

# THE BIOMEDER

THE OFFICIAL NEWLETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF  
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES



## Department updates

**Raeside's recognition**

**Jibran in the spotlight**

**Mental health training**

**Chemical waste day**

*Biomed* now on Twitter!

*And much more...*

## The end is near!

Not the biblical one (*I hope*)...the Winter semester!! It is officially Spring and I hope you will keep an eye on your inbox for the many special ceremonies and events that will be happening in the next month (see last page for a summary to date).

This will be a busy month ahead with review sessions and administering and marking final exams. I wish you all the best in your teaching, TAing and all other academic activities.

# Dr. James Raeside's Lifetime Achievement Award

The *International Equine Reproduction Symposium*, has informed **Dr. James Raeside** that he has been nominated for and selected to receive a **Lifetime Achievement Award** for his efforts in the discipline of Equine Reproduction. The award was established in 2017 to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to the discipline of Equine Reproduction, either through research or clinical practice. These contributions, whether they have been in research, leadership or mentorship, have had a lasting impact on the discipline of equine reproduction, and candidates have demonstrated a lifetime commitment to progress in the discipline.

The First Life Time Achievement Award will be presented at ISER XII in Cambridge, UK (July 22-28, 2018). Recipients will be acknowledged in the proceedings of the meeting at which the award is announced.

Congratulations Jim! A very well-deserved recognition of your outstanding contributions to the field! Here's to another 90 years of productivity!!



# Jibran's research spotlighted in OVC's Bulletin

How are substance use and mental illness linked? That's the focus of research by a new professor in the University of Guelph's Ontario Veterinary College.

Research has shown high substance use in people with illnesses such as schizophrenia, clinical depression and bipolar disorder, says **Jibran Khokhar**, who joined OVC's Department of Biomedical Sciences this past January.



Understanding the connections is a classic chicken and egg problem, he says.

Does exposure to drugs increase the risk of both substance use and serious mental illness? Or does some inborn vulnerability give rise to both substance use and mental health problems?

His interest in neuropharmacology, or how drugs act on the brain, stems from his undergrad at Queen's University. Using a Canadian Institutes of Health Research graduate award, he worked with Rachel Tyndale at the University of Toronto on how prolonged nicotine addiction affects the brain in certain populations.

Referring to the simultaneous presence of two chronic diseases or conditions in a patient, he says his U of T studies were "where I was first exposed to this concept of co-occurring disorders and how often smoking, for example, occurs in those with severe mental illness. I chose that as a direction and niche to carve out for myself."

He continued studies at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire with Alan Green, who has worked in this field for 20 years.

"Part of the reason I joined his lab was to train in all aspects of this area of study – everything from the clinical care of these patients to clinical trials that were happening in his lab to human imaging studies," says Khokhar.

# Jibran at the Gordon Conference

**Jibran Khokhar** gave a talk at the Gordon Research Conference on Alcohol and the Nervous System in Galveston, Texas on March 8th titled: "*Impaired Brain Reward Circuitry May Underlie Alcohol Drinking in a Rat Model of Alcohol Use Disorder and Schizophrenia*".

Can you find Waldo...I mean *Jibran*, in the photo below?



Alcohol and the Nervous System  
Gordon Research Conference  
March 4-9, 2018  
Hotel Galvez, Galveston, TX  
Chair: Jeff Weiner & C. Fernando Valenzuela  
Vice Chair: Danny Winder & Sara Jones

# External Speakers

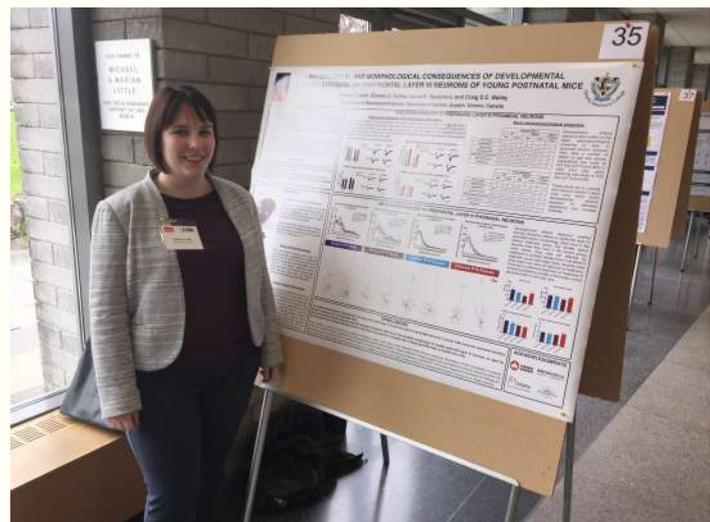
Back by popular demand, the department is offering to host an **external speaker to present a special seminar** in the department, meet with faculty and graduate students in the hopes of forging collaborative research programs between institutions. Faculty are reminded to let Kim Best know when a speaker is coming so we can prepare an advertisement (**including 1 paragraph abstract**) to send to the UofG community. We are also replacing the daily general parking permit, with a **reserved parking** request for our speakers to park behind War Memorial. This way, irregardless of when you speaker arrives, they will be guaranteed a spot!

All we ask in return is your attendance!! It is embarrassing to spend resources and invite prestigious speakers who take time out of their busy days to present to a room of 10 people. **PLEASE make every effort to attend these special seminars.**

## Emma's nomination!

**Dr. Emma Louth** (PhD graduate from the **Bailey lab**), has been selected to represent the University of Guelph for the *2018 Canadian Association for Graduate Studies / ProQuest-UMI Distinguished Dissertation Awards* in the engineering, medical and natural sciences category. This prestigious award recognizes the top PhD dissertation in the country.

Congratulations to Emma, and we wish her the very best as her nomination moves forward to the next phase of the competition.

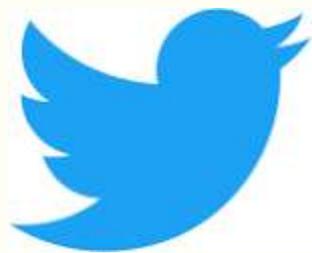


# Holly makes it through her first year!!

**Congratulations to Holly Illman, Administrative Manger, on her accomplishments in the department over the past year. We hope you experience has been as rewarding for you as it has been for us!**

**For those of you who are not aware, Holly is the department's "*Jack of all trades*". She should be your first point of contact for all things human resource, payroll, recruiting and hiring, financial accounting, budgeting, etc., etc.**





**@theBiomedex** is now on Twitter!

As you have all heard, **Glen Pyle** is curating the @BioTweeps rocur account on Twitter and has done a wonderful job of highlighting the research in his laboratory.

Following his lead, we have also setup an official Twitter account, "**@thebiomedex**", for the Department of Biomedical Sciences (<https://twitter.com/thebiomedex>). Please follow this account and remember to mention it/include it in your signatures and external communications. We will begin to use this as an avenue to promote the great work happening in the department as well as providing regular updates on upcoming events etc.

*Happy Tweeting!!*

## 4th yr student attends STEM conference

In March, **Vishali Balasubramaniam**, 4th year student with **Dr. Pyle**, had the pleasure of attending the Inspiring Young Women in STEM Conference, hosted by Western University. She was given the opportunity to present her undergraduate research done in Glen's lab by herself and MSc candidate **Del Fernandes**, and postdoc **Dr. Ilka Lorenzen-Schmidt** during the poster session. She was also fortunate to have received a **travel award**! She was further privileged to hear successful women in academia and industry talk about their work and research, but also their journeys and the hurdles they overcame as women in STEM. Without a doubt, this conference reaffirmed and enhanced her pride in being a woman in STEM. **Congrats Vishali!**

# Dr. Raphael Machulam receives an honorary degree

The UofG Neurosciences community and other guests celebrated the awarding of an honorary Doctorate of Science bestowed on **Dr. Raphael Mechoulam**. Dr. Linda Parker, Dept of Psychology nominated Dr. Mechoulam for his pioneering work in the field of cannabinoid (THC) research. Dr. Mechoulam joined us via Skype from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem to receive the honor from President Vaccarino.





The **Centre for Cardiovascular Investigations** held its March Scientist Seminars, highlighting cardiovascular performance in humans (Dr. Jamie Burr, HHNS) and animals (Dr. Peter Physick Sheard, OVC). The attached photo includes (L to R, front row) Gayle Ecker (director, Equine Guelph), **Dr. Tami Martino** (director, CCVI Cardiovascular Centre), and invited scientists Dr. Peter Physick-Sheard and Dr. Jamie Burr. (L to R, back row), CCVI graduate student executives **Cristine Reitz** (Biomedical Sciences), Joshua Slysz (HHNS), **Priya Mistry** (Biomedical Sciences), and undergraduate student executive **Zikra Awosanmi** (Biomedical Sciences). Further information on the Seminars, and links to the videos of each talk can be found here:

<http://bulletin.ovc.uoguelph.ca/post/172283957015/cardiocvascular-scientist-seminar-highlights>

**Dr. Martino**, Dr. Martino was invited to give a public lecture at the Arboretum to an audience of over 200 people for Third Age Learning Guelph. This new series highlights recent research at the University of Guelph. The lectures and presentations can be viewed here:



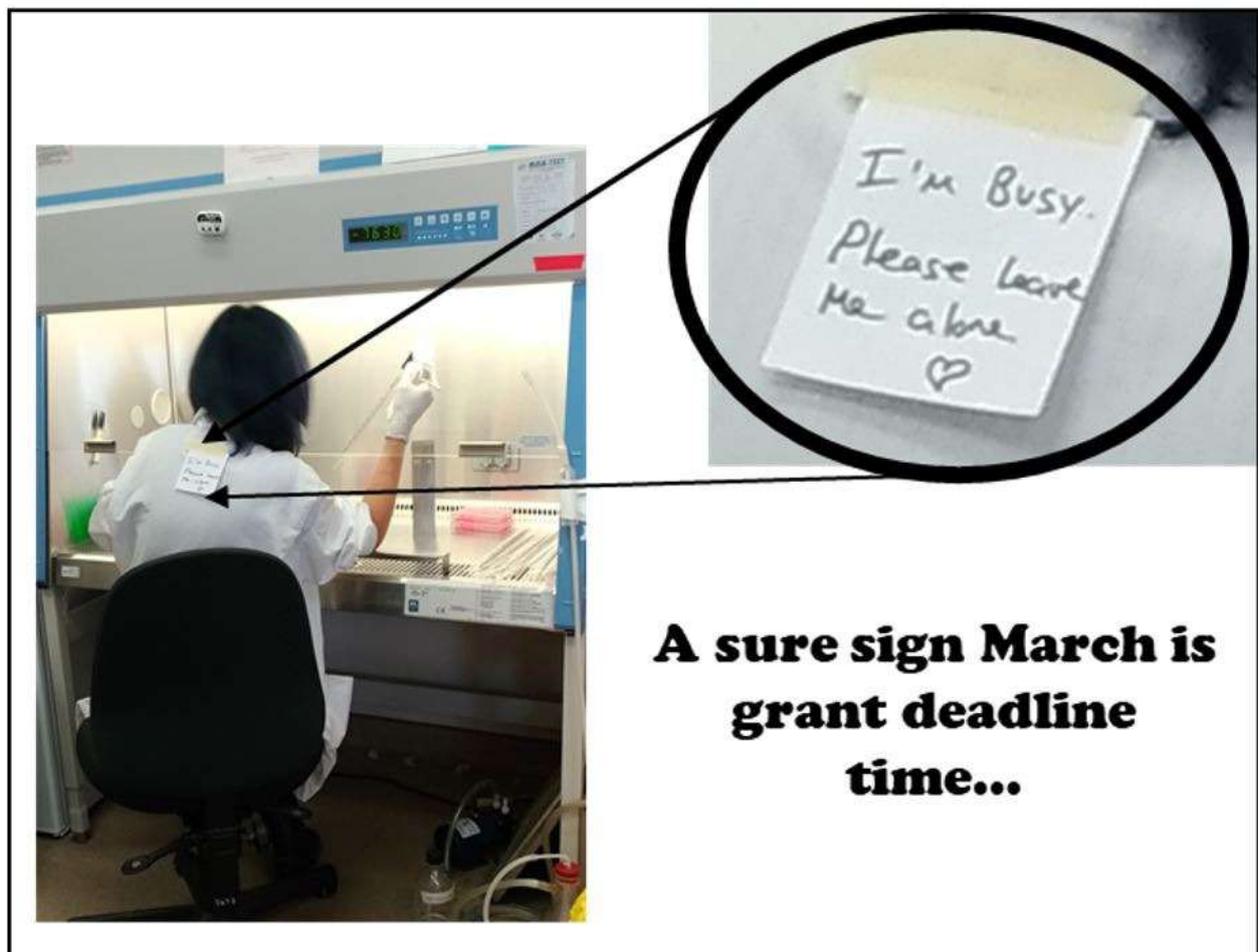
<http://www.thirdagelearningguelph.ca/2018-winter-am.html>

# Mental health training/workshops available

In support of our graduate students, many of our faculty and senior staff (teaching/technical, admin, managers, postdocs, etc) are sometimes the first point of contact for students in distress. Please consider signing up for and attend a variety of free workshops offered on campus.

Mental Health training opportunities are being offered in May through Human Resources <http://bulletin.ovc.uoguelph.ca/post/171800718270/mental-health-training-opportunities-coming-up>

## Best of luck to all our grant writers!



# Practicing what they p-research....

## U of G Students Raise More Than \$100,000 for Cancer Research

Through a grueling overnight test of endurance and a celebration of the human spirit, 567 U of G students raised \$102,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society.



In the Department of Biomedical Sciences, The **Coomber, Mutsaers and Viloría-Petit lab** joined forces to create a relay team, team name: Alien Vs Predators (Alicia Viloría-Petit's initials). *The team raised \$3049.28 in total and came in 6th place for top fundraising team overall! The Petrik lab also had a relay team and raised a total of \$1173.50!*

**Way to go Biomed!!**

# Upcoming events/deadlines

1. Start updating your **eCV!** Due **August 29th**.
2. The *Southern Ontario Neuroscience Association (SONA)* will be held on the UofG campus (**May 4th**)
3. The *Southern Ontario Reproductive Biology (SORB)* meeting will take place at the Arboretum (**May 18th**)
4. The 2018 ICCI **Cancer Research Symposium** will take place on **May 30th** (The Keynote Speaker will be *Daniel L. Gustafson, Ph.D.*)
5. Faculty retreat, **June 6th** at the Arboretum!

**also....don't forget...!**



**Chemical Waste Disposal Amnesty 2018: Campus-wide Chemical Waste Disposal Campaign**

For more detail go to:  
[www.uoguelph.ca/hr](http://www.uoguelph.ca/hr)

**April 9-20, 2018**

- **Amnesty 2018 stickers** can be obtained in EHS main office, Alexander Hall room 162
- **Hazardous Waste Lab Assessments** – call: 54270
- **Chemical Waste Management Information session;**
- **April 6, 2018; 10-11:30 AM Alexander Hall room 168**
- **April 18, 2018; 10-11:30 AM Alexander Hall room 168**
- **All participants will receive “Goody Bag”**
- **To register for the session go to EHS Training registration website: <https://www.uoguelph.ca/hr/hr-services-environmental-health-safety-training/course-registration>**



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