

Physiology and Pharmacology Newsletter

September 2020

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

And welcome to the new term! Not to harp too much on the obvious, but it will be a truly unique term. There will be hiccups and problems we don't even think about yet, but there are also opportunities to do things differently, some of which might make sense to maintain in the post-Covid years (if we get there...). Thank you so much everyone who helped us getting to this point where we are ready to start teaching our undergraduate students – our superb teaching faculty, the office staff, our digital interns, and all faculty and TAs. At the same time, we can finally ramp up our research activities again – thanks to all who helped move this along. There will be some interesting and challenging months ahead, but we are ready, I think.

However, this term will also see the restart of our strategic thinking process. Where do we want to go as a department in research and teaching? What are our priorities for hiring? How can we strengthen our research and modernize our education programs? How do we ensure greater equity, diversity, and inclusion? With new leadership at the University and Faculty level, we can expect some directions from above, but at the same time we need to be proactive in defining our future. Stay tuned on this.

So have a great start to the term everyone and stay safe. And once again, if you have questions or concerns, please reach out to me.

Frank

Congratulations!!!

- To Lisa Saksida for her election as Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.
- To Wataru Inoue, Andrew Pruszynski, and Peter Stathopoulos for their promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure, Sean Gill for promotion to Associate Professor, and Wei-Yang Lu for promotion to Professor.
- To Nicole Campbell for her appointment as *Director of the Interdisciplinary Medical Science Program*.
- To Julio Martinez, Stefan Everling, and Wataru Inoue for their key roles in *NEURONEX*, a new network funded by Canada, the US, and Germany.
- To Michael Rieder and Gregory Gloor for winning an *NSERC Alliance* grant.
- To Marco Prado on his CFI grant.
- To Nicole Campbell and Sarah McLean for being named *Experiential Learning Innovation Scholars*.
- To Jonathan Michaels (supervised by Andrew Pruszynski) for winning a *Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship*.
- To our graduate students for the completion of their degrees:
 - Carol Ma –MSc (Qingping Feng)
 - Sandra Szlapinski - PhD (David Hill)
 - Mark Kim - PhD (Cheryle Seguin)
 - Laura Russell – PhD (Richard Kim)
 - Brianna Ananthan – MSc (David Hess)
- To graduate students for winning the following awards:

OGS Award

- Devika Jayawardena
- Theodore Wigle
- Nick Tonial
- Charles Trelford

- Victor Mirka
- Aminmohamed Manji
- Adrianna Tsang
- Brandon Baer

CGSM Award:

- McKenzie Carter
- Daniel Lam Sidun
- Megan Noble
- Mickenzie Martin

● **NSERC Doctoral Award:**

- Shelby Oke
- Rachel Wilson

● **CIHR Canadian Student Research Health Forum:**

- Shelby Oke, Honorable Mention

Welcome

- To our newest faculty Member, Dr. Matt Grol. Who joined us July 1, straight from Texas (after quarantine, of course). Matt's lab will be on the lower ground floor of DSB and his main focus will be on gene therapy for osteoarthritis.
- To all our new graduate students:
 - Nazihah Rasiwala (MSc) - David Hess
 - Petra Samardzija (MSc) - Chris Pin/Peter Stathopoulos
 - Sophie Enright (MSc) - Qingping Feng
 - Fatemehsadat Mousavi (MSc) - Chris Pin
 - Xiaoyi (Jessie) Wang (MSc) - Chris Pin
 - Tianhe Li (MSc) - Donglin Bai
 - Sukanthathulse Uthayabalan (MSc) - Peter Stathopoulos
 - Luigi Del Sordo (MSc) - Tom Appleton
 - Jasika Bashal (MSc) - Tom Appleton/Bryan Heit
 - Lynn Huong (MSc) - Tom Appleton
 - Kyra Keer (MSc) - Mike Rieder
 - Jihoon (Jason) Kwon (MSc) - Ute Schwarz
 - Sebastian Vanin Moreno (PhD) - Dan Hardy
 - Justin Clark (PhD) - Marlys Kochinsky

Undergraduate Studies Updates

Our new school year began on September 9th. Thank-you to all faculty and staff for the incredible work in launching our undergraduate program to an online format. Also, a special thanks to our two interns, Temitope Akintola and Samantha Ingham for working closely with instructors as we transitioned courses over the past couple of months.

Thank-you in advance to all faculty members interviewing potential fourth year students to mentor for this upcoming year. We know that it will be different this year, but your role in training thesis students is appreciated, even if it ends up being entirely virtual. We have an eager group of fourth year students joining our department, so we hope the virtual interview day goes well on Monday, September 14th.

Calendar

- September 21, 2020 – Department Meeting (2:00 pm via Zoom)
- November 3, 2020 - Stevenson Lecture and Research Day (Zoom Webinar)
- Upcoming Physiology and Pharmacology Seminars (3:00 pm via Zoom)
 - Sept. 21– Dr. Reza Sharif-Naeini, McGill University: *“Peripheral Sensors of Pain”*
 - Sept. 28 – Dr. Robert Laprairie, University of Saskatchewan: *“The Untapped potential of synthetic and naturally occurring cannabinoids”*

The full list of seminars can be viewed at:

[https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/physpharm/about us/seminar schedule.html](https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/physpharm/about_us/seminar_schedule.html)