



PGY1 and 2 Orientation to the Surgeon Scientist Training Program

Department of Surgery
University of Toronto

Michael G Fehlings MD PhD FRCSC FACS

Professor of Neurosurgery

Robert Campeau- Charles Tator Chair in Brain and Spinal Cord Research

Vice Chairman (Research) Department of Surgery

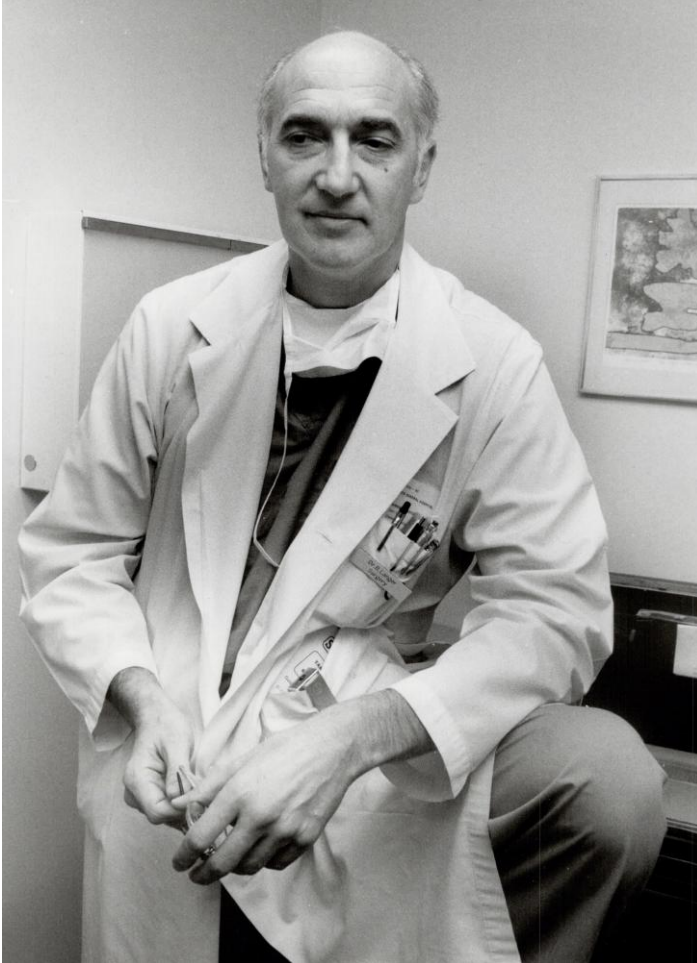
University of Toronto

2021: 100 Year Anniversary The Discovery of Insulin

Frederick Banting MD – the Consummate Surgeon Scientist at Toronto General Hospital, University of Toronto



History of the SSTP



Bernard Langer created the SSTP when he was Chair of the Department from 1982 -1992 and appointed Steve Strasberg as the first coordinator. He had a small group of people who helped him design the program, including Steve Strasberg, Charles Tator, Rudy Falk and Bryce Taylor.

Bernard developed the strategy of leveraging available departmental and university funds to get commitments from divisions and hospitals for fund matching. He also created the Surgical Alumni Association to develop another funding stream to support the SSTP.

“I asked a group of people dedicated to research to develop standards for a research training program that we could integrate into our clinical training program and that became the Surgeon-Scientist Program.” – Bernard Langer

SSTP Requirements

The purpose of the Surgeon Scientist Training Program (SSTP) is to provide excellent research training for surgical residents who wish to pursue a career in **academic surgery**.

Candidates will be eligible if they have been accepted into the University of Toronto Postgraduate Training Program in Surgery in a **THESIS-BASED graduate program**.

Department of Surgery **salary support** for SSTP Residents is limited to **2 years** for those in a Master's program and **4 years** for those pursuing a PhD.

All trainees accepted to the SSTP must apply to the School of Graduate Studies, University of Toronto, and be accepted into a program leading to a **MASc, MEd, MSc or PhD degree**.

All supervisors for the SSTP trainee must hold an **appointment with the School of Graduate Studies (SGS)** of the University of Toronto.

SSTP Requirements

Potential candidates must meet with **Vice Chair of Research** or **Associate Vice Chair of Research** before **April 15**, and have:

- 1. the go ahead from their division to proceed with the SSTP application - this means that they have spoken to the Chair and/or the Residency Program Director*
- 2. identified a supervisor and have funding support in place (salary/operation)*
- 3. identified a project*
- 4. identified a graduate department and be very clear that the SSTP is limited to thesis-based research*

Application submission deadline to the Research Office is May 15.

Clinical Investigator Program (CIP)

The goal of the University of Toronto CIP is to educate physicians towards an independent career as a clinical investigator combining medical practice and research. The University of Toronto CIP is an accredited postgraduate medical education program of the [Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada](#).

The CIP is designed to educate a new generation of physician investigators. Residents who complete the CIP will have engaged in a curriculum that features the knowledge, skills, and attitudes fundamental to embarking on a career in health research.

Application Deadlines:

- **January 15** for MOH-CIP Funding Competition Applications (for July 1 enrollment)
- **May 1** for July 1 enrollment
- **November 1** for January 1 enrollment

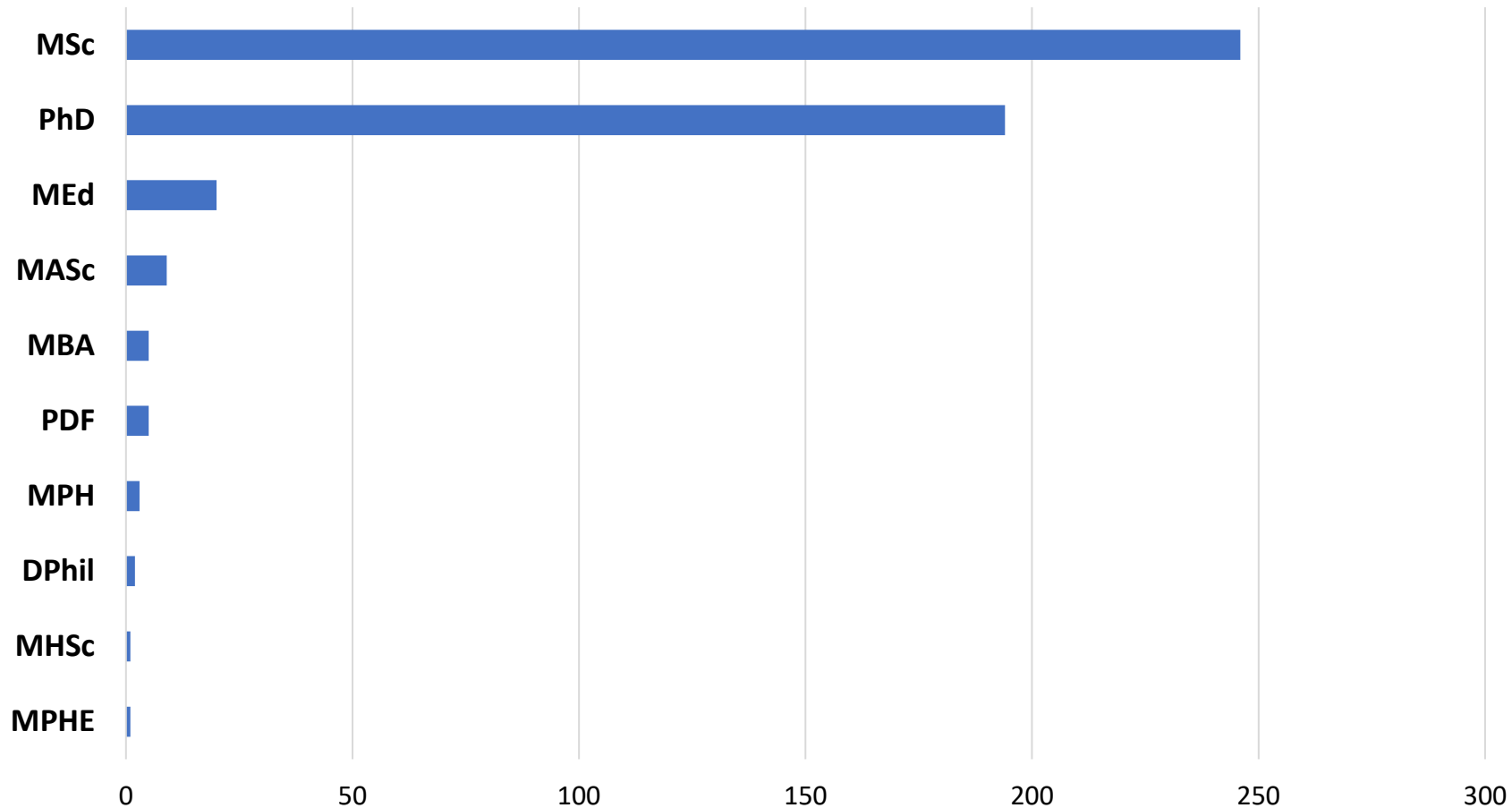
Dr. Andrea McCart, Director
CIP Program Coordinator
Phone: (416) 978-7189

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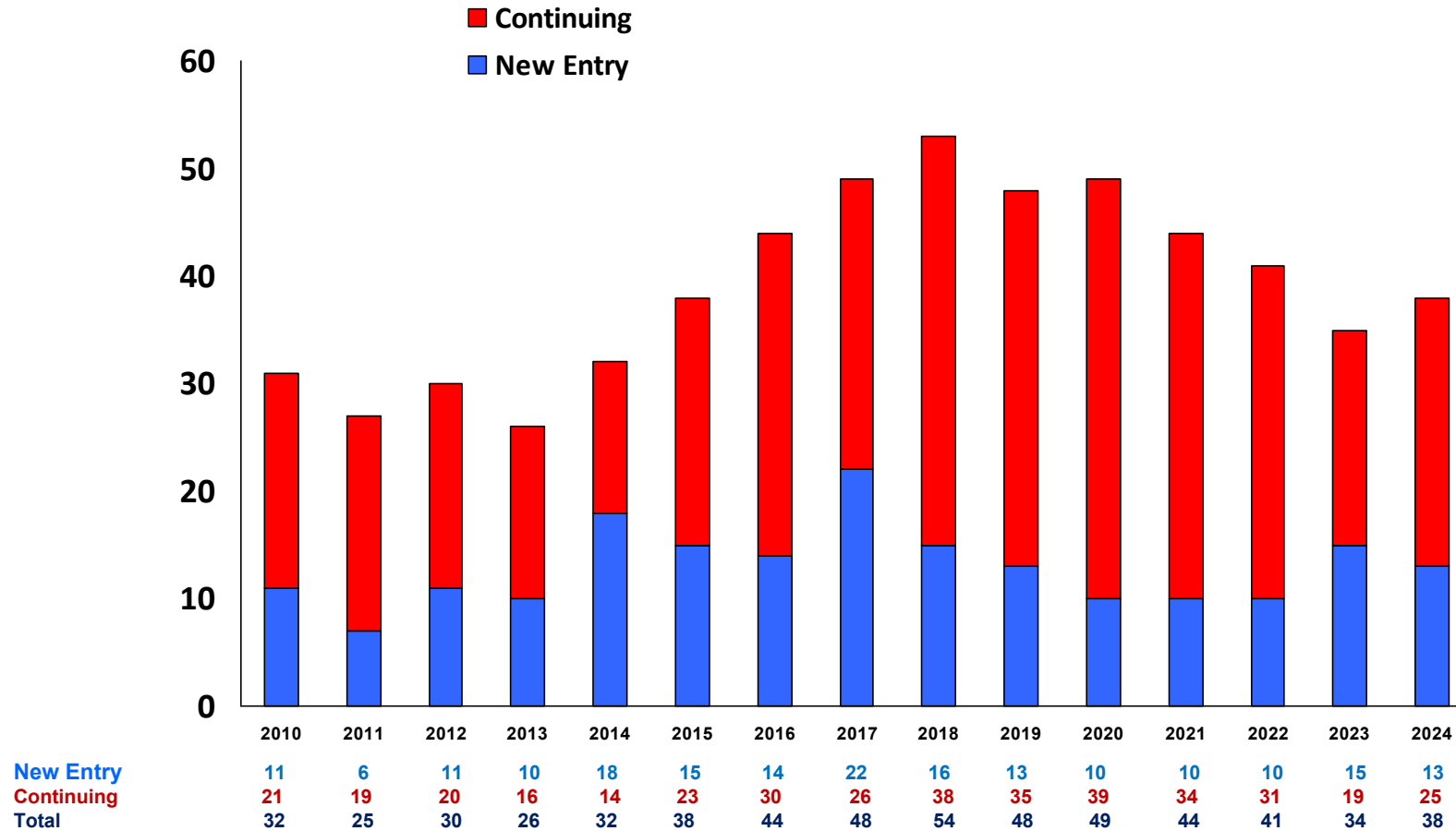
Surgeon Scientist Training Program: 1983-2024

Total enrolled 1983 – 2024 (by degree) > **486**

Degrees received



Surgeon Scientist Training Program 2010-2024





2025-26 Research Committee



Dr. Michael Fehlings
Vice Chair Research, Surgery
Neurosurgery
TWH, UHN



Dr. Marcelo Cypel
Thoracic Surgery
TGH-UHN



Dr. Kristen Davidge
Plastic & Reconstructive
Surgery
Sick Kids



Dr. Charles de Mestral
Vascular Surgery
SMH Unity Health Toronto



Dr. Peter Dirks
Pediatric Neurosurgery
Sick Kids



Dr. Asha Behdinan
Vascular Surgery
PhD, SSTP Representative
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre



Dr. Yosef Ellenbogen
Neurosurgery
PhD, SSTP Representative
TWH, UHN



Dr. Rebecca Gladdy
Surgical Oncologist
Mount Sinai Hospital



Dr. Andras Kapus
Associate Vice Chair
Research, SMH
Unity Health Toronto



Dr. Paul Karanicolas
General Surgery
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre



Dr. Girish Kulkarni
Surgical Oncology, Urology
Princess Margaret Cancer
Centre, UHN



Dr. Ren-Ke Li
Professor, Cardiovascular Surgery
Research, TGH-UHN



Mrs. Renata Musa
Research Program Coordinator
Temerty Faculty of Medicine
University of Toronto



Dr. Giuseppe Papia
Chair, Division of Vascular Surgery
University of Toronto
Chair in Limb Preservation,
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre



Dr. Hong-Shuo Sun
Professor, Anatomy
Temerty Faculty of Medicine
University of Toronto



Dr. Carol Swallow
Chair, Department of Surgery
Temerty Faculty of Medicine
University of Toronto &
General Surgery, Mount Sinai
Hospital



Dr. Albert Yee
Orthopaedics
Orthopaedic Surgery Vice Chair Research
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre



2025-26 Surgeon Scientist Training Program

Ann Mansur
Asha Behdinan
Ben Li
Mimi Deng
Yosef Ellenbogen
Chloe Gui
Alexander Landry
Karim Mithani
Nicholas J.-S. Yee
Chloe Wong
Sina Hadipour-Lakmehsari
Stephanie Jiang

Anudari Zorigbaatar
Vishwathsen Karthikeyan
Christopher Lozano
Karlo Perdro
Leeor Yefet
Jin Tong (Jenny) Du
Geoffrey Schemitsch
Ajay Shah
Tiange Li
David-Dan Nguyen
Daniyal Mahmood
Nitish Dhingra
Kameela Alibhai

Danielle Arshinoff
Sheharzad Mahmood
Youngkyung (Jessica) Jung
Jasleen Saini
Aazad Abbas
Robert Kouchecki
Emily Snook
Natasha Barone
Lauren Lin
Joanne Abi-Jaoude
Lisa Vi
Aaron Loh



2024-25 Surgeon Scientist Training Program

25 Continuing SSTP

13 New Applicants

Division	MASc/MBA/MSc	PhD	PDF
Cardiac Surgery		2	
General Surgery	8		
Neurosurgery	2	10	
Orthopaedics	5	1	
Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery	2	1	
Urology	1	1	
Vascular Surgery	2	3	

SSTP Career Night

SSTP Meet and Greet

SSTP Grant Writing Workshop

PGY I and PGY II Research Orientation

Gallie Day

Take Home Messages

- Training in surgical research adds greatly to the training of surgeons
- The Surgeon Scientist Training Program in the Department of Surgery provides an excellent opportunity for residents to enhance their knowledge and training
- Key contacts
 - Dr. Michael Fehlings (Vice Chair)
 - Renata Musa (Program Coordinator)

