

# Physiology and Pharmacology Newsletter

## December 2019

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](mailto:fbeier@uwo.ca). Awards, grants, invited lectures, new lab members...

Wow, another year is almost over. Thanks everyone for your contributions in 2019. This is a great department, and it is a pleasure to work with all of you (well, most of the time at least....). I hope you all will take time over the holidays to relax, spend time with loved ones, and forget about grants, papers, thesis, marks, etc. for a bit. The new year will bring new opportunities and challenges, and we will look to all of you to help move the department forward.

On a personal note, thank you to all who reached out in response to my health challenge. Sorry, I did not have time to respond to all the messages of support and comfort, but I truly appreciate them. As a quick update, my surgery is scheduled for January 30, and I expect that I will be recovering for 1 – 2 months after. Cheryle will be the Acting Chair – please make it as easy as possible for her! Many of you offered your support which is fantastic to see.

As always, any feedback is welcome.

Happy Holidays and all the best for 2020!

Frank

## **Congratulations!!!**

- To Cheryle Séguin for winning both an Operating Grant and a STAR Career Development Grant from The Arthritis Society!
- To Melissa Fenech for the successful defense of her PhD thesis (supervisor Chris Pin)
- To Joshua Dierolf (supervisor Dean Betts) for winning the grand prize at the “Cells I See” science and art competition at the Till & McCulloch Meeting. We look forward to displaying his creation in the Department!

## **Undergraduate Studies Updates**

We have had a busy semester and final exams are concluding. We have one department exam makeup date set for **January 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm**, please do not permit your students to write at any other time and co-ordinate the number of students requiring a makeup with Michele.

We have learned over this first semester that quite a number of students were absent and unable to complete third- and fourth-year course evaluations at their originally scheduled times. This increase in absences is largely in part to the new university mechanism of students being able to self-declare an absence. Since some of these evaluations are challenging to offer again, providing a different type of makeup, as long as it is considered equivalent, is fair. Any course manager for a second semester course that is concerned about how to manage evaluation absences, please come to see me and I would be happy to work with you on how to clarify how makeups are handled in your courses. Carefully wording this in your syllabi may reduce the rate of student absences in your courses.

## **Graduate Studies Update**

A reminder for students to apply for OGS. Info is below:

**The Ontario Graduate Scholarships/QEII Graduate Scholarships in Science and Technology (OGS/QEII-GSST)** online application opened

October 1, 2019. For timeline and deadlines, eligibility and application process, please visit the SGPS website:

[https://grad.uwo.ca/finances/external\\_funding/ogs.html](https://grad.uwo.ca/finances/external_funding/ogs.html)

Final submission deadline is **January 31, 2020.**

## Calendar

- January 16 – Lunch and Learn ““Stem Cell Cultures” by Dean Betts and Lauren Flynn (12:00 pm MSB212A/B)
- January 20 – Department Meeting
- Upcoming Physiology and Pharmacology Seminars (3:30 pm in MSB 384)
  - January 13: Dr. Majid Mohajerani, University of Lethbridge: *“Mapping the spatiotemporal dynamics of hippocampal-cortical dynamics in health and Alzheimer’s disease”*
  - January 27 – Dr. Facundo Garcia-Bournissen, Department of Paediatrics: *“Developing medications for pediatric neglected diseases – challenges and opportunities”*

Full list of the Winter/Spring seminars can be found at:

[https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/physpharm/about\\_us/seminar\\_schedule.html](https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/physpharm/about_us/seminar_schedule.html)