



Anesthesia

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Office of the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

Over the past 7 months, I've often been asked, "What is your vision for the Department of Anesthesia?"

The answer is simple. My vision is that our department be a world leader in perioperative research and education based on innovation and discovery. Exemplary clinical care, enhanced patient safety and quality improvement, also based on innovation and discovery, are additional aspects of the vision.

To achieve this vision, we need to support the many talents of our faculty, fellows, residents and students. We also need to use our financial resources strategically and effectively. Over the past few years, the Merit Award Program has provided crucial financial support for researchers and educators. To ensure that the program's limited funds are used optimally, we will undertake a review of the Merit Award Program over the next six months. Specifically, we will consider how best to invest in the sustained academic growth of our hospital departments and critical care units. Your input, through both written submissions and group discussions, will be vital to the success of this review. Please email your suggestions to chair.anesthesia@utoronto.ca. In addition, please save the date of **Monday, February 12, 2018** for a Merit Award town hall meeting. Reminders about the date and location of this event will be sent.

During the review period, faculty who currently hold Merit Awards will be invited to apply for a six month extension, to cover the period January 1, 2018, to June 30, 2018. *Applications for this competition will be sent directly to current Merit Awardees before February 2, 2018.* We anticipate that the next open Merit Award competition will be held in May 2018.

Additional resources are available at the University of Toronto to enable your individual research and education programs. I strongly encourage you to explore and, where appropriate, join organizations such as the research institution of your hospital or a research training organization, including the School of Graduate Studies, the Institute of Medical Science or one of the other departments that offer postgraduate training programs. Educators might consider joining institutions such as the Wilson Centre or one of the university's simulation centres. Please take full advantage of the many options and resources that are available to you.

We look forward to receiving your input by email and to your participation in the Merit Award town hall meeting.

Best wishes,

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