

# ANATOMY & CELL BIOLOGY

## NEWSLETTER

December 2020

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January 8th, 2020

January 15th, 2020

January 22nd, 2020

January 29th, 2020



### WINTER BREAK

Western will close on Tuesday, December 22, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. after the last exam has been written and will reopen Monday, January 4, 2021. Undergraduate classes will resume on January 11, 2021.

### HOLIDAY MESSAGE

There is no question that this holiday season will be very different than usual, capping off a year unlike any other.

The past 10 months have uniquely tested our ability to adapt and work together, and I am immensely proud of what the Anatomy & Cell Biology community has accomplished as a team. We have maintained (and in many cases exceeded) our standards of high-quality research and education despite the obstacles that 2020 has repeatedly put in our way. I am particularly proud of our community's capacity for collaboration, flexibility, creativity, compassion and the prioritization of mental and physical health. Thank you from the bottom of my heart – you are all amazing.

As we move through the holiday season and into a fresh (and hopefully better!) new year, I wish you moments of peace amid the chaos, meaningful connections with family and friends (even if it can't be in person), and wonderful glimpses of the joy that still lives under the surface.

Happy holidays from the ACB family to you and yours - stay well, stay safe and enjoy your very well-deserved break.

Alison Allan, PhD  
Chair, Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology

### STAY IN THE LOOP

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



ACB Events  
Calendar



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ACB Graduate  
Council

## WELCOME DR. ARMEN PARSYAN



Anatomy & Cell Biology is very pleased to welcome [Dr. Armen Parsyan](#) as a new cross-appointee to the Department. Dr. Parsyan was recruited to London in 2019 as a breast surgeon-scientist and Assistant Professor in the Departments of Surgery and Oncology. Dr. Parsyan is trained in clinical and basic science research and holds a PhD from the University of Cambridge, a MD from McGill, and a Master's in Public Health from Boston and Harvard Universities. He also completed two postdoctoral fellowships in cancer research in the world-renowned laboratories of Dr. Nahum Sonenberg (McGill) and Dr. Tak W. Mak (Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Toronto). Dr. Parsyan's independent translational research program at Western is focused on innovative precision medicine approaches to treating breast cancer, including developing a city-wide resource for patient-derived organoid (PDO) and xenograft (PDX) models, spatial transcriptomics, and mechanisms of chemo- and radio-sensitivity and resistance in breast cancer. Welcome Dr. Parsyan!

## SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS & GRANTS

Congratulations to the following LRCRP Catalyst Grant awardees:

- [Dr. Alison Allan](#), Co-Appllicant: [Dr. Vasudeva Bhat](#) (postdoctoral fellow). Role of novel lung-derived soluble factors in breast cancer stem cell activity and metastatic behavior.
- [Dr. Jim Petrik](#), Co-Applicant: [Dr. Trevor Shepherd](#). Use of patient-derived xenograft models to develop novel therapeutics in ovarian cancer

Congratulations to the [Dr. Steven Laviolette](#) and his research team on receiving a new MITAC's Accelerate Grant Award and being featured in Fobes Magazine, you can [read the article here](#)

## RESEARCH NEWS

[Steven Laviolette](#), PhD, and his team have found a compound called L-theanine, derived from green tea leaves, protected rats against the negative psychiatric side-effects of THC. [Read the full article](#)

**We want to feature your new publications here!**

submit them to [anatomy@uwo.ca](mailto:anatomy@uwo.ca)

## Congratulations



Dr. Mousumi Majumder a recent post-doctoral fellow in the Lala lab was named a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Genotoxicology at Brandon University, Manitoba.

Dr. Majumder is one of the youngest Canadians to receive this recognition.

[Read the full article](#)

## ACB KUDOS

Kudos to Dr. Raj Rajakumar for providing students in ANATCELL3200A with an outstanding educational experience this term. One of these students recently wrote:

*"Dear Dr. Rajakumar-- I just wanted to send you this email to thank you for teaching me this semester. I've never been moved to write a thank you email to a teacher before, but that's probably because I've never had an instructor like you! I particularly enjoyed your lecture content and teaching style. You really seem engaged with the material you're teaching, and that makes it more exciting for students. I also appreciated the supplemental notes you provided which incorporated the clinical cases; it added more to my understanding of your course and the real life applications of what we learn in class. I find that a lot of the time, I simply read and make notes without actually considering the real life implications of what I am learning. Your lectures have really helped me look at the "whole picture" and understand that the human brain is truly a puzzle with its nerves, arteries, and lobes acting as puzzle pieces that form the big picture! Your understanding and compassion for all students are really admirable qualities. Thank you for making this semester so engaging and interesting".*

Congratulations also to recent Clinical Anatomy graduate Victoria Agapova (MSc 2020) who worked with the School of Occupational Therapy (OT) at Western over the summer to help them develop online modules for their OT graduate students for a course that began this fall. The School of OT contacted Anatomy & Cell Biology to share how grateful they were for Victoria's work, describing how pleased they were with the resulting modules.



Western  
UNIVERSITY • CANADA

SHOW YOUR ACB

PRIDE

SPIRIT WEAR COMING SOON!



Schulich  
MEDICINE & DENTISTRY

## UPCOMING SEMINARS

# ANATOMY & CELL BIOLOGY Seminar Series

### ACB SEMINAR SERIES - UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS



**Friday, January 8th, 2021**

**Speaker:** Braeden Medeiros, PhD Candidate, Anatomy & Cell Biology, Western University

**Title:** *"Elucidating the role of extracellular vesicles in mediating breast cancer metastasis to the lung"*

**Host:** Dr. Alison Allan



**Friday, January 15th, 2021**

**Speaker:** Jacky Goetz, PhD, Researcher, Inserm, Strasbourg, France

**Title:** TBA

**Host:** Dr. Patrick Lajoie



**Friday, January 22nd, 2021**

**Speaker:** Caitlin Symonette, PhD, Assistant Professor and Surgeon, Plastics & Reconstructive Surgery, Western University & LHSC

**Title:** TBA

**Host:** Dr. Alison Allan

Join us via Zoom

<https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/96347122632#success>

Password: ACBSEM

### ACB SEMINAR SERIES - RECORDINGS NOW AVAILABLE

# ANATOMY & CELL BIOLOGY VIDEO ON DEMAND

We are excited to announce that the recorded presentations from the ACB Seminar Series are now online and available to the department. You can view these videos by logging into Schulich's Video on Demand (VOD) Server with your Western credentials, and navigating to the ACB Private Content section listed under the Anatomy & Cell Biology tab.

[Sign in here to view content](#)

# HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN

## ACB ELF ON THE SHELF

Congratulations Emma Jayne!



ACB EVENTS CONT...

# HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN

## ACB UGLY SWEATER CONTEST

Congratulations Dr. Arthur Brown!

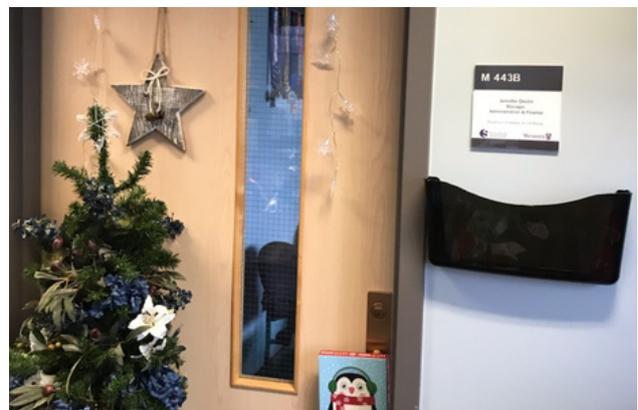


ACB EVENTS CONT...

# HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN

## ACB DOOR DECORATING CONTEST

**Congratulations The Brown Lab!**



### ACB HOLIDAY PARTY

Thank you to everyone who joined in on the Holiday Party, it was a blast!  
Congratulations to our trivia and raffle winners:

#### **2020 Holiday Trivia Challenge**

1st place: Maren & Haley Linklater (a.k.a The Elf)  
2nd place: Kim Catalano

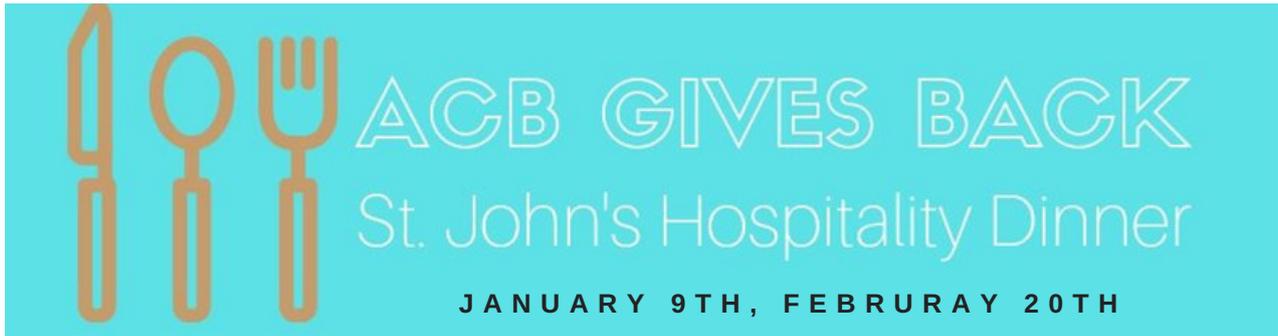
#### **Social Committee Holiday Trivia**

1st place: Alyssa Moore (a.k.a Alymo)  
2nd place: Chidambra Halari (a.k.a Mini)

#### **Holiday Mingle Jingle Raffle**

Jenna Kitz

## ACB GIVES BACK



### ST. JOHN'S HOSPITALITY DINNER

St. John's is continuing to serve those in need during the Covid-19 pandemic, and requires the ongoing support of Volunteers to help prepare and serve food at the community dinners. Social distancing measures and precautions are in place to ensure the safety of volunteers and patrons. To register, please add your name to the volunteer sign up sheet by [clicking here](#)

### HOLIDAY INITIATIVE

Thank you to everyone who took the time to put together gift bags for the residents of Chelsey Park. Your generosity helped to make this initiative a great success and on Friday, December 18th we were able to drop off over 50 packages, more than doubling our original goal! A special thanks to [Jennifer Devlin](#) for organizing this endeavour, [Haley Linklater](#) and [Sarah Hayes](#) for helping to load the gift bags, and to [Mariyan Jeyarajah](#), [Michelle Klausner](#) and [Tom Chrones](#) for helping drop them off.

