

Physiology and Pharmacology Newsletter

April 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...

Another term is done. Thank you very much everyone for all your contributions this year!! The academic year ended with a workshop on evaluation methods organized by Nicole, and a bowling party organized by the Social Committee – thanks Nicole and everyone who helped make these events a success!

Despite the end of the term, we still have many events happening at least throughout May and June. For trainees in particular (but of course open to everyone), try to attend the Opening Doors event organized by PPGSC on May 27. These are always great presentations, showing the range of career paths you can follow with a graduate degree.

But I do hope that everyone will enjoy a few calmer months ahead to focus on research, writing, course preparation etc. And please remember to take some well-deserved time off this summer. There is life outside the university!

All the best,

Frank

Congratulations

- Vincent Lee on the successful defense of his M.Sc. exam (supervisor Ed Lui)

- Our former Chair Dr. Jane Rylett for winning a 2019 Alumni of Distinction Award from the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry for Excellence in Basic Science Research
- Drs. Tom Appleton, Marlys Koschinsky, Jane Rylett, Stephen Pasternak, Cheryle Séguin, Brian Corneil, and Penny McDonald for new Collaborative Seed Grants from the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
- Dr. Andrew Pruszynski for winning the J.A.F. Stevenson Award from the Canadian Physiological Society
- Drs. Dean Betts, Tim Bussey, Greg Kelly, Penny McDonald, Rithwik Ramachandran, Lisa Saksida, Taylor Schmitz, and Ruud Veldhuizen on their success in the 2018 NSERC Discovery Grant competition

Updates from the Research Committee

Lunch & Learn: May 30, 2019

Speakers: Dr. Dean Betts & Dr. Lauren Flynn (ACB/CBE)

Host: Dr. Rithwik Ramachandran

Topic: Stem cell cultures

Undergraduate Report

Thanks to our TA's, staff and faculty for another great year in our undergraduate program. All Phys/Pharm final exams are completed and the makeup exams will occur on Tuesday May 7. Please make sure you get your final grades to Michele ASAP, the registrar's office is being more proactive in asking for these this year. In addition, it is very important to grade your makeup exams as quickly as possible after they are written. These grades are required for adjudication, which starts very soon.

There are some very important changes coming to our undergraduate program in 2019-2020, please let me know if you have any concerns (most of these changes are driven by senate). We will be going over many of these changes at our spring undergraduate studies meeting, which is in the process of being scheduled.

1. Fall reading week will be moving from the week of Thanksgiving to the 9th full week of the term. It will begin at 6 PM of the Sunday prior to the 9th full week of the term and end at midnight on the subsequent Sunday. For 2019-2020, the fall reading week will begin at 6 PM on Sunday November 3, 2019 and go through until midnight of Sunday November 10, 2019. If you really want to, you are allowed to schedule exams on the Friday or Saturday before the fall reading week (Friday November 1, 2019 or Saturday November 2, 2019).
2. With the change to fall reading week, Western will also be moving to a 12 week (60 day) term. Previously the length of the term has been 62 days. This will have a big impact on many of our courses and will require some content to be removed or put into online modules. Course managers should convene a meeting with all instructors to discuss how this change will impact their course.
3. The 15% rule is being modified for next year. The 15% rule now only applies to 1000 level and 2000 level courses. Let's all remember that the spirit of the 15% rule is good, and we should be grading work and giving students in 3rd and 4th year classes an indication of how they are doing relatively early in the term.
4. Students will have the option to have two self-declared absences (for short term illness, family emergency etc.) without any documentation from September to April of the next academic year. They will be allowed one additional self-declared absence from May-August should they be taking summer courses. During the period of their absence, they will not be expected to complete any academic work including attend class/lab, write tests, quizzes or submit assignments. They may not use self-declared absences for final exams, midterms scheduled during the December exam period or lab exams that occur in the last week of the term. They will also not be allowed to use self-declared absences for course work that is worth more than 30% of their final grade. Notification to faculty members is not worked out yet but it is expected that it will be no different than when a student uses a student medical certificate.
5. We have preliminary numbers for intent to register in our programs for 2019-2020. The requests for our 4th year HSPs are up this year (150 requests this year compared to 117 requests last year). Please consider taking more than one 4980 student this year, as we will likely have to turn away many good students from our program. The biggest change is the number of students

requesting the combined Phys/Pharm module (73 this year vs. 34 last year).

Calendar

- Seminars in April (Monday 3:30 pm in MSB384)
 - May 13 – Dr. Natasha Mhatre, Biology, Western University: “How closely are sensory and motor systems linked? From organisms to cells”
 - May 27 – Graduate Degrees: Opening Doors to Exciting Careers. Speakers: Drs. Murray Cutler and Michael Knauer
- The full list of seminars and events can be found here:
http://www.schulich.uwo.ca/physpharm/about_us/seminar%20and%20events/index.html
- May 28 at 3 pm: Department Meeting (MSB212A/B)
- May 9/10: Neuroscience Research Day
(<https://songsuwo.com/nrd2019/>)