Hello everyone,

It is hard to believe that this term is almost over. Thank you everyone for your hard work and dedication. As we are learning again these last few days, the end of the pandemic is still uncertain, but we certainly have made progress in managing it and have learned a lot. With that, I hope the last few weeks before the holidays will be smooth, and we can then all enjoy a well-deserved break.

As you have likely heard and expected, we will not have a Holiday event this year again. Instead, the Social Committee is organizing a fundraiser for a local charity. Please complete the emailed survey to determine the agency(ies) that we will target. Stay tuned for updates and details!

The New Year will be busy with a return to strategic planning and in parallel our self-study, on top of all the regular activities. If you have thoughts on either of these items, please let me know so I can incorporate them in my own thinking process.

I will be in touch before the holidays. Until then, all the best

Frank
Congratulations!!!

To Poster Award Winners from our 2021 Charles W. Gowdey Research Day:

J. Malcolm O. Arnold Cardiovascular Award
  o Brent Tschirhart – Supervisor: Qingping Feng

Cancer and Cell Biology
  o Stephanie Wojtowicz – Supervisor: John DiGuglielmo
  o Samar Sayedyahossein – Supervisor: Lina Dagnino
  o Honourable Mention: Kyra Keer – Supervisor: Michael Rieder

Clinical & Basic Pharmacology Award
  o Garmen Shelly Ng – Supervisor: Peter Chidiac
  o Nicole Sidor – Supervisor: Brad Urquhart

Developmental Biology
  o Jennifer Carleton – Tom Drysdale

Reproductive Biology, Endocrinology & Metabolism
  o Rachel Wilson – Supervisor: Nica Borradaile

Neuroscience
  o Gurneet Jassal – Supervisor: Wei-Yang Lu

Bone & Joint
  o Luigi Michael Del Sordo – Supervisor: Tom Appleton

New Student
  o Danielle Colussi – Supervisor: Peter Stathopulos
  o Karly Masse – Supervisor: Van Lu
  o Xin Yue Sharon Xie – Supervisor: David Hess
To graduate students for winning the following awards:

- **George W. Stavraky Award** – Aminmohamed Manji  
  (Supervisor: Sean Gill)
- **Hari and Gudrun Sharma Award** – Charles Trelford  
  (Supervisor: John DiGuglielmo)
- **Murray Fraser Award** – Megan Noble  
  (Supervisor: Peter Stathopulos)
- **Esme Walker Award** – Brandon Baer  
  (Supervisor: Ruud Veldhuizen)
- **Bill Bottom Award** – Ermina Hadzic  
  (Supervisor: Frank Beier)
- **Gordon J. Mogenson Award** – Kendrick Lee  
  (Supervisor: Dan Hardy)
- **Margaret Moffat Award** – Pierre Thibeault  
  (Supervisor: Rithwik Ramachandran)
- **Physiology and Pharmacology Graduate Student Council (PPGSC) Award** – Tom Lin  
  (Supervisor: Peter Stathopulos)

To graduate students for the completion of their degrees:

- **Victor Mirka** – MSc (Rithwik Ramachandran)
- **Alex Peidl** – PhD (Andrew Leask)

**Welcome**
- Emilie Jaune-Pons, Post Doctoral Associate (Chris Pin)
- Aaron Simkovich, Post Doctoral Associate (Brad Urquhart)
Undergraduate Studies Updates

- The fall term is coming to an end with the last day of classes on December 8th. The exam period is set for December 10th until the 21st. Students writing in this exam period will not be able to use a self-reported absence as the exam period excludes the use of that option for accommodation by students. If a student is unwell and cannot make your exam, they must submit documentation directly to their academic counselling office. You will receive notification from the counselling office if a student has permission to write the makeup.

- We have one departmental makeup date set tentatively for Wednesday, January 5th, times of day to be decided. There is a small possibility that the makeup date may need to change as there is currently a motion that was put forth by students to delay the start of the second semester to the week of January 10th. We won’t know if this will occur until after the vote by Senate. If that occurs, all of our courses would begin classes a week later than planned. We will update you if that motion is passed by Senate late this week.

- For those of you supervising fourth year thesis students, we have communicated with your students that it will be important for them to initiate a conversation with you to discuss their research time within your labs during the exam period. Students should be permitted time to study for their exams, but we are recommending reduced hours. Your student should also be letting you know of the last day they plan on being in your lab before they go home for the holidays and when they will return to resume in the new year (you can expect the first week of classes).

Graduate Studies Updates

- The Ontario Graduate Scholarships application opens on December 10, 2021 and closes on February 1, 2022. Students are encouraged to complete these applications with care, so that each section is the best possible reflection of their achievements. Referees are encouraged to
provide references as early as possible once requested, to assist students in timely completion of their applications.

https://grad.uwo.ca/finances/external_funding/ogs.html

Research Update

• The Virtual 2021 Charles W. Gowdey Distinguished Lecture and Research Day with trainee speaker Dr. Hiroyuki Igarashi from the Inoue lab and keynote speaker Dr. Brian Kobilka from Stanford, a 2012 Nobel Laureate for GPCR signaling, was a great success. A big thank you to all poster presenters, speakers, judges, faculty and admin staff for their help and support organizing, participating in and running this event.

• The 2022 James A.F. Stevenson Distinguished Lecture & Research Day will be held on Tuesday, November 1, 2022. Our keynote lecturer will be Dr. Tak Mak, Director of the Campbell Family Institute for Breast Cancer Research, Senior Scientist at Princess Margaret Hospital and Professor at the University of Toronto (Departments of Medical Biophysics and Immunology).

• The next virtual Lunch and Learn session will take place on Thursday, February 24, 2022. Our speakers will be Lee-Ann Briere, Heidi Liao and Kristina Jurcic, and the topic will be focused on the facilities and research/analysis capabilities of the London Regional Proteomics Centre. If you have suggestions for future sessions, please forward them by email to Peter Stathopulos and Penny Sim.

• Our undergraduate student, Tiffany Zhao, has been continuing with faculty biography updates this term and will be with us again next term. Please let Peter Stathopulos know if you would like to urgently have your biography on the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology website updated.
Calendar

- Dec 10 – Van Lu, New Faculty Seminar (noon via Zoom)
  https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/95463206655#success

- Upcoming Physiology and Pharmacology Seminars (3:00 pm via Zoom)
  - Dec. 6 – Dr. Mark Chandy, Western University: “Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells for Disease Modeling”
  - Dec. 13 – Kyoung-Han Kim, University of Ottawa: “Individual and overlapping roles of Iroquois transcription factors in the heart”

The full list of seminars can be viewed at:
https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/physpharm/about_us/seminar_schedule.html

- Jan 17/22 – Department Meeting (1:30 pm via Zoom)