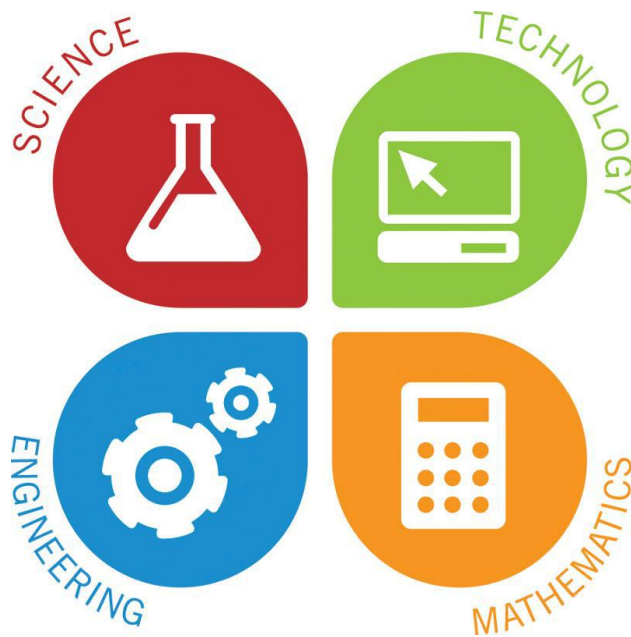


Annual Report

let's talk 
science

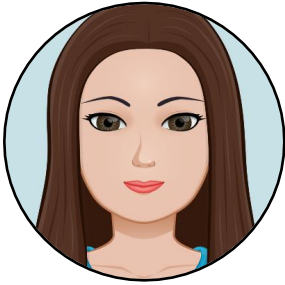


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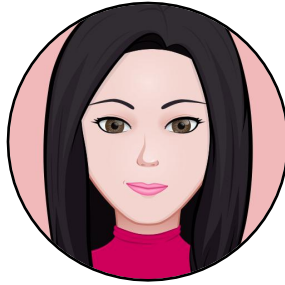
University of Toronto – St. George

July 2017

Coordinator Team



Yoojin Choi



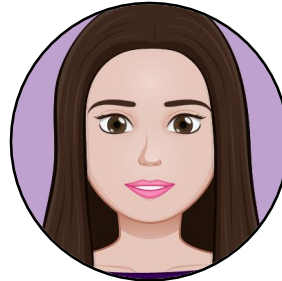
Caitlin Loo



Sandhya Mylabathula



Swapna Mylabathula



Mikaela Stiver

Outgoing Coordinators

Yonatan Lipsitz

Osman Mahamud

Ryan Sanford

Board Members

Olivia Chan [continuing]

Yonatan Lipsitz [incoming]

Nika Shakiba [outgoing]

STEM Programs

“Let’s Talk Science is an award-winning, national, charitable organization focused on education and outreach to support youth development. We create and deliver unique learning programs and services that engage children, youth and educators in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)”

- Let’s Talk Science national website



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Milestones

August 2016 – July 2017

3149

Youth reached
by volunteers

1500+

Hours of preparation
& presentation

148

Registered
Volunteers

560+

First Nations, Métis,
& Inuit Youth Reached

Goals for 2017 – 2018

- Improve volunteer engagement
- Increase number of volunteers by 10%
- Increase number of youth reached by 10%

Let's Talk Science Challenge

The Let's Talk Science Challenge is a free competitive enrichment event for Grade 6-8 students. This fun-filled day incorporates science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) into a trivia competition and a hands-on design challenge for teams of up to four students.

12 Schools

29 Teams

108 Students

75 Volunteers

16 Fun House Booths



Students had the opportunity to explore interactive booths and talk to researchers from various disciplines during the Fun House



The University of Toronto – St. George is one of over 20 Let's Talk Science sites across Canada that hosts the Challenge each Spring. This year our event took place on April 24th at Hart House!

Students took home over \$6000 in prizes generously donated by local businesses and organizations



We were thrilled to welcome Billions Cobra as our guest speaker this year! Billions is a world-renowned street performer, and has demonstrated his skills on several television shows. He is also a U of T graduate with a degree in astrophysics. Billions gave students an amazing demonstration and shared the science behind his street performing!

National & Provincial Sponsors



First Place

“kcharlle’s babbages”
from University of
Toronto Schools

Spirit Award

“The Atoms Family”
from St. Monica C.S.



Volunteers for the 2017 Let's Talk Science Challenge @ Hart House

StemCellTalks

StemCellTalks is a national stem cell biology outreach initiative in partnership with Let's Talk Science and the Stem Cell Network. It was established to facilitate knowledge transfer between academia and high school students pertaining to the science and practical ethics of stem cells. We want to improve the public's understanding of basic stem cell science in combination with facilitating the development of ethical frameworks in which to address practical ethics, such to independently contemplate contemporary bioethics in a field characterized by rapid scientific advancement.

168 Students

45 Volunteers

StemCellTalks was originally developed at the University of Toronto by Paul Cassar, Angela McDonald, and David Grant



Volunteers for the 8th Annual University of Toronto – St. George StemCellTalks

StemCellTalks

Opening dialogue on stem cell science and practical ethics



StemCellTalks Symposia were held at 8 sites across Canada this year – Calgary, Edmonton, Hamilton, London, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, and Vancouver

In partnership with:



Stem Cell Network
Réseau de cellules souches

National & Provincial Sponsors



let's talk  science

Sandy Lake

We had a dedicated team of volunteers that completed cultural sensitivity training, collaborated with the Sandy Lake community to do a needs-based assessment, and developed tailored hands-on activities on nutrition, physical activity, and healthy habits (including chicken coop building, community gardening and weather, meal-planning, food chemistry, and more)! We reached about 420 students and 40 adults during this year's initiative, which culminated in a week-long onsite visit to Sandy Lake. This year we expanded our reach to both elementary and high school students, and we are looking forward to expanding our efforts even further next year!



Volunteer Symposium



Held on November 30th at Hart House, the theme for our 2nd Annual Volunteer Symposium was “Creative Science Communication”!

30 of our dedicated volunteers attended this year’s event. They had the opportunity to learn creative communication strategies to apply in their outreach, research dissemination, and beyond! We were delighted to offer 3 workshops led by experts in each field:



Visual Facilitation (led by accomplished visual communicator and artist Patricia Kambitsch): bringing presentations to life with the art of ‘live drawing’



Improv (led by improv veteran and teacher Julian Frid [pictured above]): exploring the role of confidence and self-awareness during presentations

Video Creation (led by Graduate Programming Coordinator Liam O’Leary): learning to create brief and engaging videos with VideoScribe

Let's Talk Cancer

We held our second annual Let's Talk Cancer Symposium in Toronto this year,

in collaboration with the Canadian Cancer Society's

Research Information Outreach Team (RIOT). Tailored for

senior high school students, this event featured talks from cancer researchers and engaging hands-on activities in hopes of inspiring the next generation of cancer researchers!

**LET'S
TALK** **CANCER**



Physiology Day

In partnership with the Department of Physiology, senior high school students were invited to take part in our Physiology Day symposium. This year, we hosted 80 students from 10 different schools for a full-day visit. Students had the unique opportunity to experience the science of physiology through hands-on experiments and lectures in a university setting.

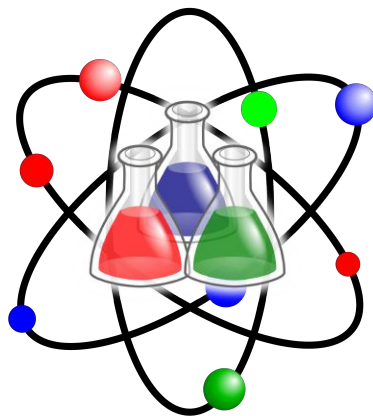
Immunology Day

In partnership with the Department of Immunology, 31 Immunology graduate students were sent out to 13 different high schools on World Immunology Day. This year, we reached a total of 39 classes! During each visit, students learned about the immune system and diseases related to immune malfunction through hands-on activities and demonstrations.

Pharmaceutical Sciences Day



We held a new event developed in partnership with the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences this year. 30 students from 5 schools participated in the inaugural event! 19 Pharmaceutical Science graduate students helped visiting Grade 9 students explore this field with a focus on hands-on activities. The students also had the opportunity to explore the unique Pharmaceutical Sciences building on campus. Students and volunteers alike had a fantastic experience, and we look forward to expanding this symposium next year!



Acknowledgements

Photo Credits

Let's Talk Science Challenge

Jennifer Ma

StemCellTalks

Jennifer Ma

Sandy Lake

Elliot Fiddler [Sandy Lake Community]
& volunteer selfie

Volunteer Symposium

Swapna Mylabathula

Pharmaceutical Sciences Day

Noor Al-Saden



StemCellTalks

Local Sponsors

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Let's Talk Science Challenge

Local Sponsors

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... and more!

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Faculty of Arts & Science

Faculty of Engineering

Faculty of Medicine

Let's Talk Science (National Office)

Royal Canadian Institute for Science

... and all of our **AMAZING** volunteers!

**Celebrating 20 YEARS of Let's Talk Science
at the University of Toronto – St. George!**



Caitlin Loo & Sandhya Mylabathula accepting our 20 year service award
at the 2017 National Conference in London, ON