2020/21 UTCSP Pain Scientist Award Recipients

**Megan Drupals** is a 4th year MD/PhD student at the University of Toronto in the laboratory of Dr. Michael Salter. Her doctoral work involves elucidating the potential consequences of prenatal cannabinoid exposure on the sensory nervous system. She hopes to contribute to a growing body of knowledge that serves the population as they make important decisions impacting their health. Previously, she completed her Bachelor of Science at the University of British Columbia, where she conducted research in the pain field at institutions in both Canada and the United States as part of the Co-operative Education Program.

**Georgia Hadjis** is a second year Master of Science student at the University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry. Her thesis focuses on a novel model to explain the interference of pain on cognition using neuroimaging (fMRI), quantitative sensory testing, and cognitive tasks. Her work explores reward processing and decision-making with respect to the pain system. Georgia completed her Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience and Physiology at the University of Toronto. She has presented her research in Berlin, Germany, and Chicago, USA. Georgia is a recipient of the 2019-2020 Canada Graduate Scholarship Master’s granted by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, and is delighted to be awarded the 2020-2021 Pain Scientist Scholarship.

**Quinn Pauli** completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics Co-op at McMaster University. She is currently starting her MSc under the supervision of Dr. Robert Bonin at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Toronto. Quinn's research will focus on understanding the mechanistic similarities between plastic changes occurring in the hippocampus and in the spinal cord. In particular, she is interested in understanding how the mechanisms of reconsolidation critically involved in learning and memory relate to those underlying chronic pain. Ultimately, she hopes the results of this project will provide new insights on the role of reconsolidation in both memory and chronic pain, and identify novel therapeutics targets to treat chronic pain.

**Natalie Osborne** completed a Bachelor of Science (Honours in Biomedical Sciences) at the University of Guelph, and a Master’s degree in Behavioural and Cognitive Neuroscience at Western University under the supervision of Dr. Adrian Owen. She is now completing her PhD in the lab of Dr. Karen Davis at the Krembil Research Institute. Her thesis combines neuroimaging with quantitative sensory testing of patients with chronic pain conditions that are more prevalent in one sex over another, such as ankylosing spondylitis and carpal tunnel syndrome. She is interested in characterizing sex-differences in pain-related brain systems and pain-modulating behaviours in these patients.