto, he completed residencies in Internal Medicine, Hematology, and Hematological Pathology.

He serves as Medical Director of the UHN Core Hematology Laboratories and Director of the UHN Therapeutic Apheresis and Stem/Immune Effector Cell Collection unit. His area of research interest includes improving and investigating novel methods of providing therapeutic apheresis. Teaching the art and science of hematologic pathology to all levels of medical trainees and laboratory technologists is one of the entertaining parts of his workday.
RECIPIENT

Blaise Clarke

Dr. Blaise Clarke is an Associate Professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology. His research focuses on Gynecological Pathology & Anatomical Pathology.

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

RECIPIENT
Hubert Tsui

Dr. Hubert Tsui completed his BSc (Hons), MD, PhD, and residency in Hematological Pathology at the University of Toronto. He began his career at the University Health Network in 2015 and joined Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in 2018 to lead a new Complex Malignant Hematology program.

He is presently the Division Head of Hematological Pathology, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Molecular Diagnostics, Precision Diagnostics and Therapeutics Program; Associate Scientist, Biological Sciences Platform, Sunnybrook Research Institute; co-principal investigator of the Sunnybrook Hematology Biobank and the Ontario representative on the Hematological Pathology Specialty Committee, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.
THE RAYMOND CHANG AWARD IN FORENSIC MEDICINE

The Raymond Chang Award in Forensic Medicine is a bi-annual award presented to an LMP faculty member who participates in the training of residents in forensic pathology. The recipient demonstrates superior contributions in education, research and creative professional activity.

RECIPIENT
Michael Pollanen

Dr. Michael Pollanen is the Chief Forensic Pathologist of the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service and the Director of the Forensic Pathology Fellowship Program at the University of Toronto. He is also the Vice Chair Global Health for LMP.

With a focus on vulnerable populations, his work leverages autopsies as a basis to study disease and injury. Dr. Pollanen’s expertise spans anatomical pathology, neuropathology, forensic pathology, and cellular and molecular pathology, which he uses to drive innovative research. He actively engages in international capacity-building efforts for low and middle-income countries, collaborating with organizations like the United Nations and the International Committee for the Red Cross.
Awarded to a faculty member with 10 or more years of appointment who has shown a sustained excellence in clinical education at any level (undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate).

RECIPIENT

Lianna Kyriakopoulou

Dr. Lianna Kyriakopoulou is a Clinical Biochemist and a Clinical Molecular Geneticist. She is currently a director of Genome Diagnostics at the Hospital for Sick Children.

Her research interests are focusing on the development of functional genomic platforms and translation of high-complexity omics-testing in the clinical laboratory.

Her educational activities span from undergraduate to postgraduate teaching. She is a course coordinator for the LMP301H course, Introduction to the Biochemistry of Human Disease, and contributes to a number of graduate courses and postgraduate activities for biochemistry, biochemical and molecular genetics.
THE JOHN B. WALTER PRIZE FOR COURSE & CURRICULUM DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT

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. This year we have two recipients for this award.

RECIPIENT

Scot Hamilton

Dr. Scot Hamilton is the Laboratory Director of Mount Sinai Fertility and a Professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology at the University of Toronto.

He earned his PhD in Physiology at the University of Western Ontario and continued postdoctoral research using the placenta as a model for cancer. He has been the Scientific and Laboratory Director for programs across Canada. In addition, he is a surveyor for Accreditation Canada and an expert on numerous boards and standards committees.

He is committed to advancing the education and training of Canadian Clinical Embryologists and is most proud of his contribution to the development of the MHSc in Laboratory Medicine program in LMP.
RECIPIENT

Yulia Lin

Dr. Yulia Lin is internationally recognized as an expert in the field of transfusion medicine. She has made significant contributions to the field through education, quality assurance, and knowledge translation.

Of particular note are her co-leadership of the development of the University of Toronto’s Transfusion Boot Camp, which is now being offered internationally, and Dr. Lin’s substantial efforts to put the University of Toronto’s Temerty Faculty of Medicine on the world map as a Centre of Excellence in Transfusion Medicine practice through internationally renowned education and knowledge translation.
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.

This year we have two recipients for this award.

RECIPIENT

Corwyn Rowsell

Dr. Corwyn Rowsell is a Pathologist at Unity Health Toronto and an Associate Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology at the University of Toronto.

He has been the Coordinator of Undergraduate Medical School Education for LMP since 2019, and lead for the Inflammation and Cancer weeks in the Introduction to Medicine Course. Dr. Rowsell supervises pathology residents on their GI rotation at Unity Health, delivers lectures on esophageal pathology for the resident half-day, and in his role as OAP President, has made engaging pathology residents in the activities of the association a major focus.
RECIPIENT

Brendan Dickson

Dr. Brendan Dickson is an expert in bone and soft tissue pathology. His research primarily focuses on the molecular characterization of mesenchymal neoplasms, which has led to the discovery of new entities and diagnostic biomarkers.

He is deeply committed to education and knowledge sharing; he actively imparts his expertise through publications, social media, and his online Soft Tissue and Bone Tumour Atlas.
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 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

Sara Vasconcelos

Dr. Sara Vasconcelos is a Senior Scientist at the University Health Network in the Toronto General Hospital Research Institute and holds the John Kitson McIvor Endowed Chair in Diabetes Research.

Her translational research program aims to develop regenerative medicine strategies to treat cardiovascular diseases and diabetes and to use bioengineering approaches to study these diseases. Her lab has developed new vascularization techniques to support functional tissues for organ regeneration and is pioneering the work to create mature, long-lasting, functional blood vessels. Her work on human cardiac tissues-on-a-chip has opened a new avenue of research in stem cell-derived cardiomyocyte maturation and drug testing. Her laboratory’s groundbreaking research contributions have been recognized by several awards.
RECIPIENT

Daniel Beriault

Dr. Daniel Beriault is recognized as a national leader in the field of toxicology. He is respected for his outstanding scholarly contributions that have had national clinical impact by developing methodology and tools to analyze the composition of street drugs (drug checking services) that not only supports the harm reduction of those with addiction issues but also informs and improves how healthcare professionals respond to overdoses.

His results have influenced public health policies and funding programs. His contributions to guiding professional practices, by disseminating novel lab test utilization strategies he developed, have gained him recognition both nationally and internationally. These also impacted patient care.
RECIPIENT

Myron Cybulsky

Dr. Myron Cybulsky started his research career at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School and was recruited by Dr. Avrum Gotlieb to the LMP faculty in 1996 as a clinician-scientist.

As part of his research program in vascular biology, initiation of atherosclerosis and molecular mechanisms of inflammation, he was devoted to mentoring graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty, and continually participated in undergraduate and graduate teaching.

In the last decade, he held leadership roles as a Division Head, then Interim Director of the Toronto General Hospital Research Institute and Co-Vice Chair of Research at LMP.

During medical school and pathology residency, Dr. Cybulsky had the privilege of obtaining research training under Dr. Henry Z. Movat, who was the inaugural recipient of the LMP Distinguished Service Award in 1987.

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.
RECIPIENT

David Hwang

Dr. David Hwang completed the MD PhD Program at the University of Toronto and was among the first graduates from the newly minted Department of LMP’s PhD program in the late 1990s.

After completing his Anatomical Pathology residency at the University of Toronto, he began his career as a thoracic pathologist at University Health Network, before moving to Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in 2018 to become the inaugural Chief of Sunnybrook’s Department of Laboratory Medicine and Molecular Diagnostics. He has served as the Director of LMP’s Clinical Fellowships Program since 2014.
SENIOR ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS

We are pleased to congratulate the seven faculty members in LMP who received Provostial approval for promotion effective July 1, 2024.
Dr. Susan Done
PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL, UNIVERSITY HEALTH NETWORK (UHN)

Excellence in creative professional activity (CPA)

Dr. Susan Done is internationally recognized for her contributions to breast pathology through her translational research program and clinical expertise that guides practice. She has made excellent contributions to advancing knowledge in breast cancer as a result of her investigations into molecular evolution leading to breast cancer progression and intratumoural heterogeneity, circulating tumor cells (CTC) and the immune microenvironment, as well as participation in development of a novel breast cancer visualization tool that is now in clinical trials.

Dr. Jason Fish
TORONTO GENERAL HOSPITAL, UNIVERSITY HEALTH NETWORK (UHN)

Excellence in Research

Dr. Jason Fish is very highly regarded in the international community for his expertise on regulation of endothelial function and its effects on human health and disease. His research on the mechanisms involved in endothelium dysfunction, including KRAS mutations and microRNA activity, has advanced the understanding of molecular mechanisms in vascular biology. His research also revealed that endothelium is an important contributor to cardiotoxicity, diabetic cardiomyopathy and COVID-19 cardiovascular complications. Dr. Fish has built on his previous accomplishments and is undoubtedly a leader in the international vascular biology community.
Dr. Yulia Lin
SUNNYBROOK HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE

Excellence in creative professional activity (CPA)

Dr. Yulia Lin is internationally recognized as an expert in the field of transfusion medicine. She has made significant contributions to the field through education, quality assurance, and knowledge translation. Of particular note are her co-leadership of the development of the University of Toronto’s Transfusion Boot Camp, which is now being offered internationally, and Dr. Lin’s substantial efforts to put the University of Toronto’s Temerty Faculty of Medicine on the world map as a Centre of Excellence in Transfusion Medicine practice through internationally renowned education and knowledge translation.

Dr. Adam Shlien
HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN (SICKKIDS)

Excellence in Research

Dr. Adam Shlien is an internationally renowned expert in childhood cancer genomics and bioinformatics. His research program has led to the identification of gene alterations that result in cancer development or are biomarkers for tumour recurrence, and/or responsiveness to treatment. One of his research focuses is translating the novel discoveries and technologies developed in his lab to improve care for individuals whose tumours relapse. Dr. Shlien continues to make exceptional impact in his field and is advancing our understanding of childhood cancers and sarcomas, as well as impacting clinical care.
Dr. Gregory German
ST. JOSEPH’S HEALTH CENTRE, UNITY HEALTH TORONTO

Excellence in creative professional activity (CPA)

Dr. Gregory German is nationally recognized as an expert in bacteriophage (phage) therapy particularly as relates to urinary tract infections and microbial antibiotic resistance. He has contributed to changing professional practices for the diagnosis and treatment of infectious organisms by leading or collaborating on national guidelines, such as the Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease Canada position statement on asymptomatic bacteriuria. Dr. German is also well respected for his leadership in various provincial, national, and international committees.

Dr. Lananh Nguyen
ST. MICHAEL’S HOSPITAL, UNITY HEALTH TORONTO

Excellence in creative professional activity (CPA)

Dr. Lananh Nguyen has attained a national, and growing international, reputation for her exemplary professional practice in cytopathology. She has made significant contributions to standardization of diagnostic criteria and quality assurance practices in cytopathology through her leadership roles in national and international committees. She is also advancing the practice and discipline through her educational activities at the local, national, and international level, including her leadership in rebuilding the cytopathology training program in Ireland.

Dr. Ilan Weinreb
TORONTO GENERAL HOSPITAL, UNIVERSITY HEALTH NETWORK (UHN)

Excellence in creative professional activity (CPA)

Dr. Ilan 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.
LONG TERM SERVICE

We celebrate those primary-appointed faculty who have reached significant milestones in their service at LMP.
20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Christine Cserti-Gazdewich
Lei Fu
David Munoz
Susan Poutanen

Janice Robertson
Maria Rozakis-Adcock
Cuihong Wei
John Wong

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Khosrow Adeli
Hong Chang
Patrick Shannon
Lea Velsher

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Tony Mazzulli
Li Zhang

40 YEARS OF SERVICE

Denis Macdonald
RETIREMENTS
Christopher Sherman

Dr. Christopher Sherman was appointed as Staff Pathologist at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre where he focuses on perinatal, placental and genitourinary pathology.

He has been appointed in LMP for 26 years and during this time, was actively involved in teaching pathology residents and pathologists’ assistants. He contributed to LMP’s MHSc in Laboratory Medicine program for pathologists’ assistants, both as the Sunnybrook site coordinator, as well as a course coordinator.

In 2020, he was awarded the LMP Award for Graduate and Postgraduate Education for excellence in teaching and supervision of postgraduate trainees.

Brenden Mullen

Dr. Brandon Mullen was the Deputy Director, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital and has been appointed for 40 years in LMP.

His research interests are in diagnostic breast and pulmonary pathology and the laboratory investigation of male infertility. He has served as a consultant in the development and improvement of laboratory services and policies in Ontario and Nova Scotia.

In 2021, he received the LMP Sustained Excellence Education Award in recognition for his demonstrated and sustained excellence in clinical education.
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
Jana Neiman-Zenevich
Paula Nixon
Zoryana Salo
Marianne So
Rutvik Solanki
Beatrice Wong
Debb Yorke

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Vice President Finance: Mika Sun
Vice President Social: Steven Ding
External Affairs Director: Linus Schweizer
Internal Affairs Director: Riley Alvarez
3rd Year Specialist Representative: Daniel Su
2nd Year Specialist Representatives: Olivia Ruffolo & Sofija Volkanoska
Webmaster: Wenda Zhang
Graphic Designer: Victoria Fortuna

CLAMPS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
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Vice President Communications: Mary-Jo Hatem
Vice President Social: Alexandra Moffat
Vice President Academic: Priya Mistry
Vice President External: Lauren Joe
Head Location Director: Alissa Pak
Treasurer: Cori Lau
Vice President Recreation and Wellness: Boaz Ehioju
TRP CLAMPS Student Representative: Shayna Kay
MHSc CLAMPS Student Representative: Karina Chu

CHIEF RESIDENTS
DIAGNOSTIC AND MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY
Shirley Yu & Henry Xie
NEUROPATHOLOGY
Shane Eaton
HEMATOPATHOLOGY
Qianghua Zhou & Tara Syed
MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY
Ruchika Gupta
FORENSIC PATHOLOGY
Samuel Jaquet

POSTGRADUATE JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVES
DIAGNOSTIC AND MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY
Sarah Khan
MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY
Jonathan Cook

TRAINEE REPRESENTATIVES
MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY
Ellen Avery