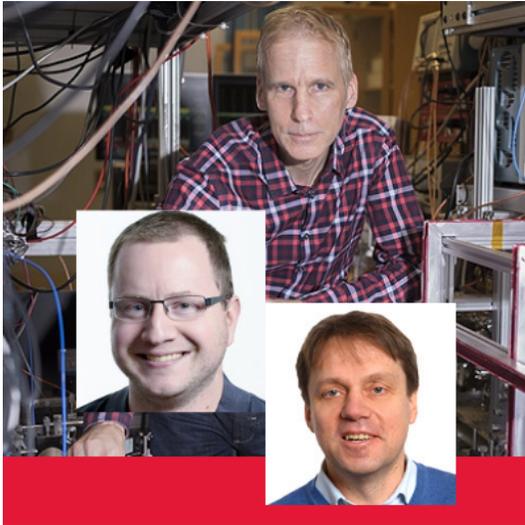


Dean's Round-up: March 2021

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



Faculty of Science researchers **Eric Hessels** (Physics & Astronomy), **Derek Wilson** (Chemistry) and **Sergey Krylov** (Chemistry) were awarded more than \$5 million in research infrastructure funding from Canada Foundation for Innovation: <https://bit.ly/3qbXAP3>.

University Response



York University [issued a statement](#) about an incident between a Mathematics & Statistics instructor and a student in Myanmar. For a summary of the steps the Faculty of Science has taken to address this issue, see our special statement, below.

SPECIAL STATEMENT ON RESOLUTION OF STUDENT ACCOMMODATION ISSUE

As many of you are aware, there was a disturbing exchange between a Faculty of Science instructor and one of our students in Myanmar which received significant media attention. The language used by the instructor in the posted exchange was insensitive, unprofessional, lacked empathy, and insulted the student. We acted swiftly to resolve this issue. **The impacted student was satisfied that the issue was handled promptly and appropriately** by both the Faculty and the University.

The Faculty of Science is taking additional steps to ensure a respectful and safe learning environment for all. Following this incident, we issued an email communication to all faculty, staff, and students, detailing our response, and highlighting our expectations for professors' conduct toward students. This communication was also posted to the homepage of our Science website, and was distributed over social media. You can read the full letter [here](#). A [video message](#) was also distributed via Instagram.

The Faculty of Science has zero tolerance for disrespectful or abusive behaviour toward any member of our community. We will continue to take immediate action to address any issues surrounding mistreatment of students, or any community member.

NEW SPECIAL JOB POSTINGS WEBPAGE

The Faculty of Science has a new webpage for special job postings: <https://www.yorku.ca/science/about/job-postings/>. Occasionally, the Faculty posts special internal job postings which are not advertised on York's HR system; you will find these opportunities listed on this page. The special job postings webpage is accessible from the [Science homepage](#) main menu, under "About" / "Job Postings."

Current opportunities:

[Associate Dean, Research & Graduate Education](#): Deadline - May 7, 2021

[Pedagogical Innovation Chair in Science Education](#): Deadline - June 1, 2021

CONGRATULATIONS

2021 TEACHING & RESEARCH AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to our Teaching & Research Award winners for 2021! As many of you know, our in-person Honours & Awards Ceremony has been cancelled this year due to COVID. We will be highlighting winners on a forthcoming Awards webpage. A YFile story celebrating their achievements will also be published and will be highlighted in a future issue of the Dean's Round Up.

Research Awards

Early Career Research Award: **Ryan Hili (Chemistry)**

Established Research Award: **Derek Wilson (Chemistry)**

Excellence in Graduate Mentorship Award: **Andrew Donini (Biology)**

Teaching Awards

Teaching Assistant for the Richard Jarrell Excellence in Teaching at the Graduate Level Award:

- **Olga Andriyevska**
- **Gurnoor Brar**

Excellence in Teaching Award – Junior Tenure Stream:

Hovig Kouyoumdjian (Chemistry)

Excellence in Teaching Award – Senior Tenure Stream:

Michael S. Chen (Mathematics & Statistics)

Scott Menary (Physics & Astronomy) is part of an international collaboration at CERN that recently achieved the world's first [laser-based manipulation of antimatter](#). Their research made the cover of *Nature*. This story was also featured in [YFile](#).

Postdoctoral researcher **Cemile Marsan**, and professors **Adam Muzzin** and **Pat Hall** (Physics & Astronomy) were awarded inaugural observing time on NASA's new James Webb Space Telescope, a successor to the Hubble Space Telescope. The Canadian Space Agency issued a [media advisory](#) announcing the names of Canadian scientists granted observation time on the telescope; a YFile story on York researchers' involvement is forthcoming. **Marsan** will join the **Department of Physics & Astronomy** as a Visiting Scholar for the next academic year under the YUFA 'True Visitor' program.

Huaiping Zhu (Mathematics & Statistics) has been awarded \$150,000 in funding from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for the continuing development of the Ontario climate data portal to support Ontario's climate action plan.

Jane Heffernan (Mathematics & Statistics) has been appointed as a Scientific Advisor to the COVID Immunity Task Force (CITF) modelling initiative. She continues to support modelling efforts at Health Canada. **Heffernan** was also awarded an NRC Pandemic Research Challenge Program grant to conduct research on SARS-COV-2 in-host vaccine models with machine learning. This grant is with **Jude Kong** (Mathematics & Statistics).

Chris Caputo (Chemistry) was selected as a delegate for the 2021 [Science Meets Parliament Program](#) organized by The Canadian Science Policy Centre in partnership with Canada's Chief Science Advisor Dr. Mona Nemer.

Students from the **York-Fields Math** circle [won an Honorable Mention](#) in the National Space Settlement Design Contest 2021.

Tianna McFarlane, an administrative assistant in the Dean's Office, launched [Heal in Colour](#), the first Canadian company to offer a range of bandages for black and brown skin.

Nadia Tsvetkov, a PhD student supervised by **Amro Zayed** (Biology) won FGS's Thesis Dissertation Prize.

OTHER NEWS

Sandra Rehan (Biology) organized the [Genomics and Biology of Social Insects](#) international conference with the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories with 238 participants from 18 countries. York postdoc in the Rehan lab, **Wyatt Shell**, gave an invited talk on the lab's comparative genomic work titled "Sociality sculpts similar patterns of molecular evolution in two independently evolved lineages of eusocial bees.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Kevin Dang, Megan Kirk, **Georges Monette** (Mathematics & Statistics), Joel Katz, and Paul Ritvo published "[Meaning in life and vagally-mediated heart rate variability: Evidence of a quadratic relationship at baseline and vagal reactivity differences](#)," in *International Journal of Psychophysiology*.

Sreena Thekkoot, Rehana Islam, and **Sylvie Morin** (Chemistry) published "[Improved oxygen evolution reaction performance with addition of Fe to form \$\text{Fe}_y\text{Cu}_x\text{-yCo}_3\text{-xO}_4\$ and \$\text{Fe}_y\text{Ni}_x\text{-yCo}_3\text{-xO}_4\$ \(\$x = 0.5, 1\$ and \$y = 0.1, 0.15\$ \) spinel oxides](#)" in *Electrochimica Acta*.

Meet Zandawala, graduate student **Thomas Nguyen** (Biology), Marta Balanyà Segura, Helena A. D. Johard, Mirjam Amcoff, Christian Wegener, **Jean-Paul Paluzzi** (Biology), and Dick R. Nässel published "[A neuroendocrine pathway modulating osmotic stress in *Drosophila*](#)" in *PLoS Genetics*.

Graduate student **Jesse L. Huisken**, postdoctoral researcher **Wyatt A. Shell** (Biology), Hannah K. Pare, and professor **Sandra M. Rehan** (Biology) published "[The influence of social environment on cooperation and conflict in an incipiently social bee, *Ceratina calcarata*](#)" in *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology*.

Postdoctoral researcher **Evan P. Kelemen** and **Sandra M. Rehan** (Biology) published "[Conservation insights from wild bee genetic studies: geographic differences, susceptibility to inbreeding, and signs of local adaptation](#)" in *Evolutionary Applications*.

MEDIA

Dasantila Golemi-Kotra (Biology) published a piece in [The Conversation](#) on new COVID variants and whether vaccines will be effective against them. She was also featured on CBC Afternoon Drive on Canada's decision to approve the AstraZeneca vaccine, and on 570 News The Mike Farwell Show discussing vaccine efficacy.

A drive through simulation app for COVID-19 vaccinations, developed by York University researchers including **Jianhong Wu** (Mathematics & Statistics) was featured in a [media release](#) by the university. **Wu** also commented in [Barrie Today](#) regarding new variants of COVID-19 and measures to combat them.

Iain Moyles (Mathematics & Statistics) was interviewed by several outlets about his research showing that shorter, more frequent lockdowns may lead to fewer COVID-19 cases: [AM 800 CKLW](#); [CIHT Hot 89.9](#); [BNN Bloomberg](#); [Now Toronto](#); and [Excalibur](#).

Jane Heffernan (Mathematics & Statistics) was interviewed by the [Brampton Guardian](#) on the permanence of mask use and public health measures resulting from COVID-19. She was also interviewed on CTV News on the topic of COVID-19 and herd immunity.

Paul Delaney (Physics & Astronomy) commented on astronomical events in the following outlets: CTV Your Morning: Solar panels and energy from orbit; AM900 Scott Thompson: SpaceX and SN10 flight; AM640 Kelly Cutrara: Black Hole in M87 and Perseverance update; AM640 Morning Show: Ever Given and tides; and AM900 Scott Thompson: SpaceX and Inspiration4 flight.

