

# ANATOMY & CELL BIOLOGY

## NEWSLETTER

### JUNE 2023

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#### SAVE THE DATES

##### ACB Golf Day

July 19th, 2023

##### ACB & BJI Seminar

August 3rd, 2023

##### ACB Grad Orientation

September 5th, 2023

##### ACB Trainee Mixer

September 7th, 2023

##### Murray L. Barr Lecture

October 27th, 2023

##### ACB Research Day

October 27th, 2023



### CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to [Amanda Rampersaud \(Renaud Lab\)](#) and partner Ben who welcomed their second child, Liam Robert Keith on June 2nd at 9:03 PM. Liam was 7 lbs 10 oz and 20 inches long at birth. Mom, dad, and big brother Ethan are loving all the newborn snuggles.

Congratulations to [Dr. Peeyush Lala](#) who was appointed as the review editor for the journal *Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology* (Molecular Pathology section).

#### STAY IN THE LOOP

Tag us at [#westernuACB](#)



ACB Events  
Calendar



@westernuACB



ACB Graduate  
Council

IN SUPPORT  
OF THE ACB  
SNACK SHACK

ACB GIVES BACK  
*Ice Cream*  
FUNDRAISER

SWEET  
TREATS  
\$1 - \$2  
MSB443

VISIT THE ACB ADMIN OFFICE - MSB 443  
OR KEEP ANY EYE OUT FOR  
THE ICE CREAM TROLLEY

ALL SUMMER LONG!

## GRADUATING CLASS OF 2023



Congratulations to all our graduating students of 2023! This significant accomplishment represents the culmination of all your hard work and a strong commitment to excellence. It has been an honour to see you grow personally and professionally while pursuing your university career here at Western within the Anatomy & Cell Biology family, whether that has been as a BSc, MSc, PhD, medical or dental student. [Read more from Dr. Alison Allan here](#)

### PhD Anatomy & Cell Biology Research

**Georgia Nikoloudaki, PhD 2022**

*"Extrinsic and intrinsic factors influencing homeostasis and repair in oral tissues"*

**Chidambra Halari, PhD 2022**

*"Role of decorin at the fetal-maternal interface"*

**Austyn Roseborough, PhD 2022**

*"Identifying and developing candidate indicators of brain inflammation"*

**Mariyan Jeyarajah, PhD 2023**

*"Identifying novel transcriptional regulators in trophoblast development"*

**Oleksiy Zaika, PhD 2023**

*"Haptic simulation in cerebral angiography: establishing new clinical competency targets"*

### MSc Anatomy & Cell Biology Research

**Sierra Pellizzari, MSc 2022**

*"Anticancer effects and mechanisms of CFI-400945 and radiation in breast cancer"*

**Adam Jaremek, MSc 2022**

*"Elucidating the role of hypoxia signaling in placental trophoblast differentiation"*

**Mohammed Al -Youzbaki, MSc 2022**

*"Past and present experience alters audiovisual temporal perception in rats"*

**Marina Sertsis, MSc 2022**

*"Localization and function of pannexin2 isoform 202"*

**Malisa Fernando, MSc 2022**

*"The role of ire1 in azole sensitivity in saccharomyces cerevisiae"*

**Lohiny Balendran, MSc 2023**

*"Transferring organelles into native neurons: A disease-modifying therapy for neurodegenerative disorders"*

### MSc Anatomy & Cell Biology Clinical Anatomy

**Erin Biggar  
Erinn Brown  
Edengenet Demis**

**Rebecca Elgie  
Livianna Gallone  
Vivienne Hang**

**Leah Killing  
Hannah Martin  
Ethan McQueen**

**Amna Noor  
Angela Pecyna**



## SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS & GRANTS

The Annual ACB Awards Day was held on Friday, June 16th where students, staff and faculty came together at The Wave, UCC to celebrate the achievements of the 2022-2023 school year.

Congratulations to the following departmental award recipients:

### **The Keith L. Moore Doctoral Award**

Austyn Roseborough (Whitehead/Pasternak Lab)

Mariyan Jeyarajah (Renaud Lab)

### **The Robert C. Buck Master's of Science Award**

Adam Jaremek (Renaud Lab)

### **The Suzanne M. Bernier Publication Award in Anatomy & Cell Biology**

Brent Wakefield (Penuela Lab)

### **The Alan W. Hryciyshyn Master's of Science, Clinical Anatomy Award**

Erinn Brown (Ng Lab)

### **The Wayne Davis Clinical Anatomy Graduate Prize**

Charlotte Jones-Whitehead (Renaud Lab)

### **Francis Chan Humanitarian Prize**

Rebecca Elgie (Duenwald Lab)

### **The Dr. Khadry Galil Translational Research in Clinical Anatomy Award**

Angela Pecyna (Ng Lab)

### **Western Gold Medal for Honors Specialization in Medical Cell Biology**

Megan Lave (Renaud Lab)

### **Western Gold Medal for Major in Medical Cell Biology**

Meghan Frampton





## PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCES

Anatomy & Cell Biology had a strong presence at this year's Oncology Research & Education Day on June 9, 2023, with numerous trainee presentations being given by trainees and Numerous trainees delivered presentations and were award recipients received well-deserved awards. Some of the highlights included:

### Poster Presentations

Eliseos John Mucaki (Dumeaux Lab)  
Adrian Buensuceso (Shepherd Lab)  
Bart Kolendowski (Shepherd Lab)  
Emily Tomas (Shepherd Lab)  
Jack Webb (Shepherd Lab)  
Dr. Charles Trelford (Shepherd Lab)  
Urvi Patel (Allan Lab)  
David Susman (Allan Lab)  
Harjot Athwal (Allan Lab)  
Brooke O'Donnell (Penuela Lab)

### Oral Talks

Dr. Vasudeva Bhat (Allan Lab)  
Matthew Borrelli (Shepherd Lab)

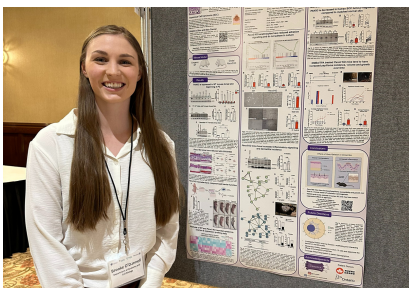
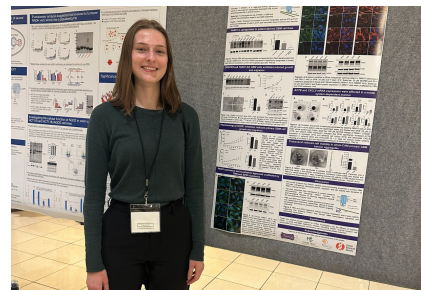
### Top Oral Presentation Award

Matthew Borrelli (Shepherd Lab)

### Top Poster Presentations Award

Adrian Buensuceso (Shepherd Lab)  
Bart Kolendowski (Shepherd Lab)  
Emily Tomas (Shepherd Lab)  
Jack Webb (Shepherd Lab)

Congratulations to Dr. Silvia Penuela who received the Department of Oncology – Experimental Oncology Award for Excellence in Academic and Teaching.



London Health Research Day was held on campus this year in The Great Hall, Sommerville House on June 22, where the following Trainee's presented posters: Baasil Afzal (Flynn Lab), Harjot Athwal (Parsyan/Allan Lab), Tiffany Johnston (Shepherd Lab) Stephanie Leighton (Laird/Penuela Lab), Urvi Patel (Allan Lab), Salonee Patel (Allman/Whitehead Lab) Amy Pietrantonio (Willmore Lab), Samuel Stack-Couture (Lajoie Lab), David Susman (Allan L Lab), Tiffany Johnston (Shepherd Lab) Stephanie Leighton (Laird/Penuela Lab), Urvi Patel (Allan Lab), Salonee Patel (Allman/Whitehead Lab) Amy Pietrantonio (Willmore Lab), Samuel Stack-Couture (Lajoie Lab), David Susman (Allan Lab), ab), and Brent Wakefield (Penuela Lab). Congratulations to Salonee on receiving the Top Poster Award in Anatomy & Cell Biology for the abstract titled "Differential plasticity in the auditory cortex, frontal cortex, and hippocampus following noise-induced hearing loss in a rat model."

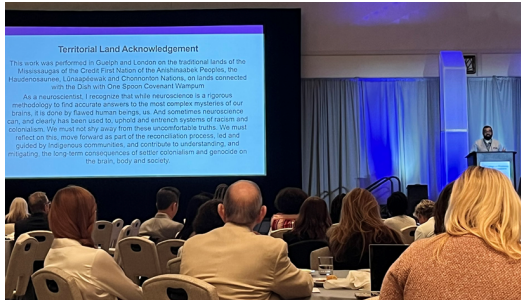


## PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCES CONT...

Congratulations to **Harjot Athwal (Parsyan/Allan labs)** on being awarded the Best Poster Award at the Department of Surgery Research Day, on June 9, 2023 for her research entitled "Anticancer effects of radiation therapy and polo-like kinase 4 (PLK4) inhibitor, CFI-400945 in triple negative breast cancer".

Members of the **Renaud Lab**, **Diba Chowdhury**, **Michael Zheng**, and **Violet Patterson** presented at the Canadian National Perinatal Research Meeting in Montibello, Quebec during May 23rd - 26th, 2023.

The Children's Health Research Day (London) on May 31, 2023, saw presentations by ACB Trainee's, **Alyssa Moore (Willmore Lab)**, **Katherine Quesnel (Berube Lab)** and **Michael Zheng (Renaud/Lala Lab)**. Congratulations to **Michael** who was awarded the first prize for his poster presentation.



On June 19th, 2023 **Dr. Jibran Khokhar** presented "The Case Against Purity: Studying the Intersection of Psychiatric and Substance Use Disorders" at the Presidential Symposium at the College on Problems of Drug Dependence in Denver, Colorado.

The inaugural Anatomy Education Research Unconference in Toronto on June 3, 2023 was attended by **Dr. Sean McWatt**, **Dr. Tim Wilson**, **Dr. Charys Martin**, **Emily Dietrich** and **Kayla Vieno**. The "unconference" an informal, participant-driven meeting was put on by ACB Alumni **Dr. Stefanie Attardi**, **Dr. Victoria Roach** and **Dr. Kristina Lisk**, along with **Dr. Danielle Bentley** from the University of Toronto.



**Dr. Martin Duennwald** was one of the co-organizers of the PRinCE (Proteostasis Research in Canada, eh!) conference that took place at the Université de Montréal Hospital Research Center (CRCHUM) in Montréal, Québec during June 7th - 9th, 2023. Many members from the department attended and participated in the three day event including: a keynote lecture by **Dr. Marco Prado**, an invited talk by **Dr. Patrick Lajoie**, oral talks by **Ben Rutledge** and **Donovan McDonald (Duennwald Lab)**, and poster presentations by **Samuel Stack-Couture (Lajoie Lab)**, and members of the **Prado Lab**.

## DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

### DR. ALISON ALLAN RE-APPOINTED AS CHAIR



We are pleased to announce that effective July 1, Dr. Alison Allan has been reappointed as Chair of Anatomy & Cell Biology! Throughout Dr. Allan's initial 5-year tenure as Chair, the Department has evolved significantly, while demonstrating a consistent commitment to delivering exceptional teaching, conducting groundbreaking research, and providing outstanding service. The remarkable faculty and staff within ACB have been instrumental in driving this success, earning numerous accolades from both internal and external sources. Under Dr. Allan's leadership, the Department has successfully recruited five talented individuals who have further enriched the Department and contributed to its continued excellence.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Allan!

### NEW ASSOCIATE CHAIR OF GRADUATE STUDIES

We're excited to announce that as of July 1, Dr. Trevor Shepherd has joined our senior administration team as the Associate Chair of Graduate Studies for a 3-year term. Dr. Shepherd brings extensive experience and genuine enthusiasm for graduate education and mentorship to this role that make him a valuable addition to our team!

Additionally, we want to express our appreciation to Dr. Paul Walton for his outstanding dedication, leadership, and advocacy as our Interim Grad Chair for the past 6 months. Despite the short notice, Dr. Walton stepped into the role and provided invaluable support to our Graduate Program. Thank you, Paul, for your hard work!

### CELEBRATION OF LIFE: DR. BRIAN FLUMERFELT

On Saturday, June 17th, 2023, a Celebration of Life was held to honor the late Dr. Brian Flumerfelt, our former Chair, who peacefully passed away at the age of 82 on January 10, 2023. The event was attended by several current and former members of the department, including Drs. Alison Allan, John Kiernan, Kem Rogers, Khadry Ghalil, Peeyush Lala, Christopher Naus and Peter Haase. As a tribute, the University flags were respectfully lowered to half-mast, and Dr. Alison Allan delivered remarks on behalf of the department.



### WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENT

Welcome to Dr. Dalwinder Singh, a new postdoctoral associate in the Dumeaux Lab

### ACB IN THE NEWS



Jenn Devlin, the staff representative on the department's new EDID Committee, was recently highlighted in Western News on June 22nd. The article discusses her participation alongside Dr. Alison Allan in a workshop for Western's Excellence in Leadership Program, where she shares insights on the important work she is implementing with the staff team and emphasizes the importance of embracing the discomfort around EDID work. [Read the full article here.](#)



## CAMPUS EVENTS

### WESTERN'S FARMERS MARKET

Visit Western's Farmers market every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the open space in front of McIntosh Gallery. With fresh produce and delicious baked goods, you'll be stocking up every week.

### SHOW YOUR PRIDE

Western's Pride activities will be held on campus and virtually, alongside the [London Pride Festival](#) scheduled from July 13-23, 2023. Check out the [Western Pride](#) website for all the event details!



## ACB GIVES BACK

### 2023 MOTHERS DAY WALK

The Translation Breast Cancer Research Unit, (TBCRU) raised \$3039 in support of Breast Cancer Research, with members from the [Allan Lab](#), [David Susman](#), [Vasu Bhat](#), [Urvi Patel](#) and [Harjot Athwal](#) participating in the walk that took place on Sunday, May 14th



### 2023 PROMISE WALK

Members from the [Renaud Lab](#), [Diba Chowdury](#), [Megan Lave](#), [Dr. Stephen Renaud](#), [Michael Zheng](#) and [Chloe Jang](#) participated in the Promise Walk for Preeclampsia on June 11th pictured at the 2022 Promise Walk for Preeclampsia, where they raised \$350 Preeclampsia Foundation Canada.





## ACB GIVES BACK CONT'D...

### SOLE TO SOUL SHOE DRIVE

During the month of June ACB ran a shoe drive with various collection boxes throughout Schulich, including Dentistry and the Deans office. Thanks to your generous donations we were able to collect 3 large boxes full of shoes in support of 519pursuit and our community friends in need!



### EMERITUS PROFESSOR & COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

Dr. Khadry Galil, an Emeritus Professor of Anatomy & Cell Biology, has recently joined the Life\*Spin organization as a translator, focusing on addressing the needs of refugees and immigrants. Dr. Galil's proficiency in Arabic, Greek, and Spanish allows him to effectively bridge communication barriers and provide comprehensive support to these individuals.

Life\*Spin, dedicated to assisting those with limited financial resources, aims to empower individuals in their journey toward self-sufficiency by offering crucial information and support. Dr. Galil's involvement aligns perfectly with the organization's mission and values. Dr. Galil has also been a committed volunteer at the Wright Dental Clinic for the past two years. In this role, he has selflessly served as a Maxillofacial Surgeon and Periodontist, demonstrating his dedication to improving the oral health and well-being of those in need.

### ST. JOHN'S HOSPITALITY DINNER



St. John's requires the ongoing support of Volunteers to help prepare and serve food at the community dinners. To register, please add your name to the volunteer sign up sheet by [clicking here](#)