

ANATOMY & CELL BIOLOGY

NEWSLETTER

November 2019

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STAY IN THE LOOP

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 [ACB Graduate
Council](#)



WINTER HOLIDAYS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER

The University will be closing for the holidays on Sunday, December 22, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. through to 6:30 a.m. Thursday, January 2, 2020.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology would like to congratulate the following PhD Candidates on their successful thesis defenses: [Yuwei \(Alex\) Jiang](#) (Lajoie Lab) on August 28th, 2019, [Nadezda Ivanova](#) (Cechetto lab) on September 12th, 2019 and [Julia Abitbol](#) (Laird Lab) on November 12th, 2019; as well as [Patrick Murphy](#) (Hoffman lab) for his successful Masters defense on October 7th, 2019.

Congratulations to the following PhD Candidates who successfully completed their PhD Comprehensive exams: [Chris Balestrini](#), [Andrew Deweyert](#), [Cory Lefebvre](#) and [Jenna Kitiz](#)

AWARDS & GRANTS

[Dr. Silvia Penuela](#) received a 2019 Megan J. Davey Opportunity Award for her project titled "Pannexin Research Network"

[Dr. Tyler Beveridge](#) received a 2019 Megan J. Davey Opportunity Award for his project titled "Regional organization of the neurons within the human aortic plexus by function: Optimizing nerve-sparing surgery for testis cancer to prevent infertility"

[Ornela Kljakic](#) recieved Travel Awards to attend the International Society for Neurochemistry Conference in Montreal, Quebec. and the Brain in Flux: Genetic, Physiologic and Therapeutic Perspectives on Transporters in the Nervous System Conference in Saint-Paulin, Quebec.



Congratulations to our 26th Annual Murray Barr and Research Day Award winners:

[Brooke O'Donnell](#) - MSc Research Poster Presentation Award

[Kaitlin Marshall](#) - MSc Clinical Poster Presentation Award

[Austyn Roseborough](#) - PhD Poster Presentation Award

[Adrian Buensuceso](#) - Postdoctoral Fellow Poster Presentation Award

[Kevin Santiago](#) - 3MT Presentation Award

[Braeden Medeiros](#) - Oral Presentation Award.

PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCES

[Jenna Kitz](#) (PhD student in the Allan Lab) recently presented her work at the 2019 Advances in Circulating Tumour Cells (ACTC) Meeting, October 2-5, 2019 in Corfu, Greece: Kitz,J., Lowes, L.E., Goodale., D., Postenka, C., Carlos, J., and Allan, A.L. Influence of Zeb1 on the epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition and detection of circulating tumor cells in preclinical models of prostate cancer (poster presentation).

[Gargi Jaju](#) (Renaud lab), [Mariyan Jeyarajah](#) (Renaud lab), and [Chidambra Halari](#) (Lala lab) presented posters at the International Federation of Placenta Associations in Buenos Aires, Argentina between September 10-13. All three were finalists for the top poster presentation (top 10 out of 185). [Chidambra Halari](#) won the Young Investigator Award for her poster presentation entitled "Halari, C., Nandi, P., and Lala, P. (September 2019). Role of Decorin in decidual cell development during human pregnancy" and [Mariyan Jeyarajah](#) won The Trophoblast Research Award for his poster presentation and he will be giving an award lecture at the next meeting in Amsterdam. [Dr. Stephen Renaud](#) gave an oral presentation at the meeting entitled "OVO-like factors and histone deacetylases coordinate to control trophoblast development".

[Ornela Kljakic](#) received a Travel Award to attend the International Society for Neurochemistry Advanced School in Esterel, Quebec. Students from 27 different countries attended this 4 day conference where they discussed "Building and rebuilding the nervous system: lessons from development and disease." She also received a Travel Award to attend the Brain in Flux Conference in Saint-Paulin, Quebec, Ornela was one of only three graduate students to present a talk out of 49 total talks. Ornela was also chosen to present a talk at the Young Members Symposium at International Society for Neurochemistry Conference in Montreal, Quebec, where she was the only Canadian selected to speak. For all three conference Ornela presented a poster

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Roger Hudson, Justine Renard, Christopher Norris, Walter J. Rushlow and Steven R. Laviolette (2019). **Cannabidiol Counteracts the Psychotropic Side-Effects of Δ -9-Tetrahydrocannabinol in the Ventral Hippocampus through Bidirectional Control of ERK1–2 Phosphorylation**
<https://www.jneurosci.org/content/39/44/8762>

Esseltine, J.L., Brooks, C.R., Edwards, N.A., Subasri, M., Sampson, J., Séguin, C., Betts, D.H., & Laird, D.W. (2019). **Dynamic regulation of connexins in stem cell pluripotency.** PubMed
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/31646713>

Gugustea, R., Tamming, R.J., Martin-Kenny, N., Bérubé, N.G. § & Leung, L.S. § (2019) **Inactivation of ATRX in forebrain excitatory neurons affects hippocampal synaptic plasticity.** Hippocampus. § Equal contribution. In Press.

Chadwick, S.R., Fazio, E.N., Etedali-Zadeh, P., Genereaux, J., Duennwald, M.L., and Lajoie, P., Curr Genet (2019). **A functional unfolded protein response is required for chronological aging in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.** <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00294-019-01019-0>

Dale E. Fournier, Adam M.R. Groh, Shiva M. Nair, Chris J.D. Norley, Steven I. Pollmann, David W. Holdsworth, Nicholas E. Power, and Tyler S. Beveridge. **Microcomputed Tomography Is a Precise Method That Allows for Topographical Characterization of Lymph Nodes and Lymphatic Vessels.** Lymphatic Research and Biology. <http://doi.org/10.1089/lrb.2019.0007>

ACB IN THE NEWS



An article was written in the September issue of *Business London* featuring the Interprofessional Summer Surgery School that Anatomy and Cell Biology runs in collaboration with CSTAR and Fanshawe. This year's organizers were Tyler Beveridge, Marj Johnson, Paige Eansor, Maddie Norris, and Moulik Patel.
<https://online.flowpaper.com/7c1e077b/BusinessLondonSeptember2019/#page=36>



The recent publication from the Laviolette Lab, "Cannabidiol Counteracts the Psychotropic Side-Effects of Δ -9-Tetrahydrocannabinol in the Ventral Hippocampus through Bidirectional Control of ERK1–2 Phosphorylation" was featured in both *Western News* and *Global News*
<https://news.westernu.ca/2019/09/study-ids-offset-to-cannabis-side-effects/>
<https://globalnews.ca/news/5970908/western-university-research-cbd-thc-cannabis/>

ACB GIVES BACK



Join fellow students, staff and faculty in preparing and serving dinner to those in need at the upcoming St. John's community dinner. To register, please contact [Jennifer Devlin](mailto:jennifer.devlin@schulich.uwo.ca) (jennifer.devlin@schulich.uwo.ca) to add your name to the volunteer sign up sheet.

NOVEMBER INITIATIVE

ACB is looking to collect socks, hats, mitts, gloves and scarves for members of the London community who are in need. If you have any gently used or new items that could be used to keep someone warm this winter season, please feel free to drop them by the ACB main office (MSB 443) until December 14th

ACB GIVES BACK WINTER WEAR DRIVE

Help us keep our Community
warm this season



ICE CREAM SALE FUNDRAISER

Thank you to everyone who helped make the ACB Ice Cream Sale Fundraiser a huge success! Stay tuned to find out just how much we were able to raise and where the proceeds are going.

p.s If you have a sweet tooth craving, there is still a small collection of novelty ice creams and popsicles available for \$1 and \$2

SPECIAL EVENTS



ACB HOLIDAY PARTY

December 14th, 2019

Join the Department for our Annual Holiday open house. This years event is hosted by Dr. Alison Allan at her home on Saturday, December 14th starting at 6:00pm. Please RSVP via your e-invite and indicate if you will be accopined by a signifcant other.

RETIREMENT CELEBRATIONS



The Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology celebrated the retirement of Dr. David Cechetto (left) and Dr. Khadry Galil (right) this past September. We wish them both well in their retirement, and thank them for their remarkable contributions.



On November 4th 2019 current and former anatomists got together to celebrate the recent retirement of Dr. Khadry Abdel-Galil. A lovely lunch at the Mandarin restaurant to honour a friend and colleague.

ACB HALLOWEEN POTLUCK AND COSTUME CONTEST

Congratulations to our costume contest winners! Oscar the Grouch - [Jenn Devlin](#), The Adams Family - [The Lajoie Lab](#) and Aladdin - [The Penuela Lab](#), who also won Schulich's best group costume





The Social Corner



First Annual Great Pink Pumpkin



Social Council would like to thank the Departments of Anatomy and Cell Biology, Microbiology, Pathology, and the BMSUE and ACB staff and technicians for their outstanding support for the First Annual Great Pink Pumpkin! With your help and submissions, and the generous pumpkin donations from Apple Land Station and Heeman's Farms, ACB was able to raise over \$300 for the Breast Cancer Society of Canada. All proceeds were donated to support breast cancer research across Canada.

Congratulations to the contest winners:

1st place: Victoria Agapova, Salonee Patel, and company with a fabulous flamingo!

2nd place: The Allan Lab with some sculpted metacarpals

3rd place: The First Year Clinical Students of ACB and their nickelodeon throw-back - Gary the Snail



ACB HOLIDAY BAKE SALE



Before you settle in for the snow or jet off to warmer destinations, drop by the MSB lobby for the ACB Holiday Bake Sale on Wednesday, December 4th from 9:30am to 4:30pm. Donated homemade treats will be accompanied by a raffle this year - with each donation, a chance to win a holiday gift basket!

SCHULICH DOOR DECORATING



Door Decorating is back this year!! Ring in the holiday season with tinsel, bows and more! Transform your drab door (or cubicle!) into one full of festive cheer! Submit your photos by **December 10, 2019** to socialcommittee@schulich@uwo.ca. Winners will be announced on December 13th.

DOOR DECORATING GUIDELINES

- Door decorations must not block the function of the door closing and latching
- Electrical lights can be used only if plugged directly into a wall socket and are unplugged at the end of the day. Do not use extension cords at any time
- No decorations may be hung from the ceiling or sprinkler heads
- Decorations must not block exit signage, fire hose cabinets, fire extinguishers, light switches, electrical outlets, door windows or fire alarm devices
- Do not block corridor access with any decorative displays