

Biomedical Sciences

Newsletter

State of the Department, December, 2017

Please join me in welcoming **Dr. Olutobi Oluwole** (Tobi) to our department. Tobi has accepted the position of Coordinator of our Applied Coursework Master's Program in Reproductive Biotechnology. Tobi will also be responsible for coordinating the practicum placement opportunities in Applied Toxicology and Applied Clinical Trials (coordinated through Pop Med). Tobi's primary role will be to facilitate and manage the relationship with the industrial partners who will be providing placement opportunities for students in these 3 areas.

Tobi may be familiar to most of you as she recently completed her PhD in 2016 with Dr. Allan King. Prior to that, Tobi completed her MSc prior with Ann Hahnel, formerly in our dept. While in the graduate program, Tobi received numerous honors and awards including the prestigious Queen Elizabeth II scholarship for the promotion of science. She also holds a DVM from Nigeria.

Tobi will be located in an office on the 3rd floor (3604), so please stop by and say "Hello". **Welcome (back) to Biomed Tobi!!**

Way to Go BioMed!! We have officially **EXCEEDED** our United Way target of \$8,500 by over \$1,200! We are now in the TOP donor spot at OVC. ***Well done folks!***

Updates/happenings from around the Department:

1. **Upcoming dates to remember:** Department get-together and United Way Auction, **Dec 19th at noon in the SSC Atrium**. Don't forget, we want a great turn out to take an annual department photo to be framed and displayed in the common room.

Please drop off your wrapped gifts at Kim's desk for the auction!

Also, the deadline to nominate **TAs and Graduate Faculty** for their respective excellence awards is **Dec 8th**.

2. We want YOU to help us share the secret lives of OVC Graduate Students! The OVC Social Media team is looking for graduate students, individuals or lab partners or groups, to take part in a series of social media takeovers on @OntVetcollege Instagram and/or OntVetCollege Snapchat. If you are interested please sign up at the link below. If you have questions or would like more information on what is involved please email **Jane Dawkins**

jdawkins@uoguelph.ca.

Help us share what life is like in the lab! Sign up online here:

<https://doodle.com/poll/623h499pk87a5ntp>

3. The **Martino lab** continues to gain media coverage. Here is a link to the interview that Matteo Cimellaro (UGuelph student writer) did with Tami on the importance of circadian rhythms and sleep for your overall health.

<https://www.theontarion.com/2017/11/u-of-g-expert-talks-circadian-rhythms-and-risks-of-sleep-deprivation>.

Both **Tami Martino** and **Glen Pyle's** research are featured on CIHR's website as part of their "Celebrating Health Research" storybook for Canada 150 (<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/50645.html#martino>). Check it out!

- **Dr. Tami Martino** was an Invited Speaker at the major American Heart Association in Anaheim California (Nov 12-14) and gave a talk on Circadian Misalignment and Cardiovascular Disease. Also attending from the Martino

lab: **Dr. Faisal Alibhai** (Biomedical Sciences, graduated PhD, 2016) and **Cristine Reitz** (PhD student, Biomedical Sciences). See PHOTO BELOW.



○ **Faisal, Tami, Cristine**

- **Dr. Martino** was an invited delegate to the CIHR Institute of Gender and Health (IGH) Meeting on the Future of Sex and Gender in Health Research, Montreal (Nov 8-9). Meeting objectives were to hear about cutting-edge advances in sex and gender science and new innovations in funding and policy; to hear about the Institute's progress; and to provide advice on IGH's strategic direction going forward into the next 5 years.

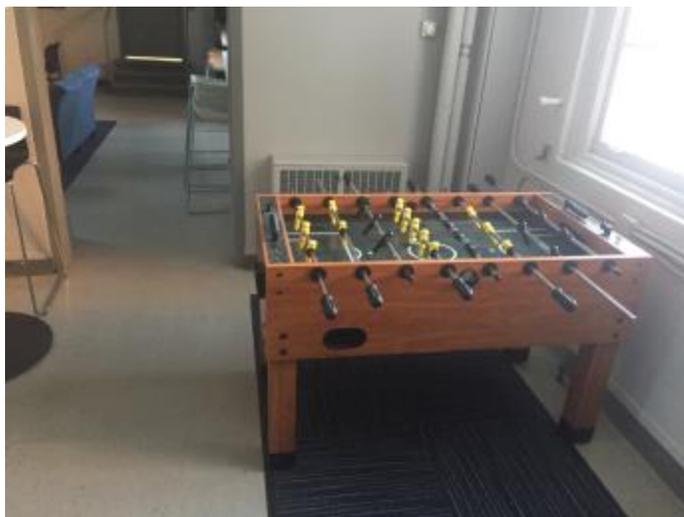


○ **Dr. Tami Martino with Dr. Cara Tannebaum** (Director, CIHR Institute of Gender and Health).

- **Dr. Tami Martino** was one of the internationally invited coauthors (and 1 of only 2 Canadians) on the “Guidelines for Genome-Scale Analysis of Biological Rhythms” published in November 2017. This white paper was the outcome of an invited panel on the “Use of “omics” technologies / big data in rhythms research” at the Society for Research on Biological Rhythms, in 2016.
4. A new genetic test offers a boost to swine litter sizes in Canada. The result of more than 25 years of genetic research has led **Dr. Allan King** to identify a chromosome abnormality in male reproduction, including boars, that results in smaller litter sizes – and develop a genetic screening process to detect the fertility flaw (<https://www.aginnovationontario.ca/en/new-boar-genetic-screening-test-can-boost-litter-sizes/#more-2166>).

The project research was developed with funding support from the OMAFRA-University of Guelph’s Gryphon’s LAAIR (Leading to Accelerated Adoption of Innovative Research) program. The Gryphon’s LAAIR is supported through *Growing Forward 2*, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. Congrats Allan!
 5. **Dr. Glen Pyle** was invited to take over the social media feed of an international biology group called “Biotweeps”. Its purpose is to communicate about science to the general public as well as science students. He arranged to do it in March so it can be incorporated into his top-rated Cardiology class (BIOM*4180).
 6. **Dr. Matthew Vickaryous’s** research has also been featured in **Popular Science** (<https://www.popsci.com/gecko-tail-regeneration>) and **MSN** (<https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/medical/the-secrets-of-gecko-tails-could-help-heal-human-spine-injuries/ar-AAukaEp>). A recent publication by former PhD student, **Emily Gilbert**, in the top comparative neurology journal (*J. Comp. Neurol*) has sparked interest into the regenerative abilities of the gecko’s central nervous system.
 7. **Foosball anyone?** Thanks to a generous donation from **Carol Ann**, and the decorating skills of **Karla and Craig**, we now have a **foosball table** in our

common room! Please enjoy it during your breaks/lunch, and I am sure we will hear a lot of laughter and cheer coming from that room for years to come! Maybe we can organize a “Faculty vs Grad student” event, or “BMS vs Dean’s Office”??



8. Thank you to all who assisted Monica with the grade 11 visit to the RHBL labs. It was very much appreciated! **See picture below...**



RHBL welcomed the Grade 11 students of Stratford Central Secondary School: We are enticing and educating the next generation of scientists



7. Congratulations to **Morla Phan** (Supervisor: Dr. Brenda Coomber), on receipt of "The Undergraduate Awards" in Dublin during Nov 7-9. Here's the summary of the award: It's an award programme that recognizes top undergraduate work from around the world. She submitted her 4th year thesis project titled "Identification of Biomarkers for Breast Cancer in

Human Blood Plasma Using High-Performance Liquid Chromatography Mass Spectrometry" to the Life Sciences category and was ranked in the top 10% of all entries. This year, they received 6,432 submissions from students in 299 Institutions across 47 countries. The summit invites 150 of the Highly Commended and Winners to gather, network and share their research. Here's a link to their website where you can find her name and other information: <http://www.undergraduateawards.com/2017-highly-commended/> **Congrats Morla!**



Morla Phan in Dublin.

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

Cheers!

Tarek, Chair, BMS