

# Physiology and Pharmacology Newsletter

## May - June 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](mailto:fbeier@uwo.ca).

Summer is here! I hope everyone is enjoying the nice weather and relaxing a bit, despite the circumstances and the extra workload that this situation brings. I will not use this venue to provide information on our return to research or other Covid-19-related items, since you are getting many emails about these topics. Just a reminder to reach out if you need support or have questions.

June 30 means retirement for three of our faculty members. Thank you to Stan Leung, John Ciriello, and Kaiping Yang for all your contributions over the years. Enjoy your retirement. We hope to still celebrate your careers at some point when we can gather again!

Have a great long weekend and I look forward to seeing all of you in person over the next few months!

Frank

## Welcome

- Dr. Androu Abdalmalak, postdoctoral associate with Adrian Owen
- Kristy Gibb, research technician with Andrew Pruszynski
- Kaiyuan Wang, new graduate student (MSc) with Qingping Feng

## Congratulations !!!

- To student presentation award winners at the recent *Canadian Society for Pharmacology and Therapeutics* Virtual Conference:
  - Brandon Baer (supervisors Cory Yamashita/Ruud Veldhuizen)
  - Carol Xintong Ma (Supervisors Qingping Feng/Peter Chidiac)
  - Gregory Robinson (supervisor Qingping Feng)
  - Pierre Thibeault (supervisor Rithwik Ramachandran)
- John Ciriello on his *Alumni of Distinction Award for Excellence in Basic Science Research* from the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
- Brad Urquhart on his *Young Alumni Award* from the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
- Mayu Nagao (supervisor Cheryle Séguin) for a presentation award at the *Canadian Bone and Joint Conference*
- Rachel Wilson (supervisor Nica Borradaile) for the *Nellie Farthing Fellowship in Medical Sciences*
- Tom Appleton for winning a grant from the *New Frontiers in Research Fund* (Exploration Stream)
- Ute Schwartz, Qingping Feng, and Rithwik Ramachandran for winning Bridge Grants from the *Heart and Stroke Foundation*

## Congratulations also to our recently graduated students!

- Benny Yue, MSc (Donglin Bai)
- Geoff Kerr, PhD (Cheryle Seguin)
- Matt Veras, PhD (Cheryle Seguin)

## Undergraduate Studies Updates

We are already preparing for course registration, beginning with fourth year students on July 6<sup>th</sup>. Our courses are very popular, so it is not uncommon to receive many requests. Remember that if you get a special permission request

for your course from a student who is lacking the prerequisite, if you feel the permission should be granted, it cannot be processed until August 6<sup>th</sup>. If a space still remains in your course, only then will the requesting student be able to add your course. We are asking that all requests are sent to Michele, so that we can track how many of these are being requested by individual students, who often are likely to make more than one request.

Thank you to all of our course managers who were able to quickly complete a condensed course syllabus, which will help students with this course selection. Michele will be reaching out to each course manager shortly to work on a fully detailed syllabus. We have an updated syllabus template that Michele will work with each course manager to complete. This includes updated and consistent language about student illness reporting and reflects changes to completing work in an online environment. A special thank you to Nicole Campbell and members of the BMSUE committee who developed this template, we know you will find it to be very useful in communicating your course with your students.

We know that many of us are learning new things, including how to record ourselves for mini lectures and rethinking how we spend time virtually face to face with our students and exploring existing tools on OWL. Please don't hesitate to reach out to our teaching faculty team in the department to discuss. To further help ease this transition, an OWL site was shared with all of you after our retreat that includes the fundamentals (ie. How to record your lecture using PowerPoint, how to set up a quiz in OWL, etc). Another big thank you goes to Angela Beye for leading on this resource site that was developed for our department. If you weren't added to the site, or need the link resent to you, please contact Michele and she will be happy to share this with you. Further resources will be made available to you from within the faculty, so please know that we are here to support your transition to teaching online.

Lastly, we would like to welcome our department intern, **Samantha Ingham**, a recent graduate of our department who is working with our undergraduate team to help with OWL site organization and creation throughout the summer. We also are fortunate to have additional intern assistance from **Temitope Akintola**, a student about to enter her fourth year of studies in our department.

## Research Committee News

*The 2020 James A. F. Stevenson Distinguished Lecture and Research Day* will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 in a new virtual format. Dr. Amira Klip from The Hospital for Sick Children, Department of Biochemistry, University of Toronto will deliver the Stevenson Lecture virtually. Her work is focused on insulin signaling and glucose transport. The Research Committee is seeking nominations from the Department for a trainee speaker. Please forward any nominations and why you are nominating, and where they are in the program to Qingping Feng and Penny Sim by July 13, 2020.

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

The Physiology and Pharmacology Graduate Student Council (*PPGSC*) has asked the Research Committee to update the website so that it acknowledges Indigenous Land. Western's official Land Acknowledgment statements can be found at:

<https://communications.uwo.ca/comms/land-acknowledgement/>

## Calendar

- November 3, 2020 – Stevenson Lecture and Research Day