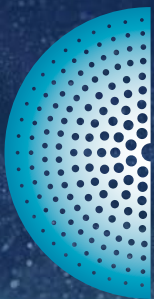




Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

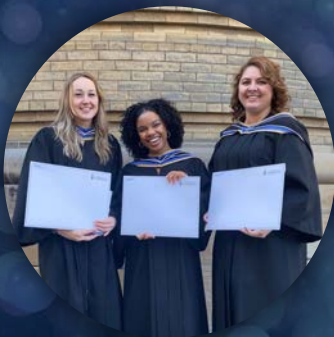


25  
YEARS  
OF LMP

# ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

2022–2023





# ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE 2022–2023

**Thursday, June 22, 2023**

Malaparte, 350 King St W, 6th floor

**5:30 p.m**

Awards Presentation – Main Hall

**6:30 p.m.**

Reception – Outdoor Terrace

Including a short speech from the former and current Chairs of LMP and cake cutting.

**Master of Ceremonies**

Sonya MacParland

**LETTER  
FROM THE  
CHAIR**



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

This event provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the past year, celebrate the achievements 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 the academic mission of LMP and the University of Toronto are amazing.

We congratulate this year's graduates from our:

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

These are extremely rigorous and demanding programs; successfully completing one of these attests to your excellence. I hope you will always remain

part of what we do – there are many new opportunities through alumni mentorship and ways to coach the students and trainees following in your footsteps.

I would like to note that this is the very first graduating class of our MHSc in Laboratory Medicine who finished at the end of last summer. Their enthusiastic input into the program has helped shape it for those now following in their footsteps.

This year is also special as it is the 25th year anniversary of our department that was formed on July 1, 1997. We will also take time to celebrate this event today. It is timely that this is the year we are launching our new strategic plan for the next five years.

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 MD, FRCPC**  
*Professor and Chair*



**PROGRAM**

## WELCOME REMARKS

## LMP GRADUATES

## AWARDS

### Third year specialist in pathobiology

Kangni Zou

### Allan Gornal Testimonial Prize

Kevork Danayan

### The Avrum Gottlieb Aard for Curriculum Development and teaching Excellence in Training

Negin Khosraviani

### Stuart Allan Hoffman Memorial Prize

Miguel Alfonso Principe

### Dr. Rajalakshmi S. Dittakavi and Dr. Prema M. Rao Graduate Award

Asa Lau

### Norman Bethune Award

Nan Chen, Adriana Airo and Jennifer Tat

### Stanley Raphael Award for Professionalism

Ya Hong (Shirley) Yu

### Allan Pollard Post-Doctoral Clinical Chemistry Travel Award

Annie Ren

## FACULTY AWARDS

### Award for Undergraduate Teaching

Jason Fish

### Teaching Excellence in Graduate Education

Daniel Winer

### Early Career Teaching Award

Felix Leung

### Clinical Teaching Excellence Award in Residency Teaching

Katerina Pavenski

### Teaching Excellence Award in Fellowship Education

Andrew Williams

### Clinical Teaching Excellence Award in Hematological Pathology

Ali Sakhdari

### Sustained Excellence in Education Award

Paul Yip

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

Avrum Gottlieb

### Danny Ghazarian Award

Michael Seidman

### Richard G. Hegele Award for Excellence in Research and Innovation

Samira Mubareka  
Rumina Musani

### Distinguished Service Award

Jan Delabie

### Leadership Award

Corwyn Rowsell

## SENIOR ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS

### Faculty Promoted to the Rank of Professor

Elizabeth Demicco

Brendan Dickson

Richard Kirsch

Jeffrey Lee

### Faculty Promoted to the Rank of Associate Professor

Vanessa Allen

Daniel Beriault

Lianna G. Kyriakopoulou

Jelena Mirkovic

## LONG TERM SERVICE

### 20 years

Gerold Schmitt-Ulms

### 25 years

Isabelle Aubert

Chung-Shan Leung

Yvonne Yau

### 30 years

David Irwin

### 35 years

David Chiasson

Douglas Templeton

### 40 years

Avrum Gottlieb

## RETIREMENT

Harry Elsholtz

Theodoros van der Kwast

GRADUA



The background is a deep, dark blue with a bokeh effect of out-of-focus light spots. The lower portion of the image shows a textured surface, possibly sand or a fine-grained material, which is slightly darker and more detailed than the upper bokeh area.

ATES

## LMP GRADUATES

### Pathobiology Specialist Program Graduating Class of 2023

Ariya Noor Ahona

Jia Qi Adam Bai

Shi Bo Cao

Kai Yuan Chen

Albert Cheng

Fiona Xu Cui

Kevork Danayan

Jeffrey Jaekyung Eo

Gloria Fang

Britney Feng

Ying (Angela) He

Yi Yang Hou

Jason Jiang

Yuchan Kim

Samuel Jean Kogan

Lu Yi Li

Yijia Liu

Martin Rhys Profant

Seyed Milad Saadati

Joshya Singh

Yuwei Tang

Rilla Jiansu Wang

Haymond Yang

Sha (Bonnie) Yang

### Graduates Who Completed Their Degrees in the Last Year

#### MHSc in Translational Research

Yasmin Aboelzahab

Alireza Aleyasin

Asha Behdinan

Azadeh Bojmehrani

Amelia Di Meo

Sarah Diaz

Yomna Elsheikh Ahmed

Maryam Fereig

Evan Foster

Dorottya Harangi

Mona Irannejad

Stephanie Jeanneret

Manning

Sidhesh Jothilingam

Gemma Kabeya

Andres Alejandro Kohan

Sally Moy

Muhammad Ibrar Mustafa

Oscar Palacio Vasquez

Gabrielle Retta

Bethany Tong





## MHSc in Laboratory Medicine

### Congratulations to our first graduating class!

The success of the new MHSc in Laboratory Medicine, now in its third year, is a tribute to the dedicated academic work carried out by numerous members of the faculty and administrative staff of LMP and OB/GYN. We spent two intense years planning the curriculum, establishing resources and going through governance at Temerty Medicine, University of Toronto and the Ontario Government. Our Pathologists' Assistants and Clinical Embryologists have shared their expertise with our basic science and clinical faculty to deliver a unique first-class professional graduate program that is both scholarly and applied in nature. We are on track to achieving our goal of providing our community with well-trained clinical laboratory scientists who are equipped to provide excellent health care and to face the future as leaders in their respective fields both locally and globally.

#### **Avrum I. Gotlieb, MDCM FRCPC**

*Program Director, MHSc in Laboratory Medicine*

#### **2022 Cohort**

##### **CLINICAL EMBRYOLOGY FIELD**

Jenna Baffa  
Monica Farag  
Xiaoyan Amy Ji  
Sana Noor  
Maria Perfiliev Mejia

##### **PATHOLOGIST'S ASSISTANT FIELD**

Katherine Ford  
Christiana Legaspi  
Yoanna Mustelie  
Adrian Ng  
Peyton Schroeder

#### **2023 Cohort**

##### **CLINICAL EMBRYOLOGY FIELD**

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

##### **PATHOLOGIST'S ASSISTANT FIELD**

Katherine Allum  
Jordyn Chartrand  
Marina Eskandar  
Polina Goldberg  
Cassie Hillock-Watling

# LMP GRADUATES



## MSc

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

**Mariana Abdulnoor** | Jonathon Gubbay

Applications of Genomic Epidemiology in the COVID-19 Pandemic

**Amina Abow** | Clinton Robbins

The Impact of Hypercholesterolemia on COVID-19 Pathophysiology in K18-hACE2 Mice

**Anglin Julia Dent** | Pheidas Diamandis

HAVOC: Mapping of Cancer Biodiversity Using Deep Learning

**Parnian Dolati-Ardejani** | Valerie Wallace

Development of a CRISPR Screen to Identify Molecular Regulators of Photoreceptor Intercellular Material Transfer

**Kyshona Maria Edwards** | Scott Yuzwa

Regulation of Proliferation and the Developmental Emergence of Adult Neural Stem Cells

**Richard Huang** | Michael Ohh

The Characterization of a Cellular and Animal Model of Clear Cell Renal Cell Carcinoma

**Melissa Patricia Concetta Huestis** |

Michael Ohh

Investigating the molecular mechanisms underlying the regulation of the KRAS oncoprotein and its signalling pathway

**Drashti Jain** | Melanie Spears

Spatial Heterogeneity and Immune Microenvironment of Early Invasive ER+ Breast Cancer

**Tarlan Kehtari** | JoAnne McLaurin

In vivo direct reprogramming of reactive astrocytes into neurons in a rat model of Alzheimer's disease

**Seung Hyun Ki** | Darren Yeun

Targeting Acid Ceramidase to Attenuate Kidney Fibrosis

**John Koussioris** | Vinod Chandran

Investigating Lipid Metabolites in the Serum of Psoriatic Arthritis Patients Using Solid Phase Microextraction – Liquid Chromatography – High-resolution Mass Spectrometry



**Michael Kyung Ik Lee** | Phedias Diamandis

Developing a Compound Pathology Workflow for Automated Analyses of Morphologic and Molecular Histopathological Features

**Emily Leung** | Lili-Naz Hazrait

BRCA1 in DNA damage-induced senescence and sex specific outcomes following mTBI

**Ethan Coulter Montague Szakaly** |

Michael Laflamme

Scalable Maturation of Cardiomyocytes Using a High-Density Adherent Scaffold Bioreactor

**Aaryn Keun Montgomery-Song** |

Rita Kandel

Investigation of senescence in inner annulus fibrosis cells

**Olivia Ivana Pezzutti** | Sonya MacParland

Exogenous IL-4 and IL-10 Improves the Viability of Primary Hepatocyte Cultures

**Veselina Stefanova** | Kevin Kain

suPAR as a prognostic marker of children at risk of severe and fatal malaria

**Harvard Duc Tran** | Nades Palaniyar

The Role of Neuroepithelial Bodies and 5-Hydroxytryptamine During Inflammation in the Airways

**Siobhan Marguerite Wilson** |

Khosrow Adeli

Postprandial metabolic Dysfunction in Adolescents with Obesity and Insulin Resistance: Metabolomic, Immunological, and Biochemical Profiling

**Doyoon Won** | Alan Lazarus

Platelet-activator Factor (PAF) Drives Adverse Inflammatory Response Associated with Anti-erythrocyte Antibody Therapy

**Bei Qi Yan** | Garold Schmitt-Ulms

Somatostatin and non-muscle myosins: modulators of the canonical pathogenesis pathway in Alzheimer's disease?



# LMP GRADUATES



## PhD

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

**Danielle Celina Linda Alvares** |

Khosrow Adeli

Mechanisms Underlying the Modulation of Hepatic Lipid and Lipoprotein Metabolism in Insulin Resistant States

**Laura Aronoff** | Slava Epelman

Investigating the Cardiac Immune Response in Viral Myocarditis

**Quinn Bonafiglia** | Michelle Bendeck

The Role of Discoidin Domain Receptor 1 (DDR1) in Cardiopulmonary Disease: Characterizing Mouse Models of Pulmonary Hypertension and Impaired Lung Development

**Sze Kwon Byron Chan** | Rita Kandel

The Role of Adseverin in Regulating the Articular Chondrocyte Phenotype and Cartilage Homeostasis

**Dakota Gustafson** | Jason Fish

Diagnostic Applications of Circulating Endothelial-Centric Biomarkers in Cardiovascular Diseases

**Simon Steinbring Hoffman** |

Khosrow Adeli

Gut hormone regulation of hepatic and intestinal lipoprotein production

**Ka Hang Brian Lam** | Phedias Diamandis

Development of an Anatomical Proteomic Atlas of Glioblastoma

**Ju Hee Lee** | Hoon Ki Sung

White Adipose Tissue Remodelling by Intermittent Fasting

**Mingzhe Liu** | JoAnne McLaurin

Evaluating The Contributions of Focal Subclinical Ischemia to Alzheimer's Disease Pathogenesis

**Michelle Ly** | Michael Taylor

Deciphering the Biological Differences between Micro-Metastasis and Macro-Metastasis in Medulloblastoma

**Iqra Mumal** | Annie Huang

Characterizing the role of C19MC in the development and heterogeneity of ETMRs, a lethal childhood brain tumour



**Peter Alan Albert Norris** | Alan Lazarus

Fc Gamma Receptors and Phagocytosis in Immune Thrombocytopenia

**Chanele Polenz** | Myron Cybulsky

The Role of Sphingosine-1-Phosphate in the Reverse Transendothelial Migration of Aortic Resident Intimal Myeloid Cells

**Ashley Marian Rooney** | Bryan Coburn

The effects of antimicrobials and microbial consortia on human gut microbiota and antibiotic resistance genes

**Nicole Schwab** | Lili-Naz Hazrati

Cellular senescence and mild traumatic brain injury: evidence from sex-balanced human

**Mariusz Shrestha** | Eldad Zacksenhaus

Targeting Vulnerabilities in RB-deficient Breast Cancer

**Maria Alessandra Tuccitto** | Jeremy Sivak

Assessing eIF4E-S209 Signaling and Translationally Regulated Mechanisms in Neurodegeneration

**Hanna Wabnitz** | Alan Lazarus

Characterization of the Role of Antigen Copy Number in Red Blood Cell Alloimmunization

**Brian Rai-Ling Wu** | Mohit Kapoor

Ephrin-B2 and EphB4 Signaling in the Development of Fibrosis



# LMP GRADUATES

## Graduating Residents and Fellows

### Residents

#### ANATOMICAL PATHOLOGY

David Dodington

Rachel Han

Cornelia Thoeni

Cherry Pun

Ellen Yang

Roman Zyla

#### FORENSIC PATHOLOGY

Patrick Kim

Bernard Pawlowicz

#### MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY

Jennifer Tat

### Clinical Microbiology Post-Doctoral Training Program

Adriana Airo

### Clinical Chemistry Post-Doctoral Training Program

Annie Ren

Samantha Logan



## Clinical Fellows

Fatimah Al Gawahmed  
Suzan Al Mbaideen  
Wejdan Al Quran  
Najd Al Shamlan  
Muneerah Al Zouman  
Dina Bassiouny  
Eve Capistran

Catherine Connolly  
James Cotton  
Philippe Echelard  
Madeline Fitzpatrick  
Karissa French  
Orli Greenberg  
Kimberly Hamilton

Kevin Kuan  
Mehdi Rahimi  
Megan Ramsey  
Ayah Saleh El Qaderi  
Robert Ta  
Shauna Wentzell

## Transfusion Medicine Area of Focused Competence Fellows

Bryan Tordon  
Heather Vandermeulen



**AWARD**

OS

## THIRD-YEAR SPECIALIST PATHOBIOLOGY AWARD



RECIPIENT

### **Kangni Zou**

Kangni Zou recently completed her third year of studies in the Pathobiology Specialist and Physiology Major programs. She is currently pursuing summer research in Dr. Kelsie Thu's lab investigating mechanisms of chemotherapy resistance in non-small cell lung cancer. With a keen interest in cancer biology and improving patient outcomes, she hopes to pursue further research in this area. Outside

of classes, she enjoys engaging undergraduate students in first-time STEM research as an Indicium program coordinator for STEM Fellowship. Kangni greatly values the tight-knit LMP community and the opportunities to explore a wide range of timely topics in human disease mechanisms.

This award is given to the student in the Arts & Science Pathobiology Specialist Program who completes the three required 3rd-year courses with the highest combined, weighted score.

# ALLAN GORNALL TESTIMONIAL PRIZE

## RECIPIENT

### **Kevork Danayan**

Kevork Danayan has completed his undergraduate study in the Specialist Program in Pathobiology with an Immunology Minor. During his undergraduate studies, Kevork had the opportunity to pursue several research projects; he participated in the LMP SURE program in the lab of Dr. Gerold Schmitt-Ulms investigating the mechanisms of prion diseases. He also completed a fourth-year research project course and worked as a summer student in the lab of Dr. Joshua Rosenblat investigating the effectiveness of ketamine for depression where he published a first-author paper. Kevork also served as a peer mentor for the LMP Mentorship Program and is grateful to have been a part of the LMP community.



Professor Allan Gornall (1914 - 2006) pursued a PhD in the Department of Pathological Chemistry in 1936. After a stint at the Royal Canadian Naval Hospital in Halifax during WWII, he returned to the Department in 1946, and spent his career there, acting as Chair from 1966 to 1976. The period of his Chairship saw the renaming of the Department to Clinical Biochemistry, one of the founding Departments of LMP. His PhD studies made a key contribution to elucidation of the urea cycle, and his 1946 paper in the Journal of Biological Chemistry was the ninth most highly cited scientific publication over the next 30 years. He is regarded as the founder of clinical chemistry in Canada, having initiated the certification program. His textbook, Applied Biochemistry of Clinical Disorders, was a staple for many years. He retired in 1980 and established an endowment fund to honour a third-year student with the highest mark in the Specialist Program in Pathobiology.

# THE AVRUM GOTLIEB AWARD FOR CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND TEACHING EXCELLENCE IN TRAINING

RECIPIENT

## Negin Khosraviani

Negin Khosraviani is a 5th year PhD student in Dr. Karim Mekhail's laboratory, where she studies the transcriptional regulation of RNA polymerase II at the mammalian ribosomal DNA (rDNA). For the past four years, Negin has been a teaching assistant for the LMP undergraduate course, Genetic Modeling of Human Development and Disease (LMP408), which is changed to Genetic and Computational Modeling in Human

Disease and Development (LMP330). During her time as a teaching assistant, Negin has helped organize and facilitate course materials, train students on class content, and provide tutorials and/or a lecture on cell systems.

Professor Avrum Gotlieb is the founding Chair of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, and served from 1997 to 2008. He and his wife, Linda, endowed this award to a trainee in LMP graduate or postgraduate programs to recognize distinction in curriculum development and teaching.

# STUART ALAN HOFFMAN MEMORIAL PRIZE

RECIPIENT

## Miguel Alfonso Principe

Miguel Alfonso Principe is an MSc student supervised by Dr. Kim Tsoi and Dr. Sonya MacParland in the lab of Dr. Irene Andrusis, Dr. Kim Tsoi, and Dr. Jay Wunder at Mount Sinai's Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute. His research project focuses on soft tissue sarcomas (STS), a group of rare and heterogenous cancers arising from tissues like muscles, fat, and cartilage.



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. After its creation from the merger of departments, LMP is honoured to carry on this tradition.

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

### **Asa Lau**

Asa Lau completed her undergraduate degree in health sciences at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia 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. Her work focuses on delineating the mechanisms of response to targeting innate immune checkpoint CD47 in non-

small cell lung cancer. Through her work, she hopes that it can inform drug development and open up therapeutic options for patients with lung cancer.

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.

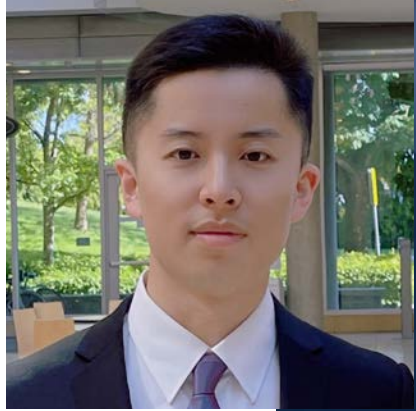


# NORMAN BETHUNE AWARD

## GRADUATE RECIPIENT

### Nan Chen

Nan Chen joined LMP in 2022 after completing his undergraduate study at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. With a passion for studying immunometabolism, he is currently a PhD student in the lab of Dr. Daniel Winer, focusing on the changes in the immune system during obesity or aging. Specifically, Nan is investigating how the gut immune system can contribute to, and be affected by, metabolic syndromes, such as insulin resistance, associated with obesity. Through his research, he aims to unravel the complex role of the immune system in regulating the metabolic homeostasis, thereby benefiting the ever-growing populations suffering from metabolic diseases, including type 2 diabetes, as well as promoting the health span of aging individuals.



U of T graduate, Frederick H. Kahan, endowed a prize supported by Merck Sharp & Dome and it was his wish that the prize be named in honour of Dr. Norman Bethune. 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 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. It was his wish that the prize be 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.

This year we have three recipients who share this award.

## NORMAN BETHUNE AWARD (CONT.)

POSTGRADUATE RECIPIENT

### **Adriana Airo**

Adriana Airo completed her Bachelor of Science in Microbiology and Immunology from the University of British Columbia. She then completed her PhD in Virology at the University of Alberta where she focused on elucidating the molecular mechanisms by which Arboviruses (such as Dengue and Zika viruses) hijack cellular pathways and cause disease. She is completing the Clinical Microbiology Fellowship Program at the

University of Toronto this June. Her research interests include zoonotic diseases and emerging viral pathogens.



POSTGRADUATE RECIPIENT

## Jennifer Tat

Jennifer Tat is completing her final year of Medical Microbiology residency. She completed her undergraduate and master's degrees in Physiology at the University of Toronto before journeying overseas to Ireland to complete her medical degree. She caught the research bug during an undergraduate summer project and like the multidrug resistant pathogens that she studies, it has grown stronger and disseminated over time. Her areas of interest within Microbiology are in the domains of education, infection prevention and control, molecular diagnostics, and quality improvement.



# STANLEY RAPHAEL AWARD FOR PROFESSIONALISM



## RECIPIENT

### Ya Hong (Shirley) Yu

Shirley is a fourth-year resident in the Anatomical Pathology Program at the University of Toronto. Prior to this, she obtained her undergraduate and master's degree within the University of Toronto's Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology. From here, Shirley went on to complete medical school at the University of Calgary before returning back to the University of Toronto to pursue her postgraduate

medical training. During this time, Shirley served as the Resident Representative on the Competence Committee. She is honored to receive this award in the memory of Dr. Stanley Raphael and would like to express gratitude to the award selection committee and Dr. Raphael's family for their generosity.

Established in 2012, The Stanley Raphael Award is named after Dr. Stanley Raphael who practiced pathology in Canada for 40 years. Dr. Raphael passionately believed and fought for the principle that lab physicians work for the patient and their allegiance was properly to the patient alone. His life was defined by professional occupations and duties. "Our family grew up in a way participating in his career, whether it was a trip to Manitoulin Island to testify in a coroner's inquest or going into the hospital in the early morning to manually change solutions on the tissue processors. Consultation specimens sometimes resided on the living room mantelpiece en route to experts in the United Kingdom or the United States and were part of the expected decor of our home," according to Dr. Simon Raphael. Dr. Stanley Raphael would be proud to have this award named after him and also very proud of 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

## Annie Ren

Annie Ren completed her undergraduate degree in Cell Biology and Genetics at the University of British Columbia (UBC). She then completed her Master's degree in Reproductive and Developmental Sciences at UBC. Afterwards, she moved to Toronto to obtain her PhD degree in the LMP Department at the University of Toronto. She is soon completing the Clinical Chemistry Postdoctoral Training Program at the University of Toronto and will be starting her position as a Clinical Biochemist at the William Osler Health System in July.



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.



# FACULTY AWARD

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.

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# AWARD FOR UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING



RECIPIENT

## Jason Fish

Dr. Jason Fish received his PhD from the Department of Medical Biophysics at the University of Toronto under the supervision of Dr. Philip Marsden. He completed postdoctoral training at the Gladstone Institutes of Cardiovascular Disease and the University of California San Francisco under the supervision of Dr. Deepak Srivastava. In 2010, Dr. Fish returned to Toronto to join the Toronto General Hospital Research Institute as a

Scientist in 2010. He was promoted to Senior Scientist in 2016.

The Fish lab seeks to understand the contribution of endothelial cells – the cells that line the inside of blood vessels – to health and disease. In particular, the lab is deciphering how endothelial cells respond to physiological and pathological changes in the microenvironment through changes in gene expression. The Fish lab has identified important roles for noncoding RNAs such as microRNAs in modulating signaling pathways in endothelial cells. They have also identified signaling pathways that are involved in vascular development and vascular malformations, including the recent discovery that active KRAS mutations are present in the endothelium of the majority of sporadic cerebral arteriovenous malformations.

Awarded to a faculty member who has shown sustained excellence in individual teaching performance in Undergraduate Medicine, Arts and Science, and other Health Sciences.



# TEACHING EXCELLENCE IN GRADUATE EDUCATION

RECIPIENT

## Daniel Winer

Dr. Daniel Winer is an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto, Departments of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology (LMP), and Immunology. He is also an Affiliate 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 adopter and promoter of three emerging

fields in immunology, immunometabolism, mechanoimmunology, and astroimmunology. Dr. Winer highly values graduate school education, having trained 9 graduate students, and having served on more than 25 additional graduate school thesis committees or exams. He takes a hands-on approach for in-lab learning when possible, and always prioritizes time for his students. He is honored to have been chosen for the LMP Teaching Excellence in Graduate Education Award for 2023 and dedicates this award to the outstanding students he has had an opportunity to mentor.



Awarded to a faculty member for their excellence in the teaching and supervision of MSc and PhD graduate and life sciences students.

## EARLY CAREER TEACHING AWARD



RECIPIENT

### **Felix Leung**

Dr. Felix Leung is a Clinical Biochemist in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Sinai Health System and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology at the University of Toronto. He completed his PhD and Clinical Chemistry Fellowship at the University of Toronto and is a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Clinical Biochemistry. His professional interests revolve around

utilizing data analytics to enhance quality assurance and clinical biochemistry education and advocacy.

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

## Katerina Pavenski

Dr. Katerina Pavenski is the Head of Division of Transfusion Medicine and clinical hematologist at St. Michael's Hospital. She is an associate professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology. She is also actively involved in clinical research and teaching with focus on postgraduate trainees. Her research interests include TTP, clinical transfusion medicine, and patient blood management. She is the Vice-Chair of

the International Collaboration for Transfusion Medicine Guidelines (ICTMG), member of the ISBT Clinical Transfusion Working Party and Regional Director (North America) ISBT Board of Directors. She was awarded the Ortho Award by the Canadian Society for Transfusion Medicine in 2021 for her contributions to the field of transfusion medicine in Canada.



Awarded to a faculty member who has shown excellence in Clinical residents' education. This can be demonstrated through course teaching, one-on-one teaching or lectures, in addition to other education tools. This award is for resident teaching, excluding clinical fellows and medical students.

## TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD IN FELLOWSHIP EDUCATION



RECIPIENT

### **Andrew Williams**

Dr. Andrew Williams completed his BMSc with an Honors Specialization in Pharmacology and Toxicology prior to obtaining his MD from The University of Western Ontario. He has completed residencies in Anatomical Pathology and Forensic Pathology. He joined the Provincial Forensic Pathology Unit in Toronto as a Category A Forensic Pathologist in 2017 and is an Assistant Professor in the Department of

Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology at the University of Toronto. In 2020, he completed a post-graduate Certificate of Advanced Studies in Forensic Imaging & Virtopsy at the University of Zürich in Zürich, Switzerland. Dr. Williams is actively involved in the postmortem cross-sectional imaging program, workplace wellness initiatives, and resident and fellow education where he is the current Program Director of the Forensic Pathology Residency Training Program.

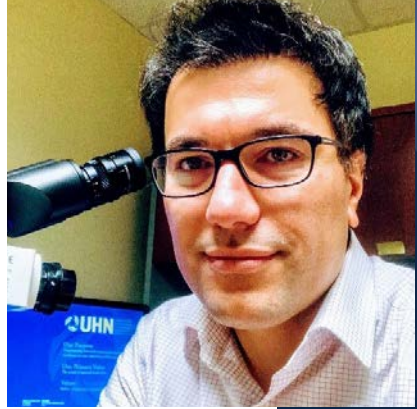
Awarded to a faculty member who has shown excellence in clinical fellowship teaching.

# CLINICAL TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD IN HEMATOLOGICAL PATHOLOGY

RECIPIENT

## Ali Sakhdari

Dr. Ali Sakhdari has obtained certification from the American Board of Pathology in Anatomical, Clinical, and Hematological Pathology. This certification serves as a testament to his unwavering commitment to upholding the highest standards of excellence within his chosen field. Dr. Sakhdari serves as an assistant professor at the Department of Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology, where he imparts his knowledge and expertise to aspiring medical professionals. Additionally, he holds a vital role as a hematopathologist at the University Health Network, contributing to the diagnosis and treatment of patients. Beyond his clinical responsibilities, Dr. Sakhdari actively engages in diverse research projects and teaching activities. His dedication and contribution to the field of research are evident in his extensive body of work, which includes over 60 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and presentations.



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

# SUSTAINED EXCELLENCE EDUCATION AWARD



RECIPIENT

## Paul Yip

Dr. Paul Yip is Division Head of Biochemistry at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and is Associate Professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology where he serves as Co-Director of the Postdoctoral Training Program in Clinical Chemistry. After completing his undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate training at the University of Toronto, he obtained certification from

the Canadian Academy of Clinical Biochemistry and also the American Board of Clinical Chemistry.

Dr. Yip's educational activities span all levels from undergraduate to continuing education, where he has been recognized by several awards including the Faculty of Medicine Undergraduate Teaching in Life Sciences Award in 2017 and the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists award for Education Excellence in 2018. Throughout his academic career, Dr. Yip's interests focus on areas of test utilization, laboratory quality management and point-of-care testing. He thoroughly enjoys and is grateful for his collaborations across education, research and professional organizations.

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).

# THE JOHN B. WALTER PRIZE FOR COURSE & CURRICULUM DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT

RECIPIENT

## Avrum Gotlieb

Dr. Avrum I. Gotlieb was founding Chair of the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology (LMP) (1997-2008), Interim Vice Dean, Research and International Relations (2009-10), Acting and Interim Vice Dean, Graduate and Life Sciences Education (2011-2014), Senior Academic Advisor to the Dean (2010-2017), School of Graduate Studies Tenure Assessor (2017-present). He became the Program Director of the

MHSc in Laboratory Medicine in May 2020. He was President of the American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP) and the Society for Cardiovascular Pathology (SCVP). His recent scholarly interest is on the role of the adventitia and the perivascular adipose tissue (PVAT) in vascular disease. His teaching focuses on cardiovascular pathology, general pathobiology and mentorship.



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.

## RICHARD G. HEGELE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

RECIPIENT

### Samira Mubareka



Dr. Samira Mubareka is celebrated for her important scholarly contributions in bioaerosol transmission, viral genomics, and viral zoonoses and their application to public health. Her expertise helped inform COVID-19 response and policy and positioned her as a national leader during SARS-CoV-2. She has played an important role in several national and international initiatives and working groups related to SARS CoV-2. In

addition, she shared virus and virology protocols and provided advice, support, and data with collaborators across the country. Her exemplary and novel research contributions have been recognized by high-impact publications and grant funding.

This award recognises a faculty member in the department of 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 who share this award.



RECIPIENT

## Rumina Musani

Dr. Rumina Musani is a Hematopathologist at University Health Network. She has been involved in medical education for several years including as educational site coordinator (hematopathology) at UHN, Hematological Pathology Residency Program Director and Founding Coordinator of the UofT/UHN Hematopathology Fellowship. She is currently completing her PhD which focuses on digital technologies for pathology education. She is also actively involved in UHN's digital transformation as the site lead for Hematopathology. Combining digital pathology with online learning is her key area of endeavor currently. In addition to teaching trainees locally, she is using the technology to train technical staff at remote sites in Ontario and interprofessional staff globally.



## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

RECIPIENT

### Jan Delabie

Dr. Jan Delabie received his medical degree and completed his PhD from the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium. He completed his postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. He was a visiting professor at the Center for Cancer Biomedicine, University of Oslo from 2013-2018. He has been involved with 261 publications. As a hematopathologist, his main interest is lymphoma in general. He has

supervised 5 PhD students and co-supervised another 5 PhD students in the area of lymphoma. His most current interests are cold agglutinin disease and integrative data analysis in lymphoma.

This award recognises 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.

# LEADERSHIP AWARD

## RECIPIENT

### **Corwyn Rowsell**

Dr. Rowsell is a Pathologist at Unity Health Toronto and an Associate Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology at University of Toronto. He has been the Coordinator of Undergraduate Medical School Education for LMP since 2019 as well as lead for the Inflammation and Cancer weeks in the Introduction to Medicine Course. Dr. Rowsell also serves as a case-based learning (CBL) tutor in the Concepts, Patients, and Communities Course, and recently introduced a new Lab Medicine-focused session in the Transition to Clerkship course. He is a member of the LMP Quality Council, and endeavours to advance the interests of lab physicians through his role as President of the Ontario Association of Pathologists



Chosen by the LMP Departmental Chair, this award is given to a faculty member in appreciation for their leadership role and commitment to advancing clinical excellence in LMP.

# DANNY GHAZARIAN AWARD



RECIPIENT

## Michael Seidman

Dr. Michael Seidman is a cardiovascular, autopsy, and rheumatologic pathologist, currently practicing at University Health Network. He is engaged in diverse clinical, administrative, research, and teaching endeavours. His teaching specifically includes marked engagement in the MHSc graduate program for Pathologist Assistants and Clinical Embryology, and in the Anatomical Pathology residency program. He

oversees the medical autopsy rotations for both programs, is involved in the lab quality management curriculum in both programs and teaches at numerous academic half days. Michael always tries to make time for speaking with learners, providing support and mentorship wherever he can. In his first few years at UHN and U of T, Danny Ghazarian was a valued mentor and colleague, and it is truly an honour to be accepting an award named in his memory.

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.



SENIOR  
ACADEMIC  
PROMOTION

We are pleased to congratulate the eight faculty members in LMP who received Provostial approval for promotion effective July 1, 2023.

# MIC TIONS

## FACULTY PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF PROFESSOR



### **Dr. Elizabeth Demicco**

MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL,  
SINAI HEALTH

#### **Excellence in creative professional activity (CPA)**

Dr. Demicco is internationally recognized for her translational research program focused on identifying prognostic and theranostic markers for adult sarcomas. She is the first pathologist to develop, refine, and validate a

reliable scoring system that predicts metastatic risk for a specific type of soft tissue tumour, solitary fibrous tumour (SFT). This tumour has been notoriously difficult to predict outcome making treatment planning challenging. The scoring system she developed for SFT, now called D-score (Demicco score), is used as a risk prediction tool clinically and impacts decisions on its clinical management internationally.



### **Dr. Brendan C. Dickson**

MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL,  
SINAI HEALTH

#### **Excellence in creative professional activity (CPA)**

Dr. Dickson is internationally renowned and very highly regarded for his exceptional scholarly activities in sarcoma pathology and molecular diagnostics. He has used advanced molecular tools to define new

entities and identify biomarkers for previously described soft tissue tumours. He has published prolifically. By defining these new tumour types, he has delineated biologically unique sarcomas that may require different treatments and has advanced the field. To ensure equitable access to his specialty expertise, he disseminated case studies through a professional Twitter account generating interactive discussions and retweets, with some postings gaining over 10,000 views. He has also published an online Soft Tissue and Bone Tumour Atlas.



## Dr. Richard Kirsch

MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL,  
SINAI HEALTH

### Excellence in creative professional activity (CPA)

Dr. Kirsch is internationally recognized for his seminal contributions to gastrointestinal (GI) pathology, especially in the area of risk stratification in colorectal cancer (CRC) that enhances that achievable by classical staging alone (TNM). In particular, he has contributed to our understanding of the role of venous invasion and tumour budding for predicting prognosis. He has built on his previous accomplishments to become a recognized leader internationally in GI pathology and has changed clinical practice at an international level by showing the role of pathology in risk prediction in colorectal cancer.

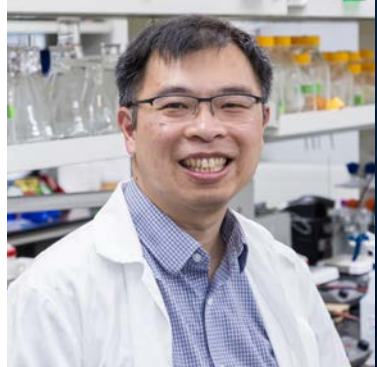


## Dr. Jeffrey Lee

ST. GEORGE CAMPUS

### Excellence in Research

Dr. Lee is an internationally recognized expert on the fundamental processes of viral cell fusion with host cells that allow it to evade an immune response. More recently he has extended this focus to include cell-cell fusion and its role in health and disease. He combines both structural and biophysical techniques and biochemical methodology to interrogate viral and cellular fusogens and their mechanisms of interactions. His research is considered paradigm shifting. Additionally, Dr. Lee continues to make impactful contributions through his research that informs our understanding of the molecular basis of sperm-egg recognition, the constraints on cross-species fertilization, and the nature of barriers to polyspermy.



## FACULTY PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR



### **Dr. Vanessa Gray Allen**

MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL,  
SINAI HEALTH

#### **Excellence in creative professional activity (CPA)**

Dr. Allen is nationally (and internationally) recognized as an expert in *N. gonorrhoeae* antimicrobial resistance and its surveillance. She is a leader in infectious disease preparedness and testing for emerging

pathogens. She is well respected not only for her outstanding scholarly contributions that have had significant clinical impact, but also for her leadership in provincial, national, and international infectious disease test standard setting committees and in developing surveillance approaches, particularly, in regard to COVID-19.



### **Dr. Daniel Beriault**

ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL,  
UNITY HEALTH TORONTO

#### **Excellence in creative professional activity (CPA)**

Dr. 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.

## Dr. Lianna G. Kyriakopoulou

THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN (SICKKIDS)

### Excellence in creative professional activity (CPA)

Dr. Kyriakopoulou has developed a national presence as an expert in developing genetic testing, particularly with respect to lab-developed RNA sequencing tests for identification of inborn errors of metabolism. She is guiding professional practice by standardization and harmonization of biochemical and genetic diagnostic tests by developing first-ever guidelines and through her leadership in quality assurance. Her innovation in these areas have led to the establishment of leading-edge diagnostics of national impact and to improved quality and health outcomes for rare diseases and cancer.



## Dr. Jelena Mirkovic

SUNNYBROOK HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE

### Excellence in creative professional activity (CPA)

Dr. Mirkovic has attained a national reputation, and growing international reputation, for her exemplary professional practice in gynecologic pathology. She has made significant contributions to standardization of diagnostic criteria and classification of rare gynecologic malignancies based on histomorphology and ancillary molecular biomarker assays, which have led to changes in practice across Canada. She is also advancing the practice and discipline through her educational activities at the local, national, and international levels.



# LONG TERM SERVICE

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

## 20 YEARS



Gerold  
Schmitt-Ulms

## 25 YEARS



Isabelle  
Aubert



Chung-Shan  
Leung



Yvonne  
Yau

## 30 YEARS



David  
Irwin

## 35 YEARS



David  
Chiasson



Douglas  
Templeton

## 40 YEARS



Avrum  
Gottlieb

# RETIREMENTS

## Harry Elsholtz

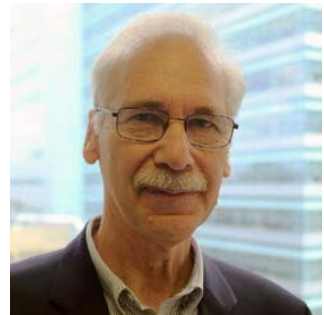
Dr. Harry Elsholtz, Professor Emeritus, served LMP for nearly 30 years. He was intrinsically involved in the running of LMP which was recognized in him being awarded the LMP Distinguished Service Award in 2016 and the LMP Leadership Acknowledgement Award in 2020. Alongside his research, he played a leading role in LMP graduate programs. He was the Graduate Coordinator for the MSc and PhD program, being also the Chair of the program admissions committee until 2018. He was, more recently, the Graduate Coordinator for the MHSc in Laboratory Medicine program which launched in 2020.



He had roles not only within the department, but also at the Faculty level, having served on the Faculty of Medicine Graduate Curriculum Committee among many others. His interest and influence in curriculum design is proven in the number of courses he helped develop and his roles in departmental curriculum planning. He also played an important part for LMP faculty by being one of the longest standing members of the Promotions and Appointments committee.

## Theodorus van der Kwast

Dr. Theodorus van der Kwast, Professor Emeritus, has served LMP for 18 years. As a Clinician-Investigator at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, he was lead pathologist of the Canadian Prostate Cancer Genome consortium investigating genetic and epigenetic alterations of prostate cancer. During his career he authored and co-authored more than 500 publications, mainly on prognosticators of bladder and prostate cancer. In recent years he established the prognostic importance of intraductal and cribriform carcinoma, parameters now adopted in the routine diagnostic reporting of prostate cancer. He was a member of the prostate cancer guideline panel of the European Association of Urology from 2010-2023 and served as President of the International Society of Urological Pathology from 2019-2021. In recognition of his lifetime achievements in urogenital pathology he was awarded the Leopold Koss medal by the International Society of Urological Pathology in 2017.



**SPECIAL  
THANKS**

## Director, Business & Administration

Nelson Cabral

## Administrative Staff

January Adams

Ravinder Dhillon

Jana Neiman-Zenevich

Brandon Wells

Tara Asgharzadeh

Yolanda Durante

Paula Nixon

Beatrice Wong

Jenni Bozec

Xilonem Lopez

Zoryana Salo

Debb Yorke

Dominic Ali

Ian Marquez

Emma Sanchez-Swaren

Patricia Cayetano

Kate McDonald

Marianne So

Louella D'Cunha

April Morris

Julie Wei

## LMPSU Executive Council

### Co-Presidents

Bonnie Yang &  
Britney Feng

### VP Academic

Kevin Chen

### VP Finance

Leo Xu

### VP Social

Rachelle Lee

### External Affairs Director

Linus Schweizer

### Internal Affairs Director

Fiona Cui

### 3rd Year Specialist Representative

Mika Sun

### 2nd Year Specialist Representatives

Steven Ding and Riley  
Denise Alvarez

### Webmaster

Wenda Zhang

### Graphic Designer

Alan Ren

## CLAMPS Executive Council

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Rupal Hatkar &  
Matsya Thulasiram

### Vice-President

### Communications

Stefanie-Grace Sbergio

### Social Vice-President

Alexandra Moffat

### VP Academic

Atefeh Mohammadi

### Vice-President External

Bana Samman

### Head Location Director

Seojin Lee

### Treasurer

Negar Khosraviani

### VP Recreation and Wellness

Wenda Zhao

### VP Academics

Mathepan  
Mahendralingam

## Chief Residents and Post-Doctoral Trainees

### Clinical Microbiology Post-Doctoral Chief Trainee

Adriana Airo

### Hematological Pathology Chief Resident

Qianghua Zhou  
& Tara Syed

### Forensic Pathology Chief Resident

Patrick Kim &  
Bernard Pawlowicz

### Anatomical Pathology Chief Resident

Roman Zyla

### Neuropathology Chief Resident

Shane Eaton

### Medical Microbiology Chief Resident

Mohammed Sarhan

