



Image designed by Dr. Sanna Abbasi

Dept. of Biochemistry Newsletter

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Send contributions to: mweir24@uwo.ca

PEOPLE AND OTHER STUFF

- Updates from Biochemistry's EDID Committee...
 - ✓ Check out this [reporting tool](#) to find out which resources to access at Western for reporting harassment, discrimination, gender-based and sexual violence, or other unprofessional behaviour.
 - ✓ Three more workshops were presented to complete the interrogation phase for decolonizing teaching in the Dept.
- Join the Biochemistry community at our annual event of the [Dr. Harold Stewart Memorial Lecture and Research Showcase](#) on 16 Jan 2026. First-year graduate students and 4th-year undergraduate students in Bchm 4999 will present research posters. The speaker is Dr. Kevin Leung (Associate Director of Antibioime Center, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, UCSF, San Francisco, CA), a Biochemistry alumnus.
- Contact Dr. Brian Shilton (bshilton@uwo.ca) to invite researchers for our Biochemistry lecture series in 2026. A diversity in speaker identities is encouraged, and upcoming events are as follows:
 - ✓ 9 Jan – Dr. Maud L. Menten Memorial Lecture with Dr. Sheila Singh (McMaster University, hosted by Dr. Shawn Li)

- ✓ 23 Jan – Visiting Speakers Seminar with Dr. John Whitney (McMaster University, hosted by Dr. Murray Junop)
- ✓ March 27 - Ken Carroll Lecture Series with Dr. Robert Hegele (Western University)

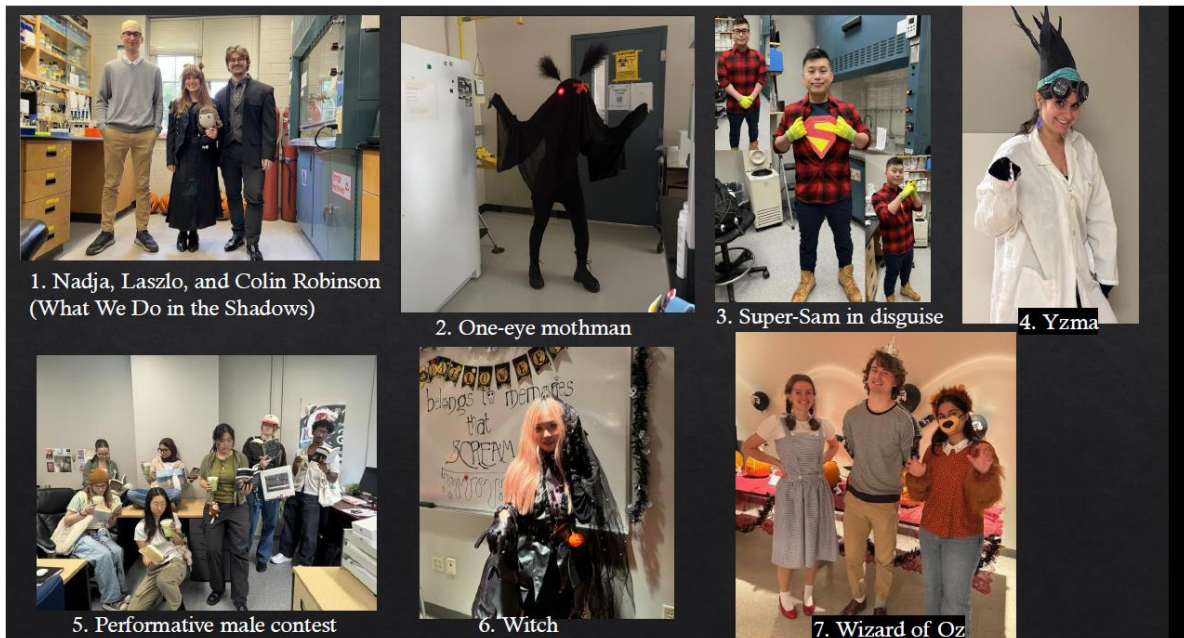
CONGRATS TO...

- ★ Matthew Albert, Sam Chu, Gary Foo, Faiza Islam, Rachel Kelly, Kurt Loedige, Peter Rozik, and Emma Walker for successful PhD thesis defenses
- ★ Meruthulaa Kayilaasan, Quan Quach, Shaunik Sharma, and Fanqi Wu for successful MSc thesis defenses
- ★ Fatema Abdullatif for a Poster Board Award at the National Pancreas Conference
- ★ Monica Arnaldi for a Dean's Research Scholarship
- ★ Jashanjot Gill and Sina Ramezani for each receiving a Dr. Edward James Middleton Bursary
- ★ Faiza Islam for a postdoctoral position studying the structure and regulation of fatty acid synthase with [Dr. Mohammad Mazhab-Jafari](#) at the University of Toronto
- ★ Shaunik Sharma for continuing his graduate studies for a PhD
- ★ Alfredo Varela Vega and Yan Yi for each receiving a Breast Cancer Canada Translational Research Unit Traineeship
- ★ Dr. Bishop for a CFI JELF grant ([Western News](#))
- ★ Dr. Connaughton for re-appointment as the Eugen Drewlo Chair in Kidney Research and Innovation in the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
- ★ Dr. Hegele for election to the Royal Society of Canada as a Fellow ([Western News](#))
- ★ Drs. Hu, Lu, and Zhou and colleagues for 4 years of funding from the [NSERC/CIHR Canada-France Artificial Intelligence Program](#) ([Western News](#))
- ★ Dr. Li for a Cancer Research Society Operating Grant
- ★ Dr. McLachlin for a Schulich Faculty Support for Research in Education grant and for recognition from [CBC News](#) and [CTV News](#) for a TikTok video featuring his re-worked song about biochemistry
- ★ Dr. Pickering for re-appointment as the Neil McKenzie Chair in Cardiac Care in the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
- ★ Our winners in the BGSA's Hallowe'en contests...
 - Pumpkins...
 - 1st place: Hi Grok (Karas Lab)
 - 2nd place: Hu's Minion (Hu Lab)



- Costumes...

- 1st place: Performative Male Contest (Mairwyn Hall, Jaime Barrett, Claire Zhang, Lian Gai, Emily Stuckless, Amani Jaafar, and Aathavan Uruthirapathy in Edgell lab)
- 2nd place: One-Eye Mothman (Iris Villalobos Pineda in Boffa lab)



PUBLICATIONS

- Dr. Andrews (Cholinergic synaptic plasticity and tau) (Reference cell atlas of liver diversity over the human lifespan)
- Dr. Bishop (Co-culture metabolomics for Burkholderia infections)
- Drs. Boffa, Koschinsky (Lipoprotein(a) and inherited risk factors)
- Drs. Boffa, Hegele, Koschinsky (Guidelines on lipoprotein(a))
- Dr. Connaughton (Scrotal surgery after laparoscopic donor nephrectomy) (ATRX in hippocampal memory consolidation) (Standardized genetic testing for chronic kidney disease in Ontario)
- Dr. Duennwald (Experimental models of mistranslation)
- Dr. Dumeaux (Functional archetypes in the human gut microbiome)
- Drs. Dumeaux, Hallett (Generative and integrative modeling for transcriptomics with formalin fixed paraffin embedded material)
- Dr. Edgell (Domain-specific activity of chimeric I-TevI/CRISPR gene editors) (Genetic entanglement enables biocontainment in gut)
- Dr. Garnham (Plant-produced encapsulin for vaccine design) (Protein-nanoparticle assembly in plants for vaccine production)
- Dr. Gebregiworgis (Standardized reporting of NMR metabolomics reproducibility)
- Dr. Han (Amino acids in human endometrial stromal cell decidualization)
- Dr. Hegele (LDL-C in homozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia) (Metabolic and vascular contributions to dementia) (Algorithm for management of adults with dyslipidemia - 2025 update) (Rare variants of familial chylomicronemia syndrome in UK) (In Memoriam: J. David Spence, 1944-2025)
- Dr. Hu (MolGraph-xLSTM: graph-based framework for molecular representation and interpretability) (Taste genetics and dental plaque microbiome in childhood caries) (FusionCLM: molecular property prediction via a combo of models) (Multimodal molecular representation learning) (Models for 3D de novo molecular design)
- Drs. Hu, Lu (Generative AI for design of molecules)
- Dr. Konermann (Protein oxidation in thermal stability measurements)
- Dr. Koschinsky (Vascular regenerative deficiencies and elevated lipoprotein(a))
- Dr. Lajoie (Epigenetic alterations in hypoxia)
- Dr. Li (PU.1 and tumor growth in mice)
- Dr. Lu (Polygenic risk scores, cancer, and cognitive decline)
- Dr. Yeung (N-acetylcysteine and adolescent Δ -9-tetrahydrocannabinol exposure)

