Welcome to the latest edition of the Physiology and Pharmacology Newsletter. If you have items for future newsletters, please let me know – fbeier@uwo.ca. Awards, grants, invited lectures, new lab members...

Some good news for this month. We have completed the recruitment of Dr. Matt Grol, who will join the department as a tenure track Assistant Professor in July. Matt was hired through Western’s special CRC call and will submit an application for a Tier 2 CRC in Skeletal Biology. Welcome Matt!! Thanks to Cheryle for seeing this through to the end, and to Sue-Ann for all her support.

On personal news, my recovery is continuing well with only a few minor hiccups. Thank you again for all your support through emails, messages, prepared food, etc., and special thanks to Nicole for organizing the food train!! I am fairly confident you will see me on campus sometime in March, although I might start with reduced hours!

All the best,

Frank
Congratulations!!!

To our graduate students for the successful defense of their PhD thesis:

- Kevin Nixon (supervisor Jamie Kramer)
- Melina Bellini (supervisor Frank Beier)

Undergraduate Studies Updates

The Final Exam Schedule is now posted on the following website: https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/Exams/

The Department make up exams will be held on **Tuesday, May 12th**.

4980 Poster Day will be held on **Monday, March 30th** in the student labs. There will be two sessions: 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Please plan to attend.

Graduate Studies Update

There is an important policy change to graduate thesis examination guidelines that will be in effect as of **March 1, 2020**:

Currently, there are two possible outcomes to the thesis examination that examiners may consider:
1) Acceptable with/without revisions.
2) Unacceptable.

As of **March 1, 2020**, this section will be revised so examiners may consider three possible outcomes:
1) Pass
2) Pass conditional upon revisions to thesis
3) Unacceptable

“Pass” means no, or only minor editorial revisions. The supervisor can withhold signature to ensure that the student makes these revisions.
“Pass conditional upon revisions to thesis” means that the student has conditionally passed, i.e. needs to make the requested revisions as agreed to by all examiners and outlined on the thesis examination chair’s report. An examiner (not the supervisor) withholds the signature. Revised versions of the thesis with tracked changes and/or a file explaining how concerns were addressed can be uploaded to the portal, for the respective examiner to review and approve.

“Unacceptable” means the student must go through a resubmission hearing.

Calendar

- March 12 – Lunch and Learn presentation (12:00 pm MSB212A/B)
  - “Introduction to the BrainsCAN Rodent Cognitive Core” – Presented by Dr. Tim Bussey and Dr. Marco Prado
  - “Touchscreens and Open Science” – Presented by Dr. Julie Dumont and Dr. Sara Memar
  - “Neurotech: Optogenetics, Fibre Photometry, Miniscopes and Touchscreens” - Presented by Dr. Miguel Skirzewski
- March 23 – Department Meeting (2:00 pm MSB212A/B)
- March 30 – 4980 Poster Day (DSB2005)
- June 2 – Department Retreat (Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre)
- Upcoming Physiology and Pharmacology Seminars (3:30 pm in MSB 384)
  - March 2 – Dr. Thomas Simmen, University of Alberta: “Adaptation and Remodeling of Mitochondria-Associated Membranes”
  - March 9 – Dr. Len Luyt, Western University: “Discovering Peptide and Small Molecule PET Probes for Imaging Cancer”
March 16 – Sandra Szlapinski, PhD Candidate: “Investigating the underlying mechanisms of pancreatic beta-cell deficiency in gestational diabetes mellitus”

March 23– “Graduate Degrees: Opening Doors to Exciting Careers!” Speakers: Brandon Banaschewski, Senior Scientist at Qrumpharma Inc., and Marcello Masciantonio, Medical Specialist at ANTIBODY Healthcare Communications

Full list of the Winter/Spring seminars can be found at: https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/physpharm/about_us/seminar_schedule.html