

UTCSP eNews
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CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Dr. Jonathan Dostrovsky who was recently awarded the Canadian Pain Society's 2005 Distinguished Career Award, which was presented to him at the CPS Annual Meeting in Halifax last week. This is an exceptionally well-deserved acknowledgement of the numerous and important contributions that Jonathan has made to research on pain.

Congratulations also go out to Drs. Karen Davis and Angela Mailis-Gagnon, who were recently promoted to rank of Full Professor at the University of Toronto.

Mark Your Calendars!

Pain Mini-Symposium
June 17, 2005

Medical Sciences Building, Room 4279

Time TBA

The Program has not yet been finalized, but will include two guest lectures in pain imaging in humans by Luis Garcia Larrea from France, and Rolf-Detleff Treede from Germany, as well as presentations by trainees at U of T on various aspects of pain. Further information will be announced as it becomes available.

PAIN IN THE NEWS

New Study Shows That Pain Can Become a Disease Itself

(from the CIHR website)

Dr. James Henry, a neurophysiologist and Inaugural Scientific Director of the Michael G. DeGroote Institute for Pain Research and Care at McMaster University, and Dr. Alex Jadad, Director of the Centre for Global e-Health Innovation, Canada Research Chair in eHealth Innovation and the Rose Family Chair in Supportive Care in Toronto, presented results of their work in pain and fatigue at a meeting of the Knowledge Exchange Task Force (KETF) on April 18 and 19, 2005.

Dr. Henry has discovered that pain is actually a disease itself. "Our research demonstrates, that chronic pain - pain that lasts more than six months - can lead to physiological changes such that pain becomes a disease in and of itself," said Dr. Henry. "What this means is that we not only need early detection and treatment, we need to remove the numerous barriers that currently impede our ability to effectively manage chronic pain."

"The lack of physician knowledge and training in chronic pain, the commonly held belief that pain is accepted and normal, the fact that patients have a fear of analgesics and their side effects, and the absence of health policy in pain management are only a few of the barriers we face in effectively addressing this important issue," added Henry.

Dr. Jadad, pointed out another barrier to effective pain management - the increasing knowledge explosion and the competing interests of pharmaceutical companies, governments, health professionals and researchers.

"By the year 2000, more than 24,000 studies had been conducted in the area of pain relief," said Jadad. "And yet we still don't have answers to the majority of questions we have in the area of musculoskeletal pain."

Researcher recommendations:

- Implementation of an arms length approach to education and research.
- A reassessment of the emphasis on efficacy trials as the centrepiece of the drug approval process.
- Independent gatekeepers (e.g. ethics boards, trial registries and regulatory bodies.
- Have pharmaceutical companies provide the majority of financial support with no strings attached.
- Institute a strong post- marketing surveillance process.

The KETF was spearheaded by the Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis, of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, in the fall of 2004. One of the KETF's priority areas is chronic pain in that it is a common experience for those suffering from musculoskeletal (MSK) diseases and conditions.

"In forming the KETF, our goal was to empower a group of patient consumers to become 'research ambassadors' whose efforts would serve to increase research and education around the wide array of MSK diseases and conditions that currently cost taxpayers some \$16 billion per year," said IMHA's scientific director, Dr. Cy Frank. "Ultimately, we hope this accelerated translation and exchange of new research knowledge between clinicians and consumers will lead to the improved health of all Canadians.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/SYMPOSIUMS/LECTURES/CONFERENCES:

Annual Meeting of the Southern Ontario Neuroscience Association (SONA)

McMaster University

Michael G. DeGroot Centre for Learning and Discovery

June 3, 2005

For detailed information, click on the link: <http://www.utoronto.ca/neurosci/sona.pdf>

POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

Psychologist, Canmore, Alberta, Canada

OrionHealth currently has a Psychology position available at the Canmore Pain Clinic (AB), to work in their interdisciplinary pain/rehabilitation programs. The successful applicant will have a Ph.D. in clinical or counselling psychology and will look forward to working in a supportive yet challenging interdisciplinary environment. Prior experience working in the area of pain management or trauma is an advantage. The position offers opportunities for both individual and group psychotherapy as well as developing cutting edge research and presenting on clinical findings to a variety of audiences. This position may also, depending on qualifications, have an opportunity for a formal leadership position within the clinic.

The Canmore Pain Clinic is a leader in understanding and treating pain. Their programs are client centred and they were the first private pain clinic to be CARF accredited in Canada.

Canmore is located in the heart of the Canadian Rocky Mountains and is 20 minutes by car from the resort town of Banff, and 60 minutes from Calgary. Within the area are excellent schools, the world renowned Banff Centre of Fine Arts and Mountain Culture, the University of Calgary, exceptional recreational facilities including downhill and cross country skiing, hiking, fishing, and more. If you would like to combine a family oriented lifestyle with a career in an innovative work environment, this position with the Canmore Pain Clinic may be for you.

You may apply in confidence to: Arlene Cox, Ph.D., OrionHealth – Canmore Pain Clinic Phone: (403) 609-2228; Fax: (403) 609-2246; Email: acox@orionhealth.ca

For a listing of positions available in Canada, please visit the CPS website at:
<http://www.canadianpainsociety.ca/cont-ang/4nouvelles-emplois.htm#>

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