

CCNP NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2017

(<http://www.ccnp.ca>)

40TH ANNUAL MEETING: KINGSTON, ONTARIO

The 40th Annual CCNP Meeting will be held from June 06 to 09, 2017 at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in Kingston, Ontario. Please visit the CCNP website (<http://www.ccnp.ca>) for the preliminary program and registration as well as for the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel reservation form.

Acknowledgments

The Canadian College of Neuropsychopharmacology appreciates the support of the following meeting sponsors:

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The Canadian College of Neuropsychopharmacology appreciates the ongoing support of Pfizer Canada Inc. for the Heinz Lehman, Innovations in Neuropsychopharmacology and the Young Investigator Awards.



CCNP 2017 MAJOR AWARDS RECIPIENTS:

Heinz Lehmann Award	-	Dr. Paul Albert
Innovations in Neuropsychopharmacology	-	Dr. Yu Tian Wang
Young Investigator Award	-	Dr. Lena Palaniyappan
CCNP Medal	-	Dr. Zul Merali

Please see attached the bios as well as next year's awards notices.

Congratulations to the above individuals!

CCNP 2017 ELECTION:

An election was held in the New Year. The following individuals were elected and will commence their two-year position after the June 2017 Annual Meeting:

Councillors (1 Basic)	-	Dr. Naguib Mechawar (Verdun)
Councillors (1 Clinical)	-	Dr. Alina Marin (Kingston)
Awards Committee	-	Dr. Paul Clarke (Montreal)
Basic (2)	-	Dr. Anne-Noel Samaha (Montreal)
Awards Committee	-	Dr. Tomas Hajek (Halifax)
Clinical (2)	-	Dr. Marco Leyton (Montreal)

Congratulations to all the above!

2017 W.G. DEWHURST TRAVEL AWARDS RECIPIENTS:

Angelica Torres-Berrio – *“MiR-218 is a molecular switch for resilience to chronic stress”*

Elisa Guma – *“Does the timing of maternal immune activation affect neuroanatomical and behavioural outcome in the offspring?”*

Elmira Ismaylova – *“Serotonin transporter gene methylation in peripheral tissues in healthy adults: neural correlates and tissue specificity”*

Farank Vahid-Ansari – *“Abrogated Freud-1/CC2D1A repression of 5-HT1A autoreceptors induces a treatment-resistant anxiety-depression phenotype”*

Jonathan Simone – *“Effects of stress in adolescence on socioemotional function dissipate, whereas those of CBI receptor antagonism emerge in adulthood, in male rats”*

Laura Best – *“Low FAAH as a potential predictor of relapse in treatment-seeking alcohol users: preliminary observations”*

Congratulations to the above recipients!

CCNP JOCK CLEGHORN PRIZE:

Please see the attached notice for the CCNP Jock Cleghorn Prize which will be given for the best poster by a trainee on-site at the CCNP Meeting in Kingston.



CCNP MEMBERSHIP

We encourage each member of the CCNP to invite at least one other person in the field of neuropsychopharmacology to join our ranks. Please fill in your name as the sponsor and invite a colleague that you feel will be a valuable addition to the CCNP to submit an application for membership. This is very important since a larger membership will ensure a broader representation of neuropsychopharmacology research. Therefore, please consider asking all of your colleagues who are interested in research to consider joining. Those wishing to apply for CCNP membership can do so on-line at the CCNP website (<http://www.ccnpc.ca>).

Membership dues are \$150 per year for Fellows and \$25 per year for both Junior Members and Retired Fellows. Subscription to the *Journal of Psychiatry and Neuroscience*, the CCNP's official journal, is offered to the CCNP membership free of charge.

PROVISIONAL NEW CCNP MEMBERS FOR 2016-2017

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Dr. Yu Tian Wang
2017 Innovations in Neuropsychopharmacology Award
Recipient

The 2017 Innovations in Neuropsychopharmacology Award will be presented to Dr. Yu Tian Wang at the 40th Annual Meeting of the Canadian College of Neuropsychopharmacology in Kingston, Ontario. The Innovations Award, sponsored by Pfizer Canada Inc., is designed to recognize innovative research by Canadian scientists in research in the field of neuropsychopharmacology.

Dr. Yu Tian Wang is one of the most accomplished scholars in the field of neuropsychopharmacology in Canada and around the world. Dr. Wang has had an outstanding and productive research career evidenced by over 160 publications, with a total citation of 11819, h-Index of 51. Most impressively, many of the publications are in prestigious scientific journals in the field, including *Science*, *Nature*, *Cell* and *Neuropsychopharmacology*. Dr. Wang's research focuses on understanding the molecular mechanisms responsible for regulating the efficacy of synaptic transmission at both excitatory and inhibitory synapses, with a particular emphasis on mechanisms regulating the function and trafficking of postsynaptic ionotropic glutamate and GABA receptors. This is one of the foundations of neuroscience, the fine balance between synaptic excitation and inhibition is fundamental for normal brain functions. Its imbalance is at the root of pathogenesis of many brain disorders, ranging from psychological disorders to neurodegenerative diseases. Through investigating how the balance of synaptic excitation and inhibition is maintained in our brain under physiological conditions and how the balance is disrupted in brain disorders, Dr. Wang has made formative contributions to our understanding of mechanisms underlying brain functions, such as learning, memory, and cognition, and their alterations in brain disorders.

Through his research career, Dr. Wang has made, and continues to make, many highly influential discoveries. Firstly, he made the discovery that NMDA receptors, a principal receptor mediating excitatory transmission in the brain, are functionally regulated by tyrosine phosphorylation (*Nature* 369:233, 1994). This discovery fundamentally changed our understanding of how this receptor functions in the nervous system, and has had a huge impact on the field, with nearly 600 citations. Dr. Wang has continued along this line of research. He provided the first evidence that tyrosine phosphorylation also dynamically regulates plasma surface expression of the NMDA receptor (*Nature* 422:302, 2003), and his team published the initial evidence supporting the provocative hypothesis that NMDA receptor subunit composition is a critical determinant in dictating the direction of synaptic plasticity, long-term potentiation (LTP) and long-term depression (LTD); two biological processes that are fundamental to learning and memory and pathogenesis a number of psychiatric disorders (Liu et al, *Science* 304:1021, 2004). Together, these discoveries have not only created a better understanding how NMDA receptors contribute to brain functions, such as learning and memory, but also transformed the way in which researchers approach the study of brain disorders.

Second, he made the pioneering discovery that synaptic efficacy can be achieved by a rapid translocation of the ionotropic receptor from intracellular domain to postsynaptic surface (*Nature* 388:686, 1997), thereby revealing an entirely novel mechanism for regulating the strength of synaptic transmission. The influence of this study on the field cannot be underestimated. It is the single most influential paper in the field of GABA-A and glutamate receptor trafficking. Dr. Wang extended this finding to an even more exciting area - regulated trafficking of the AMPA subtype of glutamate receptors in LTP and LTD - and published a series of high impact papers (*Neuron* 25:635, 2000; *Neuron*, 25:649, 2000; *Nature Neurosci.* 3:1282, 2000; *Neuron* 29:243, 2001; *Neuron* 38:611, 2003; *EMBO J* 23:1040, 2004) that have led to the establishment of AMPA receptor trafficking between the intracellular compartment and the synaptic membrane as the central mechanism in the expression of LTP and LTD (*Nature Rev. Neurosci*, 2004).

Third, the better understanding of molecular mechanisms underlying AMPA receptor trafficking further led Dr. Wang to develop a peptide inhibitor of LTD for probing the role of LTD in a number of well-characterized synaptic plasticity-related behaviors associated with both brain function and dysfunction (*Science* 310:1340, 2005; *Nature Neurosci.* 13:630, 2010; *PNAS* 107:16697, 2010). As discussed in his review (*Nature Neurosci. Rev.* 2010), these studies not only provided some of the first definitive evidence for LTD in learning and memory, but also developed powerful tools that have since been used to study the role of synaptic plasticity in behavioural animal models by many laboratories around the world. In particular, using this novel LTD inhibitor and through the collaboration with Dr. Tony Phillips, his group was the first to

demonstrate that LTD plays a critical role in mediating the craving effects of a number of abusive drugs (Science 2005), a seminal discovery that has recently been independently confirmed by other research groups. Recently, he demonstrated that this inhibitor can significantly improve memory maintenance in a well-characterized animal model of Alzheimer's disease (JCI 125:234, 2015). Through these elegant, basic, and preclinical studies, Dr. Wang has established himself as an undisputable international leader in the field of synaptic plasticity in learning/memory and related brain disorders.

Fourth, Dr. Wang has revealed a novel mechanism involving a direct protein-protein binding mediated functional cross-talk between the G protein-coupled and ligand gated receptors (Nature 403:274, 2000; Cell 111:319, 2002). These studies intimately link the two principal neurotransmitter receptor families in an unprecedented way. It led to a concept that explodes the current dogma, literally creating a new line of research on the characterization of functional and physical crosstalk between distinct neurotransmitter receptors. Within this vein of research, Dr. Wang recently made another influential discovery that excitatory transmitter glutamate allosterically potentiates the function of inhibitory transmitter glycine receptors (Nature Neurosci. 2010). This study blurs the traditional distinction between excitatory and inhibitory synaptic transmissions and revolutionizes hypotheses surrounding synaptic excitation and inhibition in the central nervous system.

Fifth, as the Heart Stroke Foundation of British Columbia & Yukon Chair in Stroke Research since 2001, Dr. Wang also has made a significant impact on stroke research. He discovered that NMDA receptor NR2A and NR2B subunits have respective roles in promoting cell survival and cell death (J. Neurosci. 27:2846, 2007). He characterized molecular steps upstream of NR2B death pathway and developed several specific inhibitors to disrupt this pathway and demonstrated their therapeutic potentials in reducing brain damage following stroke (Science 298:846, 2002; JBC 279:41267, 2004; Nature Med. 15:1399, 2009). By unveiling mechanisms leading to brain injuries in stroke and identifying novel targets and thereby developing new therapeutics, Dr. Wang is serving to shape the field of stroke research.

Finally, Dr. Wang's extensive training and broad knowledge in both basic (Ph.D) and clinical (MD) medicine have kept his long-lasting interest in translating his basic scientific research into potential therapeutics for brain dysfunctions. He is a cofounder of the NoNO Inc. in Toronto that has recently completed a successful phase 2 clinical trial, demonstrating for the first time a clinically effective neuroprotectant NA-1 (Tat-NR2B9c) in reducing ischemic brain damage. He has also recently obtained funding support from NIDA for preclinical development of LTD inhibitor developed from his basic scientific research as a therapeutic for drug addiction and AD. Through these translational efforts, Dr. Wang is at the forefront of bridging the gap between scientific research and clinical care.

In summary, Dr. Wang has a superb publication record and has made significant contributions to the literature and impacts on the fields of his research and clinical interests. Quite simply, Dr. Wang is one of the most accomplished scientists and innovators in neuropsychopharmacological research and has been recognized by being a Howard Hughes Medical Institute International Scholar (2001-2005 and 2006-2011) and inducted into the Royal Society of Canada in 2006.

Dr. Yu Tian Wang is an undoubtedly most deserving and worthy recipient for the 2017 CCNP Innovations in Neuropsychopharmacology Award. Congratulations to Dr. Wang!

Dr. Lena Palaniyappan

2017 Young Investigator Award Recipient

The 2017 Young Investigator Award will be presented to Dr. Lena Palaniyappan at the 40th Annual Meeting of the Canadian College of Neuropsychopharmacology in Kingston, Ontario. The Young Investigator Award, sponsored by Pfizer Canada Inc., is designed to recognize outstanding contributions in the field of research in neuropsychopharmacology by a young basic or clinical investigator in Canada.

Lena is a psychiatrist with a PhD in Translational Neuroimaging (University of Nottingham, England, United Kingdom [UK]) awarded in December 2013. With the prestigious Laughlin Prize for an outstanding performance (Royal College of Psychiatrists UK) in the membership exam, Lena undertook higher clinical (postgraduate training year 4 onwards) training while concurrently establishing a research track focused on translational psychiatric neuroimaging. With continued competitive funding (National Institute of Health Research & the Wellcome Trust [UK]) and relentless publication record, he was appointed to his first independent position as an Associate Professor at the University of Nottingham at the age of 31.

Since 2012, along with several collaborators, Lena has raised \$8.8M for psychiatric neuroimaging research and has 60 career publications, with 45 as principal or senior author [>1200 cites h19] in high impact (*Neuron*, *Biol. Psychiatry*) journals. 3 of his papers rank in top 5% of ~6M research outputs tracked for online public attention [Altmetrics], with news stories in BBC, Reuters, Forbes, Washington Post etc. One of the key outputs of his work is the first ever application of 7-Tesla imaging to study schizophrenia (Published in *Neuropsychopharmacology*). With a team of physicists, he overcame the challenges of ultra-high field MR in a symptomatic sample, identified myelination deficits, and used Bayesian approaches to demonstrate the superior clinical utility of 7T over 3T in studying schizophrenia. This paved the way for a MRC (UK) funded multisite study (NPA: Deakin) to examine glutathione, glutamate and the salience network integrity in 7T alongside microglial PET. His research produced a major impetus to establish the first Translational Neuroimaging Centre for Mental Health in the UK, led by Prof. Liddle, with Lena as its Associate Director.

Lena has coordinated multi-site projects in the UK [overseeing >500 MR sessions] and founded global collaborations with mathematicians (China), engineers (USA) and neuroscientists (Brazil, EU) leading to the first ever application of 7T-MR in schizophrenia (Published in *Neuropsychopharmacology*), expansion of prognostic imaging to schizophrenia and the largest connectivity study in schizophrenia ($n>800$). In 2013, he persuaded a large English Hospital Trust that functional MRI has definite clinical use and secured infrastructure support for the first ever MR-guided TMS clinic in the UK. This translational work motivated similar attempts in the UK & led to an invited contribution to the UK Chief Medical Officer's Report that sets the national tone for clinical innovations. Since 2015, as the director of PEPP (London, Ontario), he has instituted a framework for continuous gathering of clinical data & established strong links with premier imaging groups at Robarts & Lawson imaging, thus setting up a pathway for longitudinal MR studies in naturalistic samples & raising early funding for hybrid PET/MR imaging and 7T-MR spectroscopy focused on dynamic glutamate imaging. Important to this competition, however, are Lena's contributions to the study of neuropsychopharmacology. There are highlighted here:

- Early in his training, Lena identified the critical role of a large-scale brain network [Salience Network (SN), anchored on the insula] in generating the core symptoms of psychosis. His review, initially published in CCNP's journal – *Journal of Psychiatry & Neuroscience*, has so far received 222 citations in 4yrs (~50 citations a year). He built on this further and later in a paper published in *Neuron*, he demonstrated insula's aberrant influence on the prefrontal cortex & its role in influencing the severity of schizophrenia (*Neuron*). He laid out the therapeutic implications of this model in a review published in *Current Topics in Medicinal Chemistry*. This body of work has been endorsed as critical to the field, invoking commentaries from prominent leaders both in the Schizophrenia Research Forum and in *Cell Press*. This work has now influenced unified models for Cognitive Control Disorders. Of direct relevance to psychopharmacology, his work has provided the much needed Network Science perspective to the notion of how aberrant salience could operate at a functional level to produce delusions and hallucinations.

- In recent times, Lena has pioneered the area of prognostic neuroimaging. He has shown that brain structure, especially cortical folding patterns, can distinguish early responders to antipsychotic treatment from non-responders in naturalistic settings of First Episode Programs. This work, published in JAMA Psychiatry, has rejuvenated the quest for fractionation of psychosis into subtypes that can be utilised for planning more homogenous, stratified Randomised Controlled Trials. He has taken this further by applying machine learning to separate patients with schizophrenia with high severity of illness from those who have lower severity. This body of work holds distinct promise to influence the future of psychopharmacology and has been commented by prominent Canadian/American researchers as a promising route to improve patient outcomes (Zipursky and Schulz. Schizophrenia Research Forum: <http://54.208.63.20/new/detail.asp?id=1937>).

- Lena led a team that established the first clinical MR-guided TMS unit in the UK. With the support of European Research Council, he demonstrated for the first time in humans that focal manipulation of brain's GABA level is feasible by applying connectivity guided theta burst stimulus. This work, published in Neuroimage in September 2016, holds great promise to study the GABA system in various psychiatric disorders. Moreover, this work exemplifies personalized interventions– each patient's brain connectivity profile can determine what brain regions should be targeted by TMS, leading to focussed brain network modulation in a quest to address treatment-resistant symptoms.

Lena's work has extended into the neurobiology of other psychiatric disorders such as depression and autism. His team proposed a hierarchical bottom-up network model for depression, published in Eur Neuropsychopharmacology (2014). He has also studied the physiology of oxytocin in a work published in CINP's journal Int J Neuropsychopharmacology (2015). At present, he is a part of a team that is exploring the physiology of galantamine on schizotypy, and the effect of glial-neuronal shuttling of glutamate in schizophrenia. In London, Ontario he is currently pursuing microglial PET to study neuroinflammation in treatment-resistant depression, and the role of glutamate in Thought and Language Disorders of psychosis. Lena was an invited member of European College of Neuropsychopharmacology's (ECNP) Targetted Network on Neuroimaging (2014). Dr. Iwabuchi (his postdoctoral associate) was awarded a competitive EU-CASCADE/Marie-Curie fellowship and ECNP Junior Scientist award for the work that Lena supervised (first human demonstration of targeted perturb-and-measure MR spectroscopy). This highlights his potential to contribute to a team of future researchers in our field and the great promise that Lena has for his career.

In summary, Dr. Lena Palaniyappan is an extremely deserving candidate for this award. His work not only demonstrates the value of clinically grounded experiments in taking biology to bedside, but also directly embraces the translational challenges facing our field. At this time, we need a systems perspective to work alongside the conventional reductionist approach. It goes without saying that individuals who can see the greater whole of this complexity than the sum of its parts deserve our recognition at this time.

Dr. Lena Palaniyappan is undoubtedly a most worthy recipient of the CCNP 2017 Young Investigator Award. Congratulations to Dr. Palaniyappan!

Dr. Paul Albert

2017 Heinz Lehmann Award Recipient

The 2017 Heinz Lehmann Award will be presented to Dr. Paul Albert at the 40th Annual Meeting of the Canadian College of Neuropsychopharmacology in Kingston, Ontario. This award, sponsored by Pfizer Canada Inc., is designed to recognize outstanding research achievements by Canadian scientists in the field of Neuropsychopharmacology.

Dr. Albert is an outstanding candidate for this Award with 30 years of contributions to Neuropsychopharmacology, starting with the cloning of the 5-HT_{1A} and dopamine-D₂ receptor genes as a post-doctoral fellow. He was Associate Professor (tenured) at McGill University, and moved to the University of Ottawa in 1995 as the CIHR/Novartis Michael Smith Chair in Neuroscience where he is now Professor of Medicine (2000) and Senior Scientist (2001) and Associate Director (Neuroscience) (2006) at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute. He has done outstanding and innovative research to elucidate underlying mechanisms of gene regulation that contribute to mental illness.

The Lehmann award recognizes “outstanding contributions by a single individual in the field of research in Neuropsychopharmacology in Canada”. Paul has received 46 peer reviewed grants and published 122 papers, 13 book chapters, with an H-index of 40. Several of these have appeared in outstanding journals such as Nature, Neuron, J. Neuroscience, Mol. Psychiatry, Biol. Psychiatry, J. Biol. Chem., etc. and have changed thinking about how genetics may affect nervous system function to predispose to mental illness. His research has been recognized by several awards including: the Michael Smith CIHR/Novartis Chair, the Dewan prize (OMHF), Schaeffer scholarship (Columbia) and the Hakim Award (CPSR) for his research on post-stroke depression.

Paul has not only made outstanding and innovative research contributions, but he has also provided outstanding leadership and teaching contributions in Neuropsychopharmacology. He has been an active member of CCNP since 2000, and executive member (8 years, 2008-16) and President (years?). He has been organizer* or co-organizer of 4 CCNP meetings (2010*, 2014, 2015*, 2016), and several international meetings including ISSR 2010* (Serotonin Club), Great Lakes GPCR 2005* and 2017, GRSNC 2011, ISAD 2008, CDRIN 2014, etc. and a member of Committees in international societies (ISAD, CINP) and Editorial Boards (JBC, JPN, IJNP, PTRSB) and has been Grant panel member or Chair for national (CIHR, 17 years from 2000-16; OMHF, 7 years from 1998-2004) and international (ANR 2012; ERANET Neuron 2013) funding agencies. He has advanced teaching in Neuroscience and Psychiatry as Director of the UOttawa Neuroscience program (9 years, 2004-12), by organizing yearly courses (Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience, 13 years, 2000-2012; Cellular and Molecular Psychiatry 9 years, 2006-present), by successfully graduating 40 students (25 M.Sc., 15 Ph.D.) and supervising 23 PDF trainees. Overall, he has made huge and lasting contributions to Neuropsychopharmacology in Canada and world-wide.

An important aspect of Paul's work is his extension of his fundamental research in signaling and transcriptional mechanisms to relevant models of mental illness. Paul's research in mental health initially focused on the characterization of dopamine-D₂ and serotonin-1A receptor (5-HT_{1A}) genes, and the signaling, structure-function, and desensitization mechanisms of these receptors. What is unique about his research is that he has been the first to go beyond simple genetic associations and to describe the underlying transcriptional mechanisms involved in extensive detail. This extent of transcriptional understanding has been matched by no other research group, to the extent of identifying novel transcription factors that mediate this regulation, and demonstrating the effect of the polymorphisms of their function. In his most recent studies, he has now been successful to demonstrate the roles of these transcription factors in region-specific regulation of these genes, and in altering activity of the serotonin system. His research has provided a new paradigm for translating mechanistic understanding of gene regulation into truly functional polymorphisms that associate with mental illness and can be tested in animal models of mental health. Following his seminal studies several new polymorphisms have now been demonstrated to have specific functional effects that could affect gene expression. These studies promise to provide biological markers for mental illness and treatment response as they are validated.

His major focus on the 5-HT_{1A} receptor gene (HTR1A) was initiated based on its dual role of this receptor as a somatodendritic autoreceptor on 5-HT raphe neurons and a major post-synaptic receptor implicated in mood and anxiety. Given the chronic nature of mental illness and its treatment, his research increasingly focused on understanding the long-term transcriptional regulation of these genes. His lab delineated a ubiquitous CG-rich “housekeeping” promoter that is inhibited by a series of upstream repressor elements that restrict its expression to neuronal cells, but that even within neurons exerted strong repression to limit the levels of basal expression. By identifying specific repressive DNA elements and cloning the novel transcription factors he has advanced the understanding of the HTR1A gene far beyond that of any other 5-HT-related gene. He identified Freud-1/CC2D1A and Freud-2/CC2D1B, which are linked to intellectual disability and neuronal development, as the strongest repressor 5-HT_{1A} expression in neurons. His recent unpublished studies in mice lacking Freud-1 in adult 5-HT neurons show increased levels of 5-HT_{1A} autoreceptors, decreased 5-HT, and a very strong anxiety-

depression phenotype that is resistant to antidepressant treatment. This represents the first and most detailed promoter analysis of any G-protein coupled receptor gene, and has tremendous implications for autoreceptor regulation and ultimately its role in depression. Thus, he has moved from basic promoter studies, to validating a key role for gene repression in regulating 5-HT_{1A} autoreceptor expression and behavior, a major leap that may help to predict SSRI responders vs. non-responders and devise new treatment for non-responders. In addition to advancing basic understanding of genetic mechanisms, Paul's research is Dr. Albert obtained his Ph.D. in Pharmacology from Harvard (1985) and did post-doctoral studies with Drs. Herbert and Civelli. He was Assistant/Associate Professor, McGill University 1989-95, and became CIHR/Novartis Michael Smith Chair in Neuroscience (1996), University of Ottawa, and is currently Full Professor (2000) and Senior Scientist (2001), Associate Director of Neuroscience (2006) at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, and past Director of the Neuroscience Graduate Program.

Dr. Lehmann's research revolutionized treatment of schizophrenia and Paul's work has shed new light on mechanisms underlying depression and antidepressant response, providing new biomarkers and drug targets to re-establish normal 5-HT function and behavior. Perhaps most importantly, he has provided a translational framework to identify underlying regulatory mechanisms that lead to mental illness.

In summary, Dr. Paul Albert has made significant contributions to the field of neuropsychopharmacology and is a very worthy co-recipient of the 2017 Heinz Lehmann Award. Congratulations to Dr. Albert!

Dr. Zul Merali

2017 CCNP Medal

The 2017 CCNP Medal will be presented to Dr. Zul Merali at the 40th Annual Meeting of the Canadian College of Neuropsychopharmacology that will be held in Kingston, Ontario. This Award, sponsored by Pfizer Canada Inc. honours individuals for a meritorious career in, and outstanding contribution to, neuropsychopharmacology in Canada as evidenced by their activities in education, administration and/or patient care.

Dr. Zul Merali, President & CEO, The Royal's Institute of Mental Health Research (IMHR) has contributed to neuropsychopharmacological advances in his highly-integrated career as a senior-level administrator, researcher, educator and mentor. Recent advances, outlined in more detail below, align with the criteria for deserving recipients of the 2017 CCNP Medal. Over his career, Dr. Merali has built bridges with many key stakeholders to mobilize multi-million dollar investments in supporting neuropsychopharmacology / mental health research and training. He conceptualized and led the creation of many Canadian 'firsts' through partnerships, including unique and important research chairs in Military Mental Health Research, Suicide Prevention Research, Cultural and Gender Mental Health Research. He was responsible for the establishment of a high-profile mental health award, \$1M (10-year), to early career researchers. This *Royal-Mach-Gaensslen Award* was first awarded in 2015 by the Governor General of Canada, His Excellency, David Johnston and Her Excellency, Sharon Johnston.

These recent initiatives led by Dr. Merali, are changing the landscape and capacity for targeted mental health research in Canada and will make a difference. For example, the DIFD Mach-Gaensslen Chair in Suicide Prevention Research (created October 2014) explores and creates best practices to reduce suicide attempts and completed suicides in Canada. This means building knowledge and working with health care providers, community organizations, and families to translate that knowledge into real solutions to prevent suicide and the devastating impact it has on Canadian families.

In addition, the Canadian Forces (CF) Brigadier Jonathan C. Meakins, CBE, RCAMC Chair in Military Mental Health (December 2015) recognized one of the world's first PTSD researchers during World War I. As the first Chair of Military Mental Health, Colonel Rakesh Jetly, a senior psychiatrist and mental health advisor to the CF Surgeon General, will be working closely with leading-edge researchers and clinicians at The Royal's IMHR. Colonel Jetly and his team are leveraging national and international research partnerships established by The Royal and the Canadian Forces to deliver ground-breaking research and transformative discoveries to improve clinical care for soldiers suffering from debilitating psychological injuries.

The Royal-Mach-Gaensslen Prize for Mental Health Research was established in partnership with The Royal's Institute of Mental Health Research in 2015, to recognize and support Canadian early-career mental health researchers. The annual Prize provides funding to outstanding rising star researchers who are affiliated with a Canadian academic or clinical research institution in the field of mental health, to encourage them to continue to pursue their research interests. As well, a further initiative, which is about to be launched, will provide 5 junior faculty members with positions at the IMHR, which includes 100K research grants for each of 5 years. These awards, like The Royal-Mach-Gaensslen Prize recognizes those with a demonstrated track record in research with excellence in scientific rigor, innovative thinking, imagination and originality and a clear ability to work in partnership with other disciplines and/or research teams external to the institution with which they are affiliated.

Dr. Merali has provided enabling leadership in founding, and start-up management, of the very novel, pan-Canadian Research and Intervention Network (CDRIN), which was formed through the support of senior Federal Cabinet Ministers and a federal budget-line commitment of \$5.2M from the PMO to seed the start-up of the national network. CDRIN, as part of its development has created Regional Depression Hubs (HUBS) across Canada. The introduction of HUBS created a networked and collaborative environment through which new enabling approaches can be used to refine research priorities and facilitate the translation of results into practice. The research capacities, expertise and other advantages combined in HUBS provide CDRIN with a competitive edge in the pursuit of funding and partnerships for research, knowledge translation (KT) and educational goals. HUBS share new discoveries and identify promising clinical intervention models. KT initiatives are piloted at strategic sites and then scaled-up to establish research-informed best practices at the provincial and national levels. These initiatives are designed to be at the grass-roots level across the country, with the goal of reducing barriers traditionally encountered when practices are introduced from the top down. One of the HUBS, The *First Peoples – First Person* Indigenous Hub plays a central research, policy, and knowledge dissemination role in partnering with Indigenous peoples of Canada to realize the potential for vast improvements in wellness, healing, mental health and addictions supports and services.

Of importance, amongst these collective initiatives, Dr. Merali ensured that individuals with lived experience (i.e. those with mental health illnesses, caregivers, family) were central to their creation and development. This is a model that will become more commonplace in medical research globally.

In addition to the various programs and initiatives that Dr Merali established, he recently created the Royals IMHR new imaging centre which high-lights a multimodal imaging system (fMRI-PET combination) fully dedicated to mental health research. Owing to the capabilities of this imaging system, it promises to provide superior diagnosis and will facilitate personalized (precision) medicine in the treatment of psychiatric disorders. This is the only facility in Canada that has such a system dedicated to mental health research, and to take maximal advantage of it, Dr Merali has made this equipment available to researchers outside of the IMHR who are focused on comorbid conditions associated with mental health (e.g., heart disease).

Dr. Merali obtained his PhD in Pharmacology at the University of Ottawa and is well known in his field as an effective collaborative investigator and a strong critical thinker. He is a full professor in the faculties of Medicine (Departments of Cellular and Molecular Medicine and Psychiatry) and Social Sciences (Psychology) at the University of Ottawa, and research professor at the Institute of Neuroscience at Carleton University. Outside of his senior administrative contributions, Dr. Merali has published over 180 scientific papers, more than 20 book chapters and over 200 conference presentations. Of importance, Dr. Merali is the 'in the trenches pulse' connection from supervising and mentoring students – bringing a next-gen perspective to his initiatives. His success in blazing new trails for research capacity is attributable to his visionary thinking paired with his skillful leadership and advocacy. Owing to his accomplishments, he is seen as the 'go to guy' and has frequently been invited to address various Parliamentary Standing Committees on topics related to mental health. These interactions with politicians and senior advisors have been a truly meaningful extension of his educational role – bringing more informed capacity to government decisions. His career has been meritorious in making a recognized difference to the landscape of neuropsychopharmacology / mental health research.

Dr. Zul Merali is undoubtedly a most deserving and worthy recipient for the 2017 CCNP Medal.
Congratulations to Dr. Merali!



CANADIAN COLLEGE OF NEUROPSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY
COLLÈGE CANADIEN DE NEUROPSYCHOPHARMACOLOGIE

CCNP Medal

This Award was established to honour individuals for a meritorious career in, and outstanding contribution to, neuropsychopharmacology in Canada as evidenced by their activities in education, administration and/or patient care. Achievement in research is not a necessary criterion for this Award. An outstanding contribution implies achievement at the national or international level, and evidence of novel initiatives.

The Award, which does not have to be awarded each year, consists of a bronze medal engraved with the name of the recipient.

Nomination for 2018 CCNP Medal

The names of nominees should be received by Dr. Ridha Joober by **November 30th, 2017**. Supporting documentation must be received by **December 31st, 2017**. For each award, this documentation shall consist of:

1. A completed CCNP Medal checklist, signed by the nominee.
2. A two-page summary prepared by the sponsor describing the nominee's work and its importance in furthering the field of neuropsychopharmacology.
3. The nominee's curriculum vitae and list of publications.
4. A brief biographical sketch of the candidate prepared by the sponsor.

Formal presentation of the Award will be made to the recipient during the Annual Meeting of the College.

Please send the name of the nominee and a short supporting letter to:

Dr. Ridha Joober
President - CCNP

*** Please send one copy of the above electronically to Dr. Joober at ridha.joober@mcgill.ca and one copy electronically to the CCNP Secretariat at rmena@ualberta.ca.

Deadline for receipt of initial nomination and short supporting letter is November 30, 2017.



CANADIAN COLLEGE OF NEUROPSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY
COLLÈGE CANADIEN DE NEUROPSYCHOPHARMACOLOGIE

CCNP Medal

Sponsored by the Canadian College of Neuropsychopharmacology

Checklist

_____ Two-page summary of my work and its importance to neuropsychopharmacology.

_____ Manuscripts and reprints pertinent to the nomination (maximum = 5)

_____ My CV

_____ Brief biographical sketch

_____ I agree to be nominated for the 2018 CCNP Medal.

_____ I attest to the accuracy of the information supplied in my application.

Signature

Date

Previous CCNP Medal Recipients

1988	Y.-D. Lapierre
1990	T. L. Sourkes
1991	N. P. V. Nair
1992	R.T. Coutts, J.M. Cleghorn
1993	W. G. Dewhurst
1994	P. D. Hrdina
1995	D. J. McClure
1996	A. Villeneuve
1997	G. Baker
1998	No award given
1999	No award given
2000	A.G. Awad
2001	No award given
2002	T. Reader
2003	S.N. Young
2004	D. Addington
2005	No award given
2006	S. Kennedy
2007	R. Quirion
2008	S. Kutcher
2009	L. Yatham
2010	No award given
2011	M. Steiner
2012	A. Phillips
2013	L.T. Young
2014	No award given
2015	A. Malla
2016	No award given
2017	Z. Merali



CANADIAN COLLEGE OF NEUROPSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY
COLLÈGE CANADIEN DE NEUROPSYCHOPHARMACOLOGIE

Heinz Lehmann Award For Outstanding Contributions to Neuropsychopharmacology Sponsored by Pfizer Canada Inc.

The Heinz Lehmann Award is designed to recognize outstanding contributions by a single individual in the field of research in neuropsychopharmacology in Canada. The Award consists of \$2,000 honorarium and a suitably engraved plaque. The Heinz Lehmann Award shall be presented annually for work done primarily in Canada by Canadian scientists, unless there is, in the view of the Awards Committee, no qualified nominee.

Eligibility shall include individuals from academic institutions, foundations, governmental, industrial and research organizations, regardless of age or sex. The decision of the Awards Committee shall be based on originality and uniqueness of approach to clinical or laboratory research that had led to new, significant neuropsychopharmacological knowledge of concepts, or to the development of new therapeutic agents for the treatment of mental diseases. This should be evidenced by contributions based either on a specific piece of research or on a large body of neuropsychopharmacological research done over a period of years. The Awardee is expected to give a lecture based on his/her research at the Annual Meeting of the CCNP, and to contribute a manuscript based on the lecture to the CCNP official journal, the *Journal of Psychiatry & Neuroscience*, no later than six months after the lecture.

Nomination for 2018 Heinz Lehmann Award

The names of nominees should be received by Dr. Ridha Joober by **November 30th, 2017**. Supporting documentation must be received by **December 31st, 2017**. For each award, this documentation shall consist of:

1. A completed Heinz Lehmann Award checklist, signed by the nominee.
2. A two-page summary prepared by the sponsor describing the nominee's work and its importance in furthering the field of neuropsychopharmacology.
3. Up to 5 manuscripts or reprints considered by the sponsor to be pertinent to the nomination and which highlight the nominee's work.
4. The nominee's curriculum vitae.
5. A brief biographical sketch of the candidate prepared by the sponsor.

Formal presentation of the Award will be made to the recipient during the Annual Meeting of the College.

Note: The Heinz Lehmann Research Award may be given for basic research or clinical research in alternate years. The 2018 Award will be presented for clinical research.

Please send the name of the nominee and a short supporting letter to:

Dr. Ridha Joober
CCNP President

*** Please send one copy of the above electronically to Dr. Joober at ridha.joober@mcqill.ca and one copy to the CCNP Secretariat at rmena@ualberta.ca.

Deadline for receipt of initial nomination and short supporting letter is November 30, 2017.



CANADIAN COLLEGE OF NEUROPSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY
COLLÈGE CANADIEN DE NEUROPSYCHOPHARMACOLOGIE

Heinz Lehmann Award
For Outstanding Contributions to Neuropsychopharmacology
Sponsored by Pfizer Canada Inc.

Checklist:

- _____ Two-page summary of my work and its importance to neuropsychopharmacology.
- _____ Manuscripts and reprints pertinent to the nomination (maximum = 5)
- _____ My CV
- _____ Brief biographical sketch
- _____ I agree to be nominated for the 2018 Heinz Lehman Award.
- _____ If I am the award recipient, I will give a lecture at the 2018 CCNP annual meeting.
- _____ If I am the award recipient, I will contribute a manuscript to the CCNP journal, the *Journal of Psychiatry & Neuroscience*, within 6 months after the 2018 CCNP meeting.
- _____ 250-word abstract for a paper that could be submitted to the *Journal of Psychiatry & Neuroscience* if I am awarded the prize.
- _____ I attest to the accuracy of the information supplied in my application.

Signature

Date

Previous Heinz Lehmann Award Recipients

1982	T. L. Sourkes
1983	G. M. Brown
1984	B. Belleau
1985	P. Seeman
1986	S. Lal
1987	C. Fibiger
1988	C. de Montigny
1989	A. A. Boulton
1990	S. N. Young
1991	R. Quirion
1992	P. Grof
1993	K. K. Midha
1994	R. O. Pihl
1995	A. C. Cuello
1996	R. Joffe
1997	N. Barden
1998	B. Sherwin
1999	J. Stewart
2000	M. Steiner
2001	F. Vaccarino
2002	H. Steiger
2003	T. DiPaolo
2004	G. Chouinard
2005	M. Meaney
2006	L.T. Young
2007	H. Anisman
2008	W. Honer
2009	A. Phillips
2010	P. Blier
2011	R. Tyndale; D. Weaver
2012	G. Turecki
2013	S. George/B. Rusak
2014	G. MacQueen
2015	D. van der Kooy
2016	L. Yatham
2017	P. Albert



CANADIAN COLLEGE OF NEUROPSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY
COLLÈGE CANADIEN DE NEUROPSYCHOPHARMACOLOGIE

CCNP Innovations in Neuropsychopharmacology Research Award For Outstanding Innovations in Neuropsychopharmacology by an Individual or Group Sponsored by Pfizer Canada Inc.

The Innovations in Neuropsychopharmacology Research Award is designed to recognize innovative research in neuropsychopharmacology. The Award consists of \$2,000 and a suitably engraved plaque. The Innovations in Neuropsychopharmacology Award shall be presented annually for work done primarily in Canada by Canadian scientists, unless there is, in view of the Awards Committee, no qualified nominee.

The decision of the Awards Committee will be based solely on the outstanding innovative nature of the work by an individual or a group as demonstrated by a single piece of research contributed over a number of years. The Awardee(s) is/are expected to give a lecture based on his/her/their research at the Annual Meeting of the CCNP, and to contribute a manuscript, based on the lecture, to the CCNP official journal, the *Journal of Psychiatry & Neuroscience*, not later than six months after the lecture.

Nomination for 2018 Innovations in Neuropsychopharmacology Research Award

The names of nominees should be received by Dr. Ridha Joober by **November 30th, 2017**. Supporting documentation must be received by **December 31st, 2017**. For each award, this documentation shall consist of:

1. A completed CCNP Innovations Award checklist, signed by the nominee.
2. A two-page summary prepared by the sponsor describing the nominee's work and its importance in furthering the field of neuropsychopharmacology.
3. Up to 5 manuscripts or reprints considered by the sponsor to be pertinent to the nomination and which highlight the nominee's work.
4. The nominee's curriculum vitae.
5. A brief biographical sketch of the candidate prepared by the sponsor.

Formal presentation of the Award will be made to the recipient during the Annual Meeting of the College.

Note: The Innovations in Neuropsychopharmacology Research Award may be given for basic research or clinical research in alternate years. The 2018 Award will be presented for clinical research.

Please send the name of the nominee and a short supporting letter to:

Dr. Ridha Joober
CCNP President

*** Please send one copy of the above electronically to Dr. Joober at ridha.joober@mcgill.ca and one copy to the CCNP Secretariat at rmena@ualberta.ca.

Deadline for receipt of initial nomination and short supporting letter is November 30, 2017.



CANADIAN COLLEGE OF NEUROPSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY
COLLÈGE CANADIEN DE NEUROPSYCHOPHARMACOLOGIE

**Innovations in Neuropsychopharmacology Award
For Outstanding Contributions to Neuropsychopharmacology
Sponsored by Pfizer Canada Inc.**

Checklist

- _____ Two-page summary of my work and its importance to neuropsychopharmacology.
- _____ Manuscripts and reprints pertinent to the nomination (maximum = 5)
- _____ My CV
- _____ Brief biographical sketch
- _____ I agree to be nominated for the 2018 Innovations in Neuropsychopharmacology Award.
- _____ If I am the award recipient, I will give a lecture at the 2018 CCNP annual meeting.
- _____ If I am the award recipient, I will contribute a manuscript to the CCNP journal, the *Journal of Psychiatry & Neuroscience*, within 6 months after the 2018 CCNP meeting.
- _____ 250-word abstract for a paper that could be submitted to the *Journal of Psychiatry & Neuroscience* if I am awarded the prize.
- _____ I attest to the accuracy of the information supplied in my application.

Signature

Date

Previous Innovations in Neuropsychopharmacology Award Recipients

1996	C. Fibiger, A. Phillips
1997	J. Bradwejn
1998	S. Gauthier, J. Poirier, R. Quirion
1999	G. Baker, R. Coutts, A. Greenshaw
2000	M. Diksic
2001	H. Robertson
2002	S. Lal
2003	No award given
2004	P. Seeman, S. Kapur
2005	No award given
2006	R. Tyndale
2007	N. Barden
2008	G. MacQueen
2009	S. Josselyn
2010	S. Weiss
2011	M. Szyf
2012	G. Remington
2013	X. Zhang
2014	A. Lozano
2015	M. Leyton
2016	D. Mueller, G. Robertson
2017	Y. Wang



CANADIAN COLLEGE OF NEUROPSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY
COLLÈGE CANADIEN DE NEUROPSYCHOPHARMACOLOGIE

Young Investigator Award

**For Outstanding Contributions to Neuropsychopharmacology by a Young Investigator
Sponsored by Pfizer Canada Inc.**

The Young Investigator Award is designed to recognize outstanding contributions in the field of research in neuropsychopharmacology by an individual young basic scientist or clinical investigator in Canada. Applications will be judged primarily on the basis of the candidate's work as an independent investigator. The Award consists of a \$2,000 honorarium and a suitably engraved plaque. The Young Investigator Award shall be presented annually for work done primarily in Canada by Canadian scientists, unless there is, in the view of the Awards Committee, no qualified nominee.

The major selection criterion is that the candidate be actively engaged in high quality neuropsychopharmacological research in Canada. There is no restriction concerning the field in which nominees have obtained their doctoral degree, but not more than ten years should have elapsed since the completion of their post-doctoral or residency training by July of the year of presentation. It is not required that the candidates be members of the College or have an academic appointment. The Awardee is expected to give a lecture based on his/her research at the Annual Meeting of the CCNP, and to contribute a manuscript based on the lecture to the CCNP official journal, the *Journal of Psychiatry & Neuroscience*, no later than six months after the lecture.

Nomination for 2018 CCNP Young Investigator Award

The names of nominees should be received by Dr. Ridha Joober by **November 30th, 2017**. Supporting documentation must be received by **December 31st, 2017**. For each award, this documentation shall consist of:

1. A completed Young Investigator Award checklist, signed by the nominee.
2. A two-page summary prepared by the sponsor describing the nominee's work and its importance in furthering the field of neuropsychopharmacology.
3. Up to 5 manuscripts or reprints considered by the sponsor to be pertinent to the nomination and which highlight the nominee's work.
4. The nominee's curriculum vitae.
5. A brief biographical sketch of the candidate prepared by the sponsor.

Formal presentation of the Award will be made to the recipient during the Annual Meeting of the College

**Note: The Young Investigator Award is given for basic research or clinical research in alternate years.
The 2018 Award will be presented for basic research.**

Please send the name of the nominee and a short supporting letter to:

Dr. Ridha Joober
CCNP President

*** Please send one copy of the above electronically to Dr. Joober at ridha.joober@mcgill.ca and one copy to the CCNP Secretariat at rmena@ualberta.ca.

Deadline for receipt of initial nomination and short supporting letter is November 30, 2017.



CANADIAN COLLEGE OF NEUROPSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY
COLLÈGE CANADIEN DE NEUROPSYCHOPHARMACOLOGIE

**Young Investigator Award
For Outstanding Contributions to Neuropsychopharmacology
Sponsored by Pfizer Canada Inc.**

Checklist

- Two-page summary of my work and its importance to neuropsychopharmacology.
- Manuscripts and reprints pertinent to the nomination (maximum = 5)
- My CV
- Brief biographical sketch
- I agree to be nominated for the 2018 Young Investigator Award.
- If I am the award recipient, I will give a lecture at the 2018 CCNP annual meeting.
- If I am the award recipient, I will contribute a manuscript to the CCNP journal, the *Journal of Psychiatry & Neuroscience*, within 6 months after the 2018 CCNP meeting.
- 250-word abstract for a paper that could be submitted to the *Journal of Psychiatry & Neuroscience* if I am awarded the prize.
- I attest to the accuracy of the information supplied in my application.

Signature

Date

Previous Young Investigator Award Winners

1987	A. J. Greenshaw
1988	B. Suranyi-Cadotte
1989	F. J. Vaccarino
1990	P. Blier, P.B.S. Clarke
1991	J. Bradwejn
1992	M. Martin-Iverson
1993	R. Joffe
1994	A. Gratton, J. Poirier
1995	G. Koren
1996	G. Robertson
1997	W. Honer
1998	J. Nalbantoglu
1999	S. Kapur
2000	No award given
2001	R. Joober
2002	S. Kar, C-D. Walker
2003	G. Turecki
2004	L-E. Trudeau
2005	J. Meyer
2006	S. Floresco
2007	M. Lepage
2008	T. Woodward
2009	J. Pruessner
2010	J-M. Beaulieu, C. Flores
2011	J. Daskalakis
2012	G. Gobbi
2013	L. Booij
2014	A. Barr
2015	S. Karama
2016	M. Chakravarty
2017	L. Palaniyappan



**CANADIAN COLLEGE OF NEUROPSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY
COLLÈGE CANADIEN DE NEUROPSYCHOPHARMACOLOGIE**

THE JOCK CLEGHORN PRIZE

This prize, which will consist of a cheque for \$500, will be awarded by the CCNP for the best poster presentation by a research trainee (graduate student or clinical resident or postdoc) at the Annual Meeting of the CCNP. All trainees/students who submit a poster presentation for the Annual Meeting will be eligible for this prize. Those already applying for travel bursaries will automatically be considered for the Jock Cleghorn Prize.

The poster presentations will be judged at the Annual Meeting by a committee consisting of at least 3 members of the CCNP council (or substitute judges to be chosen by the Council from the CCNP membership if needed). Topics on either basic or clinical aspects of neuropsychopharmacology will be considered. The poster should represent research in which the graduate student, postdoc, or resident is the primary investigator. Only the first author of the submitted abstract is eligible for the award. The winner of the award will be announced at the CCNP banquet and in the first Newsletter following the Annual Meeting.