Hello everyone,

I hope you are all enjoying your summer. As I said repeatedly, please take some time off to recover and recharge after the challenging year we had. I myself will take some more time off in August and spend the remainder of the month to work on papers and grants – thus I will keep this short but thanks to Dan Hardy and Cheryle Séguin again for covering as Acting Chairs!

Lots of things coming up in the Fall, both challenges and opportunities. But we will talk about them in September!

Have a great rest of the summer!

Frank

Condolences

The department sends our sincere condolences to Susan McMillan on the passing of her husband.

Welcome to our newest faculty members:

- Oana Birceanu, Assistant Professor
- Taylor Schmitz, Assistant Professor
Congratulations!!!

- To Sarah McLean for being appointed the inaugural Director of the Schulich Education Enhancement Division (SEED)
- To Matthew Grol for being appointed the Canada Research Chair in Musculoskeletal Biology and Health
- To Sean Cregan, Qingping Feng, Matthew Grol, Wataru Inoue, Donald Welsh, Tom Appleton, and Sean Gill for winning CIHR grants

- To our graduate students for the completion of their degrees:
  - Joshua Dierolf, PhD (Dean Betts/Andrew Watson)
  - Megan Noble, MSc (Peter Stathopulos)
  - Yehia Moharrem, MSc (David Hess)
  - Theodore Wigle, PhD (Richard Kim)

- To our Graduate Student Award Winners:
  - **OGS Award:**
    - Justin Clark (Marlys Koschinsky)
    - Charles Trelford (John DiGuglielmo)
    - Qi-Tong Lin (Peter Stathopulos)
    - Fang Wang (Peter Chidiac)
    - Jeffrey Hutchinson (Cheryle Seguin)
    - Sebastian Vanin Moreno (Dan Hardy)
    - Mohammed Ellakany (Don Welsh)
    - Kendrick Lee (Dan Hardy)

  - **CIHR Award:**
    - Mickenzie Martin (Chris Pin)
    - Adrianna Tsang (Steve Pasternak)

  - **CGSM Award:**
    - Luigi Del Sordo (Tom Appleton)

- **Silver Medal for the poster presentation at the Canadian Student Health Research Forum**
  - Tom Lin (Peter Stathopulos)
**Undergraduate Studies Updates**

Our new school year begins on September 8th. Over the coming weeks we will work with instructors to prepare OWL course sites. Welcome to Priya Modi, our summer student intern who will be assisting us. Thank you in advance to all faculty members interviewing potential fourth year students to mentor for this upcoming year. Virtual interviews will **be held on Thursday, September 9th 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on Zoom.**

**Research Update**

**Research Day:** The 2021 Departmental Research Day and Charles Gowdey Lecture will be held virtually on **Tuesday November 2nd, 2021.** Please mark your calendars! The Charles Gowdey lecture speaker will be Dr. Brian Kobilka, from the Stanford University School of Medicine. Dr. Kobilka shared the 2012 Nobel Prize in Chemistry with Dr. Robert Lefkowitz, for groundbreaking work studying G-protein-coupled receptors. Our host will be Dr. Peter Chidiac. The Research Committee will also revisit the presentation and award categories for the Research Day. Our current categories include Cancer Biology; Cardiovascular Science; Clinical and Basic Pharmacology; Cell Biology; Reproductive Biology and Endocrinology; Neurosciences; New Students. Please let us know if you have any suggestions regarding the Research Day categories and/or awards.

**Lunch and Learn:** The “Lunch and Learn” virtual sessions for 2021 – 2022 will continue on Thursdays between 12:00 – 1:00 pm. We will be hosting ~2-3 sessions per term. Beginning in the fall term, our upcoming and proposed sessions will include:

- Single cell sequencing
- Machine learning and artificial intelligence in biomedical research
- Facilities, instrumentation and user support available at the London Regional Proteomic Centre
- PET/MRI facilities

Let us know if there are any other “Lunch and Learn” topics you would like included in 2021-2022. Please email your suggestions to Peter Stathopulos and Penny Sim.

**NSERC Research Tools and Instruments Grant Application:** The Research Committee plans to submit an NSERC Research Tools and Instruments grant
application in October 2021. Let us know if there are any shared use instruments you envision to be useful additions to training and research within the Department, which we can consider for the upcoming or future competitions.

**Faculty Biographies:** Tiffany Zhao is a Work Study student working with faculty this term to update biographies on the Departmental website. If you would like your biography updated right away, please contact Tiffany by email (tzhao229@uwo.ca).

Please email your suggestions and/or feedback to Peter Stathopoulos and Penny Sim.

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**Health and Safety Update**

We had office and laboratory inspections in July. They went very well, thank you to everyone for working so safely and for continuing to improve our work environment. A few reminders; extension cords are never permitted. Power bars are only to be used for low draw items like cell phone charging. Do not plug toasters, tea kettles, coffee makers, microwaves or fridges into power bars. When your gas cylinders are not in use, ensure they have their cap on. Please continue to label chemicals accordingly and purge eye wash stations.

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**Calendar**

- Friday Sept. 17, 1:00 pm - New Graduate Student Orientation (via Zoom)
- Monday Sept. 20, 1:30 pm - Department Meeting
- Upcoming Physiology and Pharmacology Seminars (3:00 pm via Zoom)
  - Sept. 20 – Dr. Mahadeo Sukhai, University of Toronto