

SSSP news

News from the uOttawa Science, Society and Policy Network

October 2012

Hacking the Hardest Science

Andrew Hessel

Opinion



Forget math and physics. Biology is the hardest science.

Engineers in other fields have built quantum computers whose operations come uncomfortably close to magic. They've made the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), a gigantic instrument for studying physics at its limits. And they've landed a 2,000 pound rover on Mars using a complicated, never-before-tested sky crane system. These projects were difficult but clearly doable.

Now consider biology. Even after hundreds of years of collective effort, life scientists still don't know exactly how the cell, the most basic unit of life, actually works.

Biology is hard. Seriously hard.

But some progress is being made - and it consists in the creation of virtual cells. Read the rest of the article [here](#).

New ISSP Advisory Committee Chair



The ISSP is pleased to announce that President and CEO of the Canada Science and Technology Museums Corporation and ISSP Advisory Committee member Denise Amyot has accepted the position of Advisory Committee Chair. We at the ISSP are honoured and excited to have her take on this role.

Denise's bio is available on the Canada Science and Technology Museums Corporation [website](#).

Denise is taking over from Tom Brzustowski, who was Interim Chair for one year beginning September 2011. The ISSP extends its sincerest thanks to Tom for his work in helping to build the ISSP and wishes him the very best in all his future pursuits.



ISSP Distinguished Speaker Series: Rémi Quirion



Rémi Quirion Lecture

The ISSP recently hosted a lecture by the Chief Scientist of Québec, Rémi Quirion. Click on the image above to watch his talk, "Changing Times in Québec: Priorities of the Chief Science Officer with an Emphasis on 'La Relève'".



Scott Findlay discusses the Death of Evidence on CBC

In case you missed it, watch ISSP Core Member and Associate Professor of Biology Scott Findlay interviewed on [CBC News](#) about the Death of Evidence rally that took place in Ottawa in July. Scott did over three-dozen interviews with domestic and foreign media outlets following the event that brought several thousand protestors to Parliament Hill.

For more information about the Death of Evidence rally, [click here](#).



Other News

TED Talk: Innovation and Creativity by Andrew Pelling

ISSP Affiliate and Assistant Professor of Physics Andrew Pelling gave a TED Talk on the theme of Innovation and Creativity at the University of Ottawa this past Saturday. [Click here](#) for more information.

NSERC Chairs for Women in Science and Engineering: Scholarships and Reaction to Iran's Ban on Women

The NSERC / Pratt & Whitney Canada Chair for Women in Science and Engineering program has several scholarships available for graduate thesis work in sociology, Women's Studies, History or Management. The topics relate to women's career advancement in technology fields, such as aerospace, IT and biotech. Please contact [Prof. Catherine Mavriplis](#) for more information.

The National Network of NSERC Chairs for Women in Science and Engineering is preparing a reaction to the recent reports of Iran's ban of women in university programs. The chairs are particularly interested in hearing from the Iranian Canadian community on this issue. Please contact info@scieng-women-ontario.ca if you would like to discuss the issue and help formulate a response.

New Staff at ISSP

The ISSP welcomes Erika Decock as Communications Assistant and Sonia Pavez as Project Assistant. Both are students at the University of Ottawa. Erika is pursuing a degree with specialization in Communication and Sonia is pursuing a degree in Translation with a minor in Public Administration.

ISSP's New Address

The Institute has moved! Its new offices are on the 10th floor of the Desmarais Building at 55 Laurier Ave. East.

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