

Physiology and Pharmacology Newsletter

April 2020

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

Well, these are unique times (hopefully unique in our lifetime!). I hope everyone is healthy, both physically and mentally. If not, please reach out! This is a stressful situation for everyone, so please take care of yourself. We all have to live with some uncertainties – when will our labs re-open; what will be the mode of teaching in the Fall; what happens to research grants, stipends, tuition; why isn't this zoom link working again... We will try our best to keep everyone informed as soon as possible when new developments occur. For now, thank you everyone for helping us move through this – our fantastic teaching team, course managers, instructors, and Tas for getting our courses and exams online and finishing the term in great shape; our administrative team for keeping operations going under difficult circumstances; all of those who take care of animals and have to come to the labs to finish experiments; and everyone who stays home to plank the curve!

More than ever, if you have questions, please reach out to me. I can't wait to be back and see you all in person! Stay healthy,

Frank

Congratulations!!

- Bethia To on the successful defense of her M.Sc. exam (supervisor Frank Beier)
- Yue Lai-Zhao on the successful defense of her M.Sc. exam (supervisor Tom Appleton)
- Crystal Keung on the successful defense of her M.Sc. exam (supervisor Jamie Kramer)
- Donglin Bai, John Di Guglielmo, Wei-Yang Lu, Jamie Melling, Cheryle Séguin, and Peter Stathopoulos on their new NSERC Discovery Grants, and to Peter Stathopoulos for leading a team that was also successful in the NSERTC RTI competition. Well done!
- Cheryle Séguin on her Faculty Scholar Award
- Fabiana Crowley on her Marilyn Robinson Award for Excellence in Teaching
- Christine Bell for the Angela Armitt Award for Excellence in Teaching by Part Time Faculty
- Angela Beye on her USC Teaching Award
- Nicole Campbell on her OUSA Teaching Excellence Award
- Brad Urquhart on his Alumni of Distinction Award – Young Alumni, from the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
- To our 4th year honors students on a great job finishing their projects and presenting their virtual posters

(Side note – I am delighted at the number of times I could say ‘her award’ – we are very proud of our female department members!!!)

Undergraduate Studies Updates

Thank you to everyone for all of your hard work during this season of our Undergraduate program. Your creativity in creating different formats of final exams and take home, open book formats was incredible.

Even so, we will not be receiving student feedback from our second-semester courses as the University decided not to run these as this coincided with our sudden shift to online teaching, so you won't see those SQCT scores.

Thank you to all of you for participating in our virtual fourth year poster day. Our fourth year students appreciated that we didn't cancel our event and that they were able to present their work, even though in a different format.

We have just completed our last regular scheduled final exam with very minor technical issues, so that was a huge success. Just remember to have your grades sent to Michele 7 days after your exam is completed, and the sooner you can, the better. We ask that no grades are released to students until our Associate Dean can review these first. We will release these grades for you. Michele is also collecting the average for each course's final exam and also the final grade average.

We have very few makeup exams as most students completed their regular exam in the exam period. We are currently scheduling these makeups on a case by case basis for the week of May 4th to 8th. We will be contacting you regarding your plan and format for these makeup exams.

Graduate Studies Update

New protocols are in place for remote thesis exams, comprehensive exams, and advisory committee meetings. Please contact Nica or Susan if you have any questions.

Research Committee News

The 2020 James A. F. Stevenson Distinguished Lecture and Research Day will be held on Tuesday, November 3rd, 2020 (format to be determined)

Dr. Amira Klip from The Hospital for Sick Children, Department of Biochemistry, University of Toronto will deliver the Stevenson Lecture. Her work is focused on insulin signaling and glucose transport. (Host: Dr. Peter Chidiac). The Research Committee is looking for 2 internal speakers (a faculty member and a trainee). Please submit your nomination to Penny Sim.

Faculty Biographies - Winny Wang, a work study student, continues to work on PhysPharm faculty biographies (standardizing and updating). Some of the updated biographies are uploaded on our departmental website. If you are contacted by Winny, please work with her and get your biography updated.

CIHR Funding News - The March 2020 project grant competition was cancelled. CIHR will financially extend Investigator-Initiated Research (IIR) grants for all researchers who applied to the Spring 2020 Project Grant competition as a Nominated Principal Applicant (NPA) who currently hold an IIR grant that is scheduled to expire between June 30, 2020 and March 30, 2021, for one year. If you applied to the March 2020 competition and met the above criteria, you will receive up to one of funding. If you have a CIHR bridge grant and applied for the March 2020 project grant competition, you will receive 6 months of additional funding. For further details, please visit: <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/51927.html>

Calendar

- The Lunch and Learn presentation *"Analysis of dose response and time course data using Prism"* – presented by Peter Chidiac (Host: Qingping Feng) has been postponed to October 2020.
- May 11, 3:30 pm – Department Seminar: Joshua Dierolf, PhD Candidate; *"Pyruvate kinase muscle isoforms 1 and 2 evolve through mouse naïve, formative and primed pluripotency development"* (Zoom Video Conference)
- May 25, 2:00 pm – Department Meeting (Zoom Video Conference)
- June 2 – Department Retreat (tbd)
- June 15, 3:30 pm – Department Seminar: Dr. Rishi Ganesan, MBBS, MD, DM; *"Timely detection of non-convulsive seizures in critically ill children"* (Zoom Video Conference)