

U of T Biochemistry

[Biochemistry Website](#)

Research Image



An embryonic stem cell-derived 8-week-old human cerebral organoid stained for SOX2 (red) reveals neural stem cells lining a ventricular-like zone, while CTIP2 staining (green) marks deep layer neurons located superficial to the ventricle. Nuclei are visualized with DAPI staining (blue). Image from Attisano Lab by Adam Sivitilli and Jess Gossio.

Please note, this month's newsletter (June) will be the last before we take a summer hiatus.



Message From the Chair

COVID has brought unprecedented challenges but the efforts of faculty, staff and students in the face of seemingly insurmountable problems has been critical for maintaining continuity and advancing our research and education endeavours. Summer is just around the corner (or perhaps some may say is already here). Make sure to take time to relax and regenerate. Accordingly, this is the last newsletter until September.

See you all in the Fall!

Regards,
Liliana Attisano

For comments/feedback on the newsletter and to provide news to be include in the next issue send an email to biochemistry.office@utoronto.ca. We are always happy to hear from you!

Announcement

Congratulations to Ahlia Khan-Trottier, who has been appointed for a five-year term as Associate Dean, Undergraduate Education, Temerty Faculty of Medicine.

Post-Doc News



Meet the PostDoc Organization committee members! Next up on 'meet and greet' your postdoc committee member is Véronique Taylor! Véro obtained her PhD down the road at the University of Guelph where she studied outer membrane biogenesis in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and witnessed the power that bacteriophages have on their host. Keeping that phage passion alive, she's currently in the lab of Dr. Karen Maxwell investigating the ways phages change how bacteria communicate. In her spare time Véro enjoys games of the board, video and tabletop variety as well as a nice pinot by the campfire.

Tips and Tricks Grant Writing

Want to get some tips on writing that eventual first big grant? The postdoc committee will be hosting a workshop aimed at giving tips and tricks to writing a strong proposal. This will act as our monthly meetup and will take place on **June 16th in the MaRS West Tower 16th floor from 3-5 pm**. If you are unable to attend in person, we will provide a zoom link to registered attendees. Please **RSVP with your method of attendance "in-person" or "digital" by June 9th** by emailing the postdoc committee email: UT.biochem.postdocs@gmail.com.

"One-min video" Competition

The GLSE "One-min video" competition has begun accepting submissions. If you're looking for some practice on a future 'elevator pitch' ie. communicating your project in a concise and engaging manner, this competition is for you! The submission website is open, and the final day to enter is **July 15th**. The online judging takes place **July 25-Aug 19** with winners announced **Sept 1**. Enter for a chance to join our very own Anne van der Meij in the winner's circle!

Postdoc Pages on the website

Keep an eye out on the UofT Biochemistry departmental website for an updated postdoc page. We will be including pertinent links to the funding opportunities and future get togethers.

Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship Application Workshop

The Faculty of Medicine will be hosting a workshop on how to put together a strong fellowship application for the 2022-2023 competition. The online workshop will be held on **June 21 at 12 pm** on the zoom link provided.

"Meet our Postdocs"

Page A reminder that the Faculty of Medicine has also put out a call for postdocs to share information about themselves to highlight the great work being done at U of Toronto. If you would like to provide information on your thesis, your current project and achievements or career goals! Submissions will be accepted preferably before June 17th. You can submit your information to Natasha Lowe by the postdoc listserv.

Join the Listserv!

If you are not receiving Faculty of Medicine postdoc emails, such as the one containing the Banting workshop, please email glse-postdoc-l@listserv.utoronto.ca to be included on the listserv.

Meetup Suggestions? Feedback?

If you have any questions about events, want to join the committee, or have ideas for future topics of discussion? Please email the Biochem Postdoc Committee: UT.biochem.postdocs@gmail.com or Kate Lee hyunokate.lee@utoronto.ca. We would love to hear from you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

PhD Oral Seminars/Exams All PhD exams are held online. Interested persons wanting to attend the oral seminar should contact the Students Advisor for approval

Erum Razvi's PhD Hybrid Oral exam has been scheduled as follows:

Tuesday June 28, 2022

10:00 am - 1:00 pm

PhD Oral Seminar: 10:00 - 10:45 am *Optional for the SGS Chair to attend*

PhD Oral Exam: 11:00 am - 1:00pm

IN PERSON SEMINAR LOCATION: PGCRL

Auditorium (Peter Gilgan Centre for Research and Learning – 686 Bay Street (NW corner Bay and Elm Streets))

ZOOM LINK: please contact students supervisor for details

Thesis Title: "Modification and Inhibition of the *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* Biofilm Exopolysaccharide Pel"

P. Lynne Howell (supervisor)

Roman Melnyk (supervisory member)

Mark Nitz (supervisory member)

Transcripts News

Hey Biochem!

This month we have an interview piece with a Connell lecture speaker. Be sure to check it out and learn more about Dr. Michael Rosen's love for phase separation!

["Connell Lecture Series: Dr. Michael Rosen"](#) by Cindy Yimei Wan

In addition, as part of our Biochem Book Club initiative, we are recommending interesting science reads that are submitted to us each month. This month's book club features *The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer* by Siddhartha Mukherjee.

If you have a favourite book that you want to let the rest of the department know about, you can still submit it through our [Google form!](#)

Make sure to follow us on Twitter and Instagram @transcriptsblog for more updates on our work. Hope everyone has a wonderful summer, and we will see you again in the fall!

Make sure to follow us on Twitter and Instagram @transcriptsblog for more updates on our work!



Ontario Cell Biology Symposium 2022


Further details can be found at <https://www.ontariocellbiology.com/>

4th Ontario Cell Biology Symposium Aug. 16-17, 2022

In person (Hospital for Sick Children,
Toronto) and virtual attendance options

[ontariocellbiology.com](https://www.ontariocellbiology.com)

@OntCellBio



The Symposium will feature talks by graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and early career researchers selected from abstracts, as well as poster presentations. Registration and abstract submission to open soon.

Undergraduate students are welcome to attend, regardless of research experience to date

The 4th annual Ontario Cell Biology Symposium will take place on August 16th and 17th at Sick Kids in Toronto. The keynote speakers include Ana Maria Cuervo (Albert Einstein College of Medicine) and Rodrigo Fernandez-Gonzalez (U of T). The remaining speakers will be primarily drawn from student and post-doc registrants. Trainee poster slots are available as well.

The following deadlines will apply:

Abstract submission deadline to be considered for a talk or poster: July 15th, 2022.

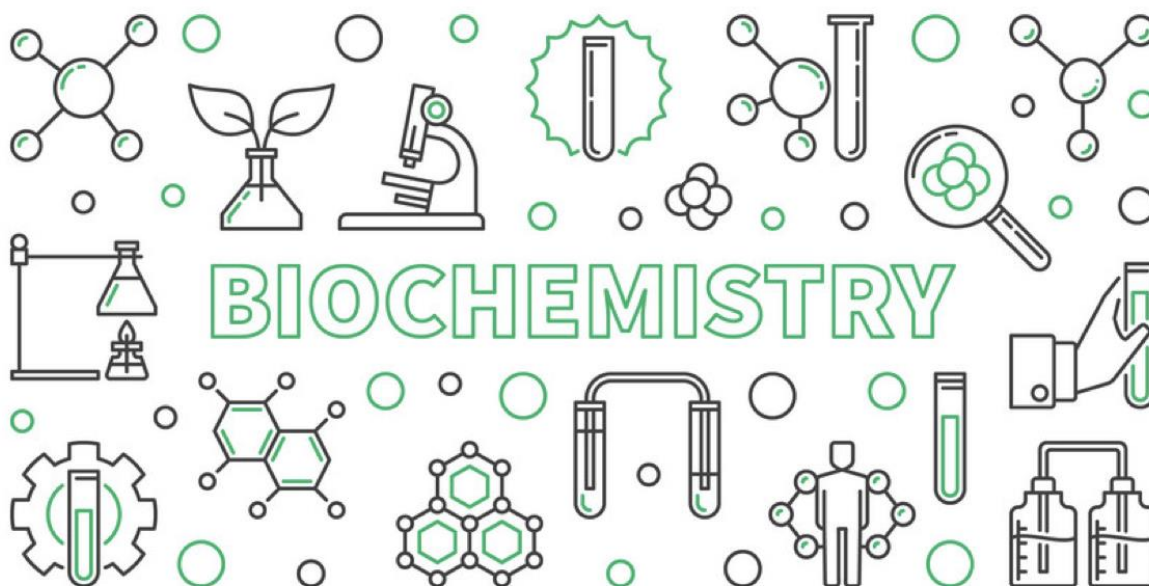
Abstract submission deadline to be considered for a poster only (space capacity permitting): August 1st, 2022.

Registration deadline (no abstract submission) *: August 8th, 2022

Please mark your calendars and save the date for our upcoming [Biochemistry Departmental Retreat](#). Watch out for more details in the coming weeks.



Biochemistry
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



Departmental Retreat Wed Sept 21st - Thur Sept 22nd, 2022