

WITH WHOM WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE DINNER, AND WHY?

Choosing from among the fascinating, inspiring people in history with whom to break bread is no easy decision. Three researchers at Sunnybrook Research Institute offer their top picks.

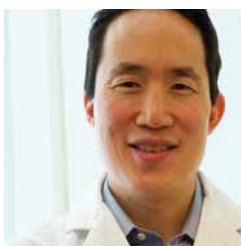


Dr. Michele Anderson

Senior Scientist, Sunnybrook Research Institute
Associate Professor, Department of Immunology,
University of Toronto

If I were able to have dinner with anyone in history, I would choose Marie Curie. From humble beginnings, she rose above the common belief that women were not intellectually fit to make scientific discoveries to become a two-time Nobel Prize winner, working in close collaboration with her husband, Pierre. It was in part due to her story that I came to believe that, as a woman, being a scientist and a mother and a wife were not incompatible goals. Like her, I am married to a fellow scientist and have two children. Her children were girls, and ours are boys, however, and this is obviously why we have not yet achieved a Nobel Prize! Seriously, though, I would want to hear her story firsthand, with all the struggles, sorrows and triumphs, in hopes of learning something that might guide my own rocky journey through this life I have chosen.

Anderson's research is aimed at understanding the role of transcription factors in T cell development.



Dr. Stanley Liu

Scientist, Sunnybrook Research Institute
Radiologist, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
Assistant Professor, Department of Radiation
Oncology, University of Toronto

Time listed Dr. Randy Pausch as one of the top 100 influential people in 2008. He was a pioneer in computer-human interface design who bridged computer science with art, and helped nurture the next generation of computer programmers. But what sets him apart? Why request dinner with Randy? It's because he inspired and moved me, and many others, with his last lecture, *Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams*. He was dying from pancreatic cancer, but you wouldn't have known it. He delivered a down-to-earth, inspirational and humorous yet frank lecture about valuable lessons he learned in life. It has been viewed over 14 million times! A book based on his lecture reached the *New York Times* bestseller list. With his limited time, he testified before Congress in support of pancreatic cancer research, and inspired many others during media appearances. To quote Randy, "I mean, I don't know how to not have fun. I'm dying and I'm having fun. And I'm going to keep having fun every day I have left. Because there's no other way to play it."

Liu is working to improve treatment outcomes for cancer patients by researching and integrating novel, molecular, targeted agents with radiotherapy.



Dr. Alan Moody

Associate Scientist, Sunnybrook Research Institute
Radiologist-in-Chief, Sunnybrook Health
Sciences Centre
Chair, Department of Medical Imaging,
University of Toronto

"Mr. Churchill, you are drunk!" "Yes, madam, and you are ugly. But in the morning, I will be sober, and you will still be ugly." As the wife of a prominent politician learned to her cost, dining with Winston Churchill was a dangerous business—but never dull. A "dunce" at school, Boer War hero and First World War failure, he nearly caused the death of my grandfather at Gallipoli, and his funeral is one of my earliest memories. His life was one of ups and downs, failure and success, but never self-doubt—a life of "luck," self-made and exploited. He would have made a great researcher! He picnicked on the Normandy beaches on D-Day, ate caviar with Stalin, hosted presidents and kings—there's no doubt the menu would match the man. And to finish, coffee, of which Lady Astor said, "Winston, if I were married to you, I'd put poison in your coffee." To which he replied, "Nancy, if you were my wife, I'd drink it."

Moody is developing and assessing imaging techniques to help improve early detection and intervention in vascular disease.