

Physiology and Pharmacology Newsletter

January/February 2021

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. Awards, grants, invited lectures, new lab members...

I hope most of us have somehow settled into the rhythm of online teaching and working from home for the majority of our time. On the other hand, I (and probably most or all of you) greatly miss seeing our students, staff, and colleagues in person. Let's hope the encouraging trends that we see will continue and that immunization rates will pick up before new virus mutations outrun them.

Thank you to everyone who attended our EDI/racism workshop last month. It was well attended, with insightful discussions and a great presentation by Dr. Nicole Kaniki. As promised, this was the first step, and there will be updates on our next steps shortly.

Enjoy the last weeks of winter and reading week!

Frank

Welcome

- Dr. Nicolle Domnik – new Assistant Professor
- Dr. Vishal Bharmauria – Research Associate with Julio Martinez-Trujillo
- Dr. Samar Sayedyahosseini – Post-Doctoral Fellow with Lina Dagnino
- To our new graduate students:
 - Jiwon Hahm (MSc) – David Hill
 - Gurneet Jassal (MSc) – Wei-Yang Lu
 - Virginia Wolfe (MSc) – Dean Betts/ Andrew Watson

Congratulations!!!

- Ermina Hadzic on the successful defense of her M.Sc. exam (supervisor Frank Beier)
- Marlys L. Koschinsky for being appointed to the Order of Ontario by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and Chancellor of the Order of Ontario.
- Rithwik Ramachandran for promotion to Associate Professor and Chris Pin for promotion to Professor.
- Andrew Pruszyński on the renewal of his CRC in Sensorimotor Neuroscience at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry (Tier 2 CRC, funded by CIHR)

Undergraduate Studies Updates

We successfully have started the first week of our second semester. Thanks to all the course managers who have worked with our online team to get courses ready for students.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to myself and Michele if you are unsure of your OWL site and or need assistance and we will teach you how to run your sites, or if you need an added function to help you run previous activities in the virtual format. We are available for consultation and there is usually a way to make things more streamlined.

Midterm season is soon. Make sure that you get your copies of your exam to Michele by the She has developed a workflow that works well, so please respond to her and provide her with your files by the set times.

Thank-you for your collective willingness to increase the capacity of your courses, to make way for the larger cohort of students coming through our program next year. We will continue to look for ways to enhance our offerings for fourth year Pharmacology, as there has been a big shift in students declaring a Major or HSP with Pharmacology in the last two years. We expect this demand to increase. If you are a fourth-year course manager running a physiology course but think that you integrate enough pharmacology to make your course either a Physiology or Pharmacology course, we can discuss the possibility of changing the course to a Phys/Pharm course instead of one or the other, after consultation with the undergraduate executive team.

Graduate Studies Update

London Health Research Day will be held on May 11, 2021, using an online-only conference platform. The Day will include a Keynote Speaker, video poster presentations with synchronous and asynchronous chat, and a series of workshops for trainees. Please watch for upcoming details on registration, abstract submission, and workshops available on the day.

Research Update

Our 2021 Charles W. Gowdey Distinguished Lecture and Research Day speaker will be Dr. Brian Kobilka, from Stanford, a 2012 Nobel Laureate for GPCR signaling. The host will be Peter Chidiac. If the lecture/research day is held in person, it will be Thursday, October 28, 2021; if held virtually, it will be Tuesday, November 2, 2021.

Health and Safety Committee Updates

We remain at Modified Stage 3 (40% of Western Employees on Campus). There is now new Provincial government signage up on the floors reminding us not to eat together or socialize while on break or lunch. In November/December 2020, we had selected annual Health and Safety Laboratory Inspections, and they went very well. Thank you Christie and to those labs who participated.

Calendar

- 2021 Virtual Lunch and Learn Presentations (12:00-1:00 p.m.)
 - February 11 - Tyler Cooper, "Proteomic Analysis" (Host: David Hess)
 - March 11 - Dr. Lina Dagnino, "Cell Culture" (Host: Peter Stathopoulos)
- Upcoming Physiology and Pharmacology Seminars (3:00 pm via Zoom)
 - February 8 – Dr. Joel Boerckel , University of Pennsylvania:
"Mechanobiology of development and regeneration: a choose-your-own adventure zoom"
 - February 22 – Dr. Natasha Chang, McGill University: *"Molecular mechanisms of satellite cell function and dysfunction"*

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

https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/physpharm/about_us/seminar_schedule.html