

# Physiology and Pharmacology

## October 2023 Newsletter

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### Stay Connected

 [@westernuPandP](https://twitter.com/@westernuPandP)

 [PhysPharm](https://www.facebook.com/PhysPharm)



Happy Autumn,

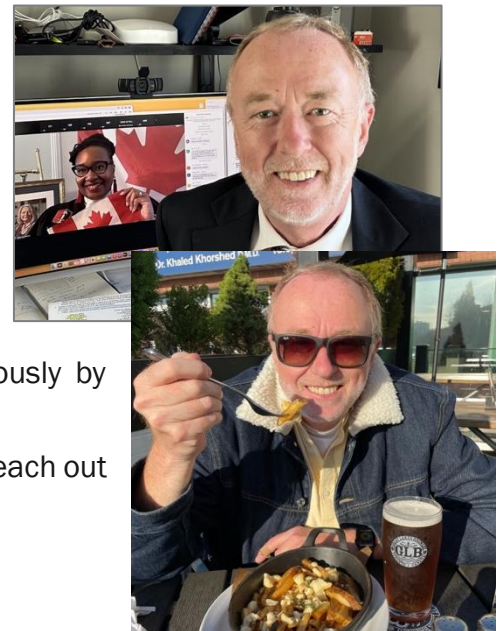
As we recover from the sugar high of Halloween and embrace the pumpkin spice flavor of the season, I hope that this first 'leg' of the term is going well for everyone. With midterms mostly in the rearview mirror, we can look forward to a number of exciting departmental events leading up to the end of this year. I hope to see everyone at the **Gowdey Lecture and Departmental Research Day** on Nov 6<sup>th</sup>, when the Great Hall will again be abuzz with student posters and science conversation. November also brings Western's Fall Preview Day welcoming the next generation of Mustangs to our halls.

Entering the second half of the term, I'd like to thank you all for the effort and enthusiasm so evident in our classrooms and research labs. Please keep your eyes on your inboxes for upcoming efforts in recruitment as well as social committee events. Please take a careful read through this month's newsletter for updates on all our department initiatives.

In the spirit of continuing to celebrate milestone events in our community, congratulations to our newest Canadian – Dr. Adrian Owen – pictured here taking his Canadian citizenship responsibilities seriously by celebrating with beer and poutine!

As always, please feel free to pop by or reach out with any questions or comments.

*Cheryle*



# Welcome

- ✧ Onon Batynam – Research Assistant with Sean Gill
- ✧ Mathilde Bertrand – Post Doc Associate with Andrew Pruszyński
- ✧ Jane Jacob – Administrative Assistant, PhysPharm Admin Office
- ✧ Alex Wu – Research Technician with Van Lu

## Congratulations

- ✧ Yong Jin Lim – completed his PhD degree (Supervisor: Brad Urquhart)

## Undergraduate Studies Update

Our semester has already passed the mid-way point, with most courses having completed midterm exams. The December exam schedule has already been finalized by the registrar and these dates are now posted for students to view. Exams have been scheduled between December 10<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Please note the other upcoming important dates:

Oct 30 – Nov 5 – Fall reading week

Nov 13, 2023 – Last day to withdraw from a first term half course without academic penalty

Nov 30, 2023 – Last day to drop full year course without academic penalty

Dec 8, 2023 – Last day of classes

Dec 9, 2023 – Study Day

Dec 10 – Dec 22, 2023 – Mid-year exam period

Jan 8, 2024 – Classes resume

In addition to all the activities that are occurring in our classes, we'd like to invite our fourth-year thesis course student to join us in attending the department's research day on Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. Our research day is an incredible opportunity for our undergraduate students to be further exposed to research through the poster sessions and podium presentations. We hope you can join us.

For information on Summer Research Award Opportunities, please visit

[https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/bmsc//research/summer\\_opportunities.html](https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/bmsc//research/summer_opportunities.html) . The Application portal will open on November 27, 2023.

# Graduate Studies Update



We were happy to welcome an impressive number of 27 new graduate students during the New Student Orientation that was held on September 21. With the input of the Graduate Student Council, we are working to help them and current graduate students with career planning opportunities. Stay tuned for more details!

## Research Committee Update

Watch for information and deadlines regarding the new Schulich Infrastructure Support (SIS) grant competition. This internal Schulich competition will be open to all PIs seeking funds (\$25,000 maximum) to acquire, develop or improve shared equipment directly used for research. The deadline for submitting applications will be December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**Happening soon!** The 2023 Department of Physiology and Pharmacology Gowdey Distinguished Lecture and Research Day will take place on **Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. Trainee poster presentations will be between 9:30am – 1:30pm in the Great Hall (Somerville House). Research talks will begin at 2:00 pm in the McKellar Room (UCC 290). These featured research talks will take you on an investigative journey starting with in vivo physiology, through a physiological subsystem focus and ending with subcellular communication. Our Trainee Speaker, Kendrick Lee (PhD candidate), will talk about “The Adverse Effects of Gestational Cannabinoid Exposure on Cardiac Outcomes in Offspring”, and our Junior Faculty Speaker, Dr. Matthew Grol, will present work on “Elucidating the Molecular Mechanisms of Mechanotransduction in Tendon”. Our Distinguished Lecturer will be Dr. Jennifer Lippincott-Schwartz from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute; the title of their keynote presentation is “Imaging Subcellular Organelle Structure, Dynamism and Interactions”. We hope to see everyone there!

Please send 2024 James A. F. Stevenson Distinguished speaker suggestions to Alycia Armstrong ([amorga7@uwo.ca](mailto:amorga7@uwo.ca)) and Peter Stathopoulos ([pstatho@uwo.ca](mailto:pstatho@uwo.ca))

Sparkling SoTL @ Schulich will hold a meeting on November 23, from 12:30-1:30 PM to discuss viewing our curriculum and research through both a decolonisation and indigenous learning lens. Those interested can RSVP to Christine Bell ([christine.bell@uwo.ca](mailto:christine.bell@uwo.ca)).

Finally, please join me in welcoming Zarrah Ling to our Department. Zarrah is our new Work Study student that will be working with faculty to maintain and update biographies on the Department website. If you would like Zarrah to help you with your biography, please contact Zarrah Ling ([zling29@uwo.ca](mailto:zling29@uwo.ca)) and Peter Stathopoulos ([pstatho@uwo.ca](mailto:pstatho@uwo.ca)) to set up a meeting.



# Health and Safety Committee Updates

As our academic year has begun and we have welcomed new graduate and undergraduate students this week, the Health and Safety Committee wishes to remind everyone, if you haven't not already done so:

- ✧ Keys can be requested here: [https://uwo.ca/fm/client\\_services/keys.html](https://uwo.ca/fm/client_services/keys.html)
- ✧ After hours building access is granted at the request of the supervisor. An email including the student name, student number, start and end date of access should be emailed to your building coordinator. For MSB/DSB that is Christie Vanderboor [cgodin2@uwo.ca](mailto:cgodin2@uwo.ca)
- ✧ Please ensure that students have the required health and safety training. A list of required courses and additional courses can be found here: <https://www.uwo.ca/hr/learning/required/index.html>  
Once students are appointed, they will have access to these courses in OWL.
- ✧ New employees and Graduate Students require the Supervisor to fill out a Hazard Communication Form. The form and more information can be found here.  
[https://www.uwo.ca/hr/safety/well\\_being/workplace\\_health.html](https://www.uwo.ca/hr/safety/well_being/workplace_health.html)

## Social Committee Updates

Thank you to everyone who came out to our Welcome Reception in September. We had over 100 faculty, students and staff in attendance to welcome new students to the Department and to take part in our Bingo challenge. Congratulations to our bingo winners!

- Shelly Ng
- Jonathan Nguyen
- Adrianna Busch



Our next social event: Holiday Party!!

The Social Committee is making plans for an in-person holiday luncheon party before the break. Please fill out the following Doodle poll to help us select a date. Details to be finalized and distributed soon.

<https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/ejn6Krve>





- **London Food**: we will distribute collection bins at various locations (outside Department office in Medical Sciences Building, Dental Science Building, Robarts, Victoria Hospital, and St. Joseph's Hospital).
- **My Sister's Place**: gift cards or cash donations will be collected in the Department office.

## EDID Committee Updates

BrainsCAN has launched an EDI funding call that will fund opportunities to improve knowledge and understanding of EDI. All Western faculty, staff and trainees are eligible to apply. This is an excellent opportunity for our department to secure funds in support of this initiative. The EDID committee will work to coordinate applications. These are still early stages, and anyone interested in participating or providing feedback and ideas can contact either Lina Dagnino or Wataru Inoue. Additional information on this BrainsCAN initiative can be found at [https://brainscan.uwo.ca/programs/EDI\\_funding\\_call.html](https://brainscan.uwo.ca/programs/EDI_funding_call.html).

The deadline for application is Jan 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

# Upcoming Seminars

The Department of Physiology and Pharmacology 2023 Fall/Winter Series All lectures will be held at 3:00 p.m. in MSB 384 unless otherwise noted	
	<p>Date: <b>Monday, November 20 (MSB 384 and Zoom)</b></p> <p>Speaker: Baptiste Lacoste, PhD</p> <p>Title: <i>“Vascular and glial determinants of brain development”</i></p> <p>Host: <b>Rithwik Ramachandran</b></p>
	<p>Date: <b>Monday, November 27 (MSB 384 and Zoom)</b></p> <p>Speaker: Tallulah Andrews, PhD</p> <p>Title: <i>“Single cell, Single nucleus and Spatial transcriptomics of liver”</i></p> <p>Host: Chris Pin</p>
This Seminar Series is Sponsored by the Mogenson Trust. Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry	