

Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in Life Sciences

Revised September 2013

Graduate and Life Sciences Education, Faculty of Medicine in partnership with the Basic Science Departments and Institutes in the Faculty (Anatomy, Biochemistry, Immunology, Institute of Biomaterials & Biomedical Engineering, Institute of Medical Science, Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology, Medical Biophysics, Molecular Genetics, Nutritional Sciences, Pharmacology & Toxicology, and Physiology) will award three annual Undergraduate Teaching Awards in Life Sciences. The purpose of these awards is to honour outstanding and sustained contributions by faculty members to undergraduate Arts and Science teaching and the undergraduate experience in Life Sciences. The awards carry a cash value of \$1,000 each and will be presented at the Faculty of Medicine Annual Education Achievement Celebration.

Categories:

1. Excellence in undergraduate teaching in life sciences

This award is for sustained excellence in teaching, coordination and/or development of undergraduate lecture or seminar courses in Arts and Science offered by the Basic Science Departments in the Faculty of Medicine.

2. Excellence in undergraduate laboratory teaching in life sciences

This award is for sustained excellence in the teaching, coordination and/or development of laboratory based instruction in formal Arts and Science life sciences laboratory courses.

3. Excellence in linking undergraduate teaching to research in life sciences

This award is for sustained excellence, mentorship and innovative methods that link undergraduate teaching to experiential research opportunities such as research project courses, summer student research projects or equivalent programs.

Eligibility:

Eligibility extends to all faculty members who hold full time appointments in Basic Science Departments or Institutes in the Faculty of Medicine and teach in life sciences undergraduate courses and/or research projects in Arts and Science.

Nomination:

Candidates for these awards **must** be nominated by a student, a former student, or another faculty member through a Departmental/Institute Undergraduate Program office; self-nominations are not accepted. A previous winner may be nominated for an Undergraduate Teaching Award in Life Sciences in the same category as the previous award after a period of five (5) years. A previous winner may be nominated for a different award category at any time.

Criteria:

The following will be considered in reviewing each nominee:

- 1) **Commitment:**
 - quantity of teaching
 - accessibility to students
 - evidence of self-development in teaching methods (e.g. course attended) research and publications on teaching methods
- 2) **Excellence in communication skills**
- 3) **Subject mastery**
- 4) **Ability to organize material and emphasize principles**
- 5) **Demonstrated ability to stimulate students:**
 - encourages interest in and enthusiasm for subject
 - displays good rapport with students
 - leads students to think critically, analytically and independently, and to organize their own learning
- 6) **Effective use of appropriate teaching resources and instructional methodologies**
- 7) **Innovative, creative and experimental teaching methods**
- 8) **Contribution as a suitable role model**
- 9) **Evidence of mentorship**

Nomination Process:

The primary nominator (a student, former student, or faculty member other than the nominee) will fill out and submit the nomination form and inform the nominee of the nomination. The nominator and nominee are jointly responsible to ensure that **required** documentation as listed on the nomination form is submitted, including:

- Completed nomination form
- Supporting letters from:
 - * Department/Institute Chair/Director (or designate)
 - * Students (minimum 2)
- 1-2 page summary of the nominee's contributions to teaching
- Summaries of student evaluations of teaching/course materials
- Current abridged Curriculum Vita (max. 10 pages) which includes a full description of the contribution to undergraduate teaching in Life Sciences and accomplishments relevant to the award eligibility criteria, including:
 - Relevant undergraduate teaching
 - Teaching awards for undergraduate teaching
 - Undergraduate students supervised (dates and projects)
- Nominee's statement of Teaching Philosophy (max. 1 page)

Nomination Forms and documentation should be emailed to the Administrative Coordinator, Life Sciences Education at natasha.lowe@utoronto.ca. For further information, please contact (416) 978-2281 or natasha.lowe@utoronto.ca.

Deadline Date: Friday, January 31, 2013

Selection Process:

Nominees' files will be reviewed and winners recommended to the Interim Vice Dean, Graduate and Life Sciences Education by a panel of selected undergraduate students and faculty members.