

SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS



MARC JESCHKE, MD, PhD, FACS, FCCM, FRCS(C): In 1994, Marc Jeschke completed his medical school. He trained in Germany and the United States and in 2004 at the University Texas Medical Branch and Shriners Hospital for Children in 2004 and was made Burn Attending and Coordinator of Research. In May of 2010, Dr. Jeschke was appointed Director of the Ross Tilley Burn Centre at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. He was also appointed as a Professor in the Department of Surgery and Plastic Surgery, Department of Immunology and the Institute of Medical Science at University of Toronto. He holds the Chair of Burn Research and is a Senior Scientist at Sunnybrook Research Institute. The overarching description of his work is translational research with prospective randomized clinical trial but the integration of basic research. He is a sought after speaker and has lectured around the world. He has authored over 350 publications and several books on burn care and he has received numerous awards for his teaching and research. His research is supported by Grants from the NIH, CIHR, PSI and CFI, as well as by generous donations.

Title: “The future of burn and complex wound care: Stem cell and tissue engineering”



CINDI M. MORSHEAD, PhD: Cindi Morshead did her PhD at the University of Toronto and joined the faculty in the Department of Surgery in 2003. She is currently a tenured Professor and Chair of the Division of Anatomy, Department of Surgery; faculty at the Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering and the Rehabilitation Science Institute. Dr. Morshead’s expertise is in stem cell biology and specifically, in the field of adult neural stem cells. Her lab is interested in exploring fundamental questions regarding the behaviour and characterization of neural stem cells and applying this knowledge to regenerative medicine strategies. Her team is actively pursuing the role of stem cells in models of neurodegenerative disease such as stroke, cerebral palsy, acquired brain injury and spinal cord injury.

Title: “Activating resident stem cells to promote neural repair: A stroke of genius”



THOMAS K. WADDELL, MD, MSc, PhD, FRCS, FACS: Thomas Waddell is the Pearson-Ginsberg Chair, Division of Thoracic Surgery, University of Toronto and Head of the Division of Thoracic Surgery at University Health Network (UHN), including Toronto General Hospital. During his PhD studies, he received numerous honours for his research work including the Governor General’s Gold Medal and the Royal College Prize for Resident Research. He was appointed as Assistant Professor in 2000, promoted to Associate Professor in 2004, and was promoted to Full Professor in 2010. He has earned numerous distinctions, including the Blalock Scholarship from the American Association for Thoracic Surgery, a CIHR New Investigator Award, a CFI New Opportunities Fund Award, the George Armstrong Peters Prize in the Department of Surgery, a Wightman-Berris Individual Teaching Award, and was recognized with the R. Fraser Elliott Chair in Transplantation Research in 2005 and the Richard and Heather Thomson Chair in Translational Research in 2010. In 2011, he received the highest research honour from the University of Toronto, Department of Surgery, the Lister Prize. He has served as Chair of the Research Committee of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery and Chair of the Research Committee of the Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education. He is one of the Founders and currently CEO of XOR-Labs Toronto Inc, a medical devices development company commercializing

several technologies around organ perfusion. His scientific laboratory focuses on alternative approaches to the chronic shortage of donor lungs, especially stem cell and regenerative medicine approaches to lung disease. He has published over 220 peer-reviewed scientific publications and has received over 4.5M in peer-reviewed research grants. He is the Director of Clinical Translation Strategy for the University of Toronto Medicine by Design initiative.

Title: “Engineering (mechanical and genetic) to advance lung regeneration”



PETER ZANDSTRA, BEng (McGill), PhD (UBC), FAAAS, FAIMBE, FRSC, PEng:

Peter Zandstra is a Professor at the University of Toronto’s Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering, with a cross appointment in the Donnelly Centre for Cellular and Biomolecular Research and Chemical Engineering. In 2016, Dr. Zandstra was appointed University Professor, the highest academic rank at the University of Toronto. His research integrates engineering and biological approaches and in the last several years, work in his lab has focused on using computer modelling and strict control of the microenvironment (niche engineering) to develop a deeper understanding of the regulatory networks that determine stem cell fate. He has an h-index of 56 having published 215 papers that have been cited 10,863 times (Data from Web of Science – 03/10/2017). Dr. Zandstra also serves as the Executive Director of Medicine by Design (MbD), and has co-founded three biotech companies. He is the Chief Scientific Officer at the Centre for Commercialization of Regenerative Medicine (CCRM), a Toronto-based regenerative medicine translation centre. In addition, Zandstra serves as the Scientific Founder and Chief Technology Officer for ExCellThera. This Canadian clinical stage cell therapy company focuses on development, manufacturing and distribution of expanded and genetically engineered hematopoietic stem cells for therapeutics treating blood diseases. Dr. Zandstra is the Canada Research Chair in Stem Cell Bioengineering and is the recipient of a number of awards and fellowships including: the Premier’s Research Excellence Award (2002), the E.W.R. Steacie Memorial Fellowship (2006), the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship (2007), the McLean Award (2009), and the Till and McCulloch Award (2013). Most recently Zandstra was the recipient of the 2017 Scale-Up and Manufacturing of Cell-Based Therapies Award from Engineering Conferences International. This prestigious award recognizes his outstanding contributions to the development and commercialization of stem cell-based therapies.

Title: “Stem cell bioengineering”