

ANATOMY & CELL BIOLOGY

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023

IN THIS ISSUE

Department News
Scholarships, Awards & Grants
Presentations & Conferences
New Publications
Past ACB Events
Upcoming ACB Events
ACB Gives Back!

SAVE THE DATES

Research Retreat

June 8th, 2023

Awards Day

June 16th, 2023

Murray L. Barr Lecture

October 27th, 2023

ACB Research Day

October 27th, 2023



DEPARTMENT NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Dr. Sarfraz Shafiq (Berube Lab) and partner Emilie on the birth of their daughter Sarah, who was born on May 3rd, 2023, measuring 46 cm tall and weighing 3.15 kg



WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

A warm welcome to the summer students who will be working in various ACB Labs over the next couple of months!

STAY IN THE LOOP

Tag us at [#westernuACB](https://twitter.com/westernuACB)



ACB Events
Calendar



@westernuACB



ACB Graduate
Council



SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS & GRANTS

Congratulations to [Dr. Sarah McLean](#) and [Amel Sassi](#) on receiving a grant from Scleroderma Canada, which will aid in the development of an app dedicated to helping those who live with scleroderma.

Congratulations to [Dr. Vanessa Dumeaux](#) and [Dr. Armen Parsyan](#) who were awarded a Collaborative Research Seed Grant.

Congratulations to [Dr. Michelle Mottola](#) who received a Canadian Institutes of Health Research Grant for the project entitled "Preventing diabetes in young pregnant Arab Muslim individuals through lifestyle modification using the Nutrition and Exercise Lifestyle Intervention"

Congratulations to the following successful Doctoral Scholarship applicants:

Ontario Graduate Scholarship

[Stephanie Leighton \(Laird/Penuela Lab\)](#)

[Kasha Mansour \(Berube Lab\)](#)

[Sergiu Lucaciu \(Laird Lab\)](#)

Canadian Institutes of Health Research

[Wendy Wang \(Whitehead Lab\)](#)

[Hayley Thorpe \(Khokhar Lab\)](#)

Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship in Science and Technology

[Kayla Vieno \(Rogers/Campbell Lab\)](#)

[Mohammed Al-Youzbaki \(Allman Lab\)](#)

[Afrin Bari \(Lajoie Lab\)](#)

[Hien Nguyen \(Singh Lab\)](#)

[Nikita Ollen-Nittle \(Whitehead Lab\)](#)

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada

[Sarah Myers \(Whitehead/Sposato Lab\)](#)

[Violet Patterson \(Renaud Lab\)](#)

Congratulations to [Iman Aziz](#) and [Esther Choi](#) of the [Khokhar lab](#) on their successful Canada Graduate Scholarships - Master's applications

Congratulations to [Jennifer Guo \(Hamilton Lab\)](#) who won a 2016 World Biomaterials Congress legacy travel award to attend the Canadian Biomaterials Society Annual Meeting on June 14th at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Congratulations to undergraduate summer students, [Mohamed Meawad](#) and [Akshay Manoj](#) in the [Dumeaux Lab](#) who respectively received the Dean's Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (DUROP) and MITACS Globalink Research Internship Award.

PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCES



[Julia Brott](#), [Katherine Quesnel](#), and [Kasha Mansour \(Berube Lab\)](#) attended the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) regional meeting in Algarve Portugal, May 2-5th, where each gave a poster presentation:

[Katherine Quesnel](#) - "Memory deficits, autistic-like behaviours and brain neuroanatomical abnormalities in a mouse model of ATRX deficiency in excitatory neurons"

[Julia Brott](#) - "Identification of altered microRNA-mRNA networks following deletion of the chromatin remodeling protein ATRX"

[Kasha Mansour](#) - "The role of microglial ATRX in the developing mouse brain"

The Renaud Lab attended the Southern Ontario Reproductive Biology meeting in Toronto on April 27. [Violet Patterson](#), [Michael Zheng \(Renaud/Lala\)](#), and [Megan Lave](#) gave poster presentations, and [Diba Chowdhury \(Renaud/Lajoie\)](#) gave an oral presentation. Congratulations to [Diba](#) who won the top oral presentation award!

PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCES CONT...

Anatomy & Cell Biology Trainee's and Faculty attended the 12th Signalling in Normal and Cancer Cells Conference in Banff during April, where **Dr. Silvia Panuela** presented an invited talk, entitled "Pannexin channels in cancer regulation through Wnt signalling". Presentations were also given by the following trainees, with **Brooke O'Donnell (Penuela Lab)** receiving a Lightning Talk Prize for her outstanding oral presentation!



Poster Presentations

Carlijn Van Kessel (Penuela/Hebb Lab)
Brooke O'Donnell (Penuela Lab)
Danielle Johnston (Penuela/Laird Lab)
Stephanie Leighton (Penuela/Laird Lab)
Dr. Vasu Bhat (Allan Lab)

Oral Talks

Brooke O'Donnell (Penuela Lab)



We want to feature your new publications here!

submit them to anatomy@uwo.ca

NEW PUBLICATIONS

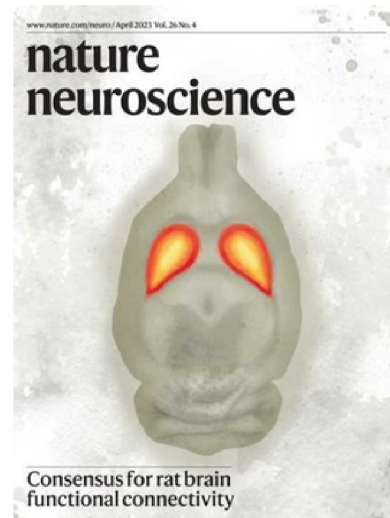
The **Khokhar Lab** published the paper "A consensus protocol for functional connectivity analysis in the rat brain" which was featured on the cover of April 2023 Nature Neuroscience, 26, 673–681 (2023) <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41593-023-01286-8>

Jaremek AJ, Sumaiyah S, Jeyarajah MJ, Jaju Bhattad G, Chowdhury D, Riddell M, and Renaud SJ. Genome-wide analysis of hypoxia-inducible factor binding reveals targets implicated in impaired human syncytiotrophoblast formation under low oxygen. American Journal of Pathology. doi: [10.1016/j.ajpath.2023.03.006](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajpath.2023.03.006)

Baines KJ, Klausner MS, Patterson VS, and Renaud SJ. Interleukin-15 deficient rats have reduced osteopontin at the maternal-fetal interface. Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology. doi:[10.3389/fcell.2023.1079164](https://doi.org/10.3389/fcell.2023.1079164)

Wang J, Tinney D, Grynyshyn M, Pickering JG, Power A, Dubois L, Hamilton DW. Microcirculation surrounding end-stage human chronic skin wounds is associated with endoglin/CD146/ALK-1 expression, endothelial cell proliferation and an absence of p16Ink4a. Wound Repair Regen. 2023 Apr 5. doi: [10.1111/wrr.13081](https://doi.org/10.1111/wrr.13081).

Brooks S, Mittler S, Hamilton DW. Contact Guidance of Connective Tissue Fibroblasts on Submicrometer Anisotropic Topographical Cues Is Dependent on Tissue of Origin, β 1 Integrins, and Tensin-1 Recruitment. ACS Appl Mater Interfaces. 2023 Apr 26;15(16):19817-19832. Epub 2023 Apr 17. doi: [10.1021/acsami.2c22381](https://doi.org/10.1021/acsami.2c22381).



PAST ACB EVENTS

SUPPORT OUR SCIENCE: NATION-WIDE WALK OUT

Support Our Science



On May 1st, ACB Trainees, Staff and Faculty gathered with approximately 200 individuals on concrete beach in support of the nationwide walk-out, organized by Support Our Science (SOS), in a call for increased federal investments for graduate students and postdoctoral students.



ANNUAL BODY BEQUESTAL MEMORIAL SERVICE 2023

The annual memorial service was held on Saturday, May 13th at the Student Life Building, King's University College, to honour the donors of our body bequeathal program. It was a beautiful day and an even more beautiful ceremony, where faculty and students shared their talents and reflections. Thank you to all who attended, and contributed to this special event.



Top: Leah Killing, Angela Pecyna, Vivienne Hang, Brittany Zurkan, Emily Dietrich, Anastasios Catanzaro, Jorge Mejia-Lopez Bottom: Erinn Brown, Bryn Bhalerao, Meaghan Frank, Meaghan Frampton, Meenaal Kaur, Cassidy Fu, Supreet Singh, Charlotte Jones-Whitehead, Charlotte Hayes, Ashley Faulkner, Jen Coats, and Samantha Lim



Top: Erin Biggar, Angela Pecyna, Vivienne Hang, Brittany Zurkan, Emily Dietrich, Anastasios Catanzaro, Jorge Mejia-Lopez Bottom: Erinn Brown, Bryn Bhalerao, Meaghan Frank, Meaghan Frampton, Meenaal Kaur, Cassidy Fu, Supreet Singh, and Charlotte Jones-Whitehead



Dr. Allan Shephard, Dr. Alison Allan, Haley Linklater and Dr. John Yoo

PAST ACB EVENTS

SCIENCE RENDEZVOUS WESTERN 2023

ACB Graduate Students participated and hosted an Anatomy Booth and a Cell Bio Booth at this year's Science Rendezvous event on Saturday, May 13th.

The Cell Bio Booth had lots of fun and engaging activities set up, including:

- A matching game participants had to match what is under the microscope to a printed / histology slide box image
- A neuron craft, participants made neurons out of pipe cleaners and beads
- A wound healing game, participants threw bean bags at different targets to predict and explain optimal wound healing.

The Anatomy Booth featured lots of cool and interactive displays and games, including:

- Anatomy models
- Anatomy jeopardy
- Pin the structure on the body, where participants had to match bones, muscles, organs, etc to their correct location.



Thank you to all who volunteered and helped share the excitement of S.T.E.M with future anatomists and cell biologists! Volunteers: Rebecca Elgie, Erinn Brown, Angela Pecyna, Vivienne Hang, Leah Killing, Liviana Gallone, Supreet Singh, Alyssa Moore, Dylan Tinney-Dickinson, Justin Carmichael, Tiffany Johnston, Nikita Ollen-Bittle, Violet Patterson, Sepideh Nikfarjam, Harjot Athwal, Urvi Patel, Hien Nguyen, Baasil Afzal, and Diba Chowdhury.

UPCOMING ACB EVENTS

Awards Day 2023

JUNE
16

The Wave
2nd Floor
University Community Centre

3:00
PM

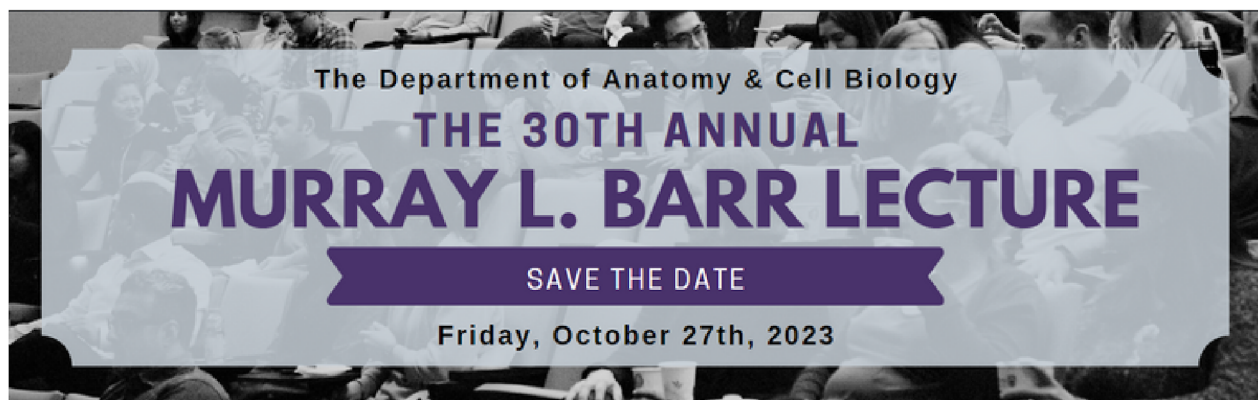
Please RSVP by June 5th

AWARDS DAY 2023

Please join us in celebrating the achievements of our 2022/23 award recipients, and Fall 2022/ Spring 2023 graduates at the annual ACB Awards Day! This year's celebration will be held on Friday, June 16th at 3:00pm in The Wave, UCC. Please RSVP by June 5th

MURRAY L. BARR LECTURE & ACB RESEARCH DAY 2023

We are pleased to announce Nobel Prize winner Dr. Susumu Tonegawa as our guest speaker for the 30th Annual Murray L. Barr Lecture. The event will be held in person on Friday, October 27th 2023, followed by Anatomy and Cell Biology's annual Research Day, stay tuned for more details.



The Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology
**THE 30TH ANNUAL
MURRAY L. BARR LECTURE**
SAVE THE DATE
Friday, October 27th, 2023

ACB GIVES BACK

2023 PROMISE WALK

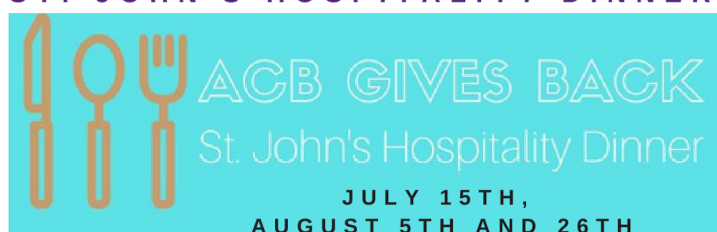
The Renaud Lab is pictured at the 2022 Promise Walk for Preeclampsia, and they are participating again this year on June 11th! Please consider supporting their team and the cause by making a donation: <https://www.canadahelps.org/s/nEeVDs>



SL10 FOR CAMPFIRE CIRCLE

Thank you to everyone who supported our ACB graduate students Kasha Mansour, Tiffany Johnston, and Stephanie Leighton in this year's sporting life 10K in support of Campfire Circle. With your help, they were able to raise \$2,944.94 which will help provide one-on-one hospital bedside programs, community and virtual programs, and summer overnight camp to kids and families affected by childhood cancer.

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITALITY DINNER



ACB GIVES BACK
St. John's Hospitality Dinner
JULY 15TH,
AUGUST 5TH AND 26TH

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](#)

ACB GIVES BACK CONT...



SOLE TO SOUL SHOE DRIVE

ACB has once again partnered up with 519pursuit to gather shoes for our community friends in need! Please consider dropping off new or gently used walking/running shoes to one of our conveniently located boxes in MSB 443, MSB Lobby, CSB 3700 and DSB 1003 by June 15th.

The ACB

Snack Shack

LOCATED IN THE MSB 447 KITCHENETTE
OPEN TO ALL!

This Initiative is Run
on a Donation Basis



SNACK SHACK

We are excited to announce that the ACB Snack Shack initiative is underway, and we are seeking on-going donations to keep the shelves and fridge with snacks and quick meals!

What is it: The Snack Shack is an ongoing ACB initiative, that aims to decrease the impact of food insecurity within our department by providing free and accessible food items.

Who is it for: Are you in need of a snack to get you through the day? Are you missing lunch and in need of a meal? The Snack Shack is open to all members of the department who could benefit from it!

Where is it: The Kitchenette in Medical Sciences Building Room 447

How can you contribute: Consider grabbing something extra on your next grocery trip and adding it to the shelving and fridge in the MSB 447 Kitchenette. Want someone to do the shopping for you? Drop cash off to the ACB Snack Fund in MSB 443 and the staff will pick up food items for the Snack Shack

Snack & Meal Ideas:

- Fresh fruit
- Individual yogurts
- Instant oatmeal
- Instant noodles
- Canned soups, pastas and stews
- Apple sauces and fruit cups
- Granola Bars
- Keurig Pods
- Coffee
- Cereal
- Individually packaged snacks (cookies, chips)
- Individual packaged cheeses (babybel, stings)