

## CONGRATS TO...

- Kristin Kernohan for the Drs. Madge and Charles Macklin Fellowship for Publication and Zhogbi Prize Graduate Student Award for Poster at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Rett Syndrome Symposium, Virginia.
- Christina Raykha for an OGSST Award and IGF Society Award for the 5th International Congress of the GRS and IGF Society, NY.
- Justin Crawford for a Frederick Banting and Charles Best CIHR Master's Award and Young Investigator's Award at the European Tissue Repair Society Meeting.



- Wahab Khan, Faran Vaifaie, and Evangelos Giakoumatos for successful MSc thesis defences; Nicole St. Denis for her successful PhD defence.
- Dr. Peter Rogan for his [US patent 7,811,766](#) 'Genetic identification and validation of Echinacea species'.

- Dr. Nathalie Berube for an International Rett Syndrome Foundation Grant.
- Drs. David Rodenhiser, Nathalie Berube, and Melissa Mann for 2 CIHR Meeting, Planning and Dissemination Grants and a CIHR Café Scientifique Grant.
- Drs. Shawn Li, David Litchfield, and Susan Meakin for their successful Cancer Research Society Grants.

- Dr. Derek McLachlin for being nominated for UWO's Award of Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

## The Annual BBQ: Hotdog Anyone?

September brings cooler nights, sunny days, and trees just starting to turn colour. This month also marks the start of another school year at Western. For our Biochemistry 4th-year students, this year represents their last one as undergraduates: a time to decide on their future paths.

The Dept. hosted its annual BBQ for Biochemistry faculty and 4th-year project students at Dr. Chris Brandl's house. The outing was well attended and



**4th-year Biochemistry Students**

provided an opportunity for students to mingle with faculty in a relaxed setting outside of school. While munching on

BBQ fare, students learned more about the Biochemistry 4th-year project courses, faculty research, and career choices, such as becoming a graduate student in the Dept.

Thanks to the organizers and participators of this successful event. Welcome to all of our Biochemistry 4th-year students!

Picture courtesy of our expert photographer, Melita Hayes.

Welcome to our new arrivals...

Dr. Greg Penner was appointed in September as an Adjunct Professor in the Dept. He is President and CEO of [NeoVentures Biotechnology Inc.](#), a biotech company located in The Stiller Centre in London. This company specializes in the develop-

ment and commercialization of agricultural biotechnology.

Fourteen new graduate students joined the Dept. this September.

Dr. Mohammad Al Sorkhy arrived as a post-doctoral scholar in the Litchfield lab.

Dr. Michael Strong became the new Dean of the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. To hear about his vision for the School, check out [this video](#). He proposes to build a new research focus that is interdisciplinary, collaborative, and international.

## Presentation and Publication News

Dr. Nathalie Berube gave an invited talk "MeCP2 and ATRX interaction and function in the mouse brain" at the 2nd European Rett Syndrome Conference in Scotland.

The Shaw lab was well represented at the 24th International Conference on Magnetic Resonance in Biological Systems in Australia. Dr. Brian Dempsey's poster: "Characterization of a

novel interaction between the calcium-binding protein S100B and the D2 dopamine receptor." Dr. Don Spratt's poster: "The structure of Rbx1/Roc1 and its site of interaction with CDC34 provides insights into SCF-dependent polyubiquitin chain assembly."

Our research community published 13 papers in [Sept/Oct](#).

A [Featured Article](#) for top 5% of publications in *Nucleic Acids Research* highlighted this [paper](#) by Dr. David Edgell and collaborators.

The [First Canadian Conference on Epigenetics: Epigenetics, eh?](#) is in London, 4-7 May 2011.

Send info for future issues to Lynn.Weir@schulich.uwo.ca

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