

UTCSP eNews
September, 2002
Volume 3 Number 7

Professor Ze'ev Seltzer Joins the University of Toronto

The University of Toronto Centre for the Study of Pain is pleased to welcome Professor Ze'ev Seltzer to the position of Professor in Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Toronto. Professor Seltzer comes to the U of T from Hebrew University. He has made a number of seminal contributions to our understanding of animal models of human pain conditions. At U of T he will develop his most recent research focus, on the genetics of pain and pain modulation. Please join us in wishing Professor Seltzer all the best in his new home here in Toronto.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The University of Toronto Centre for the Study of Pain presents : "Nociceptor Subspecialization in the Dorsal Root Ganglion: E Pluribus 9" presented by Brian Cooper, PhD, Department of Oral Surgery, University of Florida on Wednesday, November 13, 2002 at 4:00 p.m., Room 4279, Medical Sciences Building, 1 King's College Circle, University of Toronto. All are welcome to attend.

PAIN IN THE NEWS:

Researchers Pinpoint Pain Responses In Newborns

(Reprinted from Hospital for Sick Children Press Release – August 20, 2002)

Dr. Anna Taddio, a researcher at The Hospital for Sick Children (HSC), has found that newborns who experience repeated painful procedures in the first days of life experience more intense pain and learn to anticipate it. This research is reported in the August 21 issue of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*.

“This was the first study to look at anticipatory pain responses in newborns. This research confirmed anecdotal reports that infants become hypersensitive to pain and learn to anticipate pain as a result of cumulative exposures to pain,” said Dr. Taddio, the study’s principal investigator, an HSC pharmacist and associate scientist, and an assistant professor of Pharmacy at the University of Toronto.

“Many newborn infants undergo painful, invasive procedures after delivery for medical reasons and it is important for us to understand how they react to pain, and look at ways to decrease their pain,” added Dr. Taddio.

In the study, infants who received repeated painful procedures (heel lances) over the first 24-36 hours of life were compared with a control group of infants. The heel lances were necessary to monitor the infants’ blood sugar levels as they were born to mothers with diabetes and were exposed to higher levels of glucose in utero relative to infants of non-diabetic mothers. In order to counteract the high levels of glucose, the

infants produce more insulin. After birth, their blood glucose levels may fall rapidly below normal values due to relative overproduction of insulin. Following standard clinical guidelines, blood was taken from the infants' heels every two to four hours after birth to monitor glucose concentrations until the infants were able to readjust their insulin production (an average of 10 heel lances per infant).

All infants in the study were healthy and on the postnatal ward with their mothers. The infants in the control group were matched to those of diabetic mothers on birth characteristics such as weight, gestational age, gender and type of delivery.

After 24 hours of life, a blood sample was taken from the hands of all infants (venipuncture) as part of the routine newborn screening test. The babies who had been poked repeatedly with the heel lances had an increased pain response (facial grimacing, crying) compared with the infants who had not been exposed to the repeated painful procedures. They demonstrated behaviours of pain even before they were actually poked for the blood collection, when the nurse wiped their hand with alcohol in preparation for the venipuncture. This response suggests that they learned to anticipate pain. They also experienced a bigger response to the venipuncture itself.

Dr. Taddio collaborated on this study with Dr. Vibhuti Shah, neonatologist at Mount Sinai Hospital, Dr. Cheryl Gilbert-MacLeod, psychologist at IWK Health Centre, and Dr. Joel Katz, senior scientist in the Department of Anaesthesia at Toronto General Hospital and Mount Sinai Hospital, and holder of a Canada Research Chair in Health Psychology, York University. The infants in the study were at Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre, Women's College Campus, in Toronto. This research was supported by The Hospital for Sick Children Foundation, and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research through an Investigator Award to Dr. Katz.

The Hospital for Sick Children, affiliated with the University of Toronto, is the largest paediatric academic health science centre in Canada and one of the largest in the world. Its mission is to provide the best in family-centred, compassionate care, to lead in scientific and clinical advancement, and to prepare the next generation of leaders in child health. For more information, please visit www.sickkids.ca.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS:

Canadian Pain Society Annual Conference – May 22-24, 2003

Proposals are invited for workshops, posters, and a special "hot topics" student symposium on pain research for the 2003 CPS Annual Conference, which takes place in Toronto. The Deadline for submission is October 11, 2002. For complete details and up-to-date information about the meeting, please visit the Conference website at:

<http://www.canadianpainsociety.ca/toronto2003/>

UPCOMING MEETINGS/SYMPOSIUMS/LECTURES/CONFERENCES:

Wasser Pain Management Centre – Education Rounds

September 18, 2002 – Dr. Claire Bombardier - “Understanding Pain: Research Contributions to Legal and Political Challenges”

October 16, 2002 – Dr. Colin McCartney, Akari Sono and Donna Bielewski - “The Use of Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation in Patients with Chronic Pain”

October 30, 2002 – Dr. Peter Bernstein – Topic TBA

November 6, 2002 – Dr. Nick Leyland – Topic TBA

November 20, 2002 – Dr. Philip Peng - “Current Understanding of Chronic Pain – A Physician’s Perspective”

*Wasser Education Rounds are held at **12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.** in **Room 1163, Wasser Pain Management Centre, Mount Sinai Hospital, 600 University Avenue.***

3rd Annual Southern Academic Pain Symposium: Fibromyalgia and Related Syndromes

Sponsored by Duke School of Medicine

October 4-6, 2002

Greensboro, North Carolina

For further information, contact:

Office of CME

Duke School of Medicine

Tel: 910-678-7226

North American Spine Society 17th Annual Meeting

Sponsored by the North American Spine Society

October 30 – November 2, 2002

Montreal, Quebec

For further information, contact:

North American Spine Society

22 Calendar Court

2nd Floor

La Grange, Illinois 60525

Tel: 1-877-774-6337

Or/ 708-588-8080

Website: <http://www.spine.org>

The Program in Palliative Care Education and Practice

Sponsored by Harvard Medical School Department of Continuing Education

November 12-19, 2002

Boston, Massachusetts

For further information, contact:

HMS Centre for Palliative Care

c/o Wendy Katz

Massachusetts General Hospital

Founders House 606

55 Fruit Street

Boston, MA 02114

Tel: 617-724-9509

e-mail: pallcare@partners.org

website: <http://www.harvard.edu/cdi/pallcare>

GRANTS/AWARDS/FELLOWSHIPS – CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS/NOMINATIONS:

2002 Canadian Pain Society / Janssen-Ortho Inc. Doctoral Award

Deadline: The closing date for receipt of applications is **October 15, 2002**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Description: The Doctoral Research Award is intended to provide special recognition and support to a student who is pursuing a doctoral degree in the health sciences in Canada. The candidate is expected to have an exceptionally high potential for future research achievement and productivity.

Eligibility Requirements: The program is open to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada who are members, or will become members, of the Canadian Pain Society. Only those students engaged in full-time research training in a Canadian graduate school are eligible for support. At the time of application, candidates must have completed at least 12 months of graduate study at the Masters or PhD level, and have been registered for no more than 26 months as a full-time student in a doctoral program. Students already holding other doctoral awards will be allowed to accumulate awards to a maximum (combined) amount of \$19,600.

The award will take effect only after the recipient has registered in a full-time PhD program.

Applications: A complete application consists of:

Application Form: [Download here](#) (MS Word document)

CVs for the candidate and the proposed supervisor (CIHR CV Module may be used).

Sponsors' reports to be completed by the candidate's most recent research supervisor and two other sponsors who have had an opportunity to assess the candidate's potential; and

official transcripts of the candidate's complete academic record to date (the student's copy of the transcript if submitted in the original sealed envelope from the institution, will be accepted).

Duration of Support: One year. The award is not renewable.

If, at any time during the tenure of the award, the supervisor feels that the progress of the trainee is not satisfactory, the Canadian Pain Society must be notified in writing immediately.

Stipends : Awardees will receive a stipend of \$12,200.

Effective Date: Awards must be taken up within 12 months of the date of offer, and may commence on the first day of any month during 2003.

For further information, please contact:

Canadian Pain Society

c/o Dr. A.J. Clark

Room 4090, Dickson Building

Capital Health

5820 University Avenue

Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 1V7

Tel: 902-473-6428

e-mail: John.Clark@cdha.nshealth.ca

or visit the CPS website at:

Canadian Pain Society / Pfizer Canada Research Award in Neuropathic Pain 2002

Deadline: The application deadline is **October 15, 2002**

Value: \$10,000.

Purpose: To support research about neuropathic pain in humans in Canada

Eligibility: Individuals who are within the final two years of a training program at the PhD level, or equivalent, or within the first seven years of independent practice or of a first faculty appointment

For further information and/or an application form, please contact:

Canadian Pain Society

c/o Dr A. J. Clark

rm. 4090, Dickson bldg.

Capital Health

5820 University Avenue

Halifax, NS, B3H 1V7

Tel: (902) 473-6428

e-mail: John.Clark@cdha.nshealth.ca

or, to download an application form, visit the CPS website at:

<http://www.canadianpainsociety.ca/awards/parkedavisad.stm>

UTCSP eNews is a monthly newsletter published by the **University of Toronto Centre for the Study of Pain**

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