

November 25, 2010

Two Campbell Family Institute Researchers are honoured

Dr. Mitsu Ikura has been awarded the Robert L. Noble Prize, to honour his outstanding achievements in cancer research. Dr. Ikura is an internationally recognized authority in the field of structural biology and has laid the groundwork for understanding signalling proteins such as cadherins and catenins and molecular signalling processes involved in human diseases such as cancer. His studies also provide excellent platforms for developing new drugs designed to interfere with the functioning of cancer cells.

Dr Ikura is a senior scientist at the Ontario Cancer Institute/The Campbell Family Cancer Research Institute, and a professor at the University of Toronto. He received his PhD in macromolecular biophysics from Hokkaido University, Japan and pursued postdoctoral studies on multi-dimensional NMR spectroscopy of a calmodulin-kinase peptide complex at the National Institutes of Health.



Dr. Mitsu Ikura

Dr Ikura has a Tier-1 Canada Research Chair in cancer structural biology and has been recognized by many awards and prizes including the William E. Rawls Prize, the International Research Scholar Award Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and the Premier's Research Excellence Award.

He has published over 190 peer-reviewed papers and has been invited to speak at more than 200 international scientific conferences.

Dr. Camilla Zimmermann has been awarded The William E. Rawls Prize, which is given to a young investigator whose work has led to important advances in cancer control within the past decade.

Dr. Zimmermann is head of palliative services at University Health Network, palliative care co-lead in the Toronto Central Regional Cancer Program, Cancer Care Ontario, and associate professor, department of medicine, University of Toronto. She is also a scientist at the Ontario Cancer Institute/The Campbell Family Cancer Research Institute and has her PhD from the University of Toronto.

Dr. Zimmermann has built a remarkable research program in a short period of time and her progress has been extraordinary. She has already become an internationally recognized expert in palliative care. She has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals, including an important systematic review of the effectiveness of palliative care. In this landmark paper, she has stimulated critical evaluation of the field and a rethinking of the methodology of clinical trials in palliative care.



Dr. Camilla Zimmermann

Dr. Zimmermann is interested in determining and improving the effectiveness of specialized palliative care. Her current Canadian Cancer Society grant focuses on the effectiveness of early versus routine specialized palliative team involvement in patients with metastatic cancer. Outcomes include patient quality of life, satisfaction with care, and physician-patient communication.