

PEOPLE (AND OTHER) STUFF

The annual Biochemistry Holiday party was held on 9 Dec at the Grad Club. Participants enjoyed the all-you-can-eat buffet, prizes, and 50-50 draw. Thanks to everyone who helped organize the event.

Dr. Peter Rogan gave a seminar at Oncology Grand Rounds on 1 Dec: "Predicting response to adjuvant chemotherapy with genomic signatures derived by machine learning (ML)."

The work of Dr. Heleen Arts and Dr. Patrick Frosk (University of Manitoba) was mentioned in a News article in [Nature Medicine](#).



Dr. Chris Brandl's account of our 30 Oct event:

On the evening of October 30th 2015, the Department of Biochemistry held a dinner reception at Bellamere Winery to introduce the Bishnu (Bill) Sanwal and Theodore (Ted) Lo Graduate Endowment Fund and to recognize the many contributions of Bill and Ted to both the Department and the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. As former Professors and Chairs of the Department, Bill and Ted were instrumental in leading the Department of Biochemistry's teaching and research missions. The current stature of the Department and the collegial environment to pursue academic activities are largely due to Bill and Ted's past leadership and vision. It was thus fitting that an endowment fund, with the goal of supporting all aspects of graduate student training, be named in their honour.

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PUBLICATIONS from the labs and collaborators of . . .

Dr. Arts ([ciliopathy protein and vesicle trafficking](#)) ([obtaining cells with primary cilia](#)) ([kidney disorders - book, chapter 22](#))
Dr. Berube ([CTCF loss in developing brain](#)) ([CTCF and apoptosis](#)) ([ATRX loss](#))
Drs. Berube, Goldberg ([ATR-X, cancer](#))
Dr. Choy ([intrinsically disordered proteins](#)) ([Kelch binding](#))
Dr. Dick ([irradiation targeting accuracy](#))
Dr. DiMattia ([TGF-beta signalling, ovarian-cancer spheroids](#))
Dr. Gloor ([microbiota in Salmonella infection model](#))
Dr. Han ([auditory fMRI for neonates](#))
Dr. Hegele ([SLC39A8 transporter mutation](#))
Dr. Lajoie ([flagellin glycosylation](#))
Dr. Litchfield ([GAR22beta](#))
Dr. Mann ([imprinted methylation errors](#))
Dr. Shilton ([quinone reductase 2](#)) ([Cx50 gap junction channels](#))
Dr. Turley ([RHAMM's dual role](#)) ([CD44, diabetes](#))
Dr. Yeung ([ganglioside GM1s, rat brain](#))
[See recent publication details.](#)

CONGRATS TO...

Natasha Caminsky for her successful MSc defense

Louisa Salemi (in Dr. Caroline Schild-Poulter's lab) for receiving a CIHR Travel Award to attend the AACR 2016 Annual Conference

Drs. Fred Dick and Matthew Cecchini for having their research on lung-cancer chemotherapy highlighted by [Western News](#)

Dr. Fred Possmayer for having his discovery of lung surfactant voted 1 of the top 5 discoveries made by researchers at Ontario universities ([Research Matters](#))



**Wishing everyone
a happy holiday
and
all the best for 2016!**





There were 93 registrants for the reception representing individuals, staff and faculty that worked in a range of capacities with Bill and Ted, as well as many current graduate students who have benefited from their legacy. Numerous emeritus faculty members were present including Gene Tustanoff, Ian Walker, Jill Stewart-DeHaan, Bruce Gordon and Richard Krupka, and from Microbiology & Immunology Robert Murray, Susan Koval, Sara Gallsworthy and Wayne Flintoff. Many former trainees of Bill and Ted's also attended including: Elka Clarke, Ian Lorimer, Bipasha Guptaroy, Michelle Broydell, Delfina Siroen and Doug Kunz. Dr. Doug Jones (Vice Dean, Basic Medical Sciences) and Dr. Andrew Watson (Associate Dean, Graduate and Postgraduate Studies) represented the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. Joining Bill for the evening were his wife Madhu and son Anil, while Ted was accompanied by his wife Mimi.



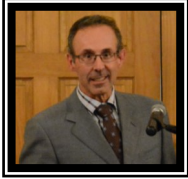
Dr. Chris Brandl (Chair of the Endowment Fund Committee) served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening.



Doug Jones spoke first, detailing the significant role of the Department of Biochemistry in the Faculty and the many contributions of Bill and Ted. Doug highlighted, in particular, Dr. Lo's foresight and leadership in developing the Bachelor of Medical Sciences Program, which has become the flagship program for SSMD and, indeed, Western University.



Dr. Eric Ball, a long-standing faculty member and a former graduate student trainee of Dr. Sanwal's, then provided a testimonial to Dr. Sanwal, recalling Bill's unique skills as a researcher, and how this combined with his vision to make him an exceptional mentor and colleague.



Dr. David Litchfield, current Chair of the Department of Biochemistry, spoke of Dr. Lo's leadership role in research and teaching during his tenure as Chair. Dr. Litchfield noted, in particular, the growth of the Department during this period in terms of the number of faculty members and students, infrastructure investments, and the scope of the Department with the introduction of expertise in structural biochemistry, signal transduction, and human genetics.



The highlight of the evening, speeches by Drs. Lo and Sanwal, followed. It was remarkable to hear Dr. Sanwal's account of how he became a Professor at Western after stops at The Pasteur Institute, Cambridge University, University of Manitoba, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the University of Toronto ([transcript](#)). During this period Bill closely interacted with many of the individuals who are now recognized as the pioneers of what became the field of molecular biology.



Dr. Lo spoke briefly about his time as Chair and then, focused on his current interest of photography. Many in the Department are well aware of Ted's award-winning skills as a photographer, as his pictures grace the SSMD calendar yearly.



The evening ended with the opportunity for old and new colleagues and friends to celebrate many past successes and wonderful times and the wish to get together again in the near future.

