

# U of T Biochemistry

[Biochemistry Website](#)

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It's a new season with Spring arriving and April will bring us a fresh new face, Assistant Professor Michael Norris who will start Friday April 1 at the MaRS building. Dr. Norris accepted the position last year, and his research expertise includes virology, chemical biology and, most notably, cryo-electron microscopy – this will be his main focus. Let's give a warm welcome to Michael and help him settle into our department.

The search for a new department chair is still in process. On Monday April 25 there will be a Virtual Townhall where everyone will have the opportunity to hear from the three Chair candidates. To participate in the Zoom webinar, click [here](#) to register with your name and email address. Upon registering you will receive an email with the meeting details, including the link to join the webinar. Further information, such as agenda and candidate names, are included in the newsletter below.

Finally, U of T will be pausing many COVID measures for the summer term, but we are cautioned to be prepared to revert to more restrictive policies if warranted. See below for specific details.

Regards,

Liliana Attisano

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

### U of T will be pausing the following measures effective May 1, 2022:

- The requirement to complete health screening via UCheck prior to attending University premises
- The requirement to be fully vaccinated for in-person activities on University premises
- The requirement to be masked in indoor University spaces, unless [otherwise required](#)

I encourage everyone to visit our [division website](#) as we near the Summer term for up-to-date information about courses, programs and employment requirements.

More information on U of T's changing health measures can be [found here](#).



## 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

### Upcoming Seminar Schedule

#### April 2022

**Apr 13:** Sungwon Hwang (Karen Maxwell) / Nadia Zafar (Liliana Attisano)  
host: Palazzo

**Apr 20:** Post Doctoral Seminars:  
Kirsten Meyer (Justin Nodwell) / Veronique Taylor (Karen Maxwell)  
host: Palazzo

### Grad Student First Talk Symposia:

Starts April 4, 5 and 6<sup>th</sup>. Please visit the link for full details. [Grad Student First Talk Symposia](#)

## BGSU News

Hello Biochem!

The Temerty Faculty of Medicine is committed to supporting students to academically thrive throughout their graduate training. An important component of this training involves your supervisory experiences as a research stream Master or Doctoral student.

As such, a survey was developed to capture key aspects of a student's graduate supervisory experience. The purpose of the Graduate Supervisory Experience Survey is to explore the supervisory experience of our thesis based graduate students. The results will help ensure the best educational experience for our graduate students.

Please click the link below for more information and FAQ: [Graduate Supervisory Experience Survey](#)

Your BGSU

Facebook: U of T Biochemistry Graduate Student Union – BGSU

Twitter: @yourbgsu

Email: [yourbgsu@gmail.com](mailto:yourbgsu@gmail.com)

# LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD



## Graduate Supervisory Experience Survey

The purpose of the *Graduate Supervisory Experience Survey* is to explore the supervisory experience of our thesis-based graduate students. The results will help ensure the best educational experience for our graduate students.

**CONFIDENTIAL, SIMPLE  
AND 100% ONLINE**

**MAY 2 - 31, 2022**

**SPEND 10 TO 12 MINUTES  
TO TELL US  
WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND.**



TEMERTY FACULTY OF MEDICINE  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Graduate and Life  
Sciences Education

## Undergraduate News

Our wee lad, Trevor Moraes, the pride of Dublin, Belfast, and Flin Flon, has been awarded the Excellence in Undergraduate Laboratory Teaching in Life Sciences. This award is for excellence in teaching of undergraduate laboratory-based courses in Arts and Science offered by the Basic Science Departments in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine and recognizes Trevor's efforts in our fourth year BCH Specialist lab course.

Posted on: [Recent Honours and Awards](#)

One of our former undergrad, Cindy Yimei Wan, is featured in the Faculty of Medicine's undergraduate student profiles, which can be found here: [Undergraduate Student Profiles by Department](#). Cindy did her undergrad research in Walid Houry's lab and is now a graduate student working with Julie Forman-Kay and Jonathon Ditlev.

Some of our undergrads make videos that describe what drew them to our department. Check out this video from Jasmine Kang here: [Jasmine - Biochemistry and Immunology](#). Jasmine is currently conducting research in Oliver Ernst's lab.

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## Post-doc News

We are excited to announce our next postdoc social! We hope to see many of you there.

**April 1st next Biochem postdoc social at 5pm** - an afterwork drink at Prenup Pub. There'll be three parts to this social (see below). Sign up for the social on this google sheet. [Postdoc drinks and cookie swap Apr 1](#)

- a loosely guided discussion on **"Time management tools and strategies as a postdoc"** - bring your ideas to share, and pick up some tips and tricks from others
- informal conversation time together over snacks and drinks
- a **cookie swap!** What does this mean? Bake (or buy) your favourite batch of cookies and bring them to exchange. Out of respect for the establishment, we unfortunately won't partake of them during the drinks, but we'll have bags and gloves to distribute the cookies, so that everyone takes home a variety of cookies to enjoy. Please bring at least 12 cookies, but the more the merrier. Please feel free to sign up but do join us even if you would rather not participate in the cookie swap!

As we plan for more socials, **please fill out this poll:** [Time preference for Postdoc Socials](#) about the timings that would work best for you and events you'd like to see. We'll try and plan a variety of events at different times over the year and would like to know when these would be most accessible! If organizing these types of events and postdoc advancement is something you'd like to be more involved in, we are looking for additional members to join this team - please reach out to [hyunokate.lee@utoronto.ca](mailto:hyunokate.lee@utoronto.ca) or [k.meyer@utoronto.ca](mailto:k.meyer@utoronto.ca)

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## Chair Search | Town Hall Department of Biochemistry

**Monday April 25, 2022, 8:00AM - 1:30PM**

**Registration Link:** [REGISTER NOW](#)

**8:00 - 8:15AM**

Chair Search + Agenda + Introductions

Prof. Justin NODWELL, Vice Dean, Research & Health Science Education

*Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto*

**8:15 - 9:45AM**

"Biochemistry 2.0: Precision, Context, Significance, and Inclusion" Vision for Department

Prof. Thomas DUCHAINE

*Dept. of Biochemistry, McGill University*

**9:45 - 10:00AM**

Break

**10:00 - 11:30AM**

"Telomere Homeostasis in Aging and Cancer" + Vision for Department

Prof. Lea HARRINGTON

*Dept. of Medicine, Université de Montréal*

**11:30 - 11:45AM**

Break

**11:45AM - 1:15PM**

"The Environment Shapes the Cell" + Vision for Department

Prof. Petra LEVIN

*Dept. of Biology, Washington University*

**1:15 - 1:30PM**

Closing Remarks

Prof. Justin NODWELL, Vice Dean, Research & Health Science Education

*Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto*

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## Transcripts News

Hey Biochem! Hope you are all enjoying the start of the spring weather. This month we have a new cartoon piece for you to determine your alignment in the lab!

"[Biochemistry Cartoon Series: Grad Student Alignment Chart](#)" by Cindy Yimei Wan.

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

**transcripts**