

U of T Faculty of Medicine Commissions Biomedical Art with Heart

by Maeve Doyle

As a student in the Master of Science in Biomedical Communications, each time Yi-Min Chun (1T4) entered the Terrence Donnelly Health Sciences Complex at the University of Toronto Mississauga, she passed the portrait of the building's namesake in the first-floor foyer.

On October 19, 2016, the University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine invited Chun to present her original carbon-dust drawing to Terrence Donnelly at a reception recognizing him for his one-million-dollar gift to establish the Dean Catharine Whiteside Scholarship for Clinician-Scientists. The scholarship is awarded to the top student entering the M.D./Ph.D. program and celebrates Dr. Whiteside's leadership as the former Dean of Medicine and her career as a clinician-scientist.

A few weeks before the reception, Chun's colleague Rohini Chopra, who at the time worked in the Faculty of Medicine, contacted Yi-Min with the intent of buying one of her print illustrations to present to Donnelly. Chun, who graduated from the biomedical communications program in 2014, shared what she had and then offered to create an original carbon-dust drawing specifically for Donnelly.

Inspired by his previous donations to cardiac research and education at the University of Toronto affiliated St. Michael's Hospital, Chun created an illustration of the cardiovascular system. She based her illustration on a specimen in Grant's Museum, a resource of human dissections from which students in the biomedical communications and M.D. programs study in their first-year anatomy courses.

"It was an honour to meet Mr. Donnelly in person and chat with him," says Chun. Donnelly thanked Chun for the artwork, enquired about the carbon-dust technique and asked her about freelancing. He told her that working independently would be challenging in the early years but to remain committed to her goals.

"It was very encouraging to hear that from someone so successful," says Chun.

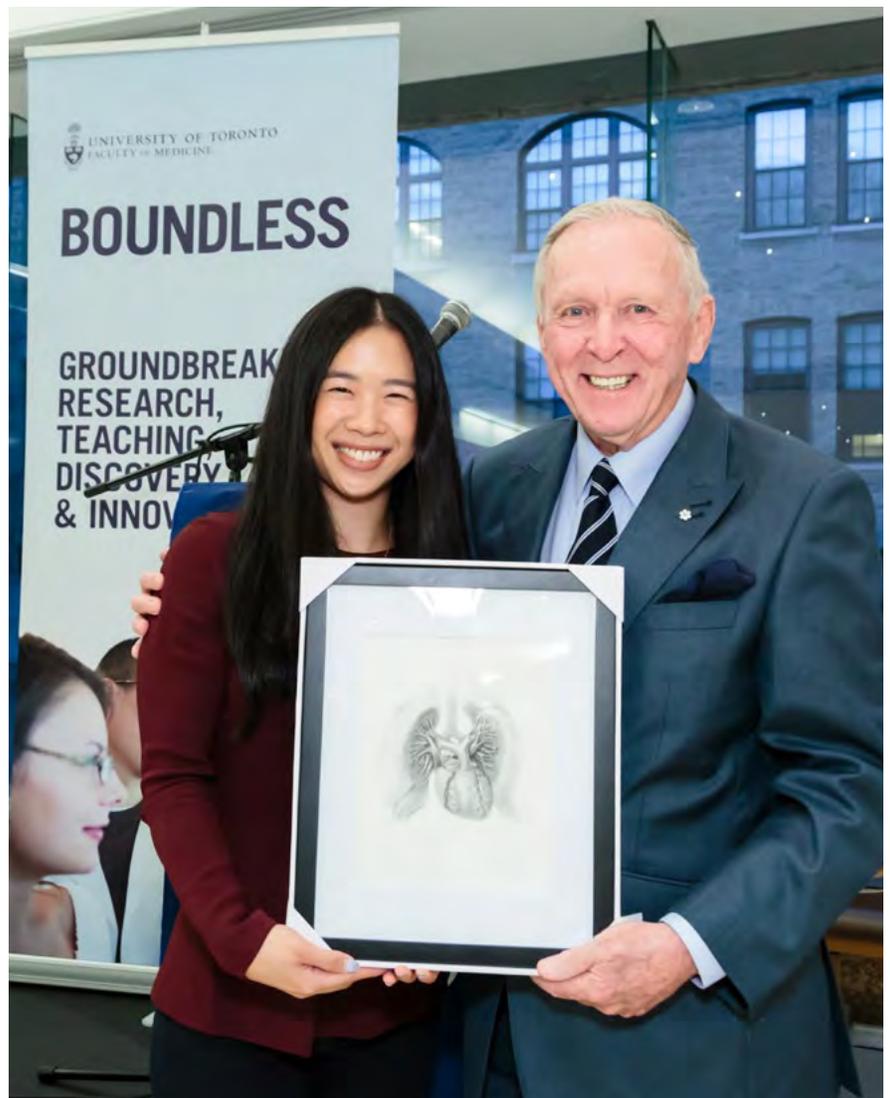
Shortly after her graduation from the biomedical communications program, Chun held a Canadian National Transplant Research Fellowship. She performed porcine kidney transplants and researched ischemia-reperfusion injury to the

kidney under the supervision of Dr. Markus Selzner of the University Health Network Toronto General Hospital.

In November 2016, Chun moved to Taiwan and enrolled in the National Taiwan Normal University in Taipei. Chun, who was born and raised in Canada, grew up speaking Mandarin, Cantonese, English and French. With an eye on opportunities in health innovation start-ups funded by Chinese investors, Chun wanted to develop her Mandarin to a level of business professional proficiency.

"I've also been learning Chinese calligraphy," she says.

In February 2017, Chun was admitted into H. Spectrum, Taiwan's only start-up incubator that is focused on the healthcare sector. She is developing her own start-up idea that targets Type 1 diabetics who have undergone kidney transplantation. Chun says she is gaining a wealth of knowledge on healthcare start-ups in Taiwan, and on the healthcare industry in mainland China and Hong Kong.



FACING – Carbon Dust
Illustration of Heart and
Lung © Yi-Min Chun. TOP –
Yi-Min Chun posing with the
recipient of her illustration,
Dr. Terence Donnelly.
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