

VCHRI TRAINEE NEWS

Welcome to **VCHRI Trainee News**, a newsletter brought to you by the Research Education Program of VCHRI. The newsletter is designed to help VCHRI trainees stay connected to each other and to the programs and services of the VCH Research Institute. The newsletter will cover a variety of topics such as celebrating trainee achievements, upcoming funding competitions, and trainee educational opportunities. We welcome information from trainees and supervisors including announcements for the 'kudos' section such as published papers, defended theses, talks given or prizes won at meetings. Please submit items to Caroline Abramson for review at caroline.abramson@vch.ca.

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Professional Development Series Career Day 2008

Mark your calendars – Friday, October 3, 2008 – this year's Faculty of Medicine Grad Student & Postdoc Career Day will be held at St. Paul's Hospital. Agenda and registration details to follow.

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Travel Award from the Canadian Association for Neuroscience/Association Canadienne des Neurosciences (CAN-ACN)



Canadian Association for Neuroscience/Association Canadienne des Neurosciences ([CAN-ACN](#)) offers a student travel award to attend the upcoming [Society for Neuroscience](#) (SfN) conference, Neuroscience 2008, in Washington, D.C. Nov 15-19, 2008. Deadline for receipt of [Student Travel Application](#): October 1, 2008. Send application to peter.a.smith@ualberta.ca

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Postdoctoral Opportunity in Developmental Neural Plasticity

A postdoctoral position is available to study development and plasticity in the rodent auditory system. The laboratory's goal is to understand how synaptic mechanism and neural activity guide the refinement of excitatory and inhibitory circuits underlying sound localization, using slice electrophysiology, laser photo-uncaging, and/or imaging techniques. The many questions raised by an earlier finding (Gillespie et al, Nat. Neurosci. 8:332) offer scope for motivated individuals to develop independent projects according to their interests.



Candidates should have a PhD in neuroscience or relevant field, a record of productivity, and good skills in oral and written English. Expertise in patch electrophysiology is preferred. We are looking for a highly motivated scientist who wants to work independently and creatively and who will contribute intellectually to our research group.

Directly accessible by commuter bus from downtown Toronto, McMaster University is within walking distance of conservation areas and trails along the Niagara Escarpment.

To apply, send a CV, a statement of research interests, and the names and contact information for three references

by email to Dr. Deda Gillespie dgillespie@mcmaster.ca
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Fall Manuscript Writing Workshop at St. Paul's Hospital: "So it's Time to Publish a Paper*" A workshop on preparing research papers for publication

The CIHR/HSFC IMPACT Strategic Training Program and the Providence Health Care Research Institute are pleased to offer the 5th annual Fall Manuscript Writing Workshop at St. Paul's Hospital: "[So it's Time to Publish a Paper*](#)": A workshop on preparing research papers for publication.

This series of six workshops will be presented by Dr. Iain Taylor, Professor emeritus of Botany and Botanical Garden Research Director. Dr. Taylor will provide participants with hands-on assistance with their manuscript preparation.

WHO CAN ATTEND: Graduate Students, Post-doctoral Fellows, PHC Research Staff who have a manuscript they are preparing for publication. Registration is limited to 20 participants and offered on a first come, first serve basis.

WHEN: workshops held October-December 2008 9:30 - 11:00 on Tuesdays October 7 October 14 October 28 November 4 November 25 December 2

NOTE: YOU MUST COMMIT TO ATTENDING ALL 6 WORKSHOPS and YOU MUST HAVE A MANUSCRIPT IN PREPARATION (attendance is mandatory at all sessions)

REGISTRATION: e-mail Jacqui Brinkman at: jbrinkman@mrl.ubc.ca by Friday, September 19, 2008. A \$20 registration fee must be submitted to secure your spot. This can be paid by cash (I will issue you a receipt) or by cheque made payable to 'Providence Research Institute Trust' and sent to my attention.

MAJOR FIRST DEADLINE is Tuesday, September 30th, 7 days before the first meeting on October 7th 2008 when a DRAFT PLANNING ABSTRACT should be submitted to: Dr. Iain Taylor at iepiep@interchange.ubc.ca
Please Note: This is not a "teach you to write" course. This program is designed to increase your knowledge and understanding of the processes of publishing in science.

A [draft agenda](#) provides you an outline of what to expect over the course of the 6 workshops. If you have any questions, please contact Jacqui Brinkman at: jbrinkman@mrl.ubc.ca
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A great resource: "At the Bench" by Dr. Kathy Barker is available for borrowing

At the Bench, is a unique handbook for living and working in the laboratory. It covers:

- how research groups work at a human level—and how to fit in
- what equipment is essential, and how to use it properly
- how to get started and get organized
- how to set up an experiment
- how to handle and use data and reference sources
- how to present yourself and your results—in print and in person

To borrow, please contact Caroline @ caroline.abramson@vch.ca or Dr. Alice Mui @ amui@interchange.ubc.ca
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