

## Dean's Round-up: May 2024

### FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

#### Empowering Futures

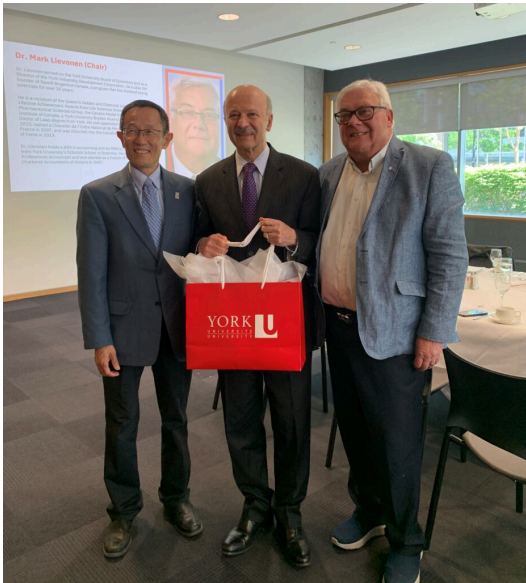


2023  
FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
ANNUAL REVIEW

We published our Faculty of Science 2023 Annual Review, "Empowering Futures," which highlights our Faculty's collective accomplishments from 2023, including achievements in teaching and learning, research and innovation, and community engagement and outreach.

Read the report:

[www.yorku.ca/science/2023AR](http://www.yorku.ca/science/2023AR)



We held our 3rd annual [Dean's Special Advisory Board](#) meeting on May 30 to discuss and advise on pressing issues relevant to science education, including industry demand for science programs; equity, diversity, and inclusion; challenges and opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship, and the successful community integration of the Faculty. During the meeting, it was announced that current Board Member, Dr. Mark Lievonen, will take on the role of Chair from Reza Moridi, who has served as Chair since the Board's inception in February 2021.



The **Science Engagement Programs** (SEP) team hosted engaging and interactive science experiments and demonstrations at two community events: Let's Move Willowdale, held at Hendon Park (May 4), and Markham Farmers' Market on Main Street Markham (May 11).

**Faculty, instructors, and administrators are encouraged to complete a reputational survey for Maclean's University Rankings:**

- English version: [surveymonkey.com/r/MacleansAcademicSurvey202402](https://surveymonkey.com/r/MacleansAcademicSurvey202402)
- French version: [fr.surveymonkey.com/r/MacleansSondageEnseignant202402](https://fr.surveymonkey.com/r/MacleansSondageEnseignant202402)

[Read the YFile story for more details.](#)

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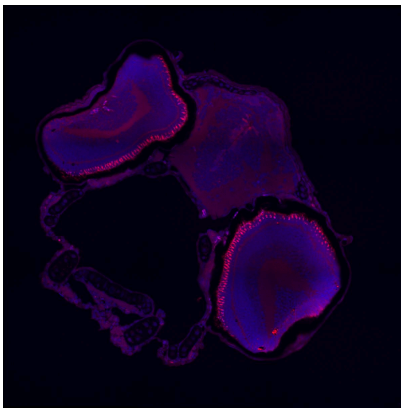
## CONGRATULATIONS

Faculty of Science alumni **Katrina Carver** (BSc '22), **Pablo Gonzalez** (BSc '22), **Adrian Leva** (BSc '16), and **Brian Serapio** (BSc '18) were named among York University's [Top 30 Alumni Under 30](#) for 2024.

MSc graduate **Nina Garrett** (Biology) received a [Master's Thesis Prize](#) from the Faculty of Graduate Studies for her thesis, "Measuring neotropical bat diversity using airborne eDNA."

Undergraduate student **Amna Imran** (Biology) and current Global Leader of York Science received \$7,000 USD from the Burger King Scholars Program, which was established to honor the legacy of James W. McLamore.

**Christine Le** (Chemistry) was awarded a [Junior Scientist Participation Fellowship](#) to present at the 57th Bürgenstock Conference in Brunnen, Switzerland, from April 28-May 2. This prestigious fellowship supports 12-16 young promising scientists in both academia and industry, with only two fellowships granted to researchers from North and South America.



Graduate student **Thi My Nhi Nguyen** (Biology) is a finalist in the NSERC Science Exposed contest. Her photo depicts the neural regenerative abilities of zebrafish, with the colours showing where cells are growing and dividing after degeneration. [Public voting is now open.](#)

PhD graduate **Jennifer Porat** (Biology) received a [Doctoral Dissertation Prize](#) from the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) for her thesis, "RNA methyltransferases Influence Noncoding RNA Biogenesis and Function Through Catalytic-Independent Activities." FGS also nominated her for the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS)-ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award, which recognizes Canadian doctoral dissertations that make significant and original contributions to their academic field.

**Huaiping Zhu** (Mathematics & Statistics) received the 2024 [Canadian Applied and Industrial Mathematics Society \(CAIMS\)-Fields Industrial Prize](#), which is awarded to a researcher in recognition of exceptional research in any branch of industrial mathematics.

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## MORE NEWS

The **Allan I. Carswell Observatory**, directed by Elaina Hyde (Physics & Astronomy) hosted Doors Open Toronto, which saw more than 700 in-person visitors.

The **Faculty of Science Committee on Teaching & Learning** (CoTL), Bethune College and the Teaching Commons co-hosted a hybrid event titled "GenAI: Friend or Foe? A Lunch-and-Learn on Academic Integrity and Assessment." A [partial recording](#) is available.

CoTL also hosted the End-of-Term Connect session on Zoom for faculty, staff, postdocs and graduate students in the Faculty of Science.

Our Faculty welcomed the first cohort of four visiting medical students from Shandong Second Medical University, China. These students will spend the next three months at York U as part of the newly established Visiting International Fee-Paying Students Program, which aims to provide international students with a unique academic and cultural experience at York Science.

Director of International Collaborations & Partnerships **Hugo Chen** was a speaker at the Education Forum hosted by the Canada China Business Council in Toronto; he spoke about enhancing international partnerships and strategies to navigate the evolving landscape of student recruitment.

**Amenda Chow** (Mathematics & Statistics) presented "Math in Motion" at the [Think about Math! Workshop](#) at the University of Waterloo.

**Conor Douglas** (Science, Technology & Society) was a participant at the invite-only North Winds Professional Institute Life Science Invitational Forum, where he participated on a multisectoral panel on rare diseases.



**Robin Metcalfe** (NATS) volunteered at the Riverwood Conservancy Astronomy Night with the Mississauga branch of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC), where she hosted a display of northern lights and eclipse photos taken recently by RASC members. View some of the eclipse photos and a [highlights reel](#) by the RASC Mississauga Eclipse Chasing Team, which included Metcalfe.

**Kelly Ramsay** (Mathematics and Statistics) presented an invited talk titled "Differentially private projection-depth-based medians" at [CANSSI Ontario Research Day 2024](#).

**Woldegebriel Assefa Woldegerima** (Mathematics & Statistics) presented "Maths in Nature, Urbanization and Architecture" during a series of visits to high school students in Ontario, as part of the Ask a Mathematician program of Fields Academy. He also remotely supervised a successful MSc thesis (entitled "Bayesian Modeling for Epidemiological Modeling using PyMC3: Covid-19 as a Case Study") of a student at the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS).

**Huaiping Zhu** (Mathematics & Statistics) was co-conference Chair for the 5th International Symposium on Biological Mathematics and Medical Applications in Nanjing, China, on May

24-26. This was a joint conference organized by the Centre for Disease Modelling, York University and Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology.

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## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

**Balint Radics** (Physics & Astronomy) and co-authors published [First Results in the Search for Dark Sectors at NA64 with the CERN SPS High Energy Muon Beam](#) in *Physical Review Letters*.

- Radics is the York University Team Leader for the NA64 experiment at CERN. This research was also featured in [Physics Magazine](#), published by the American Physical Society.

Andrew Omame, postdoc **Qing Han** (Mathematics & Statistics), Sarafa A. Iyaniwura, Adeniyi Ebenezer, former postdoc **Nicola L. Bragazzi**, Xiaoying Wang, **Jude D. Kong**, and **Woldegebriel A. Woldegerima** published [Understanding the impact of HIV on mpox transmission in an MSM population: a mathematical modeling study](#) in *Infectious Disease Modelling*.

Haiyan Xu, Zhigui Lin, and **Huaiping Zhu** (Mathematics & Statistics) published [On an age-structured juvenile-adult model with harvesting pulse in moving and heterogeneous environment](#) in the *Journal of Differential Equations*.

**\*For a full list of publications from the Faculty of Science, see our [website](#).\***

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## MEDIA

Research by **Elizabeth Clare** (Biology) and her team was featured in [IIT Madras Shaastra](#) and *Renewable Matter* ([English](#), [Italian](#)).

Professor Emeritus **Paul Delaney** (Physics & Astronomy) spoke to *CTV News* and *AM900* about Boeing Starliner's first crewed launch.

**Elaina Hyde** (Physics & Astronomy) was interviewed by *CBC Radio*, [CTV News](#) and [NiagaraThisWeek.com](#) about geomagnetic storms and aurora borealis.

**Sarah Rugheimer** (Physics & Astronomy) spoke to *AM640* about aurora borealis.

**Cora Young** (Chemistry) was interviewed by *CBC Radio* about new research that uncovered a higher level of forever chemicals, or PFAS, in sea spray compared to water.

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## EVENTS

August 15: [Summer 2024 Undergraduate Research Conference](#)

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## INTERNATIONAL PARTNER INSTITUTION PROFILE

The Faculty of Science has established multiple partnerships with various international institutions. In order to better inform the York Science community of these international partner institutions, we will provide a brief profile of each of them in our Dean's Round-up.



Established in 1951, [Shandong Second Medical University](#) (SDSMU), located in Shandong Province, China, has a student body of 17,400 full-time students, with the majority specializing in Clinical Medicine. SDSMU has 19 colleges offering 34 undergraduate majors and 59 master's degree programs spanning seven disciplines, including medicine, science, management, arts, engineering, law, and education. Collaborating with 60 institutions worldwide, the university hosts over 400 full-time international students, particularly in the Clinical Medicine program.

York University's Faculty of Science recently established a partnership with SDSMU, formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding, focusing on student exchanges, faculty development, joint research initiatives, and more.

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