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...

The last month of the term has started, and most of us will get to enjoy all the fun that comes with final exams etc. Thanks again to all of you who worked so hard to keep our teaching program strong this year, especially our teaching faculty and Michele!

Thank you as well to everyone who attended our strategic planning retreat earlier this week, I felt it was very productive. For those who could not make it, you will have other opportunities to comment and provide input. I also plan separate meetings with graduate students, postdocs, and staff to get their insights on the developing plan. For now, I will share the new vision that was developed in a very collaborative manner during the retreat:

To be an inclusive, innovative, and integrative community that applies our strengths in research and education to benefit society.

There is still time for feedback on this vision as well, but I have to say that I am very pleased with this statement and the way it was developed. However, the entire strategic plan is a work in progress, so you will hear more (I was tempted to say ‘stay tuned’ but that expression is rather tainted by now....).

In other news, we are progressing with hiring into our limited term position for education. We are planning for synchronous lectures open to all department members from our top candidates on April 21, 22, and 27, likely at 10 am each day. Please hold the time in your calendars; Olga will provide additional details.

Finally, once again the situation with research restrictions and safety rules regarding Covid-19 is very fluid. Please look out for announcements per email and on the Western website, especially after provincial announcements expected today.

Enjoy the long weekend and stay safe!

Frank
Welcome

- Marie-Eve Gagnon – Post Doctoral Associate with Adrian Owen
- Cindy Xiao – Research Technician with Qingping Feng
- Fatma Hassan – Visiting Professor with Lina Dagnino
- Samar Sayedyahossein – Research Associate with Lina Dagnino

Congratulations

- To Taylor Schmitz on his first CIHR operating grant as principal investigator, and to Marco Prado, Andrew Pruszynski, and David Hess on their roles in successful CIHR applications!
- To Wataru Inoue and Julio Martinez-Trujillo for the BrainsCAN Accelerator grant!
- To Lisa Saksida on her selection as a 2020 Manulife Science and Technology Award winner!

Undergraduate Studies Updates

- As we are wrapping up our semester, everyone is invited to join our thesis student’s poster day OWL site to view student presentations. You can join the OWL site called “4980 Supervisor Site 2020” and the poster day tab will become visible for Monday, April 5th at 9 AM with the posted presentations. Please feel free to let students know that you came to their poster by posting a comment or a just under their poster presentation. Markers will be provided with more details regarding the format, etc. but students will respond to all questions that are posted prior to 2 PM on the Monday of poster day. All faculty, staff and students are welcome to join our virtual poster day. If you have any troubles with accessing the site on your own, feel free to reach out to Michele Grigg for assistance to be added to the site (mgrigg3@uwo.ca).
- We are just about into our final exam period. For courses that are running this semester, your students will be encouraged to provide course and instructor feedback. The link will remain open for your students until April 13th. You can see the current response rate in your course(s) by going directly to http://www.feedback.uwo.ca/ to log in.
- The final exam period is running from April 14th to April 30th. Please get your exam templates to Michele at the set times and also remember that all grades will be due to be completed 7 days after the exam is written. If students miss your exams with permission from academic counselling, we will have one set departmental exam day on May 11th. Exam times on that day will be determined once we know how many makeups are required.
Finally, we would like to have a course review meeting in Mid-May to discuss the successes and issues that happened in your courses as a fully online format. We would love to be able to share what has worked with each other and look forward to your participation in sharing then. Michele will send out a doodle poll for identifying the best day and time, later on this month for a May date.

**Research Update**

- The 2021 Canadian Society of Pharmacology and Therapeutics (CSPT) virtual meeting on June 8-11, 2021. Details can be found on the CSPT website [www.pharmacologycanada.org](http://www.pharmacologycanada.org).

**Calendar**

- Department Meeting – May 10 (2:00 pm via Zoom)

- Upcoming Physiology and Pharmacology Seminars (3:00 pm via Zoom)
  - April 12 – Dr. Filip Van Petegem, University of British Columbia: “Ion channelopathies at high resolution: investigating cardiac arrhythmias and myopathies via cryo-EM and X-ray crystallography”
  - April 19 – Dr. Anastassia Voronova, University of Alberta: “Neuronal chemokine fractalkine regulates neural stem cell fates in the developing and regenerating brain”
  - April 26 – Dr. Franco Vizeacoumar, University of Saskatchewan: “Targeting telomerase by synthetic dosage lethality to develop novel cancer therapeutics”

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

**Research Publications in February 2021**

- Graduate and fourth-year honours students (PhysPharm 4980) are in bold. Faculty members, staff and postdoctoral scholars are underlined.


15. Lin QT, Lee R, Feng AL, Kim MS, Stathopulos PB. The leucine zipper EF-hand containing transmembrane protein-1 EF-hand is a tripartite calcium, temperature, and pH sensor. Protein Sci. Feb 2021


17. Lim YJ, Sidor NA, Tonial NC, Che A, Urquhart BL. Uremic Toxins in the Progression of Chronic Kidney Disease and Cardiovascular Disease: Mechanisms and Therapeutic Targets. Toxins (Basel). Feb 2021. 13(2)


Research publications by members of the Department are also posted on the Department website. https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/phspharm/research/publications.html