



Molecular Genetics  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

# DEPARTMENTAL SEMINAR

## MARK L. KAHN, MD

Edward S. Cooper, M.D./Norman Roosevelt and Elizabeth  
Meriwether McLure Professor,  
Director, Center for Vascular Biology, Cardiovascular Institute

University of Pennsylvania

**Mechanism of the human  
birth defect omphalocele**

**Monday,  
February 24,  
2025**

**4:10 PM - 6PM**

**University  
College (UC)  
Room 161**

During embryonic development the gut herniates into the umbilical cord to grow and rotate. It is then re-inserted into the abdomen as the abdominal wall closes around the umbilical cord. How these processes take place has not been understood, but failure leads to a human birth defect known as omphalocele. Omphalocele affects 1/3000 newborns, has a 50% perinatal lethality and is associated with significant cardiopulmonary defects. We have used new mouse genetic tools to understand this process and determine the basis of the birth defect.

**HOST** Dr. Brent Derry