



47TH ANNUAL SHIELDS RESEARCH DAY

MAY 1ST, 2026, FROM 7:30 AM – 3:30 PM ET
DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIOLOGY & PAIN MEDICINE
TEMERTY FACULTY OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

RITZ-CARLTON, TORONTO,
BALLROOM, 2ND FLOOR
181 WELLINGTON ST. W.,
TORONTO, ON
M5R 2E8

PROGRAM

Registration and Breakfast 7:30 – 8:00 AM

Welcome, Opening Remarks and Land Acknowledgment 8:00 – 8:20 AM

Dr. Beverley Orser, Chair, Department of Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine
Dr. Lisa Robinson, Dean, Temerty Faculty of Medicine
Dr. Brian Cuthbertson, Chair, Shields Planning Committee & Vice-Chair of Research, Department of Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine

Faculty Awards - Teaching and Clinical Excellence 8:20 – 8:40 AM

Teaching Awards

Presented by **Dr. Ahtsham Niazi**, Vice Chair of Education, Department of Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine

Clinical Excellence Awards

Presented by **Dr. Keyvan Karkouti**, Vice Chair of Clinical Affairs, Department of Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine

Oral Presentation Session A and Q&A 8:40 – 9:30 AM

AM Break & Poster Presentation Session A 9:30 – 10:20 AM

Poster Session Location: Wellington Room, 4th floor

Shields Day Lecture: Dr. Laura Niklason 10:20 – 11:20 AM

From Inception to Commercialization - An Innovative Road

Learning Objectives:

- 1. Identify key design characteristics of bioengineered arteries and their implications for patient care.*
 - 2. Describe the critical steps for translating university research into a biotech company, from initial concept to early-stage startup formation.*
 - 3. Evaluate challenges and strategies for successfully commercializing biomedical innovations.*
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Oral Presentation Session B and Q&A	11:20 AM – 12:10 PM
LUNCH	12:10 – 1:10 PM
Oral Presentation Session C and Q&A	1:10 – 2:00 PM
Anesthesia Faculty Lecture: Dr. Akash Goel <i>When Pain Learns — and How We Help It Unlearn</i> <i>Beyond Suffering: Drug-Assisted Psychotherapy and Neuroplasticity in Chronic Pain</i> <i>Learning Objectives:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe how maladaptive neuroplasticity contributes to chronic pain and how combined therapies may promote adaptive change. 2. Review early clinical trial data and design considerations for drug-assisted psychotherapy in chronic pain. 3. Recognize the role of patient partnership and interdisciplinary collaboration in scaling innovative chronic pain research. 	2:00 – 2:20 PM
Shields Day Awards - Trainees	2:20 – 2:30 PM
Oral and Poster Presentations Presented by Dr. Neil Goldenberg , Shields Planning Committee & Associate Professor, Department of Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine Staff Teaching & Mentorship Awards Presented by Drs. Maggie Li & Steven Alchi , Co-Chief Residents Trainee Research & Education Awards Presented by Dr. Natalie Clavel , Director of Faculty Development and Professionalism, Department of Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine	
Closing Remarks	2:30 – 2:35 PM
Dr. Frances Chung , Shields Planning Committee & Professor, Department of Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine	
Anesthesia Insights: Networking and Knowledge Exchange	2:35 – 3:30 PM
<i>Networking opportunity for attendees to connect and share insights</i>	