

Can you believe this is my 8th monthly newsletter?? Seems like I just arrived yesterday! I guess time flies when you're having fun. I realize this is a stressful and busy time of year, but I hope you all have a strong feeling of satisfaction in the level of activity and productivity that we have all enjoyed to date. I guarantee you that your participation and enthusiasm in the variety of departmental initiatives is paying off. I am continuously receiving compliments from folks on main campus or in other departments in OVC on our outstanding faculty contributions to the teaching, research and service-related mandate at UofG. In my participation in graduate student-related committees, the quality of our graduate student's knowledge and critical thinking abilities is also highly regarded by the external members that serve on these committees. Of course, the level of productivity and well-trained undergraduate and graduate students is a complement to our teaching and research staff, as well as our administrative assistants that facilitate what we do on a daily basis.

The most recent round of compliments came from the external reviewers of the Department's function as part of the institutional Quality Assurance Program (iQAP). Our faculty, staff and students left a lasting impression on them both, and their parting comment that I want to share with you is, "***We can only hope to have departments as hard working and productive as you have here at OVC***". Wow, what a compliment! In fact, Dr. Gilmour, who is the VP Research & Academic at UPEI, asked permission to mimic our Biomed Major program at his institution. Now, we know there will be recommendations for areas for improvement, (that is their job after all), but if that comment summarizes the overall impression that we have left on them, then we have much to be proud of!

Updates/happenings from around the Department:

1. Congratulations to Dr. **Ron Johnson** and his research team on their recent funding success from OMAFRA in support of a CgFARAD project. Their award was fully funded (\$107,000). Well done!

2. ****New - Department directory** has been installed outside of the Chair's office. This will replace the "peg-board" style directory (circa 1812) just outside the department doors. **Please send me any notices** that you are posting, as it is simple to have these incorporated as part of the show. If anyone has suggestions or would like to improve/replace on the current slide show, please let me know!
3. Our departmental labs that utilize animal studies (including Anatomy) have all passed a recent CCAC site visit with **NO** concerns. Congratulations everyone! I would like to thank the staff, graduate students and faculty for maintaining compliance with this regulatory body.
4. Dr. **Lisa Robertson** is organizing the 8th annual Ontario Consortium of University Biology educators (oCUBE) conference at the beautiful Shamrock lodge, Muskoka, May 23rd-26th. For information, please contact Lisa Robertson (lrober13@uoguelph.ca) or visit: www.ocube.ca. To register, please e-mail: ocubeorg@gmail.com. **Please keep in mind**: NO registration fee - attendees pay for meals and accommodation only for the time they are at the conference. Lisa has arranged for graduate students and post-docs to stay for free so all that they have to pay is the cost of meals while at the conference (easily covered by graduate student travel funds). This cost is about \$75.00 per day and covers all meals as well as coffee and snacks during breaks. oCUBE also has funds set aside to help anyone with limited access to funds -- this means graduate students, post-docs, sessionals, faculty, etc.
5. In the month of March, we welcomed Mrs. **Holly Illman**, to the OVC team. <http://bulletin.ovc.uoguelph.ca/post/158636094660/ovc-welcomes-holly-illman-administrative-manager>. Holly has many impressive credentials and a wealth of experience that we hope to draw upon to move our department initiatives forward. I look forward to working with Holly on some strategic initiatives to facilitate our departmental operations.
6. Please remember the **power shut down that will occur on April 30th at OVC**. ALL non-essential power (anything that is not plugged into a **red** receptacle) will be turned off for at least 12 hours (7am to 7pm).
7. **'Save the Date'** for the upcoming *10th Annual ICCI Cancer Research Symposium*. The Symposium will be held all day **Thursday, May 25** in OVC

1714 and 1707B/C. The keynote speaker is Dr. William Eward, DVM, MD, Orthopaedic Surgery, Duke University School of Medicine. There will be a call for abstracts for poster presentations and short talks starting April 10. Here is the link to the website for updates and forms:

<http://ovc.uoguelph.ca/icci/2017-symposium>

8. **Cardiovascular Centre (CCVI)** held it's second Cardiovascular Scientist Seminar Series on Tuesday March 28, with close to 100 attendees', and featured talks on cardiomyopathies by Dr. Lynne O'Sullivan (OVC) and Dr. John Dawson (MCB), with introduction by CBS Dean Jonathan Newman (see photo below). The seminar series aims to promote our outstanding faculty research, facilitate networking and new opportunities for graduate students, and attract strong undergraduates to our research programs. It will resume in the Fall 2017 school year.
8. **Dr. Faisal Alibhai**, who recently graduated as a PhD from the Martino lab was nominated by the University of Guelph for the 2017 CAGS/UMI Distinguished Dissertation Award, in the category of engineering, medical sciences and natural sciences. The University (through the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies) nominates 1 student a year to recognize outstanding Canadian doctoral dissertations in Science.
9. **Dr. Tami Martino** was invited to be external PhD examiner for the Department of Physiology, Cardiovascular Research Centre, University of Alberta, and to give an invited talk on her research on the application of Circadian Rhythms and Sleep Research to benefit Clinical Cardiology.
10. Two of our researchers were featured in the web site publication "Horse Canada", **Drs. Jeff Thomason and Thomas Koch**. Read their stories here: https://www.horse-canada.com/magazine_articles/going-barefoot/
https://www.horse-canada.com/magazine_articles/stem-cell-reality-check/
11. A story on Equine Infertility Answers Could help Humans featuring the work in **Dr. Allan King's** lab was published in "*realagriculture*". Read the story here: <https://www.realagriculture.com/2017/03/equine-infertility-answers-could-help-humans/>



CBS Dean, Dr. Jonathan Newman, introducing the CCVI speakers.

Remember that my door is always open, so pop in anytime for a chat.

Cheers!

Tarek,

Chair, BMS