

# Physiology and Pharmacology Newsletter

## May - June 2018

Welcome to the newest edition of the Physiology and Pharmacology Newsletter. Over the summer, I will combine the May-June and July-August issues. If you have items for future newsletters, please let me know – [fbeier@uwo.ca](mailto:fbeier@uwo.ca). Awards, grants, invited lectures, new lab members...

As you know, we had our departmental retreat on May 15. We discussed a number of important issues, including priorities for recruitment, further integration of our Physiology and Pharmacology offerings, and changes to our graduate program. The various departmental committees have started to work on implementing the discussed changes, and you will be kept informed. As for recruitment, we are still waiting for information how both University and provincial budgets will affect this.

Boun Thai, with input from the Communication Committee, is working on a redesign of our departmental website which should become live over the next few weeks. This would be a great time to update your own website, as many appear a little bit dated (including my own...). Thanks Boun for all your hard work!

One plea for faculty: we are planning for the Physiology and Pharmacology 4980 research course. We would like to increase the number of students we can accept, since we are missing out on many excellent candidates because of a lack of supervisors. Please take at least one student through our program, and two if you can. Please get in touch with Anita or Angela for details.

Enjoy your summer!!

Frank

## **Congratulations!!!**

- Dr. Jeff Dixon on a Life Time Achievement Award from the *Canadian Connective Tissue Society*
- Dr. Nicole Campbell on her Masters of Education from Queen's University
- Neil Mazumdar on his MSc (supervisor: Don Welsh)
- Neil Hiebert on his PhD (supervisors: Penny McDonald/Adrian Owen)
- Lyndon Duong on his MSc (supervisor: Julio Martinez-Trujillo)
- Nicole Edwards on her PhD (supervisors: Dean Betts and Andy Watson)
- Our graduate students Pierre Thibeault, Anette Surmanski, Laura Russel, and Brandon Baer for winning awards at the Annual Meeting of *The Canadian Society of Pharmacology and Therapeutics*
- Our trainees Brandon Kim, Dr. Supinder Bali, Dr. Margaret Sun, and Melina Bellini for winning awards at the *Canadian Connective Tissue Conference*
- Kia Peters, PhD candidate, won an award at the *Canadian Lipoprotein Conference*

## **Welcome**

To our new graduate students:

- Mathushan Subasri with Dean Betts and Andy Watson
- Maisoon Yousif with Dean Betts and Andy Watson
- Renee Pang with Mike Rieder

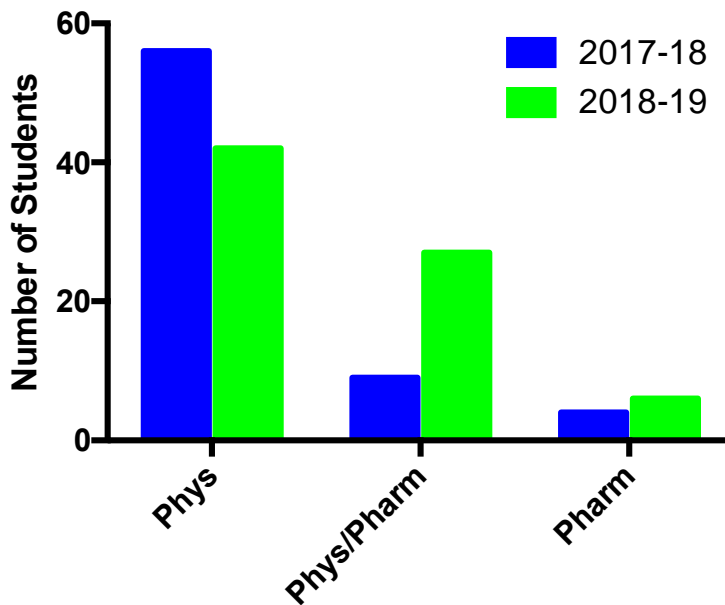
- Ermina Hadzic with Frank Beier
- Michelle Cai with Rithwik Ramachandran

To our new (returning) postdoctoral associates:

- Dr. Anusha Ratneswaran with Frank Beier
- Dr. Sasha Reschechto with Andrew Pruszynski

## **Undergraduate Studies Updates**

The summer is a quieter time for undergraduate studies for many of us. Our two summer courses (Phys 2130 and Pharm 2060) are well underway. Adjudication and convocation are complete. Below is a summary of our adjudication numbers for 4<sup>th</sup> year students accepted into our program. These numbers may change a little bit as students are still switching programs, but it gives us a good idea of what to expect for next year. We have many more students in PhysPharm for 2018-19 (27) than we did in 2017-18 (9). This is likely a reflection of our combined PhysPharm labs (Phys/Pharm 3000E) offered for the first time in 2017-18. Course selection for 4<sup>th</sup> year students began on June 19. A reminder that no special permissions should be granted to any student until July 21, 2018 after priorities have lifted. This ensures students that have the prerequisites have access to courses prior to students that don't. When evaluating special permission for your courses, please check transcripts and ask why students don't have the required prerequisites.



In response to our undergraduate program review, we will be working on a second year integrated physiology and pharmacology class. We hope this will be offered for the first time starting September 2019. More details will follow as we figure out what this course will look like.

## Graduate Studies News

As we're looking forward to a new cohort of talented graduate students starting in September, please consider enrolment in '9550 Molecular Techniques'. Peter Stathopoulos will once again expertly manage this intensive short course which integrates molecular biology theory and practice. 'Molecular Techniques' is both an excellent introduction, for students less familiar with these techniques, and a great refresher, for others who may need to brush up on their skills. Please contact Peter for further information.

Kierstin Williams joined our Department as a member of the Borradaile lab for the summer. Kierstin is a BSc student selected through a highly competitive, campus-wide process to participate in an innovative new NSERC programme 'Learning with Head & Heart: Building an ethical place for Indigenous undergraduate research discovery at Western'. More information about this programme can be found at [https://www.uwo.ca/research/funding/students/learning\\_with\\_head\\_and\\_heart.html](https://www.uwo.ca/research/funding/students/learning_with_head_and_heart.html).

## Research Committee News

The Research Committee and Communications Committee have been working on a redesign of the Department's Research web page. The redesigned page will have the following six 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

An email was sent to all faculty members of our Department requesting the best fit research areas for each member. Thanks to all who already responded. If you have not done so, please contact Penny Sim [psim@uwo.ca](mailto:psim@uwo.ca) at your earliest convenience.

Information for most faculty members on the Department research web page needs to be updated. A request for updating your research web page will be coming shortly. Your timely response to this request will be appreciated.

## Calendar

- September 6, 2018 – Annual BBQ and Corn Roast
- September 24, 2018 – Seminar Series: Tyler Cooper, PhD candidate
- September 25, 2018 – Department Meeting
- October 1, 2018 – Seminar Series: Scott Prosser, U of T
- October 15, 2018 – Seminar Series: Stephen Sherman, PhD candidate
- October 18, 2018 – Research Lunch and Learn: Bioinformatics – Transcriptome Analysis, presented by Dr. Greg Gloor
- November 6, 2018 - Stevenson Lecture and Research Day

- November 15, 2018 – Lunch and Learn: Data Management and Lab Record Keeping, presented by Dr. Anita Woods