

# Physiology and Pharmacology

## December 2023 Newsletter

### In This Issue

Welcome  
Congratulations  
Farewell  
Undergraduate Updates  
Graduate Updates  
Research Updates  
Health and Safety  
Committee Updates  
Social Committee Updates  
EDID Updates

Graduate Student Council  
Updates

#### Upcoming Events:

January 15, 2024  
Department Meeting

#### Upcoming Seminars:

Thursday, January 18  
Monday, January 22  
Monday, January 29

#### Save the Date for New Faculty Seminars:

Friday, February 9  
Dr. Faraj Haddad  
Friday, May 10  
Dr. Flory Muanda  
Dr. Oana Birceanu

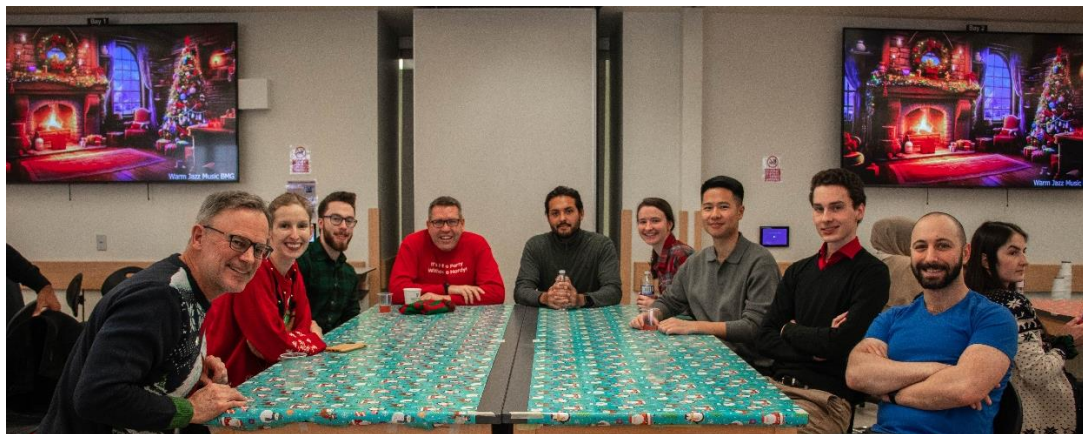
### Stay Connected



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



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



As we approach the holiday break and reflect on 2023, our Department has much to be proud of. Thank you all for your hard work and contributions that make this Department such a great place – you have all contributed to making our classrooms and research labs wonderful places to learn and train!

Please take a moment to read through the latest Departmental news and updates, with a reminder to send in any announcements or congratulations as they occur.

I hope everyone will take some much-deserved time to relax and rest over the holiday break and spend time with loved ones without worrying about exam marking, lecture schedules, papers/thesis writing, or grant deadlines!

*Cheryle*



Happy Holidays and best wishes  
for the New Year!

# Welcome

✧ Laura Gonzalez – Research Associate with Dr. Adrian Owen

## Congratulations

✧ To Taylor Schmitz and Marieka Mur on the safe arrival of their son, Florian



“Born October 27, 2023 at 2:05 AM at 8 pounds 4 oz. Baby is happy and healthy. Mom is doing great! Dad is trying his best!”

✧ To all of our Research Day and Grad Student Award Winners



### Poster Award Winners

#### Malcolm Arnold Presentation Award in Cardiovascular Sciences

- Lucas Miguel de Souza - Supervisor: Ruud Veldhuizen

#### Cardiovascular Sciences

- Agnes Terek - Supervisor: Dave Hess

#### Cancer and Cell Biology

- Aswin Sureshkumar - Supervisor: Chris Pin
- Petra Samardzija – Supervisor: Chris Pin

#### Clinical and Basic Pharmacology

- Garmen Ng – Supervisor: Peter Chidiac

#### Reproductive Biology, Endocrinology & Metabolism

- Timothy Nunes – Supervisor: Timothy Regnault

#### Neuroscience

- Julia Sunstrum - Supervisors: Wataru Inoue/Julio Martinez-Trujillo

## Bone and Joint

- Garth Blackler – Supervisor: Tom Appleton
- Amr Mousa – Supervisor: Rithwik Ramachandran
- Jeffrey Hutchinson – Supervisor: Cheryle Séguin

## New Students

- Han Yu Jiang – Supervisor: Tom Appleton
- Elizabeth Cui – Supervisor: Richard Kim
- Jessica Twumasi – Supervisor: Nica Borradaile

## Annual Graduate Student awards:

- Hari and Gudrun Sharma Award – James Lim
- Esme Walker Award – David Hawke
- Gordon J. Mogenson Award – Ermina Hadzic
- Murray Fraser Award – Chen Jun Gao
- George W. Stavrakys Award – Adrianna Tsang
- Physiology and Pharmacology Graduate Student Council (PPGSC) Award – Aminmohamed Manji
- David T. Armstrong Award - Kendrick Lee

## ✧ To graduate students for the completion of their degrees:

- Nika Khajehdehi – MSc (Julio Martinez-Trujillo)
- Rachel Wilson – PhD (Nica Borradaile)
- Stephanie Wojtowicz-Piotrowski - PhD (John DiGuglielmo)

# Farewell

✧ Wishing Dawn Bryce (Beier and Grol labs) all the best on her retirement!

# Undergraduate Studies Update

With the exam season ending, we are looking forward to the new year. We know this time of the season is busy but appreciate the efforts made by everyone with their classes, to both our faculty, graduate student teaching assistants and staff. Thank you for your hard work this past term.

For courses about to start in January, most syllabi have been reviewed and OWL sites are getting closer to being published. We will let you know when your OWL site is ready to go and will begin releasing these for students to view in the new year.

# Graduate Studies Update

The internal deadline for OGS applications for international students (and domestic students that were not eligible for tri-council funding) is January 31, 2024. The application should include a research proposal (maximum 2 pages), a special circumstances commentary (maximum 1 page) and a CV (maximum 5 pages). Please forward your applications to John Di Guglielmo or Olga Krougly.

# Research Committee Update

On Monday, November 6th, the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology hosted the 2023 Charles W. Gowdey Distinguished Lecture and Research Day. The day began with our Annual Research Day poster presentations where Grad Students had an opportunity to present a poster of their research. There were 65 student poster presentations with 13 students taking home awards for their presentations. Congratulations to all presenters and winners! The Charles W. Gowdey Distinguished Lecture took place in the afternoon with an outstanding trainee talk from Kendrick Lee (PhD Candidate) and engaging Junior Faculty presentation by Dr. Matthew Grol. Our 2023 distinguished guest speaker, Dr. Jennifer Lippincott-Schwartz, gave an illuminating lecture on Imaging Subcellular Organelle Structure, Dynamism and Interactions.

The Physiology and Pharmacology Research Committee would like to say a special thank you to Dr. Lippincott-Schwartz and the Gowdey Family, as well as all students, staff, and faculty members for their support and contributions to Research Day. We would also like to thank our sponsors Schulich Research and the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies for their generous financial support.



**Mark your calendars!** Our next Lunch and Learn presentation is scheduled to take place early in 2024. Dr. David Hess will be presenting an overview on the applications and use of the London Regional Flow Cytometry Facility on **Thursday January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 12:00 pm**. As always, please send suggestions for more Lunch and Learn topics to Peter Stathopoulos ([pstatho@uwo.ca](mailto:pstatho@uwo.ca)).

Sparkling Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) at Schulich will host a conversation about how our words matter in an EDID framework. Please join us on **Thursday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 in MSB212A from 12:30-1:30 PM** to discuss integrating EDID concepts throughout your Teaching and Learning Scholarship grants and papers.

Zarrah Ling continues her work on updating Faculty biographies for the Department website. If you would like your biography update expedited, 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

1. With the start of the New Year, we wish to remind all of you that the 3 page “**Emergency Response Refresher**” needs to be completed **EVERY YEAR**, and signed by all HQP and then emailed to Courtney Voss ([cvoss2@uwo.ca](mailto:cvoss2@uwo.ca)). This includes 4<sup>th</sup> year students. Paper copies are available in the Department office.
2. In addition, all HQP (including 4th years) and staff have completed a Hazard Communication Form (<https://webapps.uwo.ca/positionhazard>). If you don't know which of your trainees/staff have this completed (or not), you can email Courtney Voss ([cvoss2@uwo.ca](mailto:cvoss2@uwo.ca)) with a list of your HQP and her nurse can let you know who has completed it.



3. Please note that through Health and Occupational Safety, HQP are entitled to **free prescription safety glasses**. If interested, please contact Courtney Voss ([cvoss2@uwo.ca](mailto:cvoss2@uwo.ca)) and you can order yours at Campus Vision at UCC.

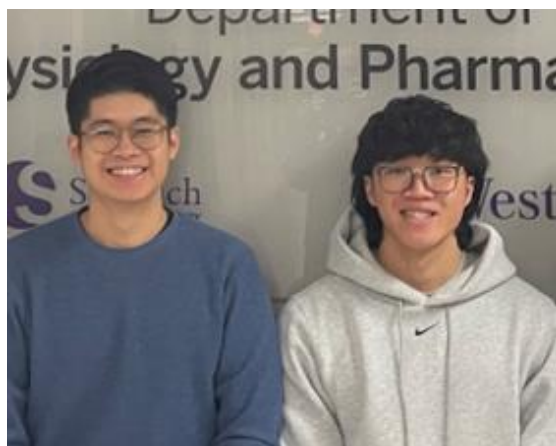
## Social Committee Updates

### Holiday Luncheon:

Thank you to everyone who came out to our annual Holiday party. What a great way to end 2023 over a festive lunch (the wait made it all the better) and fun games gift-wrapping pipettes, scooping bows, and of course, holiday trivia!



Congratulations to our Trivia contest & Raffle draw winners!



More photos from the party can be viewed through this link: [Holiday Lunch Photos 2023](#).

### Local Charities Fundraiser:

We collected 203 lbs of food and \$245 for the London Food bank, and over \$355 in donations for My Sisters' Place. Thank you for your generosity and support of our community.

Have a great Holiday break and we'll see you at our next Social event in 2024!

# EDID Committee Updates

Through a collaboration between the EDID, Undergraduate, and Graduate PhysPharm committees, together with Brian Corneil, Jessica Grahn, and Cheryl Séguin, a LOI was recently submitted to the BrainsCAN EDI funding call, and we have been invited to follow up with a full proposal submission on Jan 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024.



## Graduate Student Council Updates

The PPGSC social committee and TA stewards hosted a holiday white elephant gift exchange social event held alongside the TA solidarity event on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:30–9:00 PM at the Grad Club.



The PPGSC intramural volleyball team is on the waitlist for registration, we will find out on January 14<sup>th</sup> if we are able to form an intramural volleyball team for the winter semester. The PPGSC is forming a new committee for career-related workshops and events, keep an eye out for emails from Mandy if you are interested in helping out. The PPGSC would also like to highlight student achievements (i.e., papers, conference presentations, awards, etc.) in future newsletters and on the PPGSC social media channels. Please

forward anything you would like us to highlight and share to Serge ([slucaciu@uwo.ca](mailto:slucaciu@uwo.ca)) or Ryan ([rarmst42@uwo.ca](mailto:rarmst42@uwo.ca)).





# Upcoming Seminars

The Department of Physiology and Pharmacology 2024 Winter/Spring Series All lectures will be held at 3:00 p.m. in MSB 384 unless otherwise noted	
	<p>Date: <b>Thursday, January 18 (DSB 1002 and Zoom)</b></p> <p>Speaker: Wanjun Chen, PhD</p> <p>Title: <i>"TGF-beta regulation of immune responses &amp; neuron function in diseases &amp; immunotherapy"</i></p> <p>Host: <b>Wei-Yang Lu</b></p>
	<p>Date: <b>Monday, January 22 (MSB 384 and Zoom)</b></p> <p>Speaker: Kendrick Lee, PhD Candidate</p> <p>Title: <i>"The effects of gestational cannabinoid exposure on postnatal cardiac outcomes in offspring"</i></p> <p>Host: <b>Dan Hardy</b></p>
	<p>Date: <b>Monday, January 29 (MSB 384 and Zoom)</b></p> <p>Speaker: Marlys Koschinsky, PhD</p> <p>Title: <i>"TBA"</i></p> <p>Host: <b>Chris Pin</b></p>
This Seminar Series is Sponsored by the Mogenson Trust. Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry	



See you in 2024!