



## DIVISION OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION

Department of Medicine  
University of Toronto

March 2024

### Monthly Update Newsletter

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1. Research Day highly successful

Congratulations are extended to all those who contributed to the division's research day on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Special thanks are extended to Robert Simpson who led the planning this year. The presentations were all superb including the keynote presentation from Jane Batt, vice-chair for research in our Department of Medicine.

Special congratulations are extended to our award winners. Joon Mun, PGY2, won the Best Oral Presentation for his work on electrodiagnostic reporting preferences from referring physicians (now published in Muscle Nerve). Linda Archila, PGY1, won Best Poster Presentation for her work on the use of interpreters for patients with limited English proficiency and rehabilitation. And the award for best medical student oral presentation went to Ben Levy.



Thank you also to all those who attended this year's research day. It was greatly appreciated that we had such good in-person attendance and people seemed to enjoy reconnecting in-person this year.

2. Divisional Quality Day to occur on April 19<sup>th</sup>

We are looking forward to our division's Quality Day on Friday morning April 19<sup>th</sup>. Amanda Mayo is planning an excellent virtual series of talks that morning and we hope that you will be able to attend.

3. Welcome to new PGY1s

We are most pleased to welcome our new PGY1s starting July 1<sup>st</sup>. Our incoming residents are (see attached):

- Christopher Bhatla, University of British Columbia
- Emily Domerchie, McMaster University
- Kevin Murray, University of Toronto
- Jessica Saini, McMaster University



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We would like to especially thank the application review committee, the interview panel members, and our own existing residents for the considerable time and effort put into the CaRMS review and interview process. We had 42 applications and this year interviewed 28 candidates for our 4 positions. Special thanks are extended to Tracia Young and Lisa Becker for leading this complex, but very successful, process.

4. U of T PM&R Division Director and St. John's Program Chief positions open

We are pleased to distribute two open leadership positions (see links below) now that Larry Robinson will be finishing his terms and moving to Victoria, B.C. this summer. Those interested in applying should address their interests to the names at the bottom of each position description. Larry Robinson is happy to discuss these positions with any interested candidates.

<https://deptmedicine.utoronto.ca/event/job-posting-associate-full-professor-director-division-physical-medicine-and-rehabilitation>

<https://sunnybrook.ca/content/?JobId=7340&session=0a62ca24ee374164b16aac5d20a17d2e&p=%2FCands%2FJob.aspx&page=careers-search#careersIFrame>

5. Chris Fortin appointed to a second 5-year term

We were pleased to receive a review report from Chaim Bell, Physician-in-Chief at Sinai Health regarding Chris Fortin's initial 5 year term. The report, based upon an extensive review process, highlighted outstanding performance from Chris with very strong growth in the PM&R division at Sinai Health. Chris was reappointed for another 5 year term ending in 2029. Congratulations are extended to Chris for his outstanding review who can be reached at:

[chris.fortin@sinaihealth.ca](mailto:chris.fortin@sinaihealth.ca).

6. We need your input on care integration

Chris Fortin is leading our care integration committee and will reporting at our retreat in June on progress and care integration. We would ask that you consider responding to his request for input on care integration in your own areas. The below message is from Chris:

“Dear PM&R Divisional Members,

A key pillar of our division's 2019-2024 strategic plan is to grow and enhance divisional care integration. We struck a committee to set priorities, facilitate integrated care activity, and to keep an inventory of such activity. As we conclude this strategic planning cycle, the committee is asking divisional membership to complete this brief survey so that we can evaluate our progress and plan for the future. Results will be presented at our divisional retreat on June 21, 2024.

**Please copy this address into your browser**

<https://forms.gle/4pb6keGmn7TfZZLA8>

Thanks in advance for your kind support.

Chris Fortin  
Chair, Division of PM&R Care Integration Committee”  
[Chris.fortin@sinaihealth.ca](mailto:Chris.fortin@sinaihealth.ca)

7. PM&R division well-represented in Toronto's Top Doctors 2024 ranking

Every year, the Toronto Post Magazine conducts a survey regarding Toronto's Top Doctors. This year, again, we had several physiatrists on the list. Andrea Furlan was selected as a best pain doctor and was the only physiatrist among others in that category, who were anesthesiologists and interventional family doctors. In addition, we were delighted to see John Flannery, Farooq Ismail, Jennifer Gordon and Melody Nguyen listed in the rankings. Congratulations are extended to all of our top doctor physiatrists. See link below.

<https://www.postcitymagazines.com/magazines/>



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8. Two African observers present at St. John's Rehab for April 2024

We are delighted to mention that we have two observers from Ghana in Toronto for the month of April to observe rehabilitation in Canada. They are working on upgrading their skills in rehabilitation for Ghana through an observership process that includes time in Toronto as well as time in Fredrickton, NB with Colleen O'Connell. They will be attending some academic half days and quality day. Please welcome Benedict Quao and Wheatley Leslie Ajavon when you see them.

9. Seeking physician in PM&R based at St. John's Rehab

St. John's Rehab is seeking a full-time physician in PM&R who would be based at St. John's Rehab, but may also be supplemented with outpatient clinics at the Bayview Campus. The inpatient focus would be on cardiac and complex medical rehab (A1 and RTU floors). For those interested, please see link below.

<https://jobs.utoronto.ca/job/Toronto-Lecturer-Assistant-Associate-Professor-Academic-Physiatrist-ON/579241817/>

10. PM&R opportunity in William Osler Health System

As in the link below, William Osler is seeking a physiatrist to lead their rehabilitation and CCC/transitional care program. Those interested should contact the person listed at the bottom of the posting.

<https://www.williamoslerhs.ca/en/for-professionals/physiatrist.aspx>

11. Peeps season

As those longtime newsletter readers may know, we are in the middle of Marshmallow Peeps season again. I am re-circulating a slide set that was developed by our own Lilian Vivas in 2019 when she was a resident. We hope that you will enjoy this. Unfortunately, some marshmallow Peeps were injured in the process. See attached.

As always, let us know if you have stories of interest that you would like to have distributed.

Don't forget to connect with our Twitter site @UofT\_Physiatry.

Larry Robinson MD  
Chief, Rehabilitation Services  
John and Sally Eaton Chair in Rehabilitation Science