

## RSI Awards

The Rehabilitation Sciences Institute will confer up to 6 awards annually. The purpose is to honour and recognize outstanding contributions to RSI by faculty, staff and students.

This year, formal recognition of these contributions will be during the RSI Annual Research Day in May 2016. Deadline for nomination is March 31, 2016 at 5:00 pm.

### Categories:

#### **1. Early Career Excellence in Supervision and Mentorship**

This award is restricted to RSI faculty members within 8 years of their initial SGS appointment (including any other graduate appointments elsewhere) as of December of application year.

This award recognizes outstanding contribution to the training and experience of graduate students, as evidenced by excellence in supervision and mentorship and dedication to students.

#### **2. Continuing/Sustained Excellence in Graduate Student Supervision and Mentorship**

This award is restricted to RSI faculty members who are at least 8 years past their initial SGS appointment (including all graduate appointments elsewhere) as of December of application year.

This award recognizes sustained contribution to graduate student mentorship, and supervision exemplified by but not limited to:

- major contribution to graduate student learning
- enthusiastic and empathic critical appraisal of students' work
- timely assessment of students' research programs including program advisory committee meetings and prompt turnaround of written work
- careful attention to a critical path laid out for students' research

Objective evidence of graduate student outcomes, including number of:

- students with high impact and other publications
- students with first authorship
- students holding major, competitive external graduate scholarship and other trainee awards
- students with timely completion of degree
- . Opportunities and support provided for student presentations at scientific and other meetings

Mentorship and teaching life skills and advising on career matters including:

- academic/career options
- CV preparation

#### **3. Graduate Faculty Teaching Awards**

1. Junior Faculty (post-doc to Assistant Professor)
2. Senior Faculty (Associate or Full Professor)

### Eligibility

The nominee must hold an appointment in RSI. Contributions to teaching in either the doctoral (thesis MSc or PhD) in RSI will be considered.

### Criteria

The committee will consider the following; however, it is not expected that all of these will apply to all nominees:

1) Commitment:

- quantity of teaching (number of courses and hours)
- accessibility to students
- research and publications on teaching methods
- Positive course evaluations

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 and challenges 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/content

### **Nomination**

**Candidates for these awards must be nominated by at least one student (or recent graduate)-initiated process.** Please note: Student may nominate ONE faculty member per award category.

Nomination items must be sent as Word (.doc) or Adobe (.pdf) documents, and can be scanned. Letters of support should be addressed to FSDC Selection Committee.

### **The required documents are:**

- Nomination Form.
- Letters of nomination from 2 students or recent graduates supporting faculty member for category being nominated in. Maximum of 2 pages per letter.
- Abridged CV (max 10 pages) which includes a full description of the contribution to graduate teaching and accomplishments relevant to the award eligibility criteria, including:
  - a list of students (with name underlined or **bolded**) supervised (dates, thesis title, and student's awards and publications), and follow-up post-graduation (if available)
  - quantity of teaching courses
  - relevant graduate teaching
  - course evaluations, if available
  - relevant teaching awards

If the nomination is submitted as one combined document, it must be arranged in the above order.

#### **4. Service Award – Faculty and Staff**

*This award is open to all RSI faculty members and staff. Candidates for this award must be nominated by at least one student or recent graduate-initiated process. Two letters of recommendation is required for this award.*

- This award recognizes outstanding service to vision and mission of RSI including but not limited to: Leadership and contribution to an RSI standing committee, working group, or special task force or activity
- Promotion of RSI initiatives
- Recruitment of graduate students
- Assistance with advancement and fundraising
- External promotion of RSI
- Creation of a positive work environment within RSI

**5. Peer Mentorship Award** - This award is for appointed staff or faculty members of the RSI who have been mentoring a colleague or colleagues for a sustained period of time (greater than one year). Nominators for this award are mentees/protégées whose professional development has benefited from this relationship. Nominators should provide the following information about the candidate who they are nominating for this award

- In what ways has the mentor established a supportive collegial relationship?
- How has the mentor acted as a sounding board for the mentee/protégé re problem identification and problem solving?
- In what ways is the mentor knowledgeable and shares experiences, information and strategies (in teaching, research development and grant writing, publications, project management etc)?
- How has the mentor encouraged opportunities for the protégé to learn?
- In what ways has the mentor been accessible and a good motivator?
- How has the mentor given valuable advice re career advancement and personal growth?

#### **Deadline**

Applications will be received by RSI office by **March 31, 2016 at 5:00 pm**, by electronic submission via e-mail to [rsi.admin@utoronto.ca](mailto:rsi.admin@utoronto.ca)