

From Cell to Clinic Issue 6 November, 2015

## *Our Mission*

The Western Centre for Translational Cancer Research is a diverse and growing network of researchers who seek to minimize the burden of Cancer.

## *Our Vision*

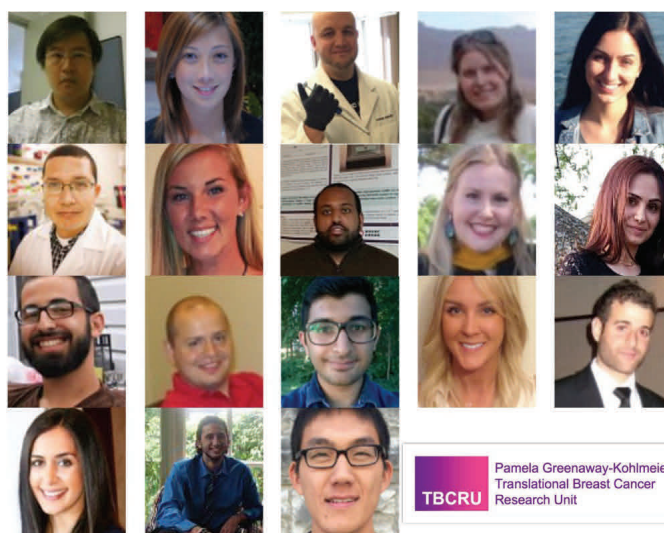
To foster collaborative multi-disciplinary teams to

- ◇ prevent cancer
- ◇ detect cancer earlier
- ◇ develop better cancer treatment

## BREAST CANCER RESEARCH TRAINEES ~ WHAT A PROMISING FUTURE

The Pamela Greenaway-Kohlmeier Translational Breast Cancer Research Unit, supported by the Breast Cancer Society of Canada, announced scholarships for 11 PhD and 7 MSc students at Western University. The students are enrolled in 6 departments at Western: Anatomy & Cell Biology, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Medical Biophysics, Microbiology & Immunology, and Pathology & Laboratory Medicine. The trainees are working in research laboratories at LRCP, St. Joseph's Health Care London and Western. Projects cover a wide range of research areas, including the metastatic spread of breast cancer, the genetics of breast cancer, improved imaging for early detection, improved treatments and much more.

To learn more about these trainees and their research projects click [here](#). Congratulations to our future Cancer Researchers!



## NEW! CTCR TRAINEE TRAVEL AWARDS

The Centre for Translational Cancer Research is pleased to offer new competitive Travel Awards for graduate students, residents, and clinical and postdoctoral fellows working in the area of translational cancer research.

**For 2016**, a total of 10 prizes with a value of \$1,000 each will be available!

**Deadlines:** **February 1st, 2016** for conferences taking place between January 1<sup>st</sup>-June 30th, 2016 and **August 1st, 2016** for conferences taking place between July 1<sup>st</sup>-December 31st, 2016.

Applicants must be presenting their own work, with clear relevance to cancer, at a provincial, national or international conference.

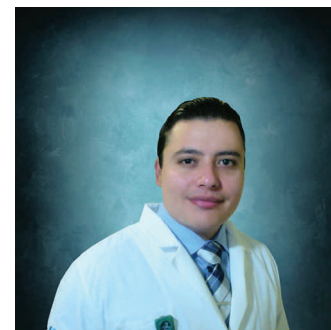
Applicants must be working under the direct supervision of a member of the CTCR. The primary selection criteria will be the scientific/academic merit of the applicant's abstract in the context of translational cancer research and the degree to which attendance at the selected conference will benefit the applicant's career. The career stage of the applicant will be taken into consideration and given appropriate weighting during the review process. Watch the CTCR website <http://www.schulich.uwo.ca/ctcr/> for the official announcement of the competition.



## PROFILE OF A CANCER RESEARCH TRAINEE: DR. MAURO TUN ABRAHAM

Growing up in Campeche, Mexico, **Dr. Mauro Tun-Abraham**, did not contemplate that his academic journey would bring him to London, Canada. Mauro's first experience in Canada was as a Grade 12 student and Taekwondo athlete in Halifax, N.S. Upon completion of high school Mauro returned to Mexico and followed the family tradition to become a doctor. Following surgery training in Mexico, the Mayo Hospital in Jacksonville, FL is where he developed an interest in transplant and hepatobiliary surgery. A chance meeting of **Dr. Roberto Hernandez-Alejandro**, brought Mauro to London to spend 3 months enhancing clinical skills, developing clinical research projects and presenting his work. Currently, Mauro is work

-ing as a researcher and is enrolled in the Masters of Surgery program where his research is focused on colorectal liver metastases, liver cancer and regeneration. Mauro will start a Transplant Fellowship at Western in 2016. Dr. Hernandez says, "Mauro is an authentic, passionate, loyal and hard working surgeon". We are fortunate to have such a dedicated clinician and researcher in our cancer research family!



## PROFILING RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**2015 Schulich Dean's Research Initiative Award** was granted to Dr. Roberto Hernandez-Alejandro and Team for a study entitled "Translational Study of Liver Cancer and Hypertrophy at Schulich". **Dr. Roberto Hernandez-Alejandro** (Surgery, Oncology) stated "It is a great privilege for me to spearhead such a collaborative, multi-disciplinary team including: **Dr. Alison Allan** (Anatomy & Cell Biology, Oncology), **Dr. Mansour Haeryfar** (Microbiology & Immunology), **Dr. Stephen Welch** (Oncology), **Dr. Ryan Schaler** (Microbiology & Immunology), **Dr. Mauro Tun-Abraham** (Surgery) and **Sandra Kleinstiver** (CTCR, Oncology). Our research collaboration worked diligently to prepare a successful 2015 LRCP Catalyst grant that let us develop the proof of principle results that, in turn, will allow us to achieve greater impact with the Dean's Research Initiative funding. This is an important incremental step in supporting our innovative research with the potential to leverage the ground breaking ALPPS (associating liver partition with portal vein ligation for staged hepatectomy) surgical procedure. Not only will this grant allow us to learn more about the control of colorectal liver cancer and liver regeneration it will pave the way to future applications that will impact patients and their families."

**2015 Canadian Association of Radiation Oncology ASM Awards:** **Dr. Michael Lock** won the Best Abstract in Science & Applied Technology for "Does Dynamic Contrast Enhanced CT Aid Gross Tumour Volume Delineation of Liver Cancers" and **Dr. George Rodrigues** in Symptom Control & Supportive Care for "A Phase II Multi-Institutional Clinical Trial Assessing Fractionated Simultaneous In-Field Boost Radiotherapy for Brain Oligometastases" - Congratulations!!

**Dr. Rohann Correa**, a Western Medical Student and PhD graduate from **Dr. Gabe DiMattia's** laboratory was recently published in Current Oncology. Explore this thoughtful article: <http://www.current-oncology.com/index.php/oncology/article/viewFile/2561/1873>

## CHANGES AT CTCR

**We Have Moved!!** The CTCR Website has a new url - you can now find us at: <http://www.schulich.uwo.ca/ctcr/>. Changes are in the works at the CTCR: in **December 2015**, Research Consultant, **Sandra Kleinstiver**, will be retiring. At CTCR we wish to thank Sandra for all her tremendous contributions to establishing and growing the Centre...you will be missed Sandra! After Dec 18, 2015 if you have questions relating to the CTCR, please contact [Kim.Norton@lhsc.on.ca](mailto:Kim.Norton@lhsc.on.ca) or ext. 53675

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**SAVE THE DATE: 13th Annual Oncology Research & Education Day: June 17, 2016**

**Translational Cancer Research Seminars 2015**, watch here for details: <http://www.uwo.ca/oncology/CIHR/STP/index.htm>

For CTCR Membership information see our Membership form at: [http://www.schulich.uwo.ca/ctcr/research/membership\\_form.html](http://www.schulich.uwo.ca/ctcr/research/membership_form.html)