

CCDPM TEC Biographies

Executives

Oliver Wearing – President

Oliver Wearing is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Translational Integrative Physiology Lab (PI: Dr. Christopher West), and first President of the CCDPM Trainee Engagement Committee. His research interests broadly relate to the autonomic control of cardiovascular function in animal models of health and disease, including those used to develop translational therapies aimed at restoring cardiovascular function following spinal cord injury. Following his PhD investigating the circulatory physiology of high-altitude adapted mice using biotelemetry, Dr. Wearing's postdoctoral work involves the development of new technologies and surgical methods to better understand how the cardiovascular system is regulated under a range of physiological and pathological conditions.



Simran Gill – VP Academic

Simran is a PhD student in the Women+ and Children's Health Sciences (WACH) program, under the supervision of Dr. Christine Voss. Her research focusses on using a mixed methods approach to better understand the physical activity behaviours of children living with Type 1 Diabetes in BC's Interior. She is currently working on developing, implementing and evaluating a virtual physical activity counselling intervention for children with Type 1 Diabetes. Simran will serve as the VP Academic organizing events such as research rounds, workshops, and guest lectures.



Nicole Ketter – VP Career Development

Nicole is currently working on her Masters in Rehabilitation Science with Dr. Sakakibara, focusing on the management and prevention of cardiometabolic multimorbidity in Canada. She previously completed her BSc in Biology at UBCO. In her free time, she enjoys hiking and biking around Kamloops on traditional and unceded Secwepemc territory. Within her role of Operations VP in TEC, she helps with administration, finances, and is looking forward to coordinating events with fellow members.



Ty Sideroff – VP Collaborations

Ty is a BHK student and Research Assistant at the CCDPM under the supervision of Dr. Christine Voss. His research focuses on the investigation of physical activity and health in children, using Fitbits and qualitative interviews. Originally from Summerland, BC, Ty enjoys snowboarding, going out to social events and motorcycling. His priority with the CCDPM TEC is to build and strengthen relationships with affiliate labs and investigators.



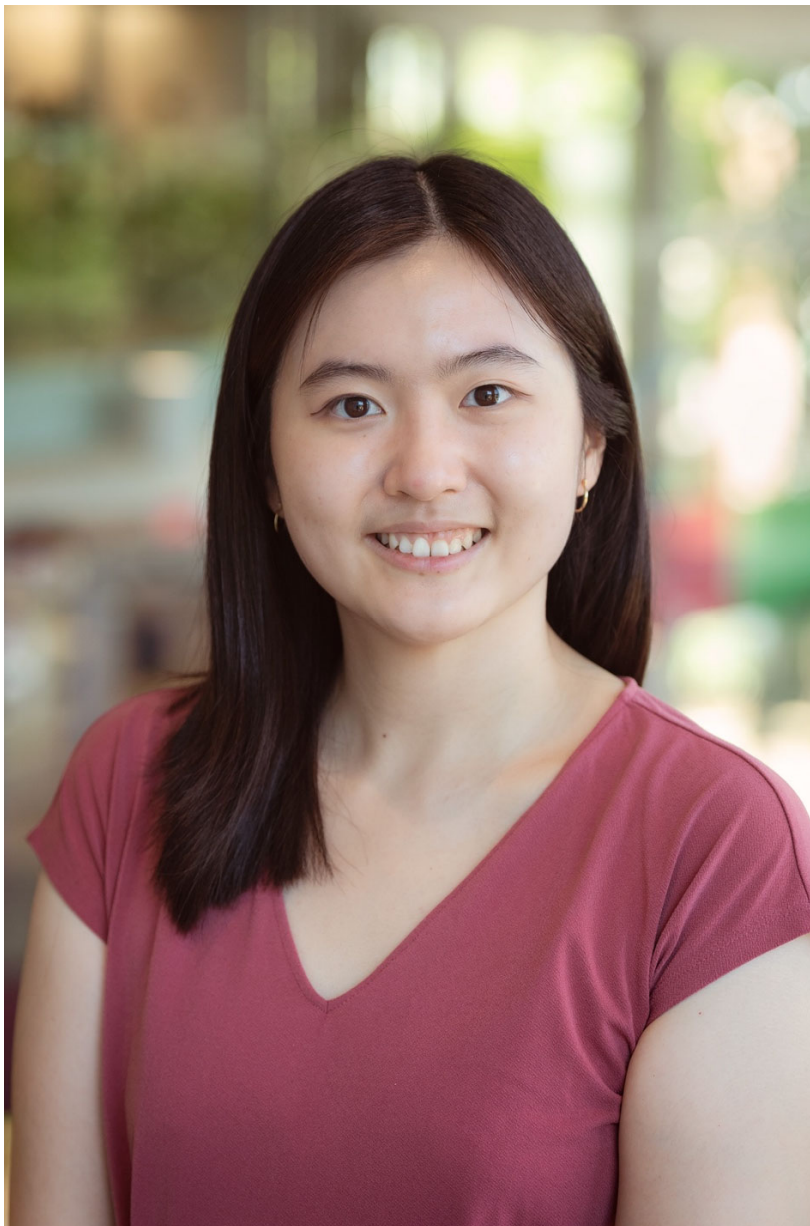
Alissa Taki – VP Communications

I am a Master's student in the Translational Integrative Physiology lab. My research is focused on advancing our understanding of the structures that control the cardiovascular system. Additionally, I am investigating how injury to the spinal cord can impact these structures. I enjoy volunteering in my community and am excited to build connections with the CCPDM!



Michelle Yang – VP Operations

Michelle is a PhD student at University of British Columbia's Rehabilitation Sciences program and the VP Operations of the CCDPM TEC. Her research focuses on areas of chronic disease prevention and management, health promotion, and telehealth delivery. Currently, her research involves developing interventions to support the self-management in stroke patients. Outside of her studies and research work, Michelle also likes reading, playing video games, trying different food places, and going for walks and taking landscape photos in areas she explores on her walks.



Jeremy Mandy – Co-VP Outreach

I am a fourth-year standing biochemistry and molecular biology student at UBCO. I'm currently working under Dr Chris West in the Translational Integrative Physiology Lab, working to create data analysis pipelines that can improve the detection and analysis of several cardiac indices for rats with spinal cord injuries. I joined TEC because I see it as an amazing outlet to channel my enthusiasm and joy for scientific research and a way to hopefully pass some of this excitement onto others.



Juliana Miyoko Wilfley – Co-VP Outreach

My name is Juliana, and I am an undergraduate student majoring in medical biochemistry and molecular biology, originally from Calgary, Alberta. Currently, I'm engaged in research as part of the Translational Integrative Physiology Lab, focusing on minimizing variability in oxidative phosphorylation and mitochondrial respiration during high-resolution respirometry for my honours thesis project. I'm thrilled to be part of the TEC team and excited to enhance collaboration with the CCDPM. Beyond the lab, you'll often find me enjoying skiing with friends or exploring trails on a hike.



General Members

Nathan Adams

Nathan Adams is a member at-large in the CCDPM TEC, and works as a PhD Student in the SCI Action Canada Lab led by Dr. Kathleen Martin-Ginis. Nate is an alumnus of Pacific Lutheran University and the University of North Carolina: Chapel Hill. His ongoing work within UBC and the CCDPM evaluates how acute sedentary behavior occurs in people with spinal cord injury, and aims to determine if breaking up a bout of prolonged sedentary behavior could be an effective strategy for improving cardiometabolic health and psychological well-being in people with spinal cord injury.



Dorsa Arman

Dorsa Arman is a Master's student in Dr. Christine Voss's lab, focusing on the cognitive effects of Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) in kindergarten-aged children in British Columbia. Utilizing BC-wide data, her research seeks to identify cognitive disparities between children with T1D and their non-diabetic counterparts, with the potential to shape more inclusive educational policies. Additionally, she also enjoys studying physical activity in T1D pediatric patients. Dorsa is originally from Tehran, Iran. Her interests outside the lab include reading, playing the violin, hiking, and engaging in community service. She is excited to join the CCPDM community, make connections, and contribute positively to a meaningful impact.



Kierstyn Palmer

Kierstyn served as VP External for the CCDPM TEC during her first year as a master's student in the SCI Action Canada Lab with primary investigator Dr. Kathleen Martin Ginis. She is interested in studying mechanisms that govern the relationship between exercise and chronic pain in individuals with spinal cord injury, specifically, the effect of exercise on inhibitory control and inflammatory levels. She is excited to hold a role on the committee and looks forward to connecting with the broader CCDPM community at our future events!



Spencer Ursel

Spencer completed his BSc at The University of British Columbia Okanagan in biochemistry and molecular biology. During this time, Spencer completed an honours thesis for his research on intestinal stem cells, designer probiotics, and how they can influence the mucus barrier of the gut. Current research interests for Spencer are a culmination of his personal pursuits in exercise and sport, in addition to his fascination with human metabolism and biology. Spencer's masters degree will examine how exercise regimes, body composition, and dietary interventions can impact mitochondrial respiration. Apart from laboratory work Spencer is an ultra distance triathlete, and rock climber, he enjoys socializing and surrounds himself with friends and family.

