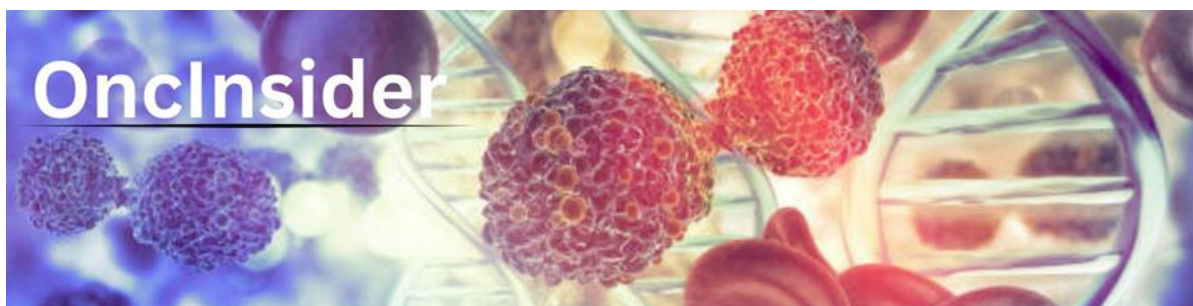


Kimberly Scott

From: Michael Ott, Chair - Department of Oncology <mott6@uwo.ca>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2026 4:00 PM
To: Kimberly Scott
Subject: OncInsider - August 2026

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August 2026

2026 Oncology Research & Education Day



Oncology Awards of Academic Excellence

The Department of Oncology announced its Awards of Academic Excellence at this year's annual Oncology Research & Education Day. The recipients were (L to R) Veera Panuganty MD (Medical Oncology), Joe Mymryk PhD (Experimental Oncology), Rohann Correa MD PhD (Radiation Oncology), Michael Ott MD Chair, and Ayman Sayyed MD (Windsor Oncology). Julie Ann Van Koughnett MD (Surgical Oncology) was unable to attend.

Oncology Research & Education Day Oral Presentation Awards

Natasha Bruce PhD Candidate, supervised by Trevor Shepherd PhD
Anayra de Fatima Goncalves Santiago PhD Candidate, co-supervised by Armen Parsyan MD PhD and Alison Allan PhD.

Oncology Research & Education Day Poster Awards

Fatema Abdullatif PhD Candidate, supervised by Teklab Gebregiorgis PhD

Andrei Glogov PhD Candidate, supervised by John Di Guglielmo PhD

Garrett Kirk MSc Candidate, supervised by Eugene Wong PhD

Frederikke Larsen Post Doc, supervised by Samuel Asfaha MD PhD

Yan Yi Lin PhD Candidate, supervised by Pingzhao Hu PhD

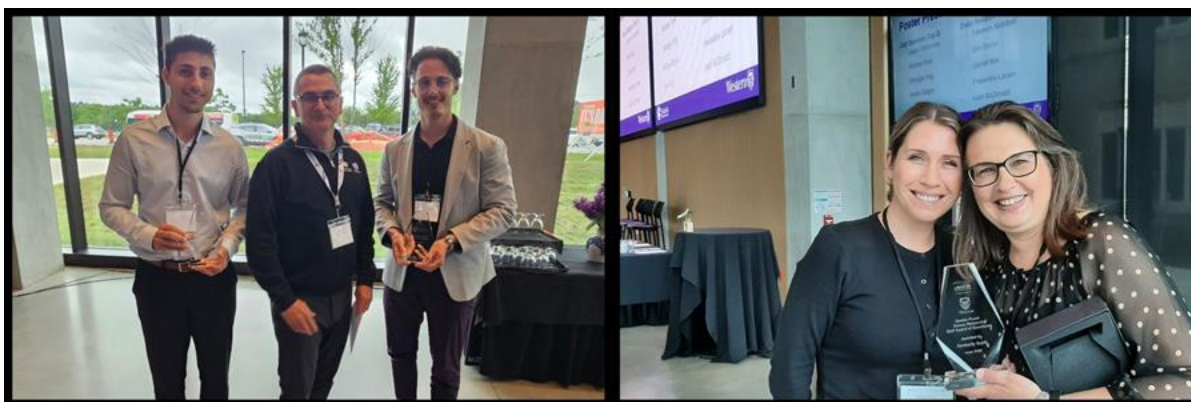
Leah McDonald, Genetics Analyst Specialist, LHSC

Laura Orofiamma Post Doc, supervised by Silvia Penuela PhD

Michael Roes MD Candidate, supervised by Fred Dick PhD

Dan Stefan MSc Candidate, supervised by Silvia Penuela PhD and Laszlo Gyenis PhD

ShengJie Ying MD/PhD Candidate, supervised by Matthew Cecchini MD PhD and Anthony Nichols MD PhD



Centre for Translational Cancer Research (Left)

Director Glenn Bauman MD presented the Graduate Trainee Award of Excellence to Marcus Milantoni MSc Candidate (supervised by Sarah Mattonen PhD) and Jack Webb PhD Candidate (supervised by Trevor Shepherd PhD).

Denise Power Cancer Research Staff Award of Excellence (Right)

Committee Lead Morgan Black presented this year's Denise Power Cancer Research Staff Award of Excellence to Kimberly Scott, Translational Cancer Research Assistant.

Faculty News



Featured photo:(L to R) Jacques Raphael MD, Saman Maleki PhD, and Michael Silverman MD.

Weston Family Foundation and Canadian Cancer Society, Transformational Research 2025

Saman Maleki PhD, \$4,123,670 over 5 years for "LUNA - 2: A Randomized Phase II Clinical Trial Evaluating the Role of Fecal Microbiota Transplantation in Enhancing Response to Chemoimmunotherapy in PD-L1 Low/Negative Advanced NSCLC." Co-Principal Investigator include Drs. Pierre-Oliver Gaudreau (Queen's U), Jacques Raphael, Michael Silverman and the Canadian Trials Group (CCTG).

Awards

David D'Souza MD received an LHSC Great Moments Award.

Pingzhao Hu PhD received the 2026 Canadian Bioinformatics Hub (CBH) Research and Innovation Award. This award recognizes professionals with active, promising innovations: they make a difference, value diverse perspectives, and forge unexpected connections.

Windsor's Clinical Trials Navigator Research Program was awarded (platinum level) [Facilitation Impact Awards](#) (FIA).

Conferences

Alison Allan PhD [research](#) on PROgress Tracker Breast Cancer Registry: worry of illness from a longitudinal peer-led, national patient-reported outcomes (PRO) registry was presented at the 2026 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting in Chicago by Shaniah Leduc of Breast Cancer Canada. The work was a joint project.

Stewart Gaede PhD delivered the keynote address at this year's London Imaging Discovery Day (LIDD) entitled "Imaging Innovations in Radiation Oncology".

Lucas Mendez MD placed top 5% for his 2026 ESTRO abstract submission.

Congratulations

LHSC's Adolescents and Young Adults (AYA) Program Oncology Program celebrated its [first year](#).

The program was started by the division of Radiation Oncology.

Nicholas Chandna MD, graduated from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health with a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology, along with an Applied Data Analysis Certificate. Chandra also contributed to Ontario Health's [new quality standard on cancer survivorship report](#).

Silvia Penuela PhD, on her promotion to full professor.

Funding Awards

Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR) March 2026 Intake

Samuel Asfaha MD PhD, \$1,074,826 over 5 years for "Cell-intrinsic regulation of colorectal cancer stem cells by transportable element-driven viral mimicry. John Ronald PhD is a co-applicant.

Pingzhao Hu PhD, \$1,154,386 over 5 years for "AI-Assisted Multimodal Imaging for Joint Damage Assessment, Flare Prediction, and Personalized Management of Rheumatoid Arthritis.

John McCormick PhD, \$1,120,726 over 5 years for "Protective and pathogenic immune response to Streptococcus pyogenes.

Peter Stathopoulos PhD, \$768,826 over 5 years for "Allosteric landscape of mitochondrial calcium uniporter (MCU) regulation by MCU regulator-1 and redox signaling: identifying conformational triggers of cardiomyocyte injury.

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Discovery Grant

Stewart Gaede PhD, \$200,000 over 5 years for "Redefining 4D-CT: A Motion-Resolved Imaging and Planning Platform for Precision Radiotherapy".

Elizabeth Gilles PhD, \$500,000 over 5 years for "New chemistry and applications of depolymerization".
David Hill PhD, \$220,000 over 5 years for "Cell lineage transdifferentiation in the islets of Langerhans in response to metabolic stress".

Pingzhao Hu PhD, \$300,000 over 5 years for "Multimodal Generative AI for Molecular Foundation Models, Automated Design, and Closed-Loop Discovery".

James Lacefield PhD, \$190,000 over 5 years for "Frugal Pose-Tracking Solutions for Handheld Biomedical Devices".

David Litchfield PhD, \$220,000 over 5 years for "Integration of Regulatory Kinase Signaling Pathways".

Caroline Schild-Poulter PhD, \$220,000 over 5 years for "Non-canonical functions of KU in DNA damage and stress responses".

Peter Strathopoulos PhD, \$270,000 over 5 years for "Molecular mechanisms underlying calcium sensing in cellular communications".

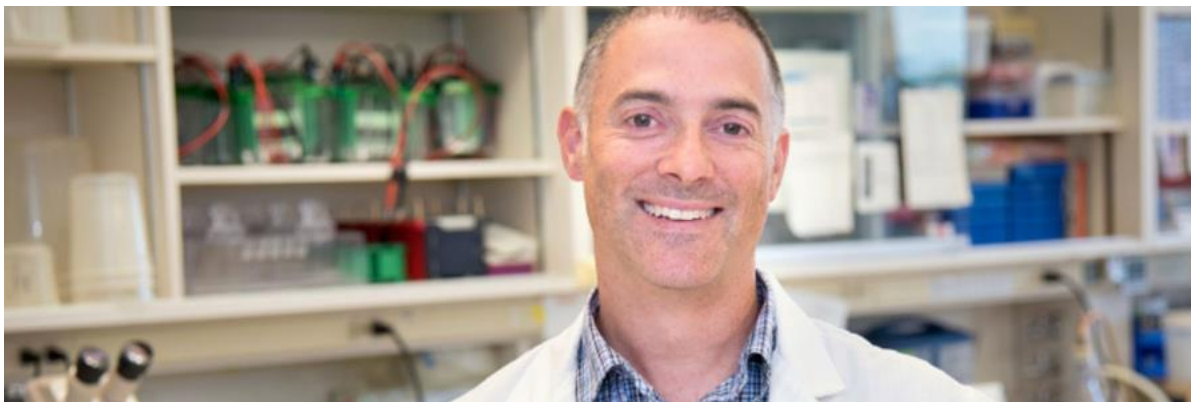
Alexander Timoshenko PhD, \$220,000 over 5 years for "Cell and molecular biology of tissue-specific galectins".

Bradley Urquhart PhD, \$220,000 over 5 years for "Elucidating endogenous substrates for drug transporters and drug metabolizing enzymes".

New Frontier in Research Fund - Exploration (NFRF)

Pingzhao Hu PhD and Xiao Zhen Zhou PhD, \$250,000 over 2 years for "AI-Driven Targeting of Cancer's Master Switch to Make Immune-Cold Tumors Eradicable by Immunotherapy." Kun Pin-Lu PhD is a collaborator on the project.

Eugene Wong PhD, \$250,000 over 2 years for "Strategic Multimodal Approaches to Unlock Immunotherapy for Pancreatic Cancer. Co-applicants include Drs. Daniel Breadner, Stewart Gaede, Len Luyt, Saman Maleki, Donna Murrell, Timothy Nguyen, Jim Petrik, and Chris Pin.



Centre for Translational Cancer Research Welcome New Director

Trevor Shepherd PhD has been appointed Director of the Centre for Translational Cancer Research (CTCR) for a 5-year term, effective July 1, 2026. The Committee is pleased to welcome Dr. Shepherd to this leadership role and looks forward to working with him as the Centre continues its trajectory of growth, innovation, and success.

Dr. Shepherd is a professor with cross-appointments in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Oncology, and Anatomy and Cell Biology, and a Senior Scientist at the Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre. He brings a well-established and highly collaborative translational cancer research program that bridges basic science and clinical application, with contributions to large-scale team science and translational infrastructure in ovarian cancer research.

We also wish to acknowledge and thank outgoing Director, Dr. Glenn Bauman, for his 20+ years of service to the Centre. Under his leadership, CTCR has continued to strengthen its role as a collaborative hub for translational cancer research in London, supporting interdisciplinary engagement and advancing the integration of research and clinical practice.

New Member - Elvis Chen PhD - Robarts Research Institute.

Wellness & Resiliency

Let's start with the BASICS of wellness:

B – Body

- Prioritize nutrition and sleep · Stay active (start small) · Limit caffeine, alcohol, smoking

A – Affect

- Strive for progress and standards of excellence rather than perfection · Avoid cognitive distortions (eg. all or nothing thinking, filtering to focus on criticism while discounting positive feedback, assuming others are judging you, catastrophizing, blaming yourself for things out of your control, etc.)

S – Social

- Nurture relationships (friends, partners, family) · Try to leave work at work · Seek help if in a hurtful or dangerous relationship

I – Intellect

- Seek intellectual diversion (opportunities for learning unrelated to your work) - Try creative outlets (music, art, etc.) - strive for a sense of achievement, responsibility, and growth at work · Master skills of task prioritization, time management, delegation, and saying “no” when appropriate · Accept and be open to the opportunities change bring · Remember there are always choices to be made

C – Community

- Foster a genuine community in the workplace - Inclusive, self-aware, welcoming of giving and receiving constructive feedback, active engagement · Resolve conflict by active listening, reflection, decision making guided by effective leaders · Honour and accept strengths, weaknesses, individual differences · Offer assistance without shame or stigma

S – Spirituality

- Look for meaning/purpose in life, feelings of connectedness, love, caring for others/altruism, inner peace, and equanimity · Spiritual fulfillment can be found through religion, faith, art, music, nature, poetry/scripture, play/laughter, meditation, philosophy, creative hobbies, etc.

Ready for more? <https://php.oma.org/siteassets/php/well-being/thebasics-full-version.pdf>

Trainee News and Updates



Featured Photo: (L to R) Susan Dang PhD Can, Marcus Milantoni MSc Can, Noah Blackburn-Hum MSc Can, Alana Lopes PhD CAMPEP Can, Ryan Au PhD Can, Timothy Yau PhD CAMPEP Can, Sarah Lee PhD Can. celebrating after Dr. Lopes defended her PhD. All are members of Medical Biophysics.

Congratulations

Ryan Au on successfully defending his PhD. Dr. Au is supervised by Aaron Ward PhD.

Ahmed Mohamed on successfully defending his PhD. Dr. Mohamed is supervised by Stewart Gaede PhD and Ting-Yim Lee PhD.

Raman Sambhi PGY5 on completing his medical oncology residency program.

Vivan Tan PGY5 on completing her radiation oncology residency and having her abstract scored in the top 5% at ESTRO 2026.

Conferences

Sarah Lee PhD Candidate, Ahmed Mohamed MSc Candidate, Rayhan Abdul Rahman PhD Candidate, Timothy Yau PhD CAMPEP Candidate and Zainab Zahra MSc Candidate all presented their work orally at this year's London Imaging Discovery Day. Yau received an honourable mention for his presentation. All are medical biophysics trainees.

Timothy Yau PhD CAMPEP Candidate presenting his work on 4D imaging with volumetric CT at COMP Student Council seminar.

London Health Research Day Oral Presentation Awards

Laura Orofiamma Post Doc, supervised by Silvia Penuela PhD

London Health Research Day Poster Awards

Andris Evans PhD, supervised by Joe Mymryk PhD

Elizabeth Cui PhD Candidate, supervised by Richard Kim MD PhD

Andrei Glogov PhD Candidate, supervised by John Di Guglielmo PhD

Camdyn Holmes MSc Candidate, supervised by Tallulah Andrews PhD

Amani Jaafar MSc Candidate, supervised by David Edgell PhD

Rayyan Kamal PhD Candidate, supervised by Alison Allan PhD and Jacqueline Torti

Claudia Leung MSc. Candidate, supervised by Mansour Haeryfar PhD

Victoria Labuda MSc Candidate, supervised by Tallulah Andrews PhD

Stephanie Leighton PhD Candidate, supervised by Silvia Penuela PhD and Dale Laird PhD

Reshika Rohan MSc Candidate, supervised by David Litchfield PhD

Angela Schincaglia PhD Candidate, supervised by Mansour Haeryfar PhD

Dan Stefan MSc Candidate, supervised by Silvia Penuela PhD

Funding Awards

GUMOC-CUASF Research Grant Program

Jason King Talao MO PGY5, \$50,000 over 2 years for "Gastrointestinal and Genitourinary Microbiome Profiling in Patients with Advanced Urothelial Carcinoma." Co-Principal Investigators include Drs. Lorin Dodbiba, Ricardo Fernandes, Brant Inman, and Saman Maleki. Collaborators include Drs. Lilian Hanna and Eric Winquist. [Grant](#) is sponsored jointly by GUMOC (Genitourinary Medical Oncologists of Canada) and CUASF (Canadian Urological Association Scholarship Foundation).

SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship, Doctoral Award

Rayyan Kamal PhD Candidate. Kamal is co-supervised by Alison Allan PhD and Jacqueline Torti PhD.

Welcome

Minghan Shi PGY4 to the medical oncology residency program.

Research Publications

Bhat, V et al (A. Allan and A. Parsyan). A Spatial proteomic profiling reveals an association between NF1-Ras/Raf/MEK signaling and immune cell infiltration in locally advanced triple-negative breast cancer. [Translational Oncology](#). July 2026.

Biglari, M et al (A. Lohmann). Body Composition and Melanoma Outcomes in Patients on Immunotherapy or Targeted Therapy: An Analysis from Canadian Melanoma Research Network. [Current Oncology](#). July 2026.

Dodge, M J et al (J. Mymryk). Drug combination treatment as a strategy for inhibiting human adenovirus replication. [Antiviral Research](#). August 2026.

Dong-Woo, K et al (S. Maleki). Chronic exercise training intensity, immune cells, and cancer outcomes: a scoping review. [JNCI Cancer Spectrum](#). May 2026.

Francis, P A et al (C. Hamm). Final outcomes of the SOFT and TEXT phase III trials in premenopausal hormone receptor-positive early breast cancer. [Annals of Oncology](#). June 2026.

Hilal, O et al (C. Hamm). Connecting Patients with Clinical Trials Using Patient Navigation: A Scoping Review. [Current Oncology](#). June 2026.

Jovel, J et al (A. Allan). Single-cell genomic analysis of cancer cells from one treatment-naïve patient with metastatic prostate cancer. [BMC Genomic Data](#). May 2026.

Schalj, B et al (D. Hoover). Investigating Setup Error Differences between Conventional and Ultra-Hypofractionated Whole Pelvis Radiation Therapy: A Secondary Analysis from the HOPE Randomized Clinical Trial. [Journal of Applied Clinical Medical Physics](#). May 2026.

Shi, Y et al (P. Hu). Deep Unsupervised Domain Adaptation for Translating Cancer Dependency Maps for Cell Lines to Breast Cancer Tumor Genomics. [Genet Epidemiol](#). July 2026.

Suissa, D et al (S. Maleki, M. Silverman, and J. Lenehan). Metabolic determinants of cancer immunotherapy outcomes identified by plasma profiling. [Nature Medicine](#). June 2026.



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