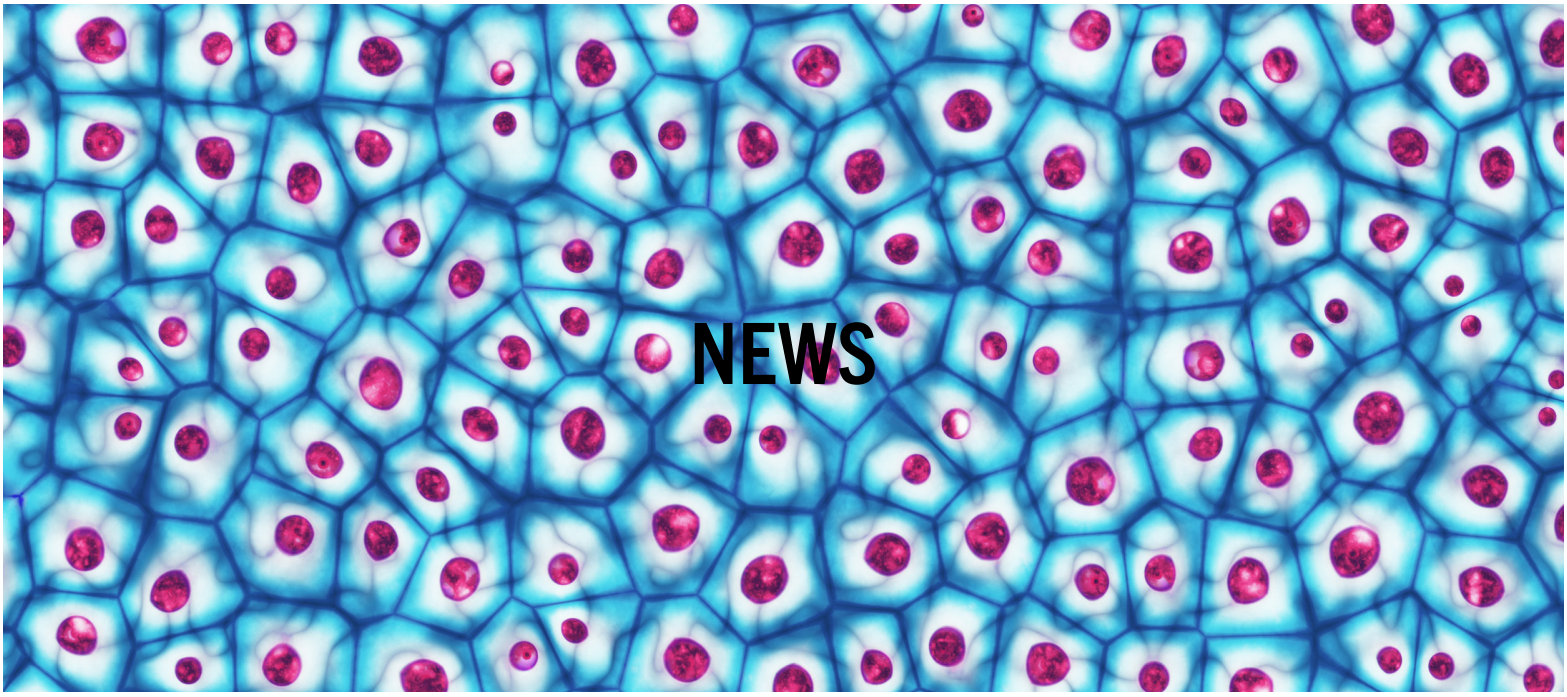
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO | PRiME NEXT-GENERATION PRECISION MEDICINE



September 1, 2020 (/news/2020-prime-fellowship-awards)

2020 PRiME Fellowship Awards (/news/2020-prime-fellowship-awards)

The second cohort of PRiME Fellows was announced today, with nine exceptional young scientists receiving funding to conduct impactful research at the University of Toronto.

Their projects focus on diagnostic or therapeutic solutions that will tackle a variety of diseases, ranging from fibrosis to COVID-19, using approaches in molecular biology, genomics, computational biology, and bioengineering. The winners were selected by the PRiME Fellowship Committee, and showcase some of the exciting and innovative research from PRiME investigators in the Faculties of Pharmacy, Arts & Science, Medicine, and Engineering. Cross-disciplinary collaborations are a key element of PRiME's approach to advance next-generation research solutions in precision medicine.

Now in its second year, the PRiME Fellowship competition takes place each spring and provides funding to PhD students or postdoctoral fellows with bold ideas that enable high-risk, high-reward research. Fellows will be supported by PRiME in their scientific progress for one year and assisted in leveraging further funding for the next stage of research activity in the lab. Earlier this year, PRiME also launched an Industry-Partnered Fellowship Program (https://www.prime.utoronto.ca/industry-fellowship) which accepts applications throughout the year.

The 2020 awardees are listed below in alphabetical order:

Subha Dahal, PhD Candidate

Supervisors: Drs. **Alan Cochrane** (Medicine) and **Rebecca Laposa** (Medicine)

Project title: Development of small molecule modulators of RNA processing as broad spectrum antivirals

Eric Donders, PhD Candidate

Supervisors: Drs. **Molly Shoichet** (Engineering), **Mark Lautens** (Arts & Science)

Project title: Triggering Release from Colloidal Drug Aggregates

Brendan Innes, PhD Candidate

Supervisors: Drs. **Gary Bader** (Medicine) and **Alison McGuigan** (Engineering)

Project title: Mapping macrophage-fibroblast links in hypoxic environments, focus on fibrosis

Zhongle Liu, Postdoctoral Fellow

Supervisors: Drs. **Leah Cowen** (Medicine) and **Robert Batey** (Arts & Science)

Project title: Structure-enabled design and synthesis of fungal-selective mitochondrial inhibitors

Marios Mejdani, Postdoctoral Fellow

Supervisors: Drs. **Radhakrishnan Mahadevan** (Engineering) and **James Rini** (Medicine)

Project title: COVID-19 Diagnostic & Vaccine Development Platform

Jiaxi Peng, Postdoctoral Fellow

Supervisors: Drs. **Aaron Wheeler** (Arts & Science) and **Hui Peng** (Arts & Science) and **Cindi Morshead** (Medicine)

Project title: Analysis of Neural Stem Cell Aging by Single-Cell Proteomics

Michael Saikali, PhD Candidate

Supervisors: Drs. **Carolyn Cummins** (Pharmacy) and **Henry Krause** (Medicine)

Project title: Targeted Temporal Quantification of Nuclear Receptors Involved in the Gut-Brain Axis

Suryasree Subramania, Postdoctoral Fellow

Supervisors: Drs. **Sachdev Sidhu** (Medicine) and **Stephane Angers** (Pharmacy)

Project title: Innovative antibody engineering technologies for targeting therapeutically relevant Frizzled co-receptors

Warren van Loggerenberg, Postdoctoral Fellow

Supervisors: Drs. **Frederick Roth** (Medicine) and **Axel Guenther** (Engineering)

Project title: A comprehensive variant effect map for CPOX