

Physiology and Pharmacology Newsletter

September 2018

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...

Welcome everyone to the fall term! We had a great start with the Corn Roast – thanks everyone who helped out! A reminder that the updated departmental web site is live: <http://www.schulich.uwo.ca/physpharm/> and that all faculty are encouraged to update their individual sites where appropriate.

As announced earlier, and discussed at the departmental retreat, we will form a task force on equity - or maybe broader on EDI (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion). I am looking for volunteers to join and potentially chair the task force. I hope that all departmental groups will be represented – graduate students, postdocs, staff, and faculty.

As always, any feedback is welcome.

Frank

Congratulations!!!

- Rachel Reingold from Rob Gros' lab for the successful defense of her M.Sc.!

Welcome

To all our new graduate students:

- Jacob Fletcher – Don Welsh
- Qi Tong Lin – Peter Stathopoulos

- Xin Tong Ma – Qingping Feng
- Gregory Robinson – Qingping Feng
- Nicole Sidor – Brad Urquhart
- Fang Wang – Peter Chidiac
- Stephanie Wojtowicz – John Di Guglielmo
- Allyson Wood – Tim Regnault
- Benny Yue – Donglin Bai
- Brianna Ananthan – David Hess
- Jennifer Carleton – Tom Drysdale
- Nidhi Kulkarni – Sean Gill
- Houshang Azimi – David Hill
- Theodore Wigle (MD/PhD program) – Richard Kim

Welcome also to all of our 4th year Honours students!!

Undergraduate Studies Updates

The start of the 2018-19 academic year is well under way. All 4980 students have been matched and should have been in contact with their supervisors to discuss their project. The undergraduate executive will be reviewing the 4980 match process and may make some changes for subsequent years. If you have any feedback or suggestions, please feel free to forward them to Brad - burquha2@uwo.ca

Reminder of a couple of important dates for the first term:

1. Fall study break is the week of Oct 8-12. Your classes should have no tests or assignments from Friday October 5 at 6 PM until Monday October 15. Your 4980 students are not expected to be in the lab during this time.
2. 15% rule dates: 0.5 credit classes must have at least 15% of the grade reported to the students by Nov 9, 2018. For 1.0 credit classes 15% of the grade should be released to students by November 27, 2018.
3. Dec 8&9 are study days and the winter exam period runs from December 10-21. The exam schedule should be released October 5 and it will be the final exam schedule (not preliminary as in previous years).

The Deans office is working on a policy for comfort animals in classrooms. The policy is not complete yet but it is likely students will be allowed comfort animals but will have to get approval prior to bringing animals to class.

Our undergraduate IQAP department review went through senate Friday September 21 and received the status of “good quality”. This is the best possible outcome we could have hoped for and means we will not have any follow-up until the next IQAP review in 7 years. Thanks to our undergrad executive for hard work putting this together and to all Department members that took time to meet with the reviewers.

Graduate Studies News

Welcome to all of our new graduate students. Please remember to sign the letter of understanding with your supervisor and GSR.

Research Committee News

Planning for 2018 James A. F. Stevenson Distinguished Lecture and Research Day on November 6th is well underway. Below is the preliminary program. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

9:30 a.m. - Student Presentations, Great Hall, Somerville House

2:00 p.m. - Research Talks, McKellar Room, UCC

Department Speakers: Melissa Crawford, PhD Candidate,
and Wataru Inoue, PhD

3:00 p.m. - J.A.F. Stevenson Memorial Lecture, McKellar Room, UCC

J.A. F. Stevenson Distinguished Lecture Speaker: Dr. John D. Scott FRS
Edwin G. Krebs-Speights Professor of Cell Signaling and Cancer Biology
Howard Hughes Medical Institute; Chair, Department of Pharmacology

The next ‘Lunch and Learn’ session will be on October 18, 2018 at 12:00 noon in Room M212.

Speaker: Dr. Greg Gloor

Topic: Bioinformatics: Transcriptome analysis

Host: Dr. Jamie Kramer

Calendar

- October 3, 2018 – Recruitment Seminar Taylor Schmitz, McGill University: “Advancing multi-level mechanistic models of neurodegenerative disease and cognition”; 3 pm, MSB 282
- October 18, 2018 – Research Lunch and Learn: Bioinformatics – Transcriptome Analysis, presented by Dr. Greg Gloor
- November 6, 2018 - Stevenson Lecture and Research Day
- November 15, 2018 – Research Lunch and Learn: Data Management and Lab Record Keeping, presented by Dr. Anita Woods
- Upcoming Physiology and Pharmacology Seminars (3:30 pm in MSB384)
 - Oct. 1 – Scott Prosser, University of Toronto: “Molecular and Mechanistic Underpinnings of Signal Transduction in Membranes - NMR Inspired Studies of the Conformational Landscape in Enzymes & GPCRs”
 - Oct. 15 – Stephen Sherman, PhD Candidate: “The Purification of adult progenitor cell types to promote angiogenesis”
 - Oct 22 – Anish Engineer, PhD Candidate: “Pregestational Diabetes-Induced Congenital Heart Defects and Coronary Artery Malformations: Mechanisms and Preventative Therapies”
 - Oct. 29 – Art Poon, Dept of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Western University: “Blind dates in a quiet reservoir: how clocks, trees and chains teach us about HIV-1 latency”