



Canadian  
Centennial  
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Fund

**WENDY GU**

CCSF SCHOLAR

Wendy left Shanghai at six years old and began her journey with her family to settle in Canada through Tokyo, Osaka, New York, Boston until finally - and happily - settling in the Toronto area in 1993. Her gratitude for all that Canada has given to her and her family is quick to be articulated and is sincere and emotive.

Beginning her academic career at the University of Toronto in Zoology she soon realized that research is what excited her, giving her the freedom to look at fundamental ideas in new ways. It was a U of T professor who first introduced her to developmental neuroscience, how the brain forms.

Upon completing her H.BSc. a supervisor directed her to a colleague at McGill and it was here that she gained her Masters in Experimental Medicine. As a developmental biologist with her field of expertise in neural development her research will answer how animals build precise neural circuits that relay information to and from the brain. As a candidate for a PhD at Cambridge she is able to work with fruit flies which allows for the manipulation and measurement of single identifiable neurons in the ventral nerve cord which is similar to a vertebrate spinal cord. Wendy's work in this area is challenging previously published data and may provide fundamental insights to the understanding of how neurons acquire their position in the three-dimensional "neural" space and make connections that generate functional neural circuits. Ultimately, these findings may aid efforts to develop therapeutics for congenital neurological disorders and injuries sustained in adulthood.

Wendy is quick to point out that the opportunities she has been given at Cambridge are not just of the academic nature and she is actively taking advantage of all her host university and country has to offer her. Wendy is a design editor for the King's Review online magazine, an artist, public speaker, teacher and has recently taken a keen interest in a historical printing press which she will work with others on to type set a manuscript. Wendy is excited to sort out what her next step will be upon completion of her PhD in 2015 - it is clear that she is keen to take on many more new challenges.



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The CCSF helps outstanding students from across Canada who are enrolled in postgraduate programmes at UK universities, colleges, institutes or conservatories. It is a UK registered charity (no. 313966) and is funded by the Maple Leaf Trust.

[www.canadianscholarshipfund.co.uk](http://www.canadianscholarshipfund.co.uk)