

UTCSP eNews
March, 2004
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Congratulations!

Congratulations to the UTCSP members who were successful in the recently held UTCSP/AstraZeneca Seed Funding Competition. The following people were chosen to receive a one-time payment to support their innovative research project:

- ? **Karen Davis** and co-applicants **Dimitri Anastakis, David Mikulis, and Robert Chen** – “Maladaptive and adaptive markers of pain and sensorimotor cortical plasticity following repair of peripheral nerve injuries: A pilot study”
- ? **Jonathan Dostrovsky and Milton Charlton** – “Substance P release from cerebrovascular nociceptive efferents”
- ? **Bonnie Stevens** and co-applicants **Jennifer Stinson, Brian Feldman, Patrick McGrath, Souyara Sidani, and David Streiner** – “Pilot Testing a Multidimensional Electronic Chronic Pain Diary for Adolescents with Arthritis”
- ? **Michael Salter and Ze’ev Seltzer** – “Finding novel genes for microglial activation and pain following nerve injury”

GRANTS/AWARDS/FELLOWSHIPS – CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS/NOMINATIONS

UTCSP Clinician Scientist Trainee Fellowship (2004):

The University of Toronto Centre for the Study of Pain is currently seeking applicants for the UTCSP Clinician-Scientist Trainee Fellowship. The Fellowship is intended for those trainees who wish to pursue a career as a clinician-scientist with both basic research in pain and in the application to clinical pain management problems. The award is for the support of an individual doing full time research. Applicants should exhibit high academic achievement, research ability or potential, excellent communication skills, and interpersonal and leadership abilities.

Value and duration:

- The value of the award will normally be \$25,000 for a period of one year. Holders of the fellowship may apply annually (competitive application) for further support up to a maximum of 4 years.
- The fellowship will normally start in July 1 or September 1

Eligibility:

- Applicants must have a professional degree (e.g. MD, DDS, B. Pharm, B.Sc.(Nursing)) at the time of taking up the award.
- Applicants must be registered or plan to register in a graduate program* that requires a defended thesis in Division IV, Life Sciences, School of Graduate Studies University of Toronto, and carry out research under the supervision of a faculty member of the UTCSP.
- This award is not automatically renewed; students must apply annually to be considered for further funding.

Conditions of the Fellowship:

- You must be enrolled as a full-time student in a graduate program* in Division IV, Life Sciences, School of Graduate Studies, University of Toronto for the full duration of the award.
- You must spend at least 85% of your time on research.
- You cannot be enrolled in a qualifying or “make-up” year or be on a paid educational leave or sabbatical.
- You may accept research assistantships, part-time teaching positions, or other employment, which do not exceed a maximum of 10 hours per week on average.
- You are required to apply for salary support funding from an external agency. A copy of the front page of the application(s) must be forwarded to the UTCSP office prior to payment of the Fellowship being initiated. If external funding is obtained you must accept this funding and the Clinician-Scientist award will fund the differential to a total dependent on your qualifications and postgraduate experience and set by the UTCSP Research Committee.

Application Procedures

Deadline for application is **April 1, 2004**. **The following documents must be submitted in triplicate:**

- **Curriculum vitae including publication list, awards, name of supervisor.**
- **Copies of current and previous academic program transcripts.**
- **A one-page summary outline of the proposed research and how this fellowship will help further the applicant's goals.**
- **Two letters of reference. Letters of reference should be either mailed directly to the UTCSP or included in the application package (letters should be in sealed and signed envelopes).**
- **A letter should be provided by the proposed supervisor stating that he/she agrees to accept the student into their lab.**

Submission of applications:

Submit your application to Ms. Nancy Mitchell, University of Toronto Centre for the Study of Pain, Faculty of Dentistry, Room 374, Toronto, Ontario M5G 1G6, Tel: (416) 979-4762, Fax: (416) 979-4936, nancy.mitchell@utoronto.ca

Selection:

Applicants will be ranked and selected by the UTCSP Research Committee

* In exceptional cases an individualized training program can be set up in lieu of official registration as a student in the School of Graduate Studies. A supervisory committee would oversee the fellow's training program.

Purdue Pharma OGSST Award – 2004/2005 Competition:

The University of Toronto Centre for the Study of Pain is currently seeking applications from eligible students for the 2002/2003 Purdue Pharma OGSST Award. The applications are due no later than **April 1, 2004**. This award is open to Graduate students in the Faculty of Medicine who are studying in the area of pain and working with a member of the University of Toronto Centre for the Study of Pain. Second preference will be given to graduate students at the University of Toronto who are studying in the area of pain and working with a member of the University of Toronto Centre for the Study of Pain.

For additional information/applications link, please visit the UTCSP website at: http://www.toronto.edu/pain/grants_OGSST.html or contact **Sheila Wolfe, Office of the Associate Dean, Graduate & Inter-Faculty Affairs, Faculty of Medicine, Room 2113, MSB, sheila.wolfe@utoronto.ca, tel: 416-946-7317**

RECENT PUBLICATIONS:

New Book:

Mailis-Gagnon Angela (with David Israelson): **“BEYOND PAIN: The Mind Body Connection” (Viking books)**

Book Info: This book targets a large and diverse audience: physicians, allied health professionals (nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, chiropractors etc), health care administrators, lawyers and patients, who would be interested in understanding chronic pain from the biomedical, psychological and socio-environmental perspective. The language is friendly for all users. More than 60 case reports of patients from Dr. Mailis-Gagnon’s archives facilitate the reader’s understanding in topics that range from basic pain circuits to genes, gender and hormones, culture and psychology, the science behind hypnosis, mediation and fakir phenomena as well as connections between pain and brain plasticity.

Dr. Oliver Sacks wrote about the book: *“But most importantly-and it is this which is so rare, both in medical practice and in medical writing- Mailis-Gagnon explores the subjective experience of pain, its meanings and associations for each individual, its personal and social and cultural context. Thus pain (especially chronic pain) is seen as a behavior, a total and sometimes very complex response, a creation of the individual person. Without such an approach, at once comprehensive and deeply personal, a so-called "biopsychosocial" approach, pain, at least in its more complex and chronic forms, may, as Dr. Mailis-Gagnon feels, remain unintelligible-and untreatable”.*

Soft cover - \$Cdn 25.00

UPCOMING MEETINGS/SYMPOSIUMS/LECTURES/CONFERENCES:

Wasser Pain Mangement Centre - Headache Rounds

March 23, 2004 – Dr. Belsey – “Evidence-Based Treatment of Acute Migraine”

*Wasser Headache 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.***

Wasser Pain Management Centre – Education Rounds

March 31, 2004 – Dr. Joel Teichman – “Neural Upregulation in Interstitial Cystitis”

*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.*

MUPPUT Rounds – (Multi-Professional Pain Group at the University of Toronto)

Thursday, April 22, 2004 – Topic and Speaker, TBA

*MUPPUT is part of the education section of the University of Toronto Centre for the Study of Pain. Bi-monthly meetings are held from **5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Room 3227 of the Medical Sciences Building, 1 King's College Circle.** For further information, please contact Dr. Lucy Gagliese at lucia.gagliese@uhn.on.ca*

“Nerve Damage and Neuropathic Trigeminal Pain”

A Symposium of the Orofacial Pain Special Interest Group of the IASP (preceding the joint meeting of the APS & CPS)

May 4-5, 2004

Vancouver, B.C.

For further information, visit the website at : www.fdc-umontreal.ca/sig

Joint Annual Meeting of the American Pain Society and the Canadian Pain Society

May 6-9, 2004

Vancouver, B.C.

For further information, visit the CPS website at: www.canadianpainsociety.ca

POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

FACULTY POSITIONS (PAIN NEUROBIOLOGY)

The Washington University Pain Center and the Department of Anesthesiology at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis invites applications for a tenure-track **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR** position as part of the expansion of basic research in the Washington University Pain Center. Candidates must have a doctoral degree and postdoctoral training experience. The successful candidate will be expected to direct an active extramurally funded research program and participate in graduate or medical education. Generous startup funds and newly renovated lab space is available. To apply, send a curriculum vitae, a summary of past research activities, future research plans, and the names of three references to: **Dr. Robert W. Gereau, Chief of Basic Research, Washington University Pain Center, Department of Anesthesiology, Washington University School of Medicine, 660 S. Euclid Ave Campus Box**

8054, St. Louis, MO 63110 or email to PainCenter@wustl.edu.

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