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Dept. of Biochemistry Newsletter

Vol. 16, Issue 2, May-Aug 2025

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PEOPLE AND OTHER STUFF

Updates from Biochemistry's EDID Committee are as follows:

- Two workshops of a three-part series were completed for the interrogation phase for decolonizing teaching in the Dept. The third workshop will take place in Sept., as well as another workshop on positionality (part 2).
- A [resource](#) hub on decolonization was set up so that the Biochemistry Dept. can access resources and add to them. Details on the decolonization plan and presentations so far can be found in that hub.

CONGRATS TO...

- ★ Beth Connelly and Jordyn Meaney for successful PhD thesis defenses
- ★ Nikita Chugh, Zi Huai Huang, Yu Kang Huang, Dongkyu Eugene Kim, Thomas Pi Qu, Mahnoor Rizvi, Ashmi Shah, Robert Stewart, and Tianyi Tang for successful MSc thesis defenses
- ★ Cian Ward, Niki Basilone, and Jashan Gill for placing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, respectively, in the poster presentations at Biochemistry's Spring Symposium
- ★ Matthew Albert, Iris Villalobos, and Zi Huang for placing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, respectively, in the talks at Biochemistry's Spring Symposium
- ★ Amani Jaafar for a poster award at the London Health Research Day
- ★ Tahani Jaafar for a poster award at the SynBio Conference
- ★ Dr. Jenica Kakadia for the 2024 Deb Comuzzi Trainee of the Year Award from CHRI

- ★ Yuxi Lu for first prize at the National 2025 T-CAIREM (The Temerty Centre for Artificial Intelligence Research and Education in Medicine) Trainee Rounds Competition at the University of Toronto
- ★ Yan Yi Li and Alfredo Varela Vega for Translational Breast Cancer Research Traineeships supported by Breast Cancer Canada
- ★ Tristan Samuels for a Doctoral Salary Award for Black and Indigenous Scholars from [ENRICH](#)
- ★ Huilin Niu for a [2025 Health Informatics & Data Scientist Award](#) funded by the Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network
- ★ Dr. Yan Sun for a Western Postdoctoral Fellowship
- ★ Drs. Choy, Gebregiorgis, Gloor, Hallett, Heinemann, Karas, and O'Donoghue for each receiving an NSERC Discovery Grant
- ★ Dr. Teklab Gebregiorgis for a Discovery Award from the Banting Discovery Foundation
- ★ Dr. Hu and colleague for a grant and a doctoral contract from the [France-Canada Research Fund](#) for collaborative research
- ★ Drs. Hu, Lu, Zhou, and colleagues for a CIHR Project Grant
- ★ Dr. Hu for a Mitacs Globalink Research Internship Award for an international research intern (Zisen Shan, Nankai University) for the summer of 2025
- ★ Dr. Karas for an NSERC Alliance Grant
- ★ Dr. O'Gorman for being the Canadian representative, organizer, and keynote speaker at the [2025 International Symposium on Dupuytren Disease](#) ([YouTube](#))
- ★ Dr. Schild-Poulter and colleague for a CIHR Project Grant

PUBLICATIONS

- Dr. Andrews (Claudin-1 in primary sclerosing cholangitis)
- Dr. Balci (Exome data reanalysis in epilepsy and developmental delay/intellectual disability)
- Drs. Boffa, Koschinsky (Lipoprotein (a) in atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease) (Pro-atherosclerotic role of lipoprotein(a)) (Lp(a) and peripheral artery disease)
- Dr. Connaughton (Genetic testing in nephrology) (Autosomal recessive (type 1B) pseudohypoaldosteronism)
- Dr. DiMattia (Transcriptomic analyses of ovarian clear cell carcinoma spheroids)
- Dr. Duennwald (Proteostasis network and toxicity of mistranslation) (STI1 regulation of TDP-43 proteinopathy and motor deficits)
- Dr. Dumeaux (Idiopathic subglottic stenosis)
- Drs. Dumeaux, Hallett (Mutations in ductal carcinoma in situ) (Generative and integrative modeling for transcriptomics – in press)
- Drs. Edgell, Schild-Poulter (Ku and RNA-induced innate immunity in primates)

- Dr. Gebregiorgis (Freund's adjuvant and trained immunity-like features)
- Dr. Gloor (Scale uncertainty in microbiome and gene expression analysis) (Progressive chronic kidney disease and hepatic drug metabolism) (Explicit scale simulation for analysis of RNA-sequencing count data)
- Dr. Haniford (Small RNA from IS200 tnpA transcript regulates virulence regulons)
- Dr. Hegele (Neurodegeneration in familial chylomicronemia syndrome) (Obesity in cardiovascular disease prevention and treatment) (PPARG variants in severe hypertriglyceridemia) (Regional free-water diffusion in neuroinflammation vs. neurodegeneration) (Familial chylomicronemia syndrome) (Vascular risk factors burden and neurodegenerative diseases) (ORION-13 Randomized Trial: Inclisiran and homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia) (CETP-related hyperalphalipoproteinemia) (Improving care of familial hypercholesterolaemia) (N. American familial chylomicronemia syndrome score and genetic diagnosis from the Balance study)
- Drs. Hegele, Rupar (Ambroxol for Parkinson disease dementia)
- Drs. Heinemann, O'Donoghue (IUBMB meeting on aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases)
- Dr. Hu (Out of distribution learning in bioinformatics) (Artificial intelligence in rheumatology: friend or foe?) (Quantum dot-induced endothelial cell responses and gene expression) (Removing batch effect and classifying disease using oral microbiomes) (FusionCLM: molecular property prediction via fusion of chemical language models)
- Dr. Hudson (Modulation of G-quadruplex structure in microRNA-3196)
- Dr. Konermann (Methods in electrospray capillary)
- Dr. Koschinsky (Screening of lipoprotein(a) in cardiovascular risk assessment)
- Dr. Lajoie (Extracellular vesicle mitochondrial DNA in nephrotic syndrome)
- Dr. Li (BACE1 as therapeutic vulnerability of lung cancer brain metastasis)
- Dr. Ling (Shu complex in DNA damage response)
- Drs. Litchfield, Lu, Zhou (Sulfopin inhibition of Pin1 in U2-OS cells)
- Drs. Lu, Zhou (Pin1 in age-related cancer signaling pathways) (All-trans retinoic acid-loaded thermo-responsive hydrogels)
- Dr. McLachlin (Song: you need ATP)
- Dr. O'Donoghue (Nonsense suppression with human tRNAs)
- Dr. Rabbit (bunn humour)
- Dr. Rupar (Krabbe disease and stem cell transplantation) (SCHAD deficiency causing hypoglycemia and developmental delays)
- Dr. Shaw (Parkin directs ubiquitination of Miro1) (Conformational interplay for parkin activation) (Mechanisms regulating ubiquitylation by parkin)
- Dr. Yeung (Phospholipid fragmentation in MALDI mass spectrometry) (Mitigating impacts of prenatal THC) (Adsorption of organic pollutants from wastewater)