

# THE ACTIVE SITE

DEPARTMENT OF  
BIOCHEMISTRY NEWSLETTER

THE SCHULICH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY

VOLUME 9 | ISSUE 1 | Jan - Feb 2018

## PEOPLE (AND OTHER) STUFF



Picture shows hosts, Aren Marshall (left) and Matt Maitland (right), with Dr. Sara Hamilton—the 2018 Harold Stewart Lecturer (centre). Photo courtesy of Dr. Rodenhiser.

Biochemistry's annual Research Showcase and Harold Stewart Lecture took place on 19 Jan at Huron University College. The event was well attended with over 120 people from our research community. Dr. Sara Hamilton, a Western Biochemistry alumna and an Associate Editor at *Cell Reports*, was the Stewart Lecturer. She provided insight into the inner workings of the editorial process of a peer-reviewed scientific journal from Cell Press and outlined career paths in the publishing and editing sectors. As such, she represents the first Stewart Lecturer to serve as a role model for students interested in these non-traditional opportunities in science. Her Lecture was followed by two poster sessions highlighting the research progress of our i) first-year Biochemistry graduate students and ii) undergraduate students in the fourth-year Biochemistry research project courses.

A reception was held for Dr. David Litchfield, Vice Dean of Research & Innovation at Schulich, to thank him for his contributions as Chair of Biochemistry (2007-17). A new award, named in his honour (The D. W. Litchfield Undergraduate Biochemistry Award), will be given annually to a Biochemistry Honours Specialization Student with the highest combined average in Biochemistry 3381 and 3382.



In the picture, Dr. Litchfield is cutting cake (left panel); receiving his award from Dr. Edgell, Acting Chair of Biochemistry (middle panel); and holding the award and gift to him—a canoe paddle for his outdoor adventures (right panel). Photos courtesy of Drs. Rodenhiser and Karas.

## CONGRATS TO...

Judy Penchuk for her [retirement](#) (thanks to her for many years of service in Biochemistry's undergraduate realm)

Adrienne Elbert and Haider Hassan for successful PhD defenses

Katelyn Cousteils, Edward Cruise, Qi Fang, Rajesh Gupta, Christina McTavish, Tahereh Vakili, and Tim Wang for successful MSc defenses

All poster presenters at our annual [Research Showcase](#), including Nadya Morrow (on left in picture), who won first place, and Ryan Cochrane (on right) and Thomas Hamilton (in middle), who tied for second place, for best posters of the graduate students (photo courtesy of Dr. Rodenhiser)



Dr. Boffa for showcasing his musical talents to students in BCHM 2280 using his "Sweet Collagen" version of Neil Diamond's "Sweet Caroline" ([YouTube video](#))

Drs. Dick and Torchia for each receiving a CIHR Project Grant ([Schulich News](#))

Drs. Gloor, Edgell, Karas and colleagues for receiving a Weston Family Microbiome Initiative Grant from the W. Garfield Weston Foundation ([Western News](#))

Dr. Konermann for receiving the 2018 Canadian Society for Chemistry (CSC) [Ricardo Aroca Award](#) for his distinguished contributions to the field of analytical chemistry while working in Canada

Dr. O'Gorman for receiving a Western Strategic Support for CIHR Success - Accelerator Grant

Dr. Siqueira for being featured in [Western News](#) for research on the salivary proteome

## PEOPLE (AND OTHER) STUFF (CONTINUED)

Dr. John Trevithick, former Professor Emeritus in Biochemistry, passed away at the age of 80 on 20 Feb 2018. Friends will be received at Metropolitan United Church at 476 Wellington St. on Sunday 4 Mar from 1-2 pm. Funeral service will be held immediately after (2 pm). Further information can be found in Dr. Trevithick's [obituary](#). Donna Trevithick, wife of Dr. Trevithick, passed away on 5 Jan 2018 ([obituary](#)).

Dr. Gupta has received an NIH R01 grant for 5 years for her project on "Decidual nutrient sensing and IGFBP-1 in placental insufficiency."

Dr. Karas is presenting at the [2018 Canada SynBio](#) conference hosted by Ontario Genomics on 6 Mar.

## GRANT NEWS

Western is offering a new internal grant, the 2018 [New International Research Networks Award](#). This funding will support new international collaborations between Western researchers and their international colleagues. Deadline is 31 Mar.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Since its establishment in 1924, the Dept. of Biochemistry has had 12 Chairs and/or Acting Chairs.

## PUBLICATIONS from the labs and collaborators of...

Drs. Ainsworth, Rodenhiser ([Genomic DNA methylation](#)) ([Claes-Jensen syndrome](#))  
Dr. Boffa ([IL-10 and carboxypeptidase B2 in breast cancer](#))  
Drs. Boffa, Koschinsky ([Lipoprotein\(a\) in clinical practice](#)) ([Lowering of lipoprotein\(a\)](#))  
Dr. Dick ([Rb-protein detection](#))  
Dr. Edgell ([Amino acid synthesis in S. aureus](#))  
Drs. Edgell, Karas ([Cas9 genome editing & stable maintenance of synthetic pathways in P. tricornutum](#))  
Dr. Gloor ([Linear association in compositional data](#))  
Dr. Gupta ([Fatty-acid metabolism in IGR](#))  
Dr. Han ([Auditory structural connectivity in infants](#)) ([IGF-1/2 in myogenic differentiation of stem cells](#))  
Dr. Hegele ([Ultrarare conditions](#)) ([Ezetimibe prescriptions](#)) ([DNA copy number variation in dyslipidemias](#)) ([Polygenic influences on dyslipidemias](#)) ([Nutraceuticals in endocrine disorders](#)) ([Lipodystrophy-associated progeroid syndrome](#)) ([Secondary causes of chylomicronemia](#)) ([Whole genome sequencing in clinic](#)) ([Dyslipidemia and diabetes](#)) ([Chylomicronemia syndrome](#))  
Dr. Hudson ([Detection of thymidine in cDNA](#)) ([PET agent targeting aspartyl cathepsin in Alzheimer's](#))  
Dr. Huff ([Regression of atherosclerosis](#)) ([Δ-5 Fatty Acid Desaturase](#))  
Drs. Huff, Pickering ([Lowering of LDL cholesterol](#))  
Dr. Junop ([Pil0 structure of P. aeruginosa pili](#))  
Dr. Koschinsky ([NHLBI Working Group - Lp\(a\)-mediated risk reduction](#))  
Dr. Lajoie ([ADH, progenitor cells, vascular regeneration](#))  
Dr. Li ([SAPAPs and PSD-95 MAGUKs](#))  
Dr. Penner ([Aptamers as biomarkers for neurological disorders](#))  
Dr. Pickering ([Aorta and heart attacks](#))  
Dr. Rogan ([Predicting radiation exposure](#))  
Dr. Rupar ([Removal of mtDNA mutation](#)) ([Impact of newborn screening results](#))  
Dr. Siu ([SATB2-associated syndrome](#))  
Dr. Torchia ([Role for thymine DNA glycosylase](#))  
Dr. Turley ([Peptide mimetics to block HA fragments](#))  
Dr. Yeung ([MALDI-MS detection of amyloid beta](#))

[See publication details.](#)