

# **GRADUATE FACULTY TEACHING AWARDS**

## **Early Career Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Mentorship**

This award recognizes contributions to the training and experience of graduate students by faculty members within five years of their academic appointment. These contributions are evidenced by excellence in teaching, supervision or mentorship, and dedication to students.

## **Mid-Career Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Mentorship**

This award was established in 2002 to recognize sustained contribution to graduate student mentorship exemplified by, but not limited to: major involvement in graduate student learning, enthusiastic and empathic critical appraisal of students' work, timely assessment of students' research programs including program advisory committee meetings and prompt turnaround of written work, and careful attention to a critical path laid out for students' research.

## **Sustained Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Mentorship**

The Sustained Excellence in Graduate Teaching award was established in 2002 in an effort to recognize sustained contribution to any aspect of graduate teaching including a course, curriculum development, graduate program administration, graduate student supervision or academic role modeling, for more than five years.

# Early Career Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Mentorship

## **Paul Boutros** PhD

Department of Medical Biophysics

Dr. Boutros pursued his undergraduate education at the University of Waterloo and his PhD at the University of Toronto. In 2008, Paul started his independent research career with an appointment at the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research. He is now a Principal Investigator in Informatics & Biocomputing at OICR, and an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Pharmacology & Toxicology and Medical Biophysics at the University of Toronto. His research focuses on personalizing therapy for prostate cancer by developing novel statistical methodologies. He leads the bioinformatics analysis of the sequencing of 500 prostate cancers as part of the Canadian Prostate Cancer Genome Network, and is using these data to develop prostate cancer biomarkers. He also leads the ICGC-TCGA DREAM Somatic Mutation Calling Challenge to set global standards for analyzing cancer genomic data.

### **Reflection**

The mentoring of graduate students is a sacred trust. At the dawn of their careers, our students privilege us to guide them on a journey of self-discovery: of what it is like to do transformational research, of what kind of career they want to build, and of what type of person they want to be. Nothing brings me greater happiness as a scientist, than seeing them succeed. It brings me great joy to know that the vigor and insight of my students will keep the light of research shining light at high-noon as my own career moves towards its dusk.

# Early Career Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Mentorship

## **Brian Cox** PhD

Department of Physiology

Dr. Cox completed his MSc in Biochemistry at the University of Guelph and his PhD in Molecular Genetics at the University of Toronto. He is currently Assistant Professor in the Department of Physiology.

Dr. Cox heads the Cox Systems Biology Lab in the Department of Physiology. He has trained across multiple disciplines including biochemistry, environmental chemistry, toxicology, developmental biology and bioinformatics. As well, he spent several years in the bio-tech sector working on antimicrobial drug development.

In addition to his many teaching commitments, he also devised and developed PSL1040H Systems Biology in Physiology. He was also recognized with the Robert Goode Early Career Teaching Award from the Department of Physiology last year.

# Mid-Career Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Mentorship

## Jennifer Gommerman <sup>PhD</sup>

Department of Immunology

Dr. Gommerman has been working as a faculty member in the Department of Immunology at UofT since 2003. In this capacity, she established and mentored a team of talented trainees from the undergraduate to the graduate and post-doctoral level. Students who have graduated from the lab (5 PhDs) have gone on to further post-doctoral training in well-recognized international laboratories. Her students, who have published in high profile journals, have also won a number of prestigious awards both as graduate students and later as post-doctoral fellows. In 2014, Dr. Gommerman assumed the role of Graduate Coordinator and in this role she spearheaded a new Applied MSc program in Immunology. In her capacity as Graduate Coordinator, she continues to seek mechanisms to improve the graduate student experience and to enhance learning and career outcomes for the students in the Department.

### Reflection

As a mentor for graduate students, my ultimate goal is to communicate scientific knowledge in a manner that is inspiring, and to encourage students to think critically. Seldom is there a one-size-fits-all mechanism for meeting these objectives, which makes my job challenging. However the reward is worth the effort: the most satisfying outcome being the privilege to observe, in a longitudinal manner, a student's maturation process in action.

# Mid–Career Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Mentorship

## **Anthony Hanley** PhD

Department of Nutritional Sciences

Dr. Hanley received his PhD in epidemiology from the University of Toronto in 2000, and was subsequently a post-doctoral fellow in the Division of Clinical Epidemiology, University of Texas Health Sciences Centre at San Antonio. From 2002-2005 he was a research scientist in the Leadership Sinai Centre for Diabetes at Mount Sinai Hospital and an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Public Health Sciences at the University of Toronto. Since 2005, he has been a faculty member in the Department of Nutritional Sciences where he teaches, conducts research, and supervises graduate students. Dr. Hanley is currently an Associate Professor and holds a Tier II Canada Research Chair in Diabetes Epidemiology. He is also the Graduate Coordinator (Admissions and Awards) for the Department and has also served on over 30 graduate advisory committees.

### **Reflection**

My graduate students are my top priority and I spend many hours per week in one-on-one meetings to provide guidance and mentoring and to review progress. I endeavor to expose my graduate students to the full spectrum of the research process, including the conceptualization of research questions, preparation of grant applications, data collection, analysis, as well as manuscript preparation, submission and revision. My goal in graduate supervision is for my trainees to emerge from their program fully prepared for the next stage of their academic lives (further training or independent positions) through the experience of being fully immersed in the research process.

# Sustained Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Mentorship

**Dina Brooks** PhD PT

Department of Physical Therapy

Dr. Brooks is a clinician-scientist whose research crosses boundaries between the study of basic mechanistic issues in rehabilitation in respiratory disease, development of clinical trials to quantify the effect of pulmonary and cardiovascular rehabilitation, and knowledge translation through establishment of clinical practice guidelines. In 2008, she received the Canadian Physiotherapy Association Mentorship Award in recognition of her inspiration to colleagues through acting as a role model for professionalism and volunteerism. That these qualities extend to her teaching of graduate students is evidenced by her receiving the Department of Physical Therapy's Recognition in Teaching Award for 8 consecutive years and 3 Rising Star Awards for teaching and education in addition to the W.T. Aikins Award bestowed for individual teaching performance.

# Sustained Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Mentorship

## **Patricia Brubaker** PhD

Department of Physiology

Dr. Brubaker obtained her PhD at McGill University followed by post-doctoral studies at the University of Toronto, where she is now a Professor in the Departments of Physiology and Medicine at the University of Toronto. Since 1985, she has been actively involved in studies on the intestinal glucagon-like peptides, GLP-1 and GLP-2. GLP-1 therapy is currently used to lower glycemia in patients with type 2 diabetes. Dr. Brubaker's studies focus on the regulation of secretion of GLP-1 as a possible new therapeutic approach for these patients. Dr. Brubaker was also one of the original discoverers of the intestinotrophic actions of GLP-2, and a GLP-2 analog has very recently been approved to treat patients with short bowel syndrome. Her current studies on GLP-2 are related to the mechanism of action of this intestinal growth hormone. Dr. Brubaker has received several awards for her research, including the Canadian Diabetes Association Young Scientist Award (1998) and a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Vascular and Metabolic Biology (2000; renewed 2007, 2015).

### **Reflection**

My training philosophy is encompassed by two key concepts: "Knowledge is like a candle. When you light your candle from mine, my light is not diminished. It is enhanced and a larger room is enlightened as a consequence." (Thomas Jefferson) and "All of us make mistakes. The key is to acknowledge them, learn, and move on. The real sin is ignoring mistakes, or worse, seeking to hide them." (Robert Zoellick)

# Sustained Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Mentorship

## **Reinhart Reithmeier** PhD

Department of Biochemistry

Dr. Reithmeier obtained his BSc at Carleton University in 1972 and his PhD in Biochemistry at the University of British Columbia in 1977. Following post-doctoral training at Harvard and the University of Toronto, he obtained his first faculty position at the University of Alberta in 1980. Dr. Reithmeier is currently Professor of Biochemistry, and the creator of both the Biochemistry Research Day (2004) and the Benjamin Schachter Alumni Lecture, as Chair of the Department of Biochemistry from 2002–2013. Dr. Reithmeier has served as the Graduate Coordinator in both the Department of Biochemistry (1993-1995) and the Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS) (1999-2001). At the IMS, he was instrumental in the raising of admission standards and formalization of procedures and was part of the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) Executive. Dr. Reithmeier is known internationally for his research on anion transport membrane proteins in human health and disease. An award-winning lecturer, Dr. Reithmeier enjoys teaching introductory biochemistry to 1,000 undergraduate students every year, as well as upper level and graduate courses. Most recently, he was appointed Special Advisor to the Dean of SGS for Graduate Professional Development (GPD) and Engagement, where he has created the first GPD course in Life Sciences.