



NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

PHYSIOLOGY and PHARMACOLOGY

Message from the Chair

Welcome to the newest edition of our newsletter. Last week we had another fantastic Research Day and Stevenson Lecture, with vibrating poster sessions and three fantastic talks. Thank you so much to our Research Committee and to our Administrative Team for organizing this event so well! I am already looking forward to next year!

We also had a productive retreat a few weeks back, laying some ground work for the IQAP review of our undergraduate and graduate programs. Thanks to everyone who came out and contributed! You will hear a lot more about these reviews as we make our way through the applications, and you will be asked for more feedback and (for faculty) some documents as well. Stay tuned.....

Other than that, it is hard to believe that we are more than half way through this term, although the weather finally appears to be more seasonal. Finals are only a few weeks away.... There is a little bit of a lull in grant submissions (for most agencies at least), but that is offset by grant review activities for many of us. Hopefully you will still be able to take advantage of a few more quiet weeks leading up to the holidays.

With that, enjoy these fall days, and as always feel free to stop by to chat or comment!

Frank

This issue:

Welcome

Congratulations

Committee Updates:

Undergraduate
Graduate
Research
EDID
Health & Safety
Social

Graduate Student Council

Upcoming Events:

Department Meeting
Mon, Nov 25th

Upcoming Seminars:

Mon, Nov 18
Mon, Nov 25
Mon, Dec 2

Stay Connected



@westernuPandP



PhysPharm

WELCOME

MARYAM AL-KHANNAQ – Postdoctoral Scholar with Drs. Rithwik Ramachandran and Peter Chidiac

JEFF HUTCHINSON – Postdoctoral Associate with Dr. Cheryle Séguin

TAYLOR LAKE – Laboratory Technician, PhysPharm Teaching Labs

CONGRATULATIONS

MARLYS KOSCHINSKY – appointed to the Order of Ontario.

KATELIN FUNG – from Dr. Rieder's laboratory won the Best 3 Minute Talk at the Western Undergraduate Day. Her work involved the development of non-invasive sensor systems to characterize and count blood cells in children.

DALE LAIRD – Appointed as Acting Chair, Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology

RICHARD KIM – Recognized for his outstanding achievements and leadership by the Royal Society of Canada.

To graduate students for the completion of their degrees:

KENDRICK LEE – PhD (Dan Hardy)

LYNN HUONG – MSc (Tom Appleton)

ANISHA THOMAS – MSc (Matthew Grol)

NADIA HAGHBIN – PhD (Don Welsh)

JEFFREY HUTCHINSON – PhD (Cheryle Séguin)

ADRIANNA TSANG – PhD (Stephen Pasternak)

2024 Graduate Award Winners:

- Hari and Gudrun Sharma Award – **FATEMEH MOUSAVI**
- Gordon J. Mogenson Award – **ROBERT WONG**
- Esme Walker Award – **RACHEL WILSON**
- Margaret Moffat Award – **KENDRICK LEE**
- Murray Fraser Award – **ARINE PAWAKIAN**
- David T. Armstrong Award – **VIRGINIA WOLFE**
- George W. Stavrakys Award – **ZOYA LEHMAN**
- Physiology and Pharmacology Graduate Student Council (PPGSC) Award – **ERMINA HADZIC**



Dr. Marlys Koschinsky has been appointed to the Order of Ontario by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and Chancellor of the Order of Ontario. This honour is awarded to individuals whose achievements within their field has had a profound and lasting effect on the province.



Congratulations to Dr. Richard Kim on being recognized for his outstanding achievements and leadership by the Royal Society of Canada (RSC). Fellowship in the RSC is one of the highest research honours attainable by Canadian scholars, researchers and artists.



Undergraduate Studies Update

I hope everyone's teaching term is going well. Midterm season is behind us and so it is time to look ahead to final exams. First, let's thank Michele Grigg for her hard work during the busy midterm period—this was an enormous task for her, especially with our new Gradescope bubble sheets and Brightspace platform. THANK YOU Michele!

The final exam schedule was posted a few weeks ago in Extranet, so please mark your calendars if you are managing a course this semester. The last day of classes is Friday, Dec 6th with exams starting on Monday, Dec 9th until Sunday, Dec 22nd. Please make sure to coordinate your exam submission with Michele well in advance to ensure printing deadlines are met. For those supervising Phys/Pharm 4980 students, please allow students to reduce their hours in the lab during this time so they can focus a bit more on studying.

The drop date for semester 1 half-courses and full-year courses is December 2nd, so you may still see movement out of your courses. Classes resume on Monday, January 6th and our makeup exam date for students missing final exams will tentatively be Thurs & Fri, Jan 9/10. We will follow up with course managers soon.

Lastly, our new academic consideration portal is up and running. Michele has sent emails to help inform everyone about best practices. If you have any concerns or issues, please let me know (abeye2@uwo.ca). Please note: students will not be permitted to use an undocumented absence for any exams held during the December exam period.

Just a few weeks to go, everyone. We've got this!



Graduate Studies Update

A big thank you to all the participants of the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis at the Grad Program retreat. The Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) team will be using the invaluable information and suggestions to work on the IQAP review documents.



A gentle reminder that the Tri-Agency Master's Scholarships Awards deadline is coming up. Timeline for applications:

- December 1: Application deadline (before 8:00 p.m. EST).
- December 2 - March 31: Western adjudicate awards.
- April 1: SGPS posts results to the Research Portal.

Research Committee Update

Lunch and Learn

Many thanks to Dr. Taylor Schmitz for presenting the fall Lunch and Learn session: "Deciphering Neuronal Computation and Communication with Stimulus-evoked Neuronal Oscillations: From EEG and fMRI." Our next session in March will feature a presentation from Noldus Technologies on Methods and Tools for Behavioral Research. Stay tuned for more details.

Research Day

The 2024 James A.F. Stevenson Research Day and Distinguished Lecture was held on November 7th. We featured 63 excellent poster presentations from trainees as well as a terrific trainee talk from Robert Wong (PhD Student with Dr. Bai). Congratulations to all the presentation award winners!!



AT DR. TAYLOR SCHMITZ'S
OCTOBER LUNCH & LEARN,
HAYLEY MURRAY
DEMONSTRATED THE EEG
NEURO CAP



ROBERT WONG
PRESENTING AT RESEARCH
DAY



RESEARCH DAY POSTER AWARD WINNERS

Cancer and Cell Biology:

FATEMEH MOUSAVI – Supervisor: Chris Pin

ZOYA LEHMAN – Supervisor: Peter Stathopoulos

Cardiovascular Sciences

JAY (CHANGSHENG) DING – Supervisor: Qingping Feng

ALEXANDRA TROITSKAYA – Supervisors: Sean Gill/Rudolf Veldhuizen

VICKY (YANWEN) LI – Supervisor: Qingping Feng

Clinical and Basic Pharmacology

ROBERT MENZIES – Supervisor: Rithwik Ramachandran

ELIZABETH CUI – Supervisor: Richard Kim

DANIELLE COLUSSI – Supervisor: Peter Stathopoulos

Reproductive Biology, Endocrinology & Metabolism

NOURAN AL-BANAA – Supervisor: David Hess

Developmental Biology:

RYLEIGH VAN NECK – Supervisor: Qingping Feng

Bone and Joint

DARREN (HANYU) JIANG – Supervisor: Tom Appleton

GARTH BLACKLER – Supervisor: Tom Appleton

New Students

ABINACI BAHRA – Supervisor: Brad Urquhart

EMILY WHITE – Supervisor: Frank Beier

RYAN FALCONER – Supervisor: Emily Day

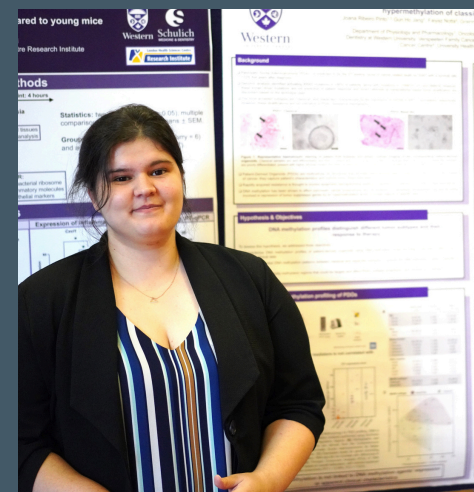
The research day also featured an engaging Junior faculty presentation from Dr. Taylor Schmitz and the Keynote Speaker, Dr. Stanley Nattel gave an excellent lecture highlighting his lifetime of research into atrial fibrillation. The Physiology and Pharmacology Research Committee would like to say a special thank you to Dr. Nattel and the Stevenson Family, as well as all students, staff, and faculty members for their support and contributions to the annual research day. We would also like to thank our sponsors, the Mogenson Trust, the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, Research Office - Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, Western Research and the Society of Graduate Students for their generous financial support.

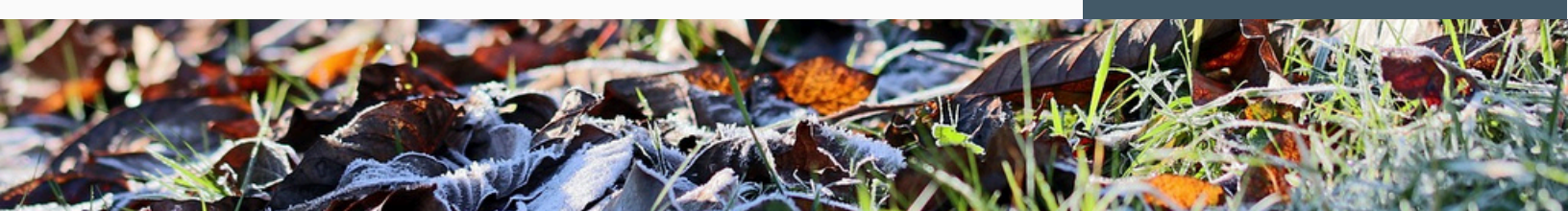


DR. TAYLOR SCHMITZ
PRESENTING



DR. STANLEY NATTEL
GIVING THE JAMES A.F.
STEVENSON
DISTINGUISHED LECTURE



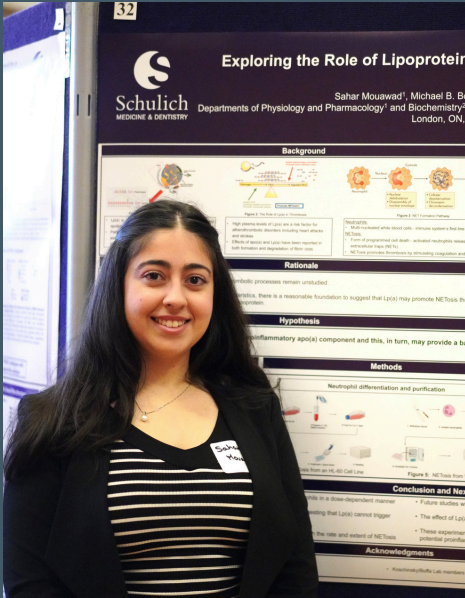
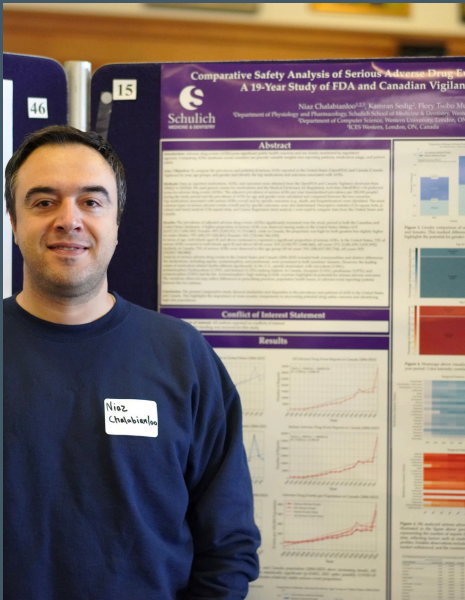
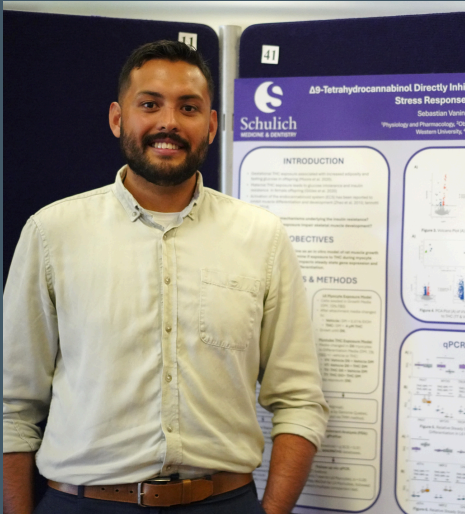


Faculty Biographies

We have a new work study student, Merna Saleem, helping update faculty biographies. Merna will be reaching out to schedule interviews to update biographies on the Department Website. If you would like your update expedited, please contact Merna (msalee29@uwo.ca) and Rithwik Ramachandran (rramach@uwo.ca) to set up a meeting. Please also let us know if you would like to highlight any research related stories on the department website news feed and Merna can assist with putting this together.



GRADUATE AWARDS AND RESEARCH DAY POSTER WINNERS





EDID Committee Update

The EDID Committee thanks our outgoing student representative, Kendrick Lee, for his valuable contributions and warmly welcomes our new and old members back: Garth Blackler as the CREDIT consultant/representative; Wesley Phi Song Tran and Jennifer Carleton as the newly elected graduate student representatives. Additionally, we are seeking a new postdoctoral fellow representative following Jonathan Michael's transition to a faculty position at York University—congratulations to Jonathan, and thank you for your service! A call for applications will be sent out soon.

Looking ahead, the committee is organizing EDID-focused seminars and workshops. We welcome nominations for themes and potential speakers to help shape these events.”

Health and Safety Committee Update

Please note changes to our 911 service;
All 911 calls will go directly to the London Police Service 911 Communication Centre. For Non-emergencies, please call Western Special Constable Services at 519-661-3300 or Ext 83300.

In an emergency, you should still call 911. Please do stay on the line though with the operator as they will require additional information from you that is now not available to them. They will coordinate the relevant emergency service with our own Western Special Constable Service (WSCS).

If you need the Student Emergency Response Team (SERT), you call 911, their dispatch will coordinate with Western Special Constable Services and send them to you. If you need a first aid representative, call Ext. 83330. If in doubt, please call 911.



Dr. Nicole Campbell is featured in Schulich's biweekly digest 'The Pulse' on The Hidden Curriculum

[LINK TO ARTICLE](#)



Dr. Adrian Owen is featured in Schulich's biweekly digest 'The Pulse' on video games and cognitive performance

[LINK TO ARTICLE](#)



Social Committee Update

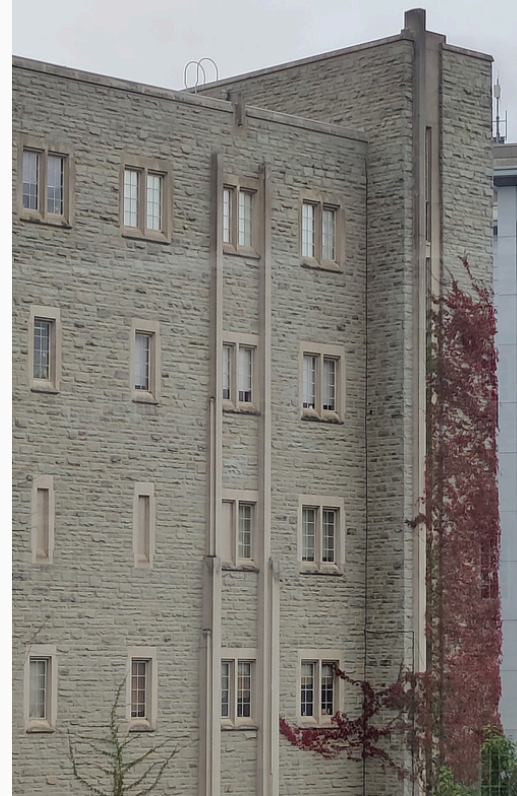
On October 18th, a group of PhysPharm students, staff, and faculty members battled it out on the court, marking the department's first venture into Pickleball! Despite it being many of the attendees' first time playing, it was clear that everyone in the department were born to be (pickle)ballers. We would like to thank everyone who made it out to the event, including a couple of extremely enthusiastic fans.

In the coming weeks, you can look out for more communication about the department's annual holiday lunch, where the social committee will organize some fun activities and competitions to liven up the party! In the meantime, you can always message Faraj (fhaddad2@uwo.ca) or Ruud (rveldhui@uwo.ca) if you have suggestions for future social events.

Graduate Student Council Update

Our PPGSC intramural volleyball team is having a fantastic season! We've been playing hard, seeing some great wins, and most importantly, having a lot of fun together on the court. If you're interested in joining, we'd love to have more players next semester—no experience necessary, just bring your enthusiasm!

Also, don't forget to sign up for Science Rendezvous and the upcoming high school outreach event. They're great opportunities to get involved, inspire young minds, and make a difference. For any questions, feel free to reach out to John (jwan2588@uwo.ca) or Sahar (smouawa2@uwo.ca).



PPGSC VOLLEYBALLERS

Upcoming Seminars

The Department of Physiology and Pharmacology 2024 Fall/Winter Series

All lectures held at 3:00 p.m. in MSB 384 and on Zoom unless otherwise noted



Date: Monday, November 18
Speaker: Geoff Pickering, MD PhD
Western University

"Integrating form and function to understand life-threatening vascular disease"

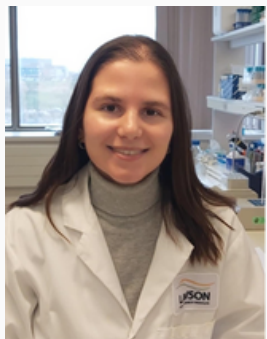
Host: Chris Pin



Date: Monday, November 25
Speaker: Fatemeh Mousavi, PhD candidate
Western University

"Defining the epigenetic changes promoted by oncogenic KRAS in pancreatic cancer progression"

Host: Chris Pin



Date: Monday, December 2
Speaker: Petra Samardzija, PhD candidate
Western University

"Elucidating the role of SPCA2C and calumin in pancreatic calcium signaling"

Hosts: Chris Pin/Peter Stathopoulos

We love celebrating our accomplishments, in and out of the lab.
Please share your stories, pictures and newsworthy items for
upcoming editions! Send emails to jjacob62@uwo.ca.