

ANATOMY & CELL BIOLOGY

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2023

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UPCOMING SEMINARS

November 24th, 2023

December 1st, 2023

December 8th, 2023

December 15th, 2023



WINTER BREAK

Western will close for the holidays on Saturday, December 23, 2023 at 6:30 a.m. and will reopen at 6:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 4, 2024.

WELCOME GRADUTE STUDENTS

Lets show a warm ACB welcome to the 2023 cohort of Graduate Students!

MSc Anatomy & Cell Biology

Paul Collie - Flynn Lab	Milica Pavlovic - Berube Lab
Elizabeth Fenton - Schmid/Hebb Lab	Anahid Pourtousi - Berube Lab
Young Joo Kim - Duennwald Lab	David Wu - Whitehead Lab
Megan Lave - Renaud Lab	Rehanna Kanji - Penuela Lab

PhD Anatomy & Cell Biology

Hannah Martin - Whitehead Lab
Aybars Nazlica - Dumeaux Lab

MSc Clinical Anatomy & Cell Biology

Layya Al Malouf	Carson Norkum
Emily Danciu	Hannah Traynor
Amrutha Elanko	Marie Tsai
Lina Nasirkadir	Sidney Wright

INNOVATION IN ACB

Dr. Andrew Deweyert and Dr. Charys Martin began filming with the LightBoard in August and are excited to announce that the new system is up and running. What looks like a simple transparent "whiteboard" is actually a powerful tool that allows you to write naturally and maintain eye-contact with your audience. Their goal is to use this technology to create highly engaging and interactive asynchronous content for our learners.



STAY IN THE LOOP
Tag us at [#westernuACB](https://twitter.com/westernuACB)



**ACB Events
Calendar**



@westernuACB



**ACB Graduate
Council**

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to [Dr. Jibran Khokhar](#), recently appointed as one of six new Canada Research Chairs at Western on August 29, 2023. Dr. Khokhar, now serving as the CRC in Translational Neuropsychopharmacology (CIHR Tier 2), is on a mission to unveil the enigmatic connection between substance use and severe mental disorders. Read more about it in the recent Western News Article titled ["Six new Canada Research Chairs named at Western"](#)

SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS & GRANTS

Congratulations to [Jude Frie](#) (Khokhar Lab) who won a Trainee Professional Development Award from the Society for Neuroscience



Congratulations to [Dr. Mariyan Jeyarajah](#) from Renaud Lab on the remarkable accomplishment of being named one of this year's recipients of the Governor General's Academic Medals, recognizing outstanding academic excellence at the graduate level. Mariyan, a recent graduate in Anatomy & Cell Biology, successfully defended his thesis last January. Learn more about Mariyan and other Western Gold Medal Winners in the Western News article, ["Western graduates receive Governor General's Gold Medal"](#).

Congratulations to the 2023 Schulich Medicine & Dentistry Internal Graduate Awards recipients:

- [Hien Nguyen \(Singh Lab\)](#) - Drs. Madge and Charles Macklin Fellowship for Publication in Medical Sciences Award
- [Katherine Quesnel \(Bérubé Lab\)](#) - Jonathan & Joshua Memorial Graduate Scholarship
- [Alaa El-Cheick Mohamad \(Schmid Lab\)](#) - Jonathan & Joshua Memorial Graduate Scholarship
- [Emily Tomas \(Shepherd Lab\)](#) - Morris Kroll Award-2023
- [Elizabeth Fenton \(Hebb/Schmid Lab\)](#) - Deans Research Scholarship
- [Erica Kane \(Whitehead Lab\)](#) - Deans Research Scholarship

Congratulations to [Diba Chowdhury \(Renaud/Lajoie Lab\)](#), [Elizabeth Fenton \(Hebb/Schmid Lab\)](#), [Raluca Urian \(Willmore Lab\)](#), and [Michael Zheng \(Lala/Renaud Lab\)](#) on each receiving the Children's Health Research Institute (CHRI) Graduate Scholarship.

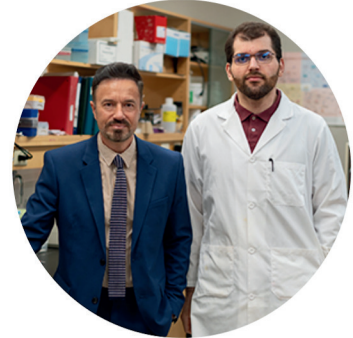
ACB IN THE NEWS



In the 2023 issue of Rapport magazine, the article "Puff, Puff, Pass" features Dr. Jibran Khokhar's research, illuminating the rise in the Canadian vaping market and investigating the real-world impact of nicotine and cannabis on the adolescent brain.

https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/rapport/2023/stories/puff_puff_pass.html

PhD Candidate Mohammed H. Sarikahya and Dr. Steven Laviolette's recent study, published in the journal Molecular Psychiatry, revealed that prenatal cannabis exposure in rats has lasting and significant impacts on cognitive and memory functions. Their research was featured in a Schulich News story on August 3rd. Read the full story [here](#).



Led by graduate student Liliana German-Castelan under the supervision of Dr. Vania Prado, a recent study highlights the crucial role of female sex hormones in the manifestation of Alzheimer's in the brain. Learn more about the research [here](#).

We want to feature your new publications here!

submit them to anatomy@uwo.ca

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Ashley L Schormans, Brian L Allman, An imbalance of excitation and inhibition in the multisensory cortex impairs the temporal acuity of audiovisual processing and perception, *Cerebral Cortex*, 2023; bhad256, <https://doi.org/10.1093/cercor/bhad256>

Richard Quansah Amissah, Abdalla M. Albeely, Elise M. Bragg, Melissa L. Perreault, Wilder T. Doucette, Jibran Y. Khokhar, A Simple, Lightweight, and Low-Cost Customizable Multielectrode Array for Local Field Potential Recordings *eNeuro* 29 August 2023, 10 (8) ENEURO.0212-23.2023; <https://doi.org/10.1523/ENEURO.0212-23.2023>

Rowland, M.E., Jiang, Y., Shafiq, S., Ghahramani, A., Pena-Ortiz, M.A., Dumeaux, V. and Bérubé, N.G. Systemic and intrinsic functions of ATRX in glial cell fate and CNS myelination in male mice (2023) *Nature Communications*. In Press. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-023-42752-y>

CALL FOR PAPERS

Professor Emeritus, Dr. John Kiernan invites submissions for a special issue on "Histology for Spatial Omics" in the *Journal of Histotechnology*. More details and submission instructions can be found [here](#).

PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCES



Drs. Tyler Beveridge, Charys Martin and Michele Barbeau attended the Great Teachers Seminar in Grand Bend from July 26-28. This 3 day workshop coordinated by the Centre for Teaching and Learning included 12 invited faculty from across campus who came together to discuss teaching challenges, innovations and exchange ideas.

ACB RESEARCH DAY 2023

Our annual ACB Research Day was held on Friday, October 27th in the Great Hall, Somerville House. The day featured an impressive array of presentations from our talented trainees, including Poster, 3MT and Oral Talk Presentations.



Congratulations to the following trainees who were award winners at ACB Research Day 2023

Oral Presentation: [Stephanie Leighton](#) – Drs. Dale Laird and Silvia Penuela

3MT Presentation: [Tiffany Johnston](#) – Dr. Trevor Shepherd

Poster Presentation - MSc Clinical Anatomy: [Meaghan Frank](#) – Dr. Shawn Whitehead

Poster Presentation - MSc Biological Research: [Erica Kane](#) – Dr. Shawn Whitehead

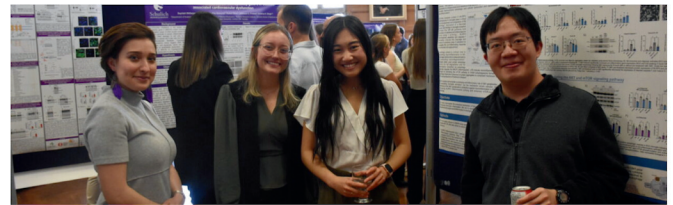
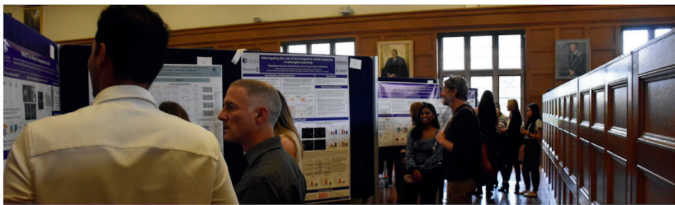
Poster Presentation - Doctoral: [Sarah Myers](#) – Dr. Shawn Whitehead

Poster Presentation - Post Doctoral: [Dr. Miguel Pena-Ortiz](#) – Dr. Nathalie Bérubé

Oral Presentation Honourable Mention: [Dr. Hayley Thorpe](#) – Dr. Jibran Khokhar



PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCES CONT...



Congratulations and thank you to all the trainees who presented their research at ACB Research Day 2023

Oral Presentations

Harjot Athwal - Drs. Armen Parsyan & Alison Allan
 Anastasios Catanzaro - Dr. Sarah McLean
 Stephanie Leighton - Drs. Dale Laird & Silvia Penuela
 Dr. Hayley Thorpe - Dr. Jibran Khokhar

Poster Presentations

Mohammed Al-youbzaki - Dr. Brian Allman
 Sedat Aybars Nazlica - Dr. Vanessa Dumeaux
 Iman Aziz - Dr. Jibran Khokhar
 Julia Brott - Dr. Nathalie Bérubé
 Emily Dietrich - Dr. Sean McWatt
 Elnaz Farahani - Drs. Shawn Whitehead & Paul Walton
 Elizabeth Fenton - Drs. Matthew Hebb and Susanne Schmid
 Meaghan frank - Dr. Shawn whitehead
 Jude Frie - Dr. Jibran Khokhar
 Sairam Gajavelli - Dr. Shawn Whitehead
 Alireza Ghahramani - Dr. Nathalie Bérubé
 Jennifer Guo - Dr. Douglas Hamilton
 Jacob Haagsma - Dr. Trevor Shepherd
 Victoria Jaremek - Dr. Shawn Whitehead
 Matthew Jones - Dr. Steven Laviolette
 Charlotte Jones-Whitehead - Drs. Timothy Wilson & Eldon Loh
 Young Joon Kim - Drs. Martin Duennwald & Wing-Yiu Choy
 Erica Kane - Dr. Shawn Whitehead
 Meenaal Kaur - Dr. Stephen Renaud
 Megan Lave - Dr. Stephen Renaud
 Stephanie Leighton - Drs. Dale Laird & Silvia Penuela
 Kasha Mansour - Dr. Nathalie Bérubé
 Hannah Martin - Dr. Shawn Whitehead
 Jorge-Alberto Mejia-Lopez - Dr. Timothy Wilson
 Alyssa Moore - Dr. Katherine Willmore

3- Minute Thesis Presentations

Bryn Bhalerao - Dr. Anita Woods
 Nikita Ollen-Bittle - Dr. Shawn Whitehead
 Diba Chowdhury - Drs. Stephen Renaud & Patrick Lajoie

Cassidy Fu - Dr. Geoffrey Ng

Tiffany Johnston - Dr. Trevor Shepherd
 Sepideh Nikfarjam - Dr. Krishna Singh

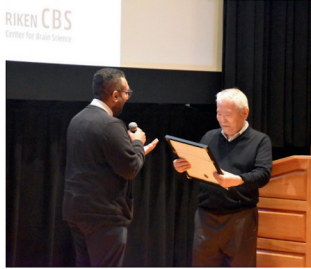
Poster Presentations Cont...

Sarah Myers - Dr. Shawn Whitehead
 Sepideh Nikfarjam - Dr. Krishna Singh
 Brooke O'Donnell - Dr. Silvia Penuela
 Urvi Patel - Dr. Alison Allan
 Violet Patterson - Dr. Stephen Renaud
 Miguel Pena-Ortiz - Dr. Nathalie Bérubé
 Amy Pietrantonio - Dr. Katherine Willmore
 Richard Quansah Amissah - Dr. Jibran Khokhar
 Katherine Quesnel - Dr. Nathalie Bérubé
 Noor Rizvi - Dr. Vanessa Dumeaux
 Supreet Singh - Dr. Timothy Wilson
 Samuel Stack-Couture - Dr. Patrick Lajoie
 David Susman - Dr. Alison Allan
 Justin Tang - Dr. Silvia Penuela
 Dylan Tinney-Dickinson - Dr. Douglas Hamilton
 Emily Tomas - Dr. Trevor Shepherd
 Raluca Urian - Drs. Katherine Willmore & Brian Allman
 Carlijn Van Kessel - Drs. Matthew Hebb & Silvia Penuela
 Kayla Vieno - Dr. Kem Rogers & Dr. Nicole Campbell
 Wendy Wang - Dr. Shawn Whitehead
 Ray Wang - Dr. Vanessa Dumeaux
 Jack Webb - Dr. Trevor Shepherd
 Michael Zheng - Drs. Stephen Renaud & Peeyush Lala
 Brittany Zurkan - Dr. Timothy Wilson

PAST ACB EVENTS

MURRAY L. BARR LECTURE & ACB RESEARCH DAY 2023

On Friday, October 27th, 2023 we had the honor of hosting Nobel Prize laureate Dr. Susumu Tonegawa for the 30th Annual Murray L. Barr Lecture. Dr. Tonegawa delivered a captivating talk on "Generalizable knowledge represented by overlapping memory engrams," followed by an engaging Q&A session with the audience. We were also privileged to have opening remarks from Dr. Penny Pexman, Western's Vice President of Research, and Dr. Robert Bartha, Vice Dean of Research & Innovation, SSMD. To make the occasion even more special, we welcomed David Barr, the youngest son of Dr. Murray L. Barr, and his wife Linda as distinguished guests to the lecture.



PUMPKIN PAINTING

ACB Grad Students had a blast at the Pumpkin Painting event hosted by the Student Council's Social Committee. The artistic flair was on display, and some of these gourd-geous creations were generously donated to our Pink Pumpkin Auction!



PAST ACB EVENTS CONT...

ACB HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

The halls were alive with spooky energy as ACB staff, students, and faculty flaunted their Halloween spirit at our annual Costume Contest!

The [Renaud and Lala Labs](#) stole the show, bringing Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory to life and snagging not only the golden ticket but also the coveted prize for the best group costume. Dr. Steve Renaud's hair extension was a showstopper! And let's not forget the Force was strong with [Paul Collie](#) (Flynn Lab) as he rocked the Jedi look, swooping in to nab the award for best individual costume as Luke Skywalker.

But the fun doesn't stop there! Our honorable mentions deserve their moment in the spooky spotlight. The [1st Year Clinical Anatomy Students](#) enchanted us with Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, while the [2nd Year Clinical Anatomy Students](#) taught us the 12 Cranial Nerves. We had game-worthy Super Mario from the [Allan Lab](#) and an enchanting Alice and the Queen of Hearts from the [Schmid Lab](#). Special shout outs to [Jennifer Devlin](#) for nailing the "Working from Home" look and [Justin Carmichael](#) for his on-point impersonation of Dr. Hamilton!





UPCOMING ACB EVENTS

HOLIDAY SOCIAL



Join us for an evening of festive cheer at the ACB Holiday Social!

Drop in for light refreshments, delightful company, and some seasonal spirit, at The Wave, UCC, from 3:30pm, on, where the bar will be available for individual purchases.

Please RSVP by Friday, December 8th, to ensure we have plenty of holiday delights for everyone.

We're looking forward to celebrating the season with you!

MOVEMBER TRIVIA

Join the ACB Grad Student Council for a Movember Trivia Night at the Grad Club on Monday, November 27th, 2023 at 6:30pm.

Trivia will consist of three rounds with 5 members on each team. All students and staff are welcomed to participate! Not enough players to join you? Sign up as many people as you have and we will find a team for you! Only one person needs to sign-up per team. Registration can be done using this link:

<https://forms.gle/8DCgwtZWmLtCvnfm9>

The cost will be \$5/person with all proceeds going directly to the ACB Movember Campaign. Donations can be made in cash at the ACB office (MSB 443) or sent directly to paul.collie@hotmail.com via e-transfer.



ACB GIVES BACK

ACB Movember

**GROW, RUN, OR DONATE! YOUR
MO, YOUR WAY!**

SIGN UP OR DONATE HERE!

MOVEMBER INITIATIVE

Led by [Paul Collie](#), the Graduate Student Council - Social Committee is powering the Movember campaign to fundraise and raise awareness for men's mental and physical health. Grow your best 'mo or set a running goal! All members of Anatomy and Cell Biology are challenged to participate. If facial hair isn't your thing, no problem—set a running goal instead! [Donate or sign up here to support this initiative.](#)

HOLIDAY INITIATIVE - GIFT CARD DRIVE

This holiday season, we are once again collecting gift cards to bring joy to those in need in the London area through our partnership with 519Pursuit.

If you'd like to contribute and brighten someone's day, simply pick up a gift card (minimum \$5 value) during your next outing and drop it off at the ACB Admin Office (MSB 447) by Wednesday, December 20th.

Let's come together and make this holiday season a little brighter for our community!



ACB GIVES BACK CONT... 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](#)

BEST FIRST DAY INITIATIVE- 525 BACKPACKS!!!

Dr. Charys Martin collected and donated 525 backpacks, over 400 lunch bags, and supplies with the support of Anatomy & Cell Biology, LHSC Radiology, Whitecaps Soccer, friends, and family. Donations helped support the French board, high needs schools in the Catholic Board, and the Thames Valley Education Foundation's Best First Day Initiative. Schools requested over 70 bags, and thanks to the contributors, every child had the best first day.



THE GREAT PINK PUMPKIN AUCTION



The ACB Graduate Student Council hosted a pumpkin auction for Breast Cancer Awareness Month, raising \$150 in support of breast cancer research on Monday, October 30th, in the MSB Lobby. Special thanks to Rehanna Kanji, Emily Danciu, and Elizabeth Fenton for coordinating the event, and to ACB Grad Students who contributed their painted pumpkins for the auction.

519 PURSUIT SOCK DRIVE 2023

ACB participated in the 519 Pursuit Sock Drive once again, gathering an impressive total of 334 pairs of socks. These contributions will make a meaningful impact in supporting individuals facing homelessness in London and its surrounding areas. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated and supported our initiative this year!



FIGHT TO END HOMELESSNESS



Dr. Sarah "The Professor" McLean entered the ring on November 8th, not only raising her gloves but also an impressive \$8,960, surpassing her fundraising goal in the fight to end homelessness. Read "The Professor's" inspiring journey in the Western Gazette Article titled "[Western professor to fight charity boxing match for youth homelessness.](#)" You can continue supporting her and Youth Opportunities Unlimited by donating here: <http://racerooster.com/events/2023/74678/fight-to-end-homelessness/pledge/participant/20888415>