

Physiology and Pharmacology Newsletter

March 2019

Welcome to the Physiology and Pharmacology Newsletter. If you have anything to add, please let me know – fbeier@uwo.ca. Awards, grants, invited lectures, new lab members...

Welcome to Spring! The term is nearing its end, which means a few very busy weeks for most of us, hopefully followed by some calmer months to focus on research, curriculum development, and/or work life balance....

But before that, a reminder that April is framed by two important days. Next Monday April 1 is PhysPharm Poster Day where our 4980 students present their work from the last year. Please attend and support these students. The London Health Research Day is on Tuesday April 30: <https://www.londonhealthresearchday.ca/>. Faculty are encouraged to register as judges.

All the best,

Frank

Welcome

- Sebastian Lehmann, Research Associate with Brian Corneil

Congratulations!!! Lots of them this month!

- Nicole Campbell for winning the Marilyn Robinson Award for Excellence in Teaching
- Sarah McLean for winning the Vice-Provost Award for Excellence in Online Teaching and Learning

- Angela Beye, Tom Stavraky, and Anita Woods for winning the Vice-Provost Award for Excellence in Collaborative Teaching
- Nica Borradaile for winning a Schulich Excellence in Education Award in Undergraduate Education
- Stan Leung for winning a Schulich Excellence in Education Award in Graduate Education
- Jeff Dixon for winning a Schulich Faculty Mentorship Award
- Marlys Koschinsky for winning a Dean's of Awards of Excellence for Faculty (Individual)
- Marlys Koschinsky for winning the 2019 MWLA Chapter service award
- Rithwik Ramachandran for his success in the most recent CFI/JELF competition
- Lakshman Gunaratnam, Aze Wilson, Richard Kim, and Doug Fraser for success in the latest AMOSO competition

Updates from the Research Committee

1. Research Day 2019: Dr. David Nutt (Edmond J. Safra Professor of Neuropsychopharmacology and Director of the Neuropsychopharmacology Unit in the Division of Brain Sciences, Imperial College, London, UK) is our confirmed 2019 Gowdey Lecture Research Day speaker. The research committee is working on a speaker for the 2020 Stevenson Lecture.
2. Our next Lunch and Learn will be held on April 11. Dr. Frederick Andrew Dick will be speaking on Generating Novel Mouse Models using CRISPR. Wataru Inoue will be the host.
3. The Departmental Research Website will be updated with new Research Areas; Clinical and Basic Pharmacology; Bone and Joint; Cell, Stem Cell and Cancer; Heart, Blood Vessels and Lungs; Reproduction, Development and Metabolism; Neuroscience,

Neurodegeneration and Cognition. Researchers will be placed under appropriate research areas as previously indicated by each of you last Spring.

4. The Research Committee hosted a Community Outreach. The aim was to attract undergraduate students to explore research and graduate studies opportunities in physiology and pharmacology. We had interactive displays set up in the following areas of research: Musculoskeletal, Cardiovascular, Reproductive and Developmental Biology, Clinical and Molecular Pharmacology, and Neuroscience. We had a successful turnout. Many thanks to Pierre Thibeault, Sean Gill, Nica Borradaile and everyone who helped organize this event.

Undergraduate Report

1. PhysPharm Poster Day is Monday April 1, 2019 in the student labs. There will be two sessions, 9-11 AM and 1-3 PM. Please come out and see the posters that represent the hard work of our honours thesis students. Try and also visit a couple of posters that you're not grading to show the engagement and support that we have for our 4th year program.
2. April 9 is the last day of classes; exams are April 11-30. We have drafted template front cover pages for exams (one for multiple choice, one for short answer/essay) to help course managers make sure all important information is there. Templates will be circulated to course managers shortly.
3. The templates (above) have a place for students to sign to acknowledge that they are not allowed to have cell phones or devices in exams. Explain this to your students before the exam and make sure they sign it. In addition, please send at least one OWL announcement to all your students prior to their exam to remind them cell phones and devices are not allowed and they will receive a grade of zero if they are found with these devices.
4. Make sure to have your final grades completed within 7 days of your exam. This is especially important for exams later in the exam period as final grades are required for adjudication.

5. There will likely be a new medical note policy in place for the 2019-2020 academic year. There were 25,922 medical note requests made in 2017-18, nearly double (14,000) that were made in 2014-15. While not final yet, it is likely students will be allowed to have 3 X 48 hour self-declared absences for work that accounts for less than 30%.
6. The full week “trial” fall study break is being evaluated. No surprises that it will likely be kept. In 2020-2021 academic year, the fall study break will likely move to the 8th or 9th week of the term (late October). At this time Western is likely to move to a 60 day term (we are currently 63 days).
7. To wrap up the semester, we will hold a brief workshop to brainstorm different assessment modes that you can use in your courses. The workshop will be held April 16, 10 am to 12 pm, at the Grad Club followed by a lunch. Please RSVP to Nicole Campbell ncampb47@uwo.ca

Calendar

- April 1 - PhysPharm Poster Day, 9am -11am and 1pm-3pm DSB 2005
- April 30 - London Health Research Day, London Convention Centre
- Seminars in April (Monday 3:30 pm in MSB384)
 - April 1 – Dr. Kerry Goralski, Dalhousie University: “Jadomycins as treatments for multi-drug resistant breast cancer”
 - April 15 – Dr. Ravi Menon, Western University: “Brain network plasticity supports behavioural recovery: MRI studies of concussion”
 - April 22 – Dr. Douglas Jones, Western University: “Insights and adventures in neuroscience and cardiovascular research; or: Things I learned from mixed farming”
- The full list of seminars and events can be found here:

http://www.schulich.uwo.ca/physpharm/about_us/seminar%20and%20events/index.html